

NEWSLETTER FOR THE

**GUILD OF
OREGON
WOODWORKERS**

**OREGON
WOOD
WORKS**

**Vol. #39, Issue 12
December 2022
Portland Oregon**

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GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION:

HOW DID HE DO IT?

**MEET JOHN HARDEN:
WOOD TURNER EXTRAORDINAIRE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

AT THE GUILD STUDIO

*(ACROSS FROM THE MAIN SHOP
7634 SW 34th St, Portland)*

By Joe Wheaton

I first met John Hardin at the Gathering of the Guilds (GOTG) last May, where he had a booth next to ours in the woodworking section of the building. There have been many times in my woodworking journey where I have encountered a technique of design that left me baffled about how an object had been created. John's work exemplified that amazement.

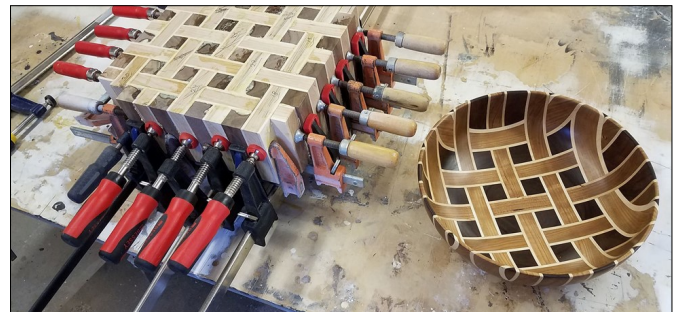
John has been working with wood since high school. After years working as a finish carpenter, the 2008 recession gave him the (forced) opportunity to work in his own shop. He started working with "firewood" to create small furniture. A table saw accident in 2015 (ouch!) took him down a different path – wood turning. It was the result of this career choice that allowed me to meet John at the GOTG. I knew he would be a great speaker for us, and he agreed.



I am the first to admit that I know little about turning, let alone turning bowls, and John's work fascinated me. His method is to make up blanks from various species of work, then turn the bowl, revealing the patterns he has created in the blanks. The result is stunning and mesmerizing. I invite you to check out his website, <https://www.johnhardendesign.com/>, or his Instagram page, <https://www.instagram.com/johnhardendesign/>, to better appreciate the quality and craftsmanship that goes into each piece. This short video will also get you excited to see his presentation: <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj8ScrZJdUJ/>

This meeting with take place at our new Studio adjacent to the Annex at 7:00 on Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 (welcome to the new year).

Parking is limited on the street, but you can park at the Multnomah Art Center. If you haven't had a chance to see the Studio, this is a good opportunity. John lives in Grant's Pass, Oregon, so he will be joining us via Zoom, but there will be many opportunities to ask questions.



Please join me in welcoming John and check out his work in person next year at [the GOTG](#). His work is also available locally at the The Perfect Piece Gallery, 1179 McVey Ave., Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034.

This will be the first time we have had a monthly meeting at the Studio, so please give me your feedback: joe.wheaton@goow.org.

The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is...

..., a group of amateur and professional woodworkers committed to developing our craftsmanship.

Our Mission: To promote the craft of woodworking to the woodworkers of today and tomorrow.

Our Vision: A community of woodworkers that provide significant opportunities to develop, practice, enhance, and share skills.

The Guild offers many benefits for members, including:

- ◆ Monthly programs
- ◆ Monthly newsletter
- ◆ Weekly Volunteer Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- ◆ An education program to help members develop woodworking skills through a variety of hands-on and lecture classes
- ◆ Sponsor discounts
- ◆ Woodworking shows (such as Gathering of the Guilds)
- ◆ Network of business partners.
- ◆ A woodworking shop
- ◆ A network of friends and opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in our community

What you can do for the Guild

- ◆ Volunteer your time to contribute, assist, organize, lead, teach
- ◆ Take a class
- ◆ Contribute your knowledge

Guild Officers

President -----Ed Swakon
 VP for Programs -----Aboo Balmawalla
 VP for Member Support----Mike Sandmann
 Secretary -----Kate Thornton

Directors

Finance -----Tom McCloskey
 Planning-----
 Shop Operations -----
 Education-----Gary Weeber
 Community Outreach-----Tim Moore
 Membership-----Stuart Brown
 Volunteers-----Charlie Meyer
 Communication-----Bland McCartha

Newsletter Editor/Publisher.....Linda Howarth

For more information see the Guild website or visit the shop.

Guild Shop - 7634 SW 34th St, Portland, OR 97219
Guildoforegonwoodworkers.org



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest **54** members. We're happy to have you with us and hope you'll make a regular appearance at the monthly program (online or in-person), contribute articles to the newsletter, and volunteer in other ways.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Natalie Anzalone | Andrew May |
| Zuniga | Molly McConnell |
| Andy Beaudoin | Claire Morrow |
| Halli Beaudoin | Wesley Mozil |
| Maeve Bowler | Michael Mulvey |
| Stacey Boyd | Kevin Myles |
| Sophia Carter | Erin O'Brien |
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| Doug Goelz | Schwab |
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| Doug Holmgren | Josh Soldan |
| Harley Horton | Gabriel Tarran |
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| Merrill Johnson | Brendan Treichler |
| Geoff King | Jennifer Tullos |
| Lucien Lasocki | Chris Varani |
| Mahria Lebow | Sara Ward |
| Lance Lindsay | Celeste Winters |
| Christopher Magor | Adrienne Zell |
| Adam Marion | Sam Zimman |



NOTES FROM THE GUILD PRESIDENT



Ed Swakon, President

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy New Year

I heard good things about our Holiday Party at the Multnomah Arts Center (MAC). Unfortunately, I could not attend (I was exposed to COVID, so I did not want to risk exposing attendees.

I never did test positive). Thanks

to Mike Sandman for acting as the Master of Ceremonies, to Bland McCartha for what I understand was a spirited gift exchange, and to Joe Wheaton for organizing everything for the event. We were able to distribute a number of the Volunteer of the Month awards to those who were previously recognized but had not yet received the actual award. If you still need your award, please contact Bill Tainter at tainterwilliam@gmail.com. Congrats to Heidi McNamee for receiving this month's Volunteer of the Month award. Another individual truly deserving and a long time coming. Last but certainly not least was the award of the **Lee Johnson Woodworker of the Year** to **Carol Boyd**. Unfortunately, Carol could not attend the Holiday Party, so we will formally present the plaque to her at the January general meeting.

Finally, congrats to our new and returning officers and directors for the Guild's Board of Directors.

Monthly Meetings moving to the New Studio

This month and for a few months to come, we will be hosting our monthly general membership meetings in the new Studio at the Guild Shop. We are limited in capacity, but attendance at the MAC has not been great. Hosting the meetings at the Studio will give us better Zoom capabilities and allow us to bring in members and speakers from more remote corners of Oregon and the US.

Committee established to study the Guild's Revenues

We've created a group to review the various revenue streams for the Guild. If you have suggestions or thoughts on ways the Guild could save money, improve our efficiency, or generate more revenue, please contact me. Several years ago, we increased our dues to \$75 per year to cover our fixed costs. With the increased space (the Studio) and adjusted lease rates, our new lease has increased our fixed costs, and our dues alone no longer cover them. Our current lease expires in three years. At that time, we will face some potentially difficult decisions; renew the lease with possible rate adjustments, relocate to a new space, or purchase the existing or a new building. We need to plan for the future. This group is looking toward the future.

Capital Campaign Thank You

Our members, friends, and corporate sponsors of the Guild have been generous this year, donating cash and

useful in-kind items. We have much to show for their kindness and support. The new Studio space is a wonderful example. Your donations made it possible for the Guild to make this expansion that will serve us for years to come. I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone again and list their names. And some folks donated more than once! What a great group. I hope we haven't missed anyone. If you made a donation, you should have received a Thank You letter or email confirmation of your donation. If not, or if you need a replacement one for your taxes, send a message to Chris Corich at CBCORICH@Gmail.com. He can get you what you need. The Guild of Oregon Woodworker's Board Members and I, THANK YOU. See the list on the next page.

Thomas Abbott	Michael Braschayko
Shoshana Abrass	Don Bray
Mike Adair	Dennis Brown
Thomas Albert	Stuart Brown
Am. Legion Milwaukie	Steve Brox
Post 180	Dave Burgess
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John Bacheller	David Cebula
Richard Bader	Frank Cercone
Jen Baek	Patrick Chapman
Manfred Baetscher	Ned Chastaney
Jeremy Bailey	Cap Check
Janet Bain	Tom Check
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Aboo Balamwalla	Karl Christoffers
Alain Bally	David Clay
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Marcia Blomberg	Chris Corich
Rick Boehm	Roger Crooks
Carol Boyd	Tim Currell
Julie Boyles	Ray Curtis
Todd Bradley	John Cushing
Bernd Brandle	John Koster Cuttigg

continued on page 4

THANK YOU TO DONORS...continued from page 3

Edge Wood Creations	Robert Hargrave	Boyd MacNaughton	Allan Parachini	Guy Snyder
Tony D'Andrea	Ariana Harley	Ryan Maddox	Bob Peterson	Bob Sokolow
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Justin Dumas	Gwendolyn Hunt	Allan Messer	Alison Reyes	Clete Templeton
Gerry Engel	Becky Hurd	Charlie Meyer	David Rhoadarmer	Bob Thoenen
Benjamin Ertischek	Richard Hurwitz	James Meyer	Lorin Rice	Larry Wade Three
John Esler	Kori Jarcho	Don Mickey	Chuck Rinehart	Boxes
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Bill Fatland	Amitav Kamani	Sofia Mizrahi	Rowland Ruth	Allan Tubbin
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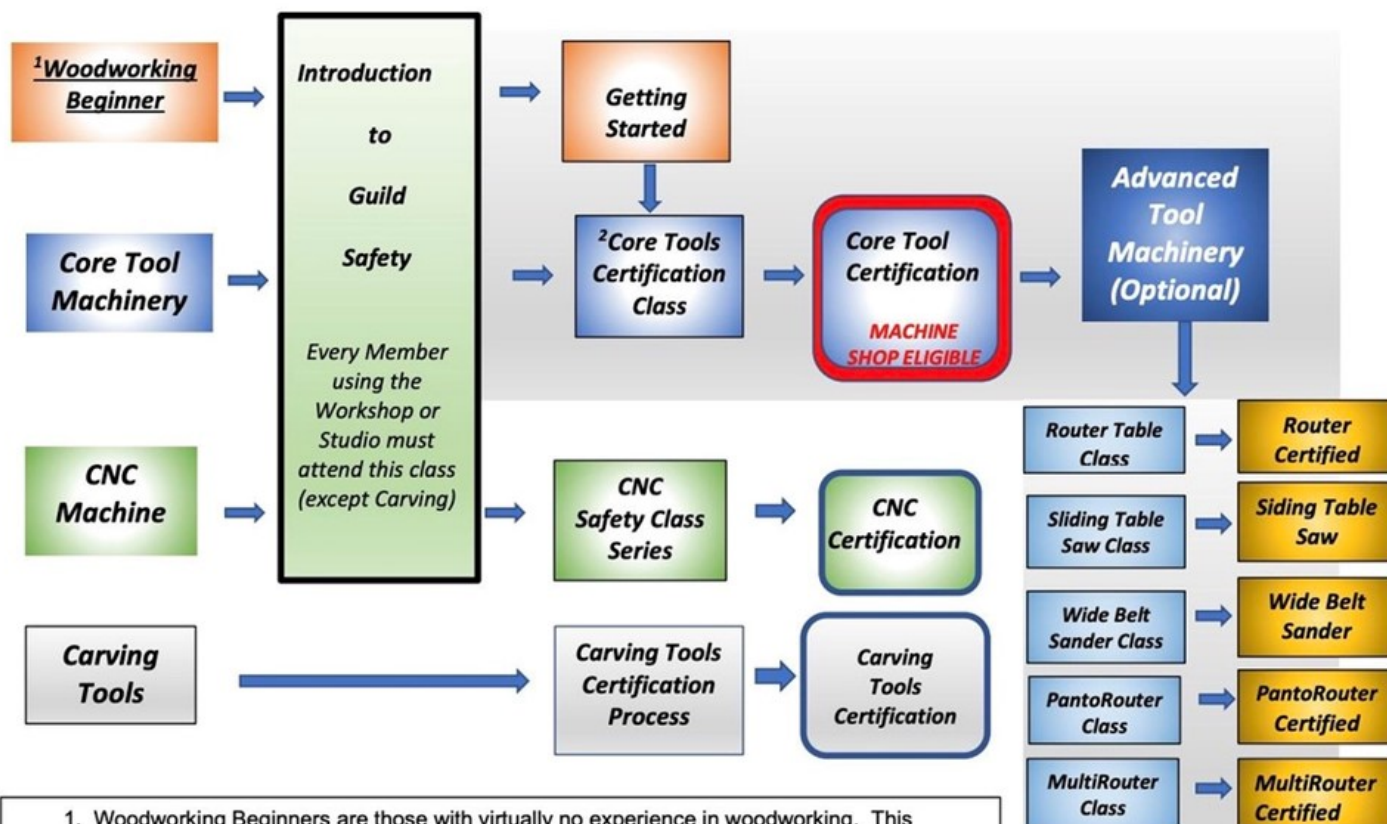
CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS

The Education Leadership Team has developed an updated certification pathway map to help clarify how members can become certified for certain tools. You will note that there are now three certification categories that address machines, carving tools and CNC. The path for tools has been long-standing; the path for CNC was recently ap-

proved by the Safety Committee; and the carving path is currently pending approval by the Safety Committee.

Eventually this will be on the website to provide guidance for new members...or for existing (old?) members should they choose to pursue a different tool certification.

Pathways to Certification and Equipment Use



1. Woodworking Beginners are those with virtually no experience in woodworking. This determination is made as part of the Intro to Guild Safety class.
 2. Woodworking Beginners must complete the Getting Started class to be eligible for the Core Tools class.



Don't forget to use Amazon Smile for your Amazon purchases. Every purchase results in a donation when you select the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers as the non-profit recipient!

This year the Guild received \$713.30 from program.

Thank you to everyone who participated.

GUILD CLASSES

So many great instructors in 2023:

Doug Stowe, master woodworker, teacher, and prolific author is here for two classes in March. Just a few spots remain in his [2-day Box Workshop](#) starting 3/22.

Mary May is an amazing carver and engaging teacher...help us choose which projects to carve when she is here in May. Plus, join the Carvers Guild February Zoom meeting to get inspired for Mary's visit!

Please [register for the interest list](#) and [fill out our planning survey](#) so that you get early notice on classes when they are posted.

- 2/16 FREE - Guest speaker, [Monthly Carvers Guild Meeting](#) (highly recommended especially if you plan to take classes when she visits us in May)
- 5/16 3-hour [Tips and Tricks Lecture Class](#)
- 5/16 FREE - Guest speaker, Monthly GOOW Meeting
- 5/17 3-day [Beginner/Intermediate class](#)
- 5/20 2-day [Intermediate/Advanced class](#)

In June **Kelly Parker** will teach us to make her [Tryptich Boxes](#) and **Michael Fortune** will join us in September.

This is in addition to the many excellent classes taught by our members, for our members. Make us part of your learning journey in 2023!

ONLINE

[Oregon Carvers Guild: Carving Tool Storage](#) 1/10 7pm
Online or Guild Studio

[Oregon Carvers Guild: Stropping for Beginners](#) 1/11 10am
Online or private shop in Bethany area, Larry Wade

[Introduction to Carving \(Incised\)](#) 1/14 9:30am Online,
Larry Wade

[Small Bowls in Four Woods](#) 4 sessions starting 2/4 10am
Online or private shop in Bethany area, Larry Wade

[Spoon Carving for Beginners](#) 2/10 & 17 10am Online or
private shop in Bethany area, Larry Wade

[Oregon Carvers Guild: Mary May's Carving Insights](#) 2/16
7pm Online

IN-PERSON CLASSES & SIGs

Classes require a shop card and shop certification. SIGs only need a shop card. Classes with openings are listed here; go to the [website](#) to add yourself to waitlists.

[Hand Tool Mentoring Session](#) 1/1 11am Guild Studio, Tim Moore

[Women's SIG](#) 1/5 5pm Guild Benchroom

[Sharpening Chisels and Plane Irons](#) 1/8 1pm Guild Studio,
Tim Moore

[Texturing Techniques with Masa Nitani](#) 1/11 1pm Guild
Studio, Masa Nitani

[Leatherworking for Woodworkers](#) 1/15 1pm Guild Work-
shop, Tim Moore

[The Basics of Milling](#) 1/18 1pm Guild Studio, Dick
Rohrbaugh

[Make a Box with a Heart inlay for Valentine's Day](#) 1/21
1pm Guild Studio, Carol Boyd

[Make Unique Tool Handles with Masa Nitani](#) 1/25 1pm
Guild Studio, Masa Nitani

[Carving SIG](#) 1/19 6pm Guild Studio, Larry Wade (Third
Thursdays)

[Women's SIG](#) 2/2 5pm Guild Benchroom

[Make a Box with a Heart Inlay for Valentine's Day](#) 2/4
1pm Guild Studio, Carol Boyd

[Bowl Making with Masa Nitani](#) 2/8 & 2/22 Guild Studio,
Masa Nitani

[Basics of Connecting Wood with Metal](#) 2/12 1pm Guild
Workshop, Tim Moore

[Doug Stowe Box Workshop](#) 3/22 & 3/23 Guild Studio,
Doug Stowe

INTRODUCTION TO GUILD SAFETY

New members: This is how you get your shop card. The Guild Safety class is a prerequisite to all others and to participating in hands-on [Community Projects](#) groups. There is pre-class work, so bring your homework to class.

[Intro to Guild Safety](#) 2/5 9am Guild Studio, Jeff Hilber

[Intro to Guild Safety](#) 2/19 9am Guild Studio, Jeff Hilber

SHOP CERTIFICATION

You must complete "Intro to Guild Safety" before taking these classes. If you are new to woodworking, you then take "Getting Started-Shop Safety for Beginners: Hands On with Portable Power Tools" before taking Shop Certification classes.

[Getting Started - Hands On with Portable Power Tools/Shop Safety for Beginners](#) 1/3 8:45am Guild Studio, Jeff Hilber

[Getting Started - Hands On with Portable Power Tools/Shop Safety for Beginners](#) 2/7 8:45am Guild Studio, Jeff Hilber

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GUILD CLASSES...continued from page 6

[Core Tool Certification - afternoon](#) 2/14 & 2/21 1pm Guild Workshop, Dick Rohrbaugh

[Core Tool Certification - evening](#) 2/14 & 2/21 5pm Guild Workshop, Mark Klein

[Core Tool Certification - afternoon](#) 2/28 & 3/7 1pm Guild Workshop, Mike Chia

[Core Tool Certification - evening](#) 2/28 & 3/7 5pm Guild Workshop, Shou Mo

Upcoming classes are posted on the bottom right of the [Woodworking Classes](#) page. For the full list of education and shop training classes go to:

[GUILD EDUCATION CALENDAR](#)

CARVING CLASSES

Upcoming Monthly Programs (Zoom and in-person)

January – Carving Tool Storage – Best Practices – [click here](#)

February – Mary May’s Carving Insights – [click here](#)

March – Make a Knife or Adze – [click here](#)

Carving SIG

Evenings, 3rd Thursdays January thru May – [click here](#)

Daytimes, 1st Thursdays January thru May – [click here](#)

Upcoming Classes with Masa Nitani, Wednesdays 1:00-5:00, In-person

Texturing Techniques, Jan 11 - [click here](#)

Make Unique Tool Handles, Jan 25, [click here](#)

Bowl Making, Feb 8 and 22, [click here](#)

More Carving Classes

Intro to Carving (incised), Jan 21 ([here](#)), or Feb 18 ([here](#)), or Mar 11 ([here](#)) - Hybrid

Stropping for Beginners, Jan 11 ([here](#)), or Feb 8 ([here](#)), or Mar 8 ([here](#)) – Hybrid

Spoon Carving for Beginners, Feb 10 and 17, [click here](#) – Hybrid

Small Bowls in Four Woods, four Saturdays in Feb, [click here](#) – Hybrid

Interest List and Survey for Mary May’s upcoming classes, [click here](#)

Interest List for Monica Setziol-Phillips workshop, March 11/12, [click here](#) – In-person

Interest List for future Flat Plane Carving class, [click here](#)

First New Class of 2023

We have the first of what are likely to be a number of new classes rolling out in 2023. Have you ever wanted to try inlay. How about doing it the first time with a bit of romantic flair?

Carol Boyd is teaching a class on January 21 and a second one on February 4 so that you have this heart-warming box



for that special someone on Valentine’s Day. Here is the info on Make A Box with a Heart Inlay for Valentines Day.

Prerequisites: Intro to Guild Safety, Core Tools and router certification. (\$75)

Learn how to do a simple inlay. You will create an inlay in the side of a box using a template and a router. A precut box kit will be provided to all students and at the end of the session, you will go home with a glued-up box with an inlay. There will be a follow up session for those who would like assistance in finishing their box.

If you prefer, you can bring your own piece for the inlay – it must be able to hold a 2” inlay. Please contact the instructor ahead of time if you want to do this.

DOUG STOWE BOX-MAKING WORKSHOPS

NEARLY SOLD OUT!

Have you seen the two articles by Doug Stowe in the current issue of Fine Woodworking? Our workshops focus on the techniques to build these boxes, and others as well. Any skill level is welcome to participate.

There are only a few openings left for the 2nd workshop. Don’t hesitate if you want to join us! And be sure to put your name on the waitlist for either of these workshops in the event a spot opens up!

WELCOMING BACK MARY MAY

By Larry Wade

Mary May is one of the most well-known carving teachers in the United States. She was here twice before; the last time was October 2019 a few months before the pandemic. Mary is returning the week of May 16 to teach three classes. In addition, she will be the special guest speaker at the February 16 monthly carving program. The goals for February are to help those attending her May classes be better prepared, to get to know her, and to teach some handy basics for everyone.



In May she will teach two carving classes in the Guild Studio to 12 students. One class will be for beginner/intermediates and a second for intermediate/advanced carvers. In addition, she will teach a third class and cover a wide range of topics in a lecture-demo, large-group format in the Multnomah Art Center Auditorium. We're deciding which projects to teach in each of these classes; and to choose, we've created a survey linked to the Interest List. If you want to take one of her classes, [click here](#) to join the interest list (no obligation) **and** take the time to fill out the survey to express your project preferences.

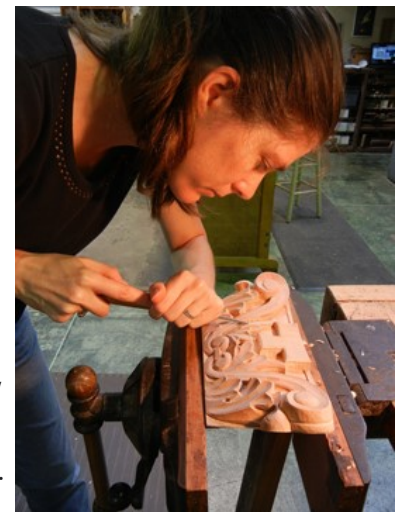
We expect the two small classes to fill quickly, and those on the interest list will be given the first opportunity to register - first come, first served.

Heidi McNamee is the lead class coordinator with help from Michael Rothman.

She will join the Oregon Carvers Guild and the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers for several classes and a Zoom appearance.

- ♦ February 16th 7-9pm, Zoom: **Guest speaker at the Monthly Carvers Meeting —FREE—**
- ♦ May 16th 1pm-5pm, In-person & Zoom: **Tips and Tricks class**
- ♦ May 16th 7pm, In-person & Zoom: **Guest speaker at the Monthly GOOW Meeting —FREE—**
- ♦ May 17-19 9am-5pm, In-person: **Beginner/Intermediate class**
- ♦ May 20-21 9am-5pm, In-person: **Intermediate/Advanced class**

Check out [Mary's website](#).



WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CARVINGS – A MARY MAY STORY

By Roger Crooks

Years ago, Larry Wade and I took Mary May's classes when she visited the Guild. The classes were billed as basic, but we had everyone from beginners to advanced carvers and everyone got something out of it. I ended up with two beautiful (to me) carvings – a flower and a shell. I was pretty proud but had no idea what to do with them. So, they ended up in a box with other carvings I did while learning.

Fast forward several years. I was working on a simple cabinet for the laundry room. It was made of red oak with two doors. Nice, but a bit boring. At the same time, I was cleaning out my shop and came across these two carvings. A bell went off and since the doors were already done, I had to come up with way to incorporate them without redoing the whole door. In retrospect, it would have been better and faster to redesign and redo the doors. But it is hard to trash what you just built so I took it as a challenge.

Adding a frame is always a good way to hide mistakes or other inaccuracies. The result turned a rather mundane cabinet into a work of art, at least in my mind.

Coming up this coming year, Mary May will be here again – don't miss this great opportunity.



COMFORT BIRDS OFF TO A FLYING START

By Julie Niemeyer

I first heard about carving Comfort Birds at an OCG meeting last May, where I learned that there are roughly 40 carving guilds around the country doing this, very quietly. The birds are a tactile object like a worry stone given to people in distress to sooth and calm. The birds can be given to individuals or to organizations that offer care to the elderly, Alzheimer's care facilities, counselling groups that offer care to children, teachers who educate autistic children, cancer patients. The list goes on and on, and the need is huge.

While "birds" may be the most common object we make, there are other animal shapes that also work very well, and we expect to have a variety of shapes and sizes to offer. Other examples are turtles, owls, bunnies, geese, cats. Think of Comfort Animals, not just Comfort Birds.

After the monthly program on making birds, Larry Wade made a request to all members to help lead the Comfort Bird project, as well as to make a lot. Last June I raised my hand but told him it would have to wait until I finished other projects in my queue.

Meanwhile, I hand carved 15 birds just by following the directions in the article [A Bird in the Hand](#). Recently I attended a Zoom meeting with Tom Rich to learn the Beall finishing technique. Over Labor Day I talked about birds at Art-in-the-Pearl. I looked at everyone's beautiful birds at the OCG August picnic. What I learned was that I'm very slooooooowwwwww at this carving business and that the people intended to be the recipients of the birds would pass from old age before they ever got one of my birds.

At an October open house Larry talked with his old friend Rich Bader, a member of Guild of Oregon Woodworkers, about the possibility that their CNC Special Interest Group (SIG) might partner with the carvers to produce a high volume of comfort birds on the CNC machine. Rich threw himself into figuring out how to make a three-dimensional bird, a rather complicated process. I was invited to speak at a recent meeting about the birds and the enormous need for them. Rich explained his process of CNC machining the birds, and at the meeting, the group agreed to take on the project.

This will be a collaboration between the Oregon Carvers Guild and the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers via the CNC SIG. We have many members belonging to each guild. As a somewhat arbitrary goal we hope to carve 500 birds by the end of 2023, both by hand and by CNC, maybe 100 by hand, the rest by CNC. We'll ramp up as we gain experience. We'll see some at the Gathering of the Guild to help cover expenses, but most will be donated to local organizations to place into needy hands. We expect bird creators themselves will make extras to give to family and friends in need.

Within a week after the CNC meeting, I received a flurry of emails from CNC SIG members about design possibilities and offers to help sand and finish. Rich had previously found a 3D model suitable for the CNC router, and another member, Steve McGowan, is going to scan a hand carved bird and possible replication by the CNC. The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is donating as much wood as we need for the project. After the holidays, Tom Rich will teach the finishing technique (aka the Beall System) that produces a velvety smooth finish using three buffing wheels. The process takes less than ten minutes per bird to finish using two rouges and carnauba wax.



Photo by Rich Bader

For the CNC part of the project, we need people to help mill the wood, others to lightly sand the birds, and a few to buff and apply the finish. I will help facilitate the project but could use another person to share the wheelhouse. If you would like to help us with this project, in any way, just email me at ju-lie.niemeyer@guildoforegonwoodworkers.org, and we'll get the Comfort Birds flying into the hands of those in need of a small comfort.

For the carving side of the project, we need help with carving by hand or power, then sanding, and finishing. You can do animals start to finish, or just tackle some of the steps along the way.



Introduction to Guild Safety class on 12/06/2022.



Introduction to Guild Safety class on 12/18/2022.



Getting Started, four hours of fun with portable power tools in the new Studio. This class was on 12/20/22. There in the middle is Michael Rothman, the Shop Assistant, and to his right is Jeff Hilber who teaches the class. He is holding the cutting board your editor made during the class.



What's Up with ED?

By Gary Weeber, Education Director

EDUCATION PROGRAM EVOLVES - The modern Guild has always made woodworking education a priority and today is no different. The program is evolving in a number of ways, however, and we want you to be aware of those.

We will be focused on normalizing some of the new classes and events that were started this year. That will include providing a **current catalogue** of our routine classes and seeing classes that were new this year becoming part of our routine offerings.

We are going to be providing CNC classes on a routine basis for the first time in the Guild's history. We have a talented and effective CNC Team that will not only be delivering classes but will also be providing mentoring opportunities in the Studio in 2023.

We have decided to modify our approach to **hand-tool classes**. We experimented this year with a series of introductory hand-tool classes but ultimately concluded that this was not an approach that matched well with us as an organization. Watch for upcoming information as our leadership and Hand-Tool Team develop a program that will meet your needs.

We will be launching our **Foundations of Fine Woodworking Series** for beginning and basic woodworkers. We are very excited about this new six-class series and believe that this will set a solid foundation for the many new woodworkers that are joining the Guild.

We have established an exciting partnership with the **Oregon Carving Guild** and will be offering many carving classes for those that have that interest. We are also developing a safety certification process for carving that will meet the needs of this somewhat unique set of classes.

For the first time, we will have four visiting **Masters** coming to the Guild in 2023. The workshops from Doug Stowe, Mary May, Kelly Parker, and Michael Fortune will be the crown jewels of our education offerings. We are providing something for the first time in 2023 with one of our visiting masters. Doug Stowe, a renowned educator, will be leading a free retreat for instructors on principles of learning. We expect this to be the first of more efforts in the future to provide our instructors with training and skill development.

Our need for volunteers will be growing with our expanded programs. We are all proud of what we do as an organization but we cannot do it without our **volunteer workforce**. We have an organizational ethic that includes giving back in exchange for what you receive. Are you giving back? We have simplified our class assistant role and this is a way that you can give back that is both easy and appreciated. We are providing more basic classes and these classes can be taught by many in the Guild who may not be expert woodworkers. If you are interested in trying this, Education leadership will provide you with the help and support you need to make the process fulfilling.



2022 LEE JOHNSON WOODWORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

CAROL BOYD

The Woodworker of the Year Award was established in 2012 in honor of the memory of Lee Johnson, a former president of the Guild and a very accomplished woodworker and teacher who gave generously of his time and talent to the Guild.

The award is given annually to a Guild member who has exhibited generosity, integrity, and love for our craft. The past recipients, are:

2012 – Gig Lewis

2014 – Ray Curtis

2015 – Bob Oswald and Chip Webster

2016 – Larry Wade

2017 – Ed Ferguson

2018 – Julie Niemeyer

2019 – Roger Crooks

2020 – Steve Poland

2021 – Aboo Balmgwalla

In past years, recipients of the Woodworker of the Year award have been selected by the Board. This year, Ed Swakon asked several past recipients to work together to broaden the process and select the recipient. They asked for input from all elements of Guild leadership: program leads, shop attendants, and instructors...as well as Board members. The recommendations were a testament to the incredible contributions of our members. And there were several worthy candidates. But one individual stood out for

their broad range of contributions. This year's Woodworker of the Year Award recipient has:

- ♦ Served on the Board
- ♦ Served as lead for the Toy Group
- ♦ Taken a lead role in the Shop Attendant program
- ♦ Acted as a lead volunteer for Guild shows and events such as the Gathering of the Guilds and Multnomah Days
- ♦ Provided critical leadership in administering the COVID protocols

That person is **Carol Boyd**. In addition to her formal leadership roles, Carol helps out in countless other ways... large and small. Some of the comments from those recommending Carol were:

- ♦ "She contributes to the behind-the-scenes work at the Guild that I and others may not see, but that we all benefit from."
- ♦ "She is very responsive to questions and always knows what is going on."
- ♦ "Carol seems to be one of the ever-present ones in leading a number of Shop Attendant, project, and outreach efforts."

For all these contributions, Carol Boyd is our 2022 Woodworker of the Year.

Here is Carol last year holding the new Automatic Electronic Defibrillator located in the Bench Room.



GIG LEWIS VOLUNTEER-OF-THE-MONTH AWARD

DECEMBER 2022 – HEIDI MCNAMEE

Each month the Guild awards one of its most prestigious awards, the Gig Lewis Volunteer of the Month. Because the Guild is run entirely by volunteers, recognizing our volunteers is essential. Previous recipients of this award have volunteered in many ways. They might have actively participated in one or more of the many Community Outreach programs the Guild has or in Education or Shop Operations or contributed with a one time project for the Guild. Some have taken on a role behind the scenes that is important to the Guild's ongoing operations. There are many ways and roles that members take to contribute to the Guild's ongoing success.

This month's recipient of the Volunteer of the Month is Heidi McNamee

Heidi has been so active as a volunteer it would be easier to list what she *hasn't* been doing.

As an education volunteer Heidi has been an excellent Class coordinator and assistant for a number of classes over the years, especially the Carving classes. She also helps pull together upcoming classes and events information for the monthly newsletter.

Heidi has also been a key component in the Project Build Team recently helping to organize participation in our host community Multnomah for a craft event while also working on the many projects needed for finishing out the Studio

Heidi has stepped up alongside Mike Sandmann as he took on the role of Board Vice President for membership to help lead Product Build.

While Heidi has long been a very active volunteer, her willingness to step up and take a leadership role has become invaluable to the Guild. She is a well organized, thoughtful and enthusiastic leader of any role she takes on for the Guild!



In Heidi's words: *I joined the Guild because I wanted to learn to use my grandfather's hand planes and maybe make a sofa table. As a complete beginner I was intimidated, but every time I showed up, there was something new and interesting to learn and nice people willing to teach me.*

Early on, I volunteered with a Community Projects group to make garden benches for Albetina Kerr and learned a ton of tips and tricks that I would never have discovered on my own. Although I didn't have great skills, I was made to feel quite welcome and encouraged to ask questions and to join in all the "how are we going to do this" discussions. I really enjoy the problem solving aspect of woodworking and find it exciting to be in the shop when there is a lot happening and we have to work together to figure out how to accomplish our goals.

I'm bemused by how my hodgepodge of Guild experiences over the last six years has coalesced into something approaching an education in woodworking. There are still a ton of gaps of course, but because I went to a sharpening class, I learned how to carve and got to teach box-making and carving to middle schoolers. Because I showed up to volunteer events, I made friends and got to help them teach classes. Now I am helping to lead the Wednesday afternoon Project Build group; never in a million years would I have thought this would be my path, but it's a ton of fun and there is always something to learn.

Someday I'll get around to actually making that sofa table, but honestly, there's no rush. Got to finish a bench for the Guild with Ken (so we can start another bench) and then those bandsaw boxes for the guy I met while volunteering last week and there's coordinating for Mary May visiting in May to teach carving (plus her video appearance in February)....

We are pleased to have Heidi as our Gig Lewis Volunteer of the Month for December 2022.



THEN THERE WAS BLOOD”

By Jim Spitzer

Originally published in the June 2016 GOOW Newsletter

“What happened!” and then “I’m OK” were shouted above the roar of my dust collection system and through my hearing protection. I scanned from her raised hand to her startled face, to the concrete floor where blood was pooling. Over the noise I shouted, “Follow me!” We went a dozen steps to the laundry room sink where I quickly rinsed and assessed the wound. The cut was bad. Not sure how bad as I quickly wrapped it with a clean rag and told her to keep pressure on it as I drove her to the emergency room.

This happened a year ago. It was traumatic enough so that I did not want to talk about it. But I should have. Even the most experienced among us can have a lapse in the steps that we should consider to keep us safe. Perhaps an interruption, fatigue, repetition, overconfidence in safety features, etc. Perhaps adding this incident to your memory will cause you to think and work more safely. She is a fifth year architecture student who is experienced using power tools, including the miter saw that did the damage. Her boyfriend, the son of a neighbor and good friend, had asked if I would work with her to build do-it-yourself furniture for his new apartment out of pallets and discards from home construction sites. It was a beautiful, hot day. She quickly proved herself to be a hard, competent worker. Following her designs we were making creative, good looking furniture of cast-off wood.

The last cut of the day was on this 10” Makita sliding miter saw. It is well maintained. The handle is set to the right of the plane of the moving blade. The blade guard worked as built. But the design was not enough. We know of the 3”

rule that keeps a holding hand away from the blade. But what about the operating hand? Blade guards typically need gravity in order to fall over the blade. Well, what if the blade is pinched by the work? Perhaps the back of the wood being cut was not flat and flush against the fence. Perhaps the nature of the wood grain causes the blade to bind. As the blade is pinched the power of the motor could cause the saw to fly out of the wood AND the hand operating the saw. If there is enough energy the saw will reach its upper stop and then reverse direction, bouncing down toward the hand that it broke free from. It may be moving faster than the force of gravity that is required to drop the blade guard. If the hand that the saw broke free from moves into the plane of the moving blade this is what can happen.

While still very serious it was a close call. The spinning blade could have easily cut through the hand. But momentum stopped just as the blade was cutting an inch or so longitudinal groove in the underlying bone (see center of photo).

It was still enough to cut one of the five tendons. Follow up surgery by a plastic surgeon and much physical therapy have led to full function of the hand. An impressive scar and will lead to a lifetime of telling the story. It has reinforced in me the need to not only know where the blade is and where it is going, but where will it go if the piece being cut may be propelled if things do not go as expected.

On a chop or miter saw always ensure that material is held flush against the fence. But the nature of the wood can still cause kick-back. Ensure that the direction and force of your hand cannot bring it into the plane of the moving blade. On the table saw ensure the path of any kicked back material is clear of your body and others. Consider all of the risks and precautions that you can take as you use any tool... even hand tools. Let’s all try to work carefully, smarter, safer.



GOING FROM SPEAKING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO ALMOST SPEAKING CNC.

By Julie Niemeyer

The CNC Special Interest Group (SIG) successfully held their first eight-hour pilot class and attending were four test students with a variety of computer skills; Leslie Kantor, Dick Rohrbaugh, Mark Klein, and myself. Each of us had our own personal mentors, all CNC SIG members, with Rich Bader and Vince Corbin presenting the class. David Smith watched over our time at the CNC machine while we learned to carve the sign that we spent the day designing.

The CNC mentors, Craig Jones, David Smith, Ian Walton, and Tracy Weiland were delightful, cheerful, positive, and seemingly unflappable while teaching the students not to break anything. They all have varying degrees of experience and reasons that they either have bought or have made their own CNC machines and are very enthusiastic about the subject.

The class was well organized and relaxed while staying true to its timeline. We learned to design a project, create tool paths, (the actual path that the router bit will take to carve the design), and operate the Guild's CNC machine with our one-on-one mentors at our side the entire time. I learned that most of the time spent on the CNC machine is the computer design for the specific project and the rest is carving.

Leslie Kantor wrote, "Prior to the class, I had significant skepticism that I would be able to learn enough about the software to feel successful in regards to what would be taught on that very full day. I am proficient with everyday business use of computers - MS Office products and industry specific databases, but little to no experience with drawing programs. Rich and Vince's presentation, detailed handouts, and one-on-one mentoring along with hands-on repetition, was the right combination for me to be successful. It seemed that everyone in the class was enjoying themselves, and I heard not one note of frustration. I found the whole process fun and I want to learn more."

Fun was had by all and we can almost speak the CNC language. Stay tuned for the roll-out of regular CNC classes put on by the Guild's CNC SIG members and the addition of a brand-new CNC machine to join the Studio soon. Join the CNC SIG if you are interested in using the Guild's CNC machines. They are great group of welcoming people and they will be providing the training to become certified to use the machines. Learn to speak and use the CNC!



MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM A NEWBIE

By Pat Wheeler

The thought popped into my head that I wanted to make a table, ignoring the fact that my experience to date was limited to cutting boards and a few boxes. Most of my experience came from Project Build where they are kind to beginners and are patient teachers. To make the table idea more complicated, I had wood but no plans. I bought a load of Rainbow Poplar from Hardwood Industries in Tualatin and surely could make a table with that! (or at least with the wood from the second trip there when I realized I didn't have nearly enough). Wood first, mental plans later, right?

I threw a variety of things at the very simple design. Biscuits, dominos, dados for z-clips, mortise and tenons for the frame, tapered legs, jointing, planing and lots of sand-

ing and Osmo. The table is now finished and ready for the TV I bought last year which has been sitting on a piece of plywood above the console to accommodate the legs that were 36" apart, rather than 34".

Throughout it all, I had the help of many shop assistants. I think by now, everyone in the shop has seen at least part of the table in process. Special thanks to Ken Fairfax, Jesse Smith, Steve Poland, Gary Weeber and Steve Karlik – each of whom had a part in educating me on how to do all the aforementioned things, and in what order to do them. Woodworking requires more forethought and just plain actual thinking than I'm accustomed to! Thanks again to all for your time, patience and help. I truly appreciate it.



Workspace (aka dining room) – using my neighbor's 100-year-old clamps that belonged to his grandfather



Finished and ready to go under the TV

MULTNOMAH ARTS CENTER GALLERY

CALL FOR ARTISTS

If you are interested in exhibiting in the MAC Gallery. To apply, [click here](#).

New - The application deadline has been extended to midnight on Monday, January 23, 2023. All submissions will be reviewed by a group jury, and artists will be notified of the jury's decisions by early February 2023. Six exhibits will be scheduled based on this call, and each will be scheduled for a 5-week duration between May 2023 – April 2024

STRANGER THAN FICTION

By Gary Weeber

It seemed like a simple task. I have been ordering a lot of equipment and accessories on behalf of the Guild for the new Studio. Being inclined to bargain hunt (or at least find the best price) I had purchased a new Makita track saw Kit through one store and ordered the 55" guide extension from another. As one would expect, the track guide extension arrived. My wife and I live in a condo and so I picked up the package from the concierge at the front desk.

I picked up the package in the back of my pickup to take to the Studio. On the way I ran some errands, including picking up some lumber at Home Depot to use for Core Tool Classes.

I picked up the lumber and put in it the back of my pickup as the last errand before heading to the shop. As many of you know, the back of my pickup is full of tools (and other really valuable s*#t) and so the lumber had to stick out of the back, resting on the closed tailgate and with the lid secured to the lumber with rope.

When I got to the Shop, the Makita package was GONE! 'Crap (or worse)' thought I. It was gone. I must not have had the canopy locked and someone had stolen it at one of my earlier stops. Curses! I chastised myself for my stupidity at not having checked to make sure the canopy was secured. I unloaded the lumber and headed for home, deciding I would just have to order another track extension. When I got home, I ordered another track extension. Then I kicked myself some more. And then a little more.

The next morning, I was at the Verizon store and got a call from the concierge. He said he was really confused because the package I had picked up from him yesterday was returned to the concierge by someone that morning who had found it resting on a park bench in Multnomah Village. He saw the condo address on the shipping label. This good citizen had returned it but with the question, "How did a Makita track extension package make its way from the lobby of the condo tower to a park bench in

Multnomah Village?" He left his phone number with the concierge asking that, if possible, to ask the owner of the package call him to tell him, just out of curiosity, how it ended up on a park bench in Multnomah Village.

What the heck!?! After probably too much time puzzling over it, I figure it out. When I drive to the Shop, I frequently drive past SW 34th and Multnomah and then turn right by Marco's to head up the street to Capital Highway. Somehow the package had slipped out of the open crack between the canopy lid and the top of the tailgate and fallen to the street. Someone had picked it up and put it on the park bench. The good citizen, Perry, had seen it on the park bench while having a cup of coffee across the street. Although a software engineer, he recognized the value of the item because he has a Makita track saw and claims it is "the best thing since sliced bread" and so he wanted to find the rightful owner. What a story! From cursing the character of someone having stolen the back, I jettisoned into appreciation of the wonderful person who had taken the time to do the right and thoughtful thing.

But that is not all. When I called Perry to thank him and explain what happened, he chuckled and said he was actually a Guild member but had let his membership lapse. He said he would make sure to go online and renew his membership.

Happy holidays to all



... IN THE GARDEN



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