

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
**GUILD OF
 OREGON
 WOODWORKERS**

**OREGON
 WOOD
 WORKS**

Vol. #40, Issue 7
 July 2023
 Portland Oregon

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**GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION:
 FIELD TRIP! (OR ZOOM FROM HOME)**

AUGUST PRESENTATION

GIDEON HUGHES: CUSTOM DESIGN AND STYLE

at Gideon Hughes Woodworks
 1801 SE Franklin, Portland

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023 7PM

By Joe Wheaton

What? Another road trip? Yep, and it will be well worth it. We're off to another artist's workshop. After visiting Mark Newman in June, and going to Creative Woodworking in July, we have another opportunity to see where the art is created. As I talk to professional woodworkers for our presentations, I find that they often prefer to present from their shop. It's where they do their work and are the most comfortable and it lets them show us actual pieces of instead of merely pictures. A bit more work for us, perhaps, but we get to see these woodworking artists in their creative backyards, so to speak. It makes for a richer experience for us, I'm sure.

I visited Gideon's shop and studio last month to check it out. We're in for a treat. Gideon Hughes, of [Gideon Hughes Woodworks](#), is a master craftsman who brags about being "old school." He says his design tools are paper and pencil, and his technology is a tape measure and story pole. He designs custom kitchens and cabinets, to pay the bills, but his creative work is full of whimsy with bright colors and crazy shapes. When you see [one of his kitchen's](#), the first word that comes to mind is "beautiful." But it's impossible not to smile and chuckle when you see his [water heater lingerie cabinet](#) or his [puzzle table](#). And who wouldn't want a twisty, curving chest of drawers, like the one below, complete with blue drawer fronts and, whatever that is on top – is it a toupee? A mustache? A whisk of wind-blown hair? You got me, but it works.



Join us on Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 at his workshop: [1801 SE Franklin in Portland](#), (or on [Zoom at: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96184696029?pwd=MWZOUEZsejJua0pJY2tvbjVSVlFuZz09](#))

ZOOM Update: We have had trouble with the microphones for the Zoom the last couple of meetings, but Bland McCartha is on the case, and we are upgrading our audio system with new, more powerful mics. Hopefully, these will solve our problems.

Getting there: The place can be a bit hard to find, so I have included a map and a picture of the building. (See [page 4](#) for these items) You'll need take SE 20th south off of SE Powell and then go around the block to get to 1801 SE Franklin. The entrance is on the left after you walk through the parking lot in the front. Gideon assures me there will be plenty of street parking at that time of night. I hope to see you there.

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 Balgamwalla
 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 **46** 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.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Anthony Abraham | Jamie Iacoli |
| Spencer Aldrich | Amaranta Kazandjian |
| Tom Andrews | Thomas Koskores |
| Travis Anglin-Dodd | Pepsi LaCamp |
| James Archuleta | Tom LaCamp |
| Lindsey Bellamy | Nicholas Melo |
| Omar Bhutta | Allie Menard |
| Kevin Bowhay | Sherwin Mina |
| Nicholas Brown | James Morrison |
| James Cady | Claire Oliphant |
| Dustin Donner | Suzanne Pekar |
| Jayant D'Souza | Danielle Ruiz |
| Brian Duncan | Oscar Ruiz |
| Matt Eichsteadt | Alexander Sadosky |
| Sarah Elkind | Kristen Sanders |
| Todd Ellner | Michael Silberbach |
| Steve Erickson | Troy Smith |
| Egor Ershov | Sridhar Srirangam |
| Eric Frandsen | Mary Stenzel-Poore |
| Kirsten Griffith | Jesse Velarde |
| Jessica Heller | Amanda Walker |
| Albert Hertel | Joel Wiseman |
| Lyll Hinton | Akira Yokoyama |

NOTES FROM THE GUILD PRESIDENT

Ed Swakon, President



July General Meeting

We were hosted for our July meeting by Creative Woodworking NW by Joe & Mike Redmond. (pic) (<https://creativewoodworkingnw.com>) Joe and Mike gave us a tour of the shop and explain the services they provide. Creative Woodworking NW offers the ability to bring

your wood in and work with one of their staff to get the job you need done very efficiently. They work with very large materials, with 50" planners/sanders, resawing capabilities, jointers, and sliding table saws, and much more. They shine with the ability to make moldings of almost any profile. You can search their website for a profile you like, and if you can't find what you are looking for, they can grind the knives on the spot to make what you need. I used them several weeks ago to mill some 8-foot-long 8/4 rift saw white oak boards and they exceeded my expectations. Thank you, Joe and Mike!

Future General Meetings

On the horizon, we'll be visiting Hardwood Industries, we'll be hosting another Guild Open House in September, and in December, we'll have our Holiday party and award the Woodworker of the Year.



The Guild's Executive Committee

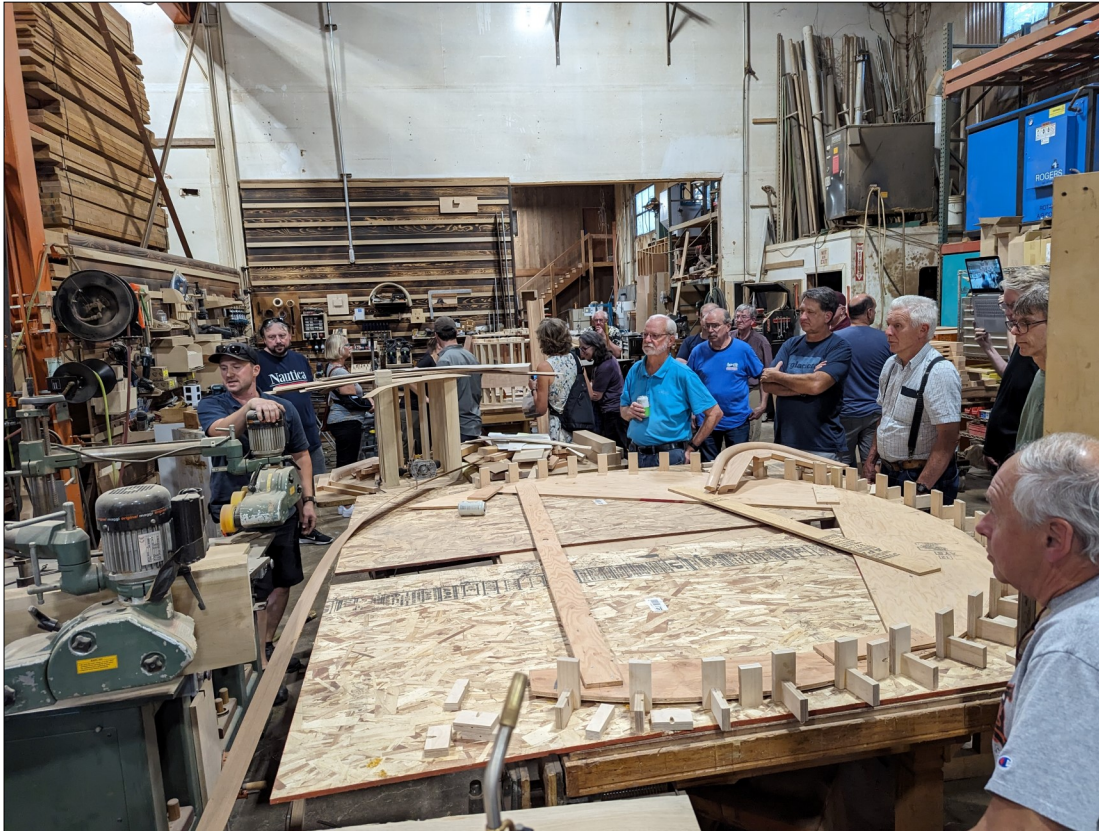
The Guild's Executive Committee is beginning the task of identifying future Guild leaders. We need to fill positions throughout the Guild's organization chart. Taking a leadership role is not that difficult and we need more members to step up and help when asked. Just like many organizations, the bulk of the work is done by a very small percentage of the members. This leads to burnout and some frustration. Let's all pitch in and contribute. Become a class assistant, a shop attendant, organize a presentation at a SIG or volunteer to help at one of the many fairs and events the Guild displays a booth. We need your help.

Join us at B O'Brien's Irish Pub for lunch.

We will meet for lunch on Monday, August 7 at [JB O'Brien's Irish Pub](#) (11555 SW Durham Road Tigard, OR 97224) at 11:30 AM. This is an informal get-together to chat and share conversations with your fellow Guild members. Please join us whether you're a longtime member or just recently joined. Mark your calendars.

Make friends get involved and make sawdust with the Guild!



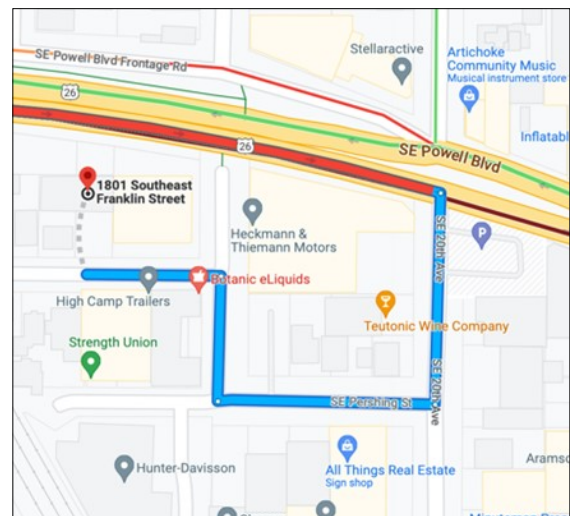


The July General Meeting held at Creative Woodworking NW.

AUGUST 15 GENERAL MEETING HOW TO GET THERE.

From the Shop: Take the Ross Island Bridge east to SE 20th then take a right (south). Go south on 20th to Pershing and take a right (west). Continue on Pershing and take another right (north) at 19th. Go up (north) one block to

Franklin and take a left, then park. 1801 is a light blue building in the middle of the block, at the back of a small parking lot. The entrance is to the left of the double garage doors.



GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS - FINANCIALS

Statement of Account

January – June 2023

Revenue	
Administration	\$57,385
Community Outreach	\$61,190
Education	\$66,977
Membership	\$43,343
Shop Operations	\$15,537
Total Revenue	\$244,432
Expenses	
Administration	\$72,805
Community Outreach	\$47,728
Education	\$56,645
Membership	\$ 9,501
Shop Operations	\$43,158
Total Expenses	\$229,837
Total Net Assets	\$26,754

Statement of Condition

June 30, 2023

Cash Assets	
Cash Boxes	\$ 200
Facility Fund	\$ 6,778
General Fund	\$98,113
Reserve Operating Fund	\$100,000
Restricted Donation Fund	\$46,074
Scholarship Fund	\$11,314
PayPal	\$ 4,162
Total Cash	\$266,641
Other Assets	
Tenant Security Deposit	\$ 7,637
Total Assets	\$274,278
Total Liabilities	none

Questions or Comments Welcome:

treasurer@guildoforegonwoodworkers.org

GUILD'S REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

1. History: Since its founding in 1978, the Guild has been very fortunate to have a membership that is generous in supporting all manner of guild activities by paying for goods and services and waiting for reimbursement. The treasury appreciates this service being provided and has committed to processing a payment for an approved reimbursement within 24 hours of its submission. Please read on to help facilitate this process.

2. Pre Approval: To manage this approved budget, all reimbursements should be approved by the appropriate Director BEFORE purchase.

a. All purchases must be within the formally approved Guild budget. Any purchases that would not conform to that requirement would require a budget adjustment by the Board.

b. Reimbursements for all purchases must be approved by the appropriate Director. This may be through either the direct submission of the reimbursement request by the Director or by the program leader formally assigned to approve reimbursements by the Director for specific program areas. 3. The program director will determine the number and type of any specific program budgets (i.e. classes) with the understanding that no purchases will be made inconsistent with that budget unless pre-approved by the Director or designee.

3. Services: The Guild DOES reimburse for services provided on a non-employee basis. For an individual, a signed contract is required prior to the service performed, and the

provider must have offered this or related services to the general public and not just to the Guild. Otherwise, members are not considered independent contractors, and their volunteer efforts will not be reimbursed.

4. Mileage: The Guild does not reimburse for mileage driven while on Guild business. The two exceptions to this are the fuel reimbursement to haul our trailer to the Gathering of the Guilds and the hauling fee that the estate assistance team charges the estate.

5. Meals: The Guild does not reimburse for off premise meals. The Guild does provide food and drink for certain classes lasting all day, and the cost of meals is figured into the class cost. Other Guild activities involving the whole membership may have food and drink provided at the discretion of the President and is included in the operating budget.

6. Capital Expenses: This includes any items typically lasting more than 1 year. These items are not included in the annual operating budget and do require prior approval from the entire board before purchase per our bylaws.

7. Procedure for Reimbursement:

- Pre Approval from the appropriate director
- Submit Reimbursement Form and Receipts to the appropriate director
- Cash your check

Comments are always welcome:

treasurer@guildoforegonwoodworkers.org

GUILD CLASSES

ONLINE & IN-PERSON CLASSES & Special Interest Groups (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 see all classes and add yourself to wait-lists.

[CNC SIG](#) 8/10 7pm Guild Studio

[Introduction to CNC Routing](#) 8/12 9am Guild Studio

[Box SIG](#) 8/23 5:30pm Guild Studio

[Hand Tool SIG](#) 8/24 6:30pm Guild Studio

[Women's SIG](#) 9/7 5pm Guild Benchroom

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](#) 8/5 9am Guild Studio, Jeff Hilber

[Intro to Guild Safety](#) 8/15 9am Guild Studio, Jeff Hilber

[Intro to Guild Safety](#) 9/2 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](#) 8/1 8:45am Guild Studio, Jeff Hilber

[Router and Router Table Basics and Certification](#) 8/6 5pm Guild Studio, Bill Hamilton

[Router and Router Table Basics and Certification](#) 8/16 5pm Guild Studio, Bill Hamilton

[Core Tool Certification](#) 8/22 & 8/29 5pm Guild Studio, Stuart Brown

[Core Tool Certification](#) 9/5 & 9/12 1pm Guild Studio, Dennis Dolph

Upcoming classes are posted on the bottom right of the [Woodworking Classes](#) page.

For the full list of education & shop training classes go to:

[GUILD EDUCATION CALENDAR](#)

GUILD CATALOG IS OPEN

All members may purchase the full range of Guild Gear from July 31 to August 10. Payment will need to be made by credit card or PayPal. Items will be available for pickup towards the end of September. There is a link to the catalog on the homepage of the Guild website.

If any questions please contact

bill.tainter@guildoforegonwoodworkers.org



July General Meeting held at Creative Woodworking NW.

Take Ten Home Club.

July 16, 2023

Aspiring to excel in woodcraft starts with the Guild's Take Ten Home Club.

Introduction to Guild Safety, July 16th

... the *Introduction to Guild Safety* lecture...

We don't work in a dangerous environment. We work in a hazardous environment that we make dangerous by not following safe work procedures and wearing our PPE.

Safety is an action word, but most of the time we treat it as something passive. Be safe, have a safe trip or make safety your first concern. To make something safe takes action and requires one to do something. That something is to recognize what can cause an injury (hazard) and then take steps to control it in a manner that ensures nobody gets hurt.



July 4, 2023

Getting Started with Portable Power Tools, July 4th. You are the tool with the brains.

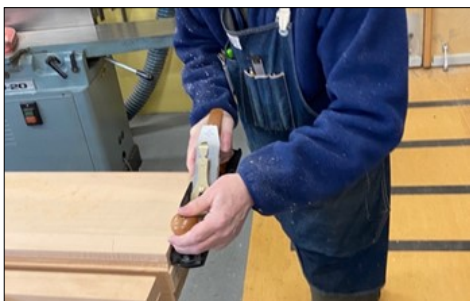


FOUNDATIONS AND MORE!

By Gary Weeber

The Guild now has TWO great series to offer.

1. The Basics of Fine Woodworking Series is designed to provide beginning woodworkers with the basic information and practice to build upon as they begin a progressive journey into woodworking. It also provides help for students to transition from Core Tool instruction to the actual use of the Shop. There are seven (7) classes that cover a variety of topics fundamental to woodworking. Each of the classes will fit into a four-hour time slot and will consist of lecture, demonstration, and hands-on practice as each participant takes a simple project from start to finish by the end of the seventh session. Sessions include the following topics:



- ♦ The Process of Woodworking
- ♦ Understanding Wood
- ♦ Basic Joinery
- ♦ Introduction to Hand Tools
- ♦ Glue-Ups
- ♦ Introduction to Finishes

If you are a beginning or basic woodworker, this series will provide you with a tremendous foundation. Once you have that foundation, you can take your woodworking any direction you want!

Volunteer instructors for this series include Ed Ferguson, Bill Hamilton, Dennis Dolph, Paul Barker, Ken Hall, Heidi McNamee and Chip Webster.

At present, this series is being offered only once per quarter. Our summer series has started so watch for the series this Fall! It is a very reasonably priced offering so check it out!

2. Intro to Woodworking & Furniture Design – Wood, Hand Tools, and Joinery is another new series that is being taught by local professional woodworker Helen Helfand. Check out her work at <https://www.helenlouisedesign.com/story>. The series will include the following sessions:

- ♦ Intro to Wood and Hand Tools
- ♦ Simple Hand Tool Joinery and Design Options
- ♦ Milling and Customization Tool Practice
- ♦ Mortise and Tenon joinery and Tabletop Glue-up
- ♦ Surface Prep and Base Glue-up
- ♦ Fixes and Finishes

Currently the first two classes of the six-class series are offered. This is designed to help you move from basic machine competence to designing and making your first furniture pieces.

In these first two sessions of class, we will introduce the fundamentals of wood as a material and learn an abbreviated history of wood and furniture design.

We will introduce and practice using chisels, planes, and saws to develop a hands-on understanding of wood properties. We will learn about the purposes of joinery, and use our new hand tool skills to practice cutting several different joints. Through hands-on practice, you will cultivate foundational skills for future woodworking.

We will discuss the many considerations when designing a new piece, and prepare you to think like a woodworker and furniture designer.

What are you waiting for? Start learning! Check out these and other classes at <https://guildoforegonwoodworkers.org/Education-Calendar>.

Questions? Contact Class Manager Doug Drake at doug.drake@guildoforegonwoodworkers.com.



Helen Louise Helfand is a designer/maker based in Portland, Oregon. She uses furniture and sculpture to envision alternatives to societal epidemics of isolationism, materialism and complacency. Her work is frequently interactive and supportive to ritual and creating meaning in the home.

Helen is a 2018 graduate from the Furniture Comprehensive at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, ME. She also has experience in leatherwork, metalwork, patternmaking, and clothing design.

Helen enjoys working with personal and professional clients to create beautiful and functional pieces for home and business.

CUTTING BOARD CLASS

By Micah Stolowitz

Mike Chia taught the cutting board class on Saturday July 15, 2023 and I assisted him.

The students were David Sneeringer, Christina Newcomb, Scott Atkins and Jonathan Ward. Everyone had fun and went home with their own handmade cutting board.



UPDATING THE WEB—EDUCATION

By Gary Weeber

Education Leadership Team

We are happy to report that the Guild website now has updated pages on our Education program!!

We know how much evolution we have gone through as a Guild and it has been really a challenge trying to keep our webpages current. For now at least, the Education pages are current!

Some of the original pages have been removed and replaced with new pages. Under the Education tab on the website, you will find the following folders listed!

- ◆ Guild Education Program
- ◆ Guild Safety Program
- ◆ Guild Woodworking Classes
- ◆ Other Learning Options
- ◆ Guild Education – How To
- ◆ Education Volunteers
- ◆ Special Interest Groups – SIGS
- ◆ Education Calendar
- ◆ Education Store

A special thank you goes to **Pat Wheeler** who committed multiple hours taking these pages on MS Word and turning them into webpages!

Gary Weeber

Newsletter Donate Calendar

HOME > JOIN THE GUILD > MEMBERS > COMMUNITY OUTREACH > EDUCATION > GUILD SHOP > SHOP SAFETY >

HOME > EDUCATION > Guild Education Program

EDUCATION PROGRAM

You may be interested in the educational opportunities available to you with the Guild. Interests can be limited to only the most basic instruction; to becoming moderately proficient; to becoming an expert. The Guild offers over 150 classes per year and offers other learning opportunities as well.

In the education program we provide opportunities for members to learn the safe use of tools and to grow their skill levels in the craft of woodworking through a system of educational offerings. These are designed to be broad in scope, reasonably priced and designed to achieve identified goals. They are built for fun and growth.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SAFETY CLASSES: These are classes in basic safety that help ensure that members engage in woodworking safely. These classes are required for the various tool safety certifications.

WOODWORKING CLASSES: The Guild offers classes that vary in difficulty from basic to advanced. The classes not only provide knowledge, skills and techniques; many also are project-based so that you walk away with something to be proud of. From hand tools to CNC, the Guild is a place for learning. Just click on [Class Catalogue](#) on this page to see the planned routine classes for this year.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs): These are small groups focused on a particular subject area. They hold meetings on a monthly basis. Current groups focus on hand tools, carving, CNC and women in woodworking.

VISITING MASTERS: Every year, the Guild brings in international masters of woodworking to provide lectures and workshops for Guild members. Examples of past Visiting Masters include Michael Fortune, Michael Cullen, Mike Pekovich, Doug Stowe, Garrett Hack, Mary May...and many more!

MESSAGES

COMMUNITY SERVICE

ART-IN-THE-PEARL 2023 DEMONSTRATION

By Roger Crooks

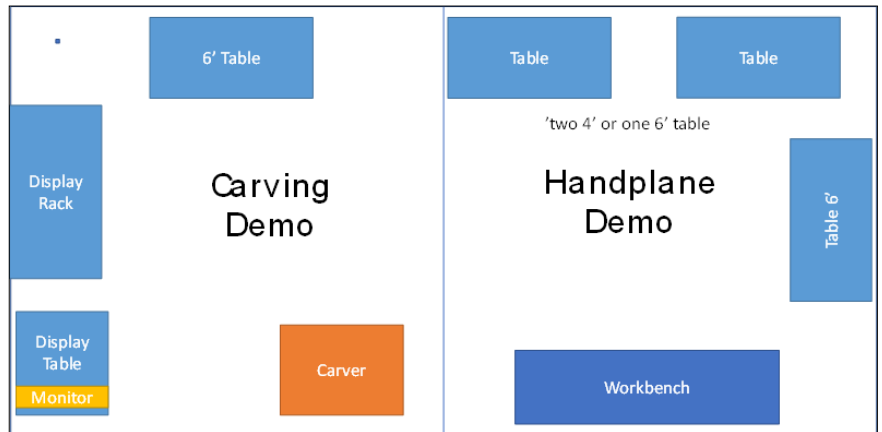
Art-in-the-Pearl is again this Labor Day Weekend, and we need lots of volunteers. Being a three-day show and a 20' booth, we have a significant presence at this high-end, well-known, and extremely popular event. It is one of Portland's signature events.

This is our chance to give back to the community, highlight the joys of woodworking and have fun. The booth is divided in half. One half demonstrates the use of hand tools by making cedar sachets and giving them to the crowd. The best part is helping visitors, especially kids, use a handplane to make cedar shavings. The second half is carving with a live carving demonstration and examples of different types of carving.

Wood is magic to most people and this is a chance to share with people your love of woodworking. We can also highlight our contributions to the community through our Education classes, Toy Program, Estate Sales, Bird House Build events, Community Service Builds and Hire-a-Woodworker program.

Please sign up [HERE](#). Free AIP T-shirts are given to the first 15 volunteers.

Example of last year's booth



ESTATE SALE TEAM HELPING MEMBERS & AND THE COMMUNITY

The Estate Assistance Program team has many roles, and welcomes volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, contact the Guild's [Volunteer Coordinator](#).



GIG LEWIS VOLUNTEER-OF-THE-MONTH AWARD



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 ongo-

JULY 2023 – PAT WHEELER

This month's Volunteer of the Month is *Pat Wheeler*.

Pat joined the Guild as a beginning woodworker, though experience runs in her family. After retirement, her father took up furniture making and bowl turning in a basement shop - making hundreds of bowls for friends, family, and charities. Pat says "one day while visiting my sister in Pennsylvania, she decided she needed a bookcase, so she went to her well-equipped shop and built herself one. I wanted to be able to do that too. Linda got me started by teaching me to make a simple cutting board. It was after that, that I joined the Guild in April 2021." She got started with the Guild as many do, by volunteering with Project Build.

It was during this that she was approached to become a member of the Membership Committee - and as one knows, it's quite hard to say no when Mike Sandmann asks you for something. Pat has been on the Membership team for over a year and has contributed by updating the website, preparing member reports, answering member questions and most recently, managing the membership waiting list and the re-opening to new members. Her background as a data analyst has been helpful in looking at membership trends and preparing Board reports. She has just completed a first stint as Class Assistant for Core Tools, and is looking forward to other ways to contribute to the Guild.

Comments from Mike Sandman:

Pat Joined the Guild the Guild in April of 2021, a year when the Guild was coming out of COVID-related restrictions to open shop and classes. She brought with her a focus that helped her build woodworking skills and a set of organizational skills that have made her a valued volunteer. Pat joined the Membership Team one year later in April 2022 and became the registrar, helping members navigate the system of joining and renewing and managing their memberships through the Wild Apricot system. With her curiosity and computer skills she has become a key player in creating online content that informs members.

Most recently Pat has been called upon to help manage the record-breaking levels of new members that strained our ability to "onboard" members. She built the waitlist for the pause in new admissions this spring and when that achieved its goal of allowing our education folks to catch up, she managed an orderly invitation to nearly 100 per-

spective members to apply for full membership at the end of May and throughout June. Pat's colleagues on the Membership, Volunteer and Education Committees have appreciated her creativity and hard work in this fast-paced period of growth for the Guild.

Comments from Pat regarding volunteering for the Guild:

"The Guild is not just a great source for tools and learning, but is a special place for community and knowledge sharing. The Shop Attendants have been patient, helpful, and always willing to share ideas and knowledge. I have been fortunate to have found the Guild and its group of dedicated volunteers and woodworkers. Since the Guild is an all volunteer organization, I think it's important to find ways to give back. One doesn't have to be a skilled woodworker to be able to contribute to the Guild's efforts. - there are all sorts of opportunities available."

We are pleased to have Pat Wheeler as our Gig Lewis Volunteer of the Month for July, 2023. Please add your congratulations to Pat as you see her in some of her other volunteer activities, working with Project Build, serving on the Guild's Planning Group, and most recently working as Class Assistant for Core Tools class.

If you would like to nominate someone to be Volunteer of the Month contact the Volunteer Director, Charlie Meyer at charlie.meyer@guildoforegonwoodworkers.org



Pat with few folks in the shop.

USING A CNC MACHINE TO TRANSFER A CARVING PATTERN

By Roger Crooks

CNC Machines and Accessories

CNC machines are now priced near \$1000 (minus the router) that included VCarve, a sophisticated software program that makes this all work. Building your own CNC can be cheaper but remember you will need to buy the CAD software which can be a significant cost (\$350-\$700 or more).



My small CNC (12" X 12") is a Next Wave Piranha (SD100 now) and came with VCarve, a

very popular software design and control software package. While my machine can only cut 12" a time, the software lets you tile your work into three files so by moving the board after each pass, you can make a 12" x 36" sign. As you look at larger machines, the price goes up, but for my needs, this has worked great and more importantly for me, takes minimal space.

Normally the router is used with a variety of different cutting bits based on what you are doing. There are two options for "bits" that can be used for transferring a graphic to the wood – a two-watt laser attachment (\$450) or a drawing pen (\$70). I have the laser attachment (free with my machine) so that is what I use. To be honest, I never had a use for the laser as 2W will not do much, but for this application, it was great.

Drawing Attachments

The laser attachment – replaces the router bit so rather than cutting the wood, it burns the wood. A seven-watt laser is also available. The 2W laser works best for this application but serious burning, like cutting thin wood or stencils, requires more power.



If you make a mistake, the 2W burn can easily be sanded off with 80 grit sandpaper

and try again. A seven-watt laser will cut into the wood at full power so you would have to adjust the power settings down to avoid this.

The drawing pen works the same way. Insert the attachment into the router and use a pen, pencil, sharpie, etc.

One of the advantages of this approach (other than cost) is the ability to add color to the



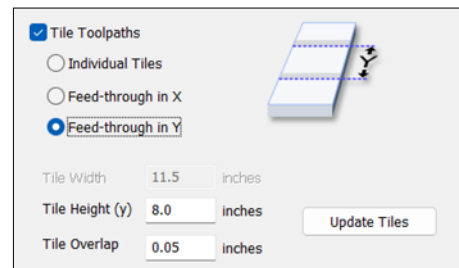
pattern such as for layer definition. You would generate a file for each color and change pens between files.

The downside is - be careful of the pen you use. Pencil tips break easily so use dull pencils. Markers will bleed into the wood. A gel pen seems to work best and comes in different colors.

Note: if not obvious, you do not have the router on when using either method.

Working with large patterns

For projects that are larger than what your machine will do, VCarve's Tiling Manage lets you split your work into three separate operations.



When you generate the control files for the router, it will generate one file per tile. This lets you move the wood to the correct position for Tile 2. It may take some fid-

dling to be perfect but for this application, close should generally be good enough.

VCarve

Working with a CNC machine is 5% hardware, 95% software. VCarve is a powerful program but it is easy to start doing basic projects. There are also great training videos online and being so popular, lots of help locally is available, especially with the Guild of Oregon Woodworker's CNC group.

Graphics

VCarve will take a vector file (.pdf, .ai, .eps and other CAD design software files) or bitmap file (.bmp, .gif, .jpeg, .tif, .png) and generate the code to control the CNC machine. The CNC control software requires a vector file to move the router to draw the image. If you do not have a vector file, VCarve will convert a bitmap file into vectors. You can then edit the resulting file as needed by drawing or erasing as needed. Also you can easily resize the pattern as needed (150% in this case).

See the next page for illustrations of my project.

continued on page 13

CARVING WITH CNC...continued from page 12

1. The original .jpeg file that was imported into VCarve. I then added lines to make the barn look like a log cabin. The picture is VCarve's rendition of the resulting file

2. Original graphic file. Modified graphics done in VCarve



3. This file was then used to burn the image on the carving blank with the laser attachment.

4. Carving started. As more is carved off, I used a pencil to transfer parts of the image needed.

5. The finished piece.



WIPE-ON FINISHES

By John Sheridan

The publishing of the third, completely updated version of Bob Flexner's *Understanding Wood Finishing* from Fox Chapel Publishing is an opportunity to praise Mr. Flexner for his clarification of the world of wipe-on finishes. He had this to say first in *Woodwork* magazine in December, 2007, "Most woodworkers love doing woodworking and don't like finishing. They don't want to get into the expense and complications of spraying finishes, and they find that brushing varnish, shellac, or water-based finish usually leaves unsightly brush marks and often leaves runs and dust nibs."

He explains that two types of widely available wipe-on finishes are available: wiping varnish or oil-varnish blend. Wiping varnish is simply thinned varnish. Oil/varnish blend is a mixture of linseed oil, tung oil or modified soybean oil and varnish. The difference between these two finishes is what is created after they cure or oxidize. Wiping varnish cures hard and oil/varnish blend cures soft because of the included oil. This is a very big difference that the containers of finish do not explain well.

Examples of wiping varnish are Waterlox, McCloskey Tung Oil, Formby's Tung Oil, MinWax, WipeOn Poly, and General Finish, Salad Bowl Finish. Examples of the softer wipe-one formulas are Watco, Danish Oil (nothing "Danish"), Minwax Tung Oil Finish, Sam Maloof Poly/Oil

Finish, Liberian Finishing Oil, and WoodCare Tung Oil Varnish. Calling some "tung oil" adds to the confusion and is a marketing idea.

The wiping varnishes will test to a dry, hard film on a smooth glass or metal surface, and dry to a hard, protective surface on a wood project. The oil/varnish mixtures only dry to a soft, solid with a test or on the wood. Of course, neither type will "penetrate" the wood when applied. Both are applied about the same with rags or brushes. The harder drying, wiping varnish can build up to thicker coats and is a superior finish. The rags used with all finishes are a fire hazard.

Lastly, Peter Korn, of the Center for Furniture Craftmanship in Maine, offers another perspective, which is that all of the above finishes contain resin, oil, and thinner but in differing proportions that determine their relative hardness and gloss. Decide among them which work best for your project.

Understanding Wood Finishing is in the Guild library with 300 pages of illustrated information.

Teri Masachi's *Foolproof Wood Finishing* is also available and is also comprehensive in scope.

(Thoughts? John 415-647-9190, July 21,2023)



HUGE HIGHLY FIGURED BOOK-MATCHED SLAB NEEDS A NEW HOME

I have a gorgeous, massive piece of bonded book-matched Claro walnut available that needs to be re-homed ASAP, and I am hopeful that you can help me with this.

It's a marvelous opportunity for a woodworker who would love to have a wonderful curly marbled vertical grain finished slab at a bargain price.

Why the urgency? Because I am 70 years old, disabled, and retired, and have moved into a tiny studio apartment.

I need to make space for a caregiver to stay with me after my surgery. Plus, the sale will help with my recovery expenses.

ABOUT THE WOOD:

This 76"x36"x1-1/8" curly Claro walnut bonded slab came from a tree near Dundee that had been struck by lightning on a Fourth of July some years back. I purchased the two kiln-dried book-matched curly vertical grain slabs of raw AAAAA wood at NW Timber in 2015 for about \$1,100.

Master woodworker Terry Bostwick bonded the two pieces together for me, sanded the whole thing smooth, and finished it with (I think) a satin polyurethane. I had asked for an oil finish, but he needed to apply the speedier polyurethane due to his work schedule plus the size and weight of the piece. More \$\$ and value added.

After bringing it home, I placed it on a top-notch sit-to-stand electric desk base (available, if desired), and the resulting desk provided lots of room to spread out my photography work and made me feel good just sitting at it.

NOTES:

The top was never attached to the base, it simply rested on it, however, there are a few holes on the underside of the wood from screwing in my keyboard tray (not available).

There are several shallow scratches near the middle of the slab, which darkened when I applied mineral oil. I now know that was not a good thing to have done. The new owner will probably want to sand and refinish the top.

If refinished with dry shellack (or whatever you think is best), I believe the chatoyancy would be greatly enhanced. And, perhaps the woodworker would want to add lovely wood legs and widen the top a bit with contrasting wood edging to make it a statement-piece dining table. Many possibilities!

WIN-WIN THOUGHTS ON RE-HOMING IT

I've decided to ask for \$550 (+ another \$50 for the sit-to-stand electric desk base). I will donate 10% to the Guild.

Barbara McIntyre
503-679-3905
DanceSingImages@msn.com





We look forward to meeting with fellow members for some lunch and conversation. There may even be some talk about woodworking.

The monthly Meet-Ups are held on the first Monday of the month (*Note that July's gathering is on the 2nd Monday*) and we try to visit all parts of Portland. Attendees order off the menu and pay on their separate check. All the Meet-Ups gather at 11:30 am, but late comers are always welcome. Everyone in the Guild is invited.

August

Monday August 7 at 11:30am
JB O'Brien's Irish Pub
11555 SW Durham Road
Tigard, OR 97224

September

Monday September 11 at 11:30am
El Tapatio
2627 SE 82nd Ave
Portland, OR 97266
(503) 774-6316



A MOMENT IN THE GARDEN



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