

# The Alabama Woodworkers Guild

## *Guild News*

May 2021

**News Flash!** *We are back! The May General Meeting will be live and in person! You won't want to miss it! See details on page below.*

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### Guild Officers and Directors

**President:** Van Phillips

**Vice President:** Terrance James

**Treasurer:** Bob Watkins

**Secretary:** Laura Hession

### Board of Directors

David Erikson	Sandra McMillan
Matt Sullivan	Bob Baumgartner
Randy Hjetland	Linda Simcik
Jay Bagwell	Rick Wilson

**"A man that works with his hands is a laborer. A man that works with his hands and his brain is a craftsman, but a man that works with his hands, his brain and his heart is an artist." - Louis Nizer**

Newsletter Editor: Linda Simcik

### Presidents Message

FINALLY, our monthly meeting will be in person for those wanting to attend. We'll also present on Zoom for those who choose not to attend in person or who can't. It will be good to see many of you in person again!

So what's going on in May?

Our classes are in full swing, Special Interest Groups are meeting with more and more people coming back in person, more people working at the WEC on their personal projects. When you feel comfortable being around other folks, we'd love to see you.

For our May meeting, dig out those tools that you have two of and sell one at the silent auction. Make some money for yourself (to buy another tool) and help with the Guild finances. If you can't attend in person ask a friend to take your items to sell and to place bids for you on things you want to buy.

I noticed a lot of magazines, mainly back issues of Fine Woodworking, on the table as you walk in. They are free, so help yourself and show off any projects you make from their plans.

Speaking of projects, be sure to keep working on your projects for the annual show. We want this one to be the biggest yet. Block out the dates, October 10 – 17. That's Sunday through Sunday. We've booked the Hoover Library as usual.

See you at the WEC, stay safe.

Van Phillips

**The May Membership Meeting is on Saturday, May 15th:**

**This month is the silent auction. Gather up your dusty gadgets you don't use (or maybe never used) and bring them along to the auction. Make a little cash for yourself and help support the guild. The activity begins at 9am. Bidding closes at 11am.**

## The WEC is fully open for “Business”

In response to The Governor’s Safer Apart order your, Board of Directors has implemented the following reopening plan for the Woodworkers Education Center (WEC):

Effective 4/9/2021 and based on the Governor’s “Safer Apart” order, the wearing of mask are no longer required at the WEC but as Governor Ivey stated, “people are still strongly urged to continue their use while in public or in close contact with others”. Exercise personal responsibility to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

Effective 4/9/2021 all areas of the WEC are open for use by members including the kitchen.

Effective with our *May general meeting 5/15/2021 the meeting will be held in person at the WEC for those wanting to attend and also will be presented as a Zoom meeting.*

Safety has always been our highest priority. The challenges we are facing due to the pandemic have just added some additional layers to that. We greatly appreciate the cooperation all Guild members have shown in support of this safety focus.

Approved by the Board of Directors

### Welcome New Members

Steven Reid  
Grace Promer

Please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome these new members when you see them at the WEC.



### Project Christmas Tree

Children’s Hospital is doing the Christmas trees this year. Thanks Alan for getting that info for us. We are continuing to collect ornaments for the AWG Christmas Tree that will be displayed this fall at Children’s Hospital in Birmingham. We have quite a collection of beautiful handmade ornaments – inlay, scrolled, wood burned, painted, carved and turned. We still need more ornaments. Come and take a look at the ornaments when you come by WEC. They are in the kitchen in the glass display case and on the metal rack. Get inspired and make an ornament or two or three or..... This is an important money maker for Children’s Hospital. Children and their families benefit from people like us who donate their time and talent to decorate a

## New Members' Orientation

We will be hosting New Member Orientations directly following the Monthly Guild Meetings. These orientations are a great opportunity to learn about the Guild, the special interest groups, mentoring programs, classes, our scholarship program and more. We will review additional information for shop usage, clocking hours, the annual show and other opportunities to participate in Guild activities. This orientation is in addition to the equipment certification required for each member, but also a great opportunity to get your equipment certification and waiver completed with the supervisor on duty. New members will receive an invitation by email. The orientation is not mandatory, however we hope you will take this opportunity to learn more about the Guild.

Thank you,  
Laura Hession, Chair  
AWG Welcome Committee

## May Meeting Preview

*Saturday May 15, 2021*

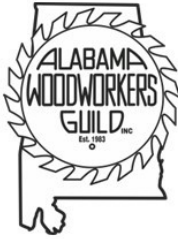
This month we will have an in-person meeting at the WEC! The annual silent auction is the main focus of the meeting, Please bring in any unused tools and things you trip over in your shop. Dust them off and make a little money and help support the Guild.

This is a great opportunity catch up with you fellow woodworkers that you haven't seen in the past year. The meeting will also be broadcast via ZOOM for those who are not ready to be in a crowd setting.

## Toy Group

**Great news Toy Makers!** Your Board of Directors has approved loosening Covid restrictions. This means we can expand Toy Group hours . Beginning **Tuesday May 4th** we will now meet from 9am—2pm. And bring your lunch!

Of course if you do not want to stay the full day, that's OK. We are happy to have whatever time you can spare.



## ALABAMA WOODWORKERS GUILD

*"Making saw dust with a purpose"*

### Free Live Streaming Workshop

June 19, 2021 9:00am—10:30am

Prior to the June general meeting

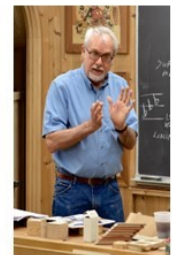
# It's Not Just a Box With Doug Stowe



Doug Stowe has been a self-employed furniture and box maker since 1976. He is the author of five woodworking books including [Taunton's Complete Illustrated Guide to Box Making](#) and Taunton's book and DVD, "Basic Box Making" (2007). Doug teaches box making to adults at various woodworking schools and also directs a pre-K through 12th-grade woodworking program called "Wisdom of the Hands," recognizing the importance of hands-on learning for all children. He is a member of the New England Association of Woodworking Teachers.

During the Live Streaming session Doug will share his thought process as a master woodworking artisan as design considerations are made. He will also stress the skills that will increase speed, accuracy and craftsmanship in all your fine woodworking efforts. Doug will return to the Guild in August for a two day face to face demonstration Master Class on decorative box making. If you have taken a box class with Bill Newman's box classes, you will recognize some of the steps and techniques that Doug will share.

You can learn more about Doug Stowe by visiting our website education page at: [wp.awwg.info](http://wp.awwg.info)



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## Free to Members: Live Streaming Events!

### It's Not Just a Box!

**Live Streaming 9:00 to 10:00 AM on June 19, 2021 Mentoring Session with Douglas Stowe**, one of the best known decorative box makers in America.

If you have ever been in one of Bill Newman's box classes, you have heard of Doug Stowe and his many publications. Doug teaches at the Marc Adams and Connecticut Valley Schools of Woodworking and shares his experience with Woodworking Guilds throughout the USA. Doug has received the Vaughn Golden Hammer award for writing in woodworking several times. His latest passion is teaching woodworking to kids. That exemplified by his latest publication.

During the Live Streaming session Doug will share his thought process as a master woodworking artisan as design considerations are made. Doug will return to the Guild in August for a two day face to face demonstration Master Class on decorative box making. The participant will learn skills that will increase speed, accuracy and craftsmanship in fine woodworking. The skills essential to making beautiful boxes.

### 2021 Class Schedule

- 5/29 – 5/30 **Bandsaw Box Workshop with Bill Newman**  
Bill has taught many students how to make a box using the bandsaw. This year he will have a new design for the class. Bill's classes are full of techniques and information. When you finish his class you will definitely be able to make more boxes for Christmas presents.
- 6/19 **Mentoring Session with Doug Stowe**  
This is a zoom presentation prior to our monthly meeting. Doug will discuss the design and thought process a woodworker goes through before and during the construction phase. This class is free to all members.
- 7/24 – 7/25 **Inlay Master Class with Jack Smoot**  
During the two day workshop Jack will teach the process of inlaying Mother of Pearl, Abalone, and metal. These materials can be inlaid on musical instruments, boxes, and furniture. Jack will have a simple picture everyone can inlay in wood. After the first project you will inlay designs on something you have made – a box, musical instrument, drawer, etc. Bring a project, some designs and plenty of enthusiasm. Check the AWG classes for a new short list of supplies for Jack's class.
- 8/21 – 8/22 **Decorative Box Making Master Class with Doug Stowe**  
This master class will be a fun experience in box making. During the two days Doug will teach you how to make beautiful decorative boxes. He'll show you techniques that will increase speed, accuracy and craftsmanship. These skills will transfer to all woodworking projects.
- 8/28 – 12/? **Habitat for Humanity**  
Our Habitat build will start at the end of August. During the classes you will learn how to make cabinets for your home. Sessions will concentrate on building the carcass, doors, drawers and finishing. This is a great series of classes. You'll learn new skills (or brush up on old skills) while you make cabinets for a Habitat house.

## New Merchandise!!

Are you a Coffee, Tea, Water, Soda drinker? Show off your AWG pride with our *NEW INSULATED 300Z Mug!*



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These are quality drinking vessels that will keep your drink hot or cold for hours. Colors available are navy, black and red. These mugs are engraved with the Alabama Woodworkers Guild logo. Cost? \$30. you are interested in ordering, contact Henry Raymond (he's in the directory).

### Eight Woodworking Tips to Boost Your Efficiency

taken from an online blog by Ron Smith

#### Tip # 2: Avoid Drywall Screws for Woodworking

“When screwing two pieces of wood together, use the traditional wood screw over the drywall screw for better results. A drywall screw is threaded the full length. Since the top threads tend to grip the first board it enters, this can force two pieces of wood apart slightly because you have threads in both boards. The top part of a wood screw, on the other hand, has a smooth shank that won't grip the first board.

There's another reason to avoid drywall screws: the hardened brittle steel shafts of drywall screws will often break during installation, especially when screwed into hardwoods. Removing them from a finished material is nearly impossible and getting them out damages the surface. Woodscrews are made of thicker, softer metal, so they're break-resistant. Wood screws do however, require you to drill: a pilot hole for the threads; a wider counterbore hole the length of the non-threaded shaft; a countersink hole for setting the head. You can easily handle all three drilling chores by buying a set of three countersinking bits. They handle most common screw sizes.”—Ron Smith

**This is tip number 2. See next month's issue for tip #3!** I will run a tip monthly from now thru November. If you have a tip or trick you would to share, send it to: [newsletter@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:newsletter@alabamawoodworkersguild.org).



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## About Us

We are an organization of woodcrafters with skills ranging from beginner to master craftsmen.

Due to COVID restrictions, we are currently conducting our monthly meetings virtually via Zoom on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00AM.

Our members share woodworking tips, bring projects to show and tell, hear guest speakers, and see live woodworking demonstrations at every meeting. Our free library contains books on techniques, videos, and project plans.

The Guild's Woodworking Education Center is located at the site of the old Maylene School building on Hwy 17 in Maylene, AL. The WEC is open Friday-Sunday for the membership and for visitors to drop by to see what we are all about. Please, before dropping by, check the WEC Calendar on our website (<https://wp.awwg.info/calendar/>) and make sure a Supervisor is scheduled to be on-duty

## Community Involvement

In Addition to monthly meetings the Guild also has a group of dedicated woodworkers who meet at the WEC to make toys and various wooden therapeutic devices for Children's Hospital and other deserving organizations.

The guild also constructs kitchen and bathroom cabinets each year for Habitat for Humanity



**Promoting the Art and Craft of Fine Woodworking**