

# The Alabama Woodworkers Guild

## *Guild News*

September 2021

**September General Meeting: Saturday, September 18, 2021**

**Tool Silent Auction 9am—10am ; Meeting 10am—1100am**

### In This Issue:

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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

### President's Message

Wow, what a turn out we had at last month's meeting. I thank all those who stayed and helped with the cleaning of the WEC. It was a great success!

It was a great auction and a special thanks to Randy Hjetland who organized all the items and had them ready for us to place a bid. Also, thanks to those who picked up the items from the donations. Cliff Daniels, Henry Raymond, Terry Hammonds, Terrence James, Gregg Oliver, Randy Hjetland Mike Betke and myself. And of course, a special to those who donated the items.

Before Jay Carrigee passed away he let his wife, Carrie Carrigee, know he wanted his entire shop donated to the Guild. Carrie made good on that request and called Cliff to arrange a pickup. We'll miss Jay and think about him every time we use one of his tools.

Patricia Large donated her late husband's shop as well. I had a chance to talk to Patricia at length one afternoon and she expressed that her husband would have been happy knowing his tools were going to woodworkers who would use them and enjoy them as much as he did.

We had so many items donated we decided to hold some of them back and have another auction this month. There are a lot of great items left for you to win a bid and enjoy.

On a different note, the nominating committee will be asking around for volunteers to fill positions on the Board of Directors and Guild officers. If they should ask you if you would fill a role, please give it serious consideration. Without officers and board members the Guild would cease to exist. Many of you have served in the past and can confirm the importance of having a strong board in order to get things done.

Lastly, October is coming up fast and so is the annual show. Get your items ready to show off and be judged. There are lots of categories and skill levels to be judged so don't think your project is not good enough for the show. Everybody's project is good for the show.

Hope to see you soon at the WEC!

Stay safe,  
Van Phillips

## AWG Annual Art Show

The Annual Art Show at the Hoover Library is back!! Last year due to the pandemic restrictions, the library was closed. So we did a virtual show. Now we are happy to announce that the live show will go on.

**When: October 10-16th**

**Where: Hoover Library Theater Lobby**

**Registration and Set up: Sunday October 10 2-4pm**

**Reception and ribbon reveal: Thursday, October 14 beginning 6pm.**

We have the venue scheduled and times set all we now is your **ART WORK**. No matter your skill level or specialty, we want to see your creations. There is a new category this year for toys and Christmas ornaments.

In addition to your creations, **we also need volunteers to "baby sit" the show during Library hours. There will be a lot of activity at the library this year, so there will be a lot of traffic through the show. Not too difficult, just answer questions and keep an eye on things. If you can help please contact Linda Simcik or Don Wilson (we're in the Guild directory). You will also have a chance to sign up at the September Meeting.**

## Sketch-Up Class

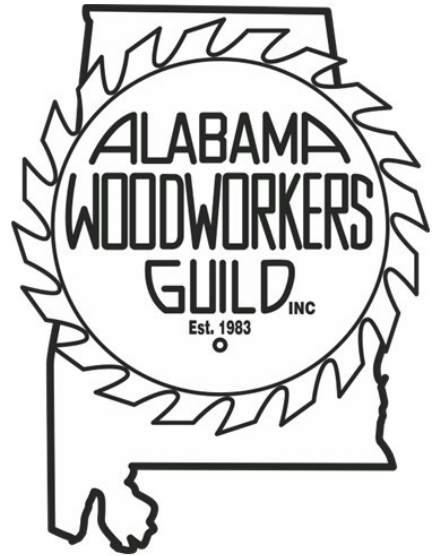
"The SketchUp Group will meet at 8:00 am on 9/18/21 prior to the monthly meeting of the Guild. We will begin a series of classes on how to make a small, simple box in SketchUp. Members should bring their laptop and a mouse. Any questions, contact Jeff Branch at [jeff1137@gmail.com](mailto:jeff1137@gmail.com)."

## Shop Usage Report

Job	Hrs(h:m)
0 - Guild Membership Meeting	184:10
01 - Supervisor	95:51
03 - Class	141:09
04 - Toy Group	321:50
05 - Hand Tool Group	83:18
06 - Luthier Group	220:15
07 - Wood Art Group	44:17
08 - Personal Project	130:44
09 - Special Events	17:30
11 - Maintenance - Building	03:35
12 - Maintenance - Equipment	10:55
13 - Maintenance - Landscape	05:22
14 - Maintenance - Administration	24:02
Total	1282:58

## Show & Tell

Have you completed a project you're especially proud of? Have you learned a new skill? If so, bring it to a monthly meeting for show & tell. We would love to see your creations and get some inspiration from fellow woodworkers. You don't have to do anything special, just bring your creation to the meeting.



Did you miss the silent auction at August's monthly meeting?  
If you did, do not despair because there is going to be another

# ***Tool Auction!***

**When: Saturday, September 18, 2021**

**9am—10am before the September meeting**

**Where: WEC**

All proceeds from this auction will go to the AWG.

This is a liquidation of some late members' shops. It is their wish that their shop equipment be donated to the AWG.

## Welcome New Members

Judy Vines

Greg Vines

Emily Little

Tammy Talley

Zac Bragg

Shawn Stegal

Richard Alfano

Carol Cameron

Sloan Bradley

Kenny Browning

Hillary Browning

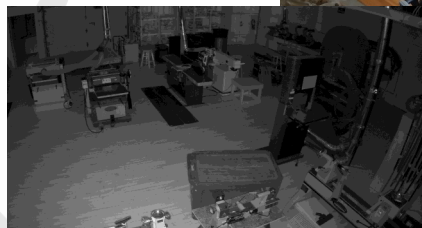
Jeri Nation

If you see any new members at the WEC, please stop to make them welcome.



## Your on Candid Camera!

The Guild is in the process of implementing a camera based security system at the WEC. This will augment our SimpliSafe alarm system we installed a couple years ago. Currently we have three cameras operational inside the WEC, with plans for 9 more to cover the entire outside of the building and surrounding area. These cameras are operational 24 hours a day and are a combination of motion activated and continuous recording devices that are capable of night time video as well. They can also email high quality snapshots of visitors that enter the WEC after regular hours.



## 2021 Class Schedule

Class 1 - August 28, 2021 - Orientation and Face Frame Build

Class 2 - September 11, 2021 - Drawer Boxes

Class 3 - September 25, 2021 and September 26, 2021 - Doors and Drawer Fronts

Class 4 - October 16, 2021 - Carcass Construction

Class 5 - October 30, 2021 - Spray Finish

Class 6 - November 13, 2021 - Attach Doors, Drawers, and Pulls

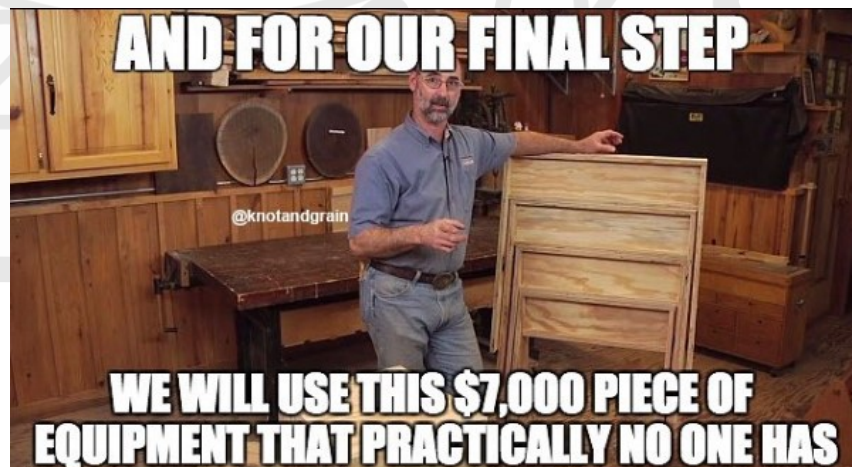
Class 7 - Early December - Installation of Cabinets at Holiday House

Class 8 - TBD - Holiday House Dedication

The Habitat for Humanity cabinet build wraps up our series of classes this year. Can you believe it is already September? We had a great line up this year and thank you to all who participated. We hope that you gained some knowledge and skills from the classes and workshops.

Planning is underway for 2022 classes. The AWG is your organization and is here to serve it's members. The Education Committee wants your feedback. If you have any ideas or suggestions for classes contact Jay Bagwell. Also if you have a skill you want to teach to others, you can volunteer to teach a class.

How I spend my time  
in my work shop



# Tinglewood Festival



The Tinglewood Festival in Montevallo is the premier woodworking festival in Alabama. So of course, we were a part of that event. The Guild had an information booth in a prime spot by the creek. The beautiful weather brought crowds of people and we generated a lot of interest in the AWG.



The members working the booth brought samples of their work to show what our members have achieved.



We had demonstrations on the lathe and scroll saw.



All in all it was a great day for the AWG. We have been invited back next year and we would love to have you all join us.



# How to Prevent Table Saw Kickback

An article from Popular Woodworking Magazine

Written by Marc Adams

## The fundamental rules (and devices) to keep you clear of danger at your saw.

I once heard that 90 percent (or more) of all table saw accidents involve some type of kickback, where the work flies back at the operator. Imagine what would happen to table saw accident statistics if we could eliminate kickback altogether. The table saw would go from being one of the most dangerous machines to one of the safest.

I often ask for a show of hands during my safety demonstrations of how many people have ever experienced kickback. Nearly everyone sheepishly raises their hand. I then ask how many people have experienced kickback more than once, and it's almost the same response.

Why is that?

It's clear that accidents occur to both the novice and experienced woodworker, but why would something as potentially dangerous as a piece of stock being kicked back at more than 100 miles per hour be an experience anyone would ever want to have more than once?

Kickback can be a product of both through and non-through cuts. Once it starts you can't stop it, and only Superman can react faster. The kickback zone can actually be anywhere in the shop. That's right – anywhere! The main (and most dangerous) line is toward the operator and directly in front of the blade. However a "kicked" item can ricochet off something and head in any direction, and boards with some significant width that kick back can pivot sideways as well.

I believe that most woodworkers don't understand the cause and cure of kickback, so let's take a look at both.

Kickback occurs when a piece of wood is unexpectedly thrown back toward the operator.

The lifting and throwing force of kickback starts at the back of the blade, not the front.

To get a better understanding of how this force is created, unplug your saw and mark any tooth with a felt-tip marker. Now rotate that tooth to where it just starts to rise above the table at the back of your saw's throat plate.

If you follow this one tooth as it rotates it will give you a better idea how a piece of wood is lifted and thrown forward. When the blade rises through the table at the back of the saw it has an initial vertical lift. As the blade continues to rotate and reaches the top of its arc, the vertical lift begins to transform into a horizontal thrust. By the time the blade moves from the top of the arc back down toward the saw's table, the horizontal thrust transitions back to vertical. By now all the force is moving down towards the table on its way to doing it all over again.



## The Causes of Kickback

OK, so we know that kickback occurs at the back of the blade, but what are the series of events that can cause the stock to contact the back of the blade?

By far the most common cause is binding or pinching. This happens when a piece of wood becomes trapped between the rotating blade and a stationary object, such as the fence or the guard. The following is a list of reasons that stock can kick back:

1. Crosscutting a piece of wood with the miter gauge on the left side of the blade while the fence is being used as a stop on the right-hand side of the blade – blam-o!
2. In some cases kickback is created if the saw kerf closes around the blade.
3. Make sure the fence is parallel to the blade. If the fence is toed inward toward the blade, it can cause the wood to come in contact with the back edge of the blade.
4. Cutting twisted, distorted, knotty, crooked or springy wood.
5. Freehand cutting or cutting wood that is not flat on the table, such as round stock.
6. Losing control of the work or letting go of the wood at the same time it's in contact with the saw blade.
7. Not following through when ripping, or stopping before the cut is complete.

8. Intentionally or unintentionally allowing the wood to “drop” on top or to the side of the back of the blade.
9. Backing out of a cut.
10. Improper setup of the machine’s guards, fixtures or hold-downs.
11. Applying the entire pushing force toward the off-fall or free section of the work instead of pushing toward the fence.

### The Cures for Kickback

Dr. Jeffery Greenburg, a brilliant hand surgeon and pretty fair woodworker, told me that he has never treated a patient whose injury occurred because of a push stick or any other safety device. As a matter of fact, a common reason accidents occur is from not using a safety device. Push sticks and featherboards are easy to make, inexpensive, can be made to any size and are expendable.

Use the guard. The best cure for kickback is to deny the wood access to the back of the blade. A splitter, especially a riving knife, is by far the best protection you can give yourself. Double-check all your setups and plan your cuts carefully. Be aware of all the pinch points or bindings that could be created during any cut and plan your work first. And although this isn’t a cure for kickback, there are blades that have anti-kickback fingers behind the teeth that limit the chip or depth of cut. These blades are sometimes sold as anti-kickback blades, but they do not eliminate kickback.

Now let’s look at two important devices that can help you avoid injury, but only if you use them properly

**Featherboards Not a Cure-all:** Featherboards, spring boards, combs, anti-kickback fingers, spreaders and magnetic hold-downs all hold the work down or against an edge, and they act like a spring. A featherboard is a piece of solid stock with multiple kerfs that are equally spaced along the grain. The end of the piece is cut at a 30° to 45° angle. Featherboards can help minimize kickback, but they do not eliminate it, as some commercial featherboard manufacturers suggest. They are the ultimate sacrificial tool.

Featherboards are designed, for the most part, to be clamped to the table or fence. Clamping them to the fence is usually not a problem. But clamping to the table can be a challenge. To get around this, some commercial featherboards have either built-in expansion bars that fit in the miter gauge’s slot or heavy-duty magnets. If you use shop clamps to secure your featherboards, use two clamps to prevent the device from pivoting. If a simple clamping solution is not readily available, try placing high-strength, fiber-woven carpet tape on the down side of the featherboard. This will hold it to the table but not quite as well as Featherboards that are clamped to the fence help keep the wood flat against the table and provide some kicking resistance. They can be placed anywhere along the fence where a downward force is needed. Be aware that fence-mounted featherboards can sometimes be restrictive. Table-mounted featherboards provide force toward the fence and offer some kicking resistance. It is vital that a table-mounted featherboard never be placed beyond the front edge of the blade. If mounted behind the blade, the force will push the wood into the back of the blade.give the “stay-put” holding power that you can get with a clamp. Featherboards, spring boards, combs, anti-kickback fingers, spreaders and magnetic hold-downs all hold the work down or against an edge, and they act like a spring. A featherboard is a piece of solid stock with multiple kerfs that are equally spaced along the grain. The end of the piece is cut at a 30° to 45° angle. Featherboards can help minimize kickback, but they do not eliminate it, as some commercial featherboard manufacturers suggest. They are the ultimate sacrificial tool.



A proper featherboard. The fingers of a featherboard are consistent in size and springy, as shown. You can clamp them to the table or to the fence to help im-



**The Proper Use of Push Sticks:** Push sticks are used to help push the stock through the cut while keeping your fingers clear of the blade. A good push stick can help hold the work against the table while pushing forward at the same time. They are an absolute must when cutting narrow or thin stock. Push sticks come in all shapes and sizes, and it's a good idea to have several different types and thicknesses ready to go. In most cases the width of the push stick should be less than the distance between the saw and the fence.

I prefer to use a push stick that both hooks on the back edge and sits on the top of the board. This type of push stick gives me more control and helps keep the stock from tipping up while moving past the blade.

It is important to understand when, and when not, to use a push stick. As long as you have your hands on a board when making a cut, you will always have a great degree of control. As soon as you use a push stick, you lose a portion of that control. I always recommend that you use your hands for pushing your work when you have more than a 3" clearance from the guard – you simply have more control. If your hands will be within 3" of the guard, however, then a push stick is definitely necessary.

Be aware that you will lose some control. As a matter of fact, if you use a push stick with a downward force on a board that is off the table, it could cause the board to tip upward. Push sticks just aren't effective or necessary at the beginning of a cut on a long board.

I keep my push stick handy and when my push hand gets to that 3" limit, with my left hand holding the board firm, I use my right hand to pick up the push stick and finish the cut. I also keep a second push stick to the left of the table so that my left hand has access to a push stick as well. Be aware that sometimes push sticks can slip off the stock and cause a very dangerous situation. Always keep your push stick hooked firmly over the edge or side of the board.



A good push stick. Here's one of my frequently used push sticks. It hooks over the back of the work and presses the work flat against the table.



Better together. Here a push stick is used with a featherboard. The push stick keeps the work flat on the table and moving forward. The featherboard, located in front of the blade, presses

There are a lot of articles, drawings and details written on how to make elaborate push sticks and featherboards, but most professionals make the simpler types for two reasons: They are easy and quick to make, and when they get cut and nicked you don't feel so bad.

Hope you enjoyed reading this article and found it informative. If you have a suggestion for an article or write one yourself, just let me know. [news@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:news@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)



**Your help is needed to make the AWG grow and thrive.  
There are many opportunities for you to get involved.**

**Annual Art Show**

**Clean up Day**

**Monthly Meetings**

**Attend or teach a class**

**Become a mentor**

**Dan Browning**

**Dan Browning, founding member of the AWG has sadly passed away. He will be missed by many of our long time members. Funeral arrangements will be announced when available.**

## Toy Group

The last couple of years have been slow going for the Toy Group. Because of the pandemic we had a lot of "time off" in 2020. We started back up in January 2021 and slowly began to gain some momentum. Although not as robust as recent years, we so far have completed over 5200 toys.

One of our biggest challenges is getting wood and copy paper boxes. We rely on donations of lumber and scraps we can find. Habitat for Humanity has always been a big source of wood, but with lumber inventory scarce and expensive there has not been a lot of construction activity.

Copy paper boxes are perfect for packing the toys for distribution. But so many are now working from home, so there is not a lot of opportunity to score some from the office copy room.

Even with the hurdles the past year or so, the Toy Group has carried on. Thank you to all the volunteers that show up every Tuesday to make sawdust to carry on this great Guild tradition.

## Eight Woodworking Tips to Boost Your Efficiency

taken from an online blog by Ron Smith

### Tip # 6 Keep a clean, orderly workspace

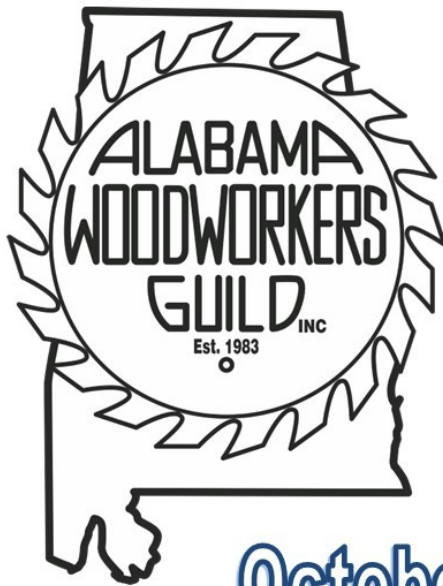
Achieving efficiency in your shop can sometimes be as simple as clearing clutter from your work area. A disorderly work area can hinder your productivity.

**Another tip:** Only keep out items that your use daily. Everything else should be put in designated areas so they're quickly retrievable.



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

When you select the AWG, a small percentage of your purchase is donated back to the Guild. Every little bit helps.



# ANNUAL ART SHOW

October 11 - October 16 2021

Hoover Library - Lower Level



**All pieces are hand crafted by members of the  
Alabama Woodworkers Guild**



Find us on:  
**facebook®**



& **You Tube**

## About Us

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

Our monthly meetings will be conducted at the WEC for those who can attend and also virtually via Zoom on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00AM. Be sure to check out the mentoring sessions that start at 9:00AM

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**