

East Tennessee

Woodworkers Guild

# ETWG Newsletter

November-December 2023



Next Meeting January 8, 2024

The ETWG July meeting will be in person at  
**Woodcraft 6:30 p.m.**

Look for email notification closer to the event for Zoom Link or go to the ETWG website.

# President's Message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 1-4-24

HELLO ALL, I HOPE YOU'VE HAD A PLEASANT HOLIDAY BREAK. THIS TIME OF YEAR ALWAYS FEELS HECTIC WITH LITTLE KIDS IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND CHRISTMAS PLANS AND LAST MINUTE WOODSHOP PROJECTS COMING TOGETHER. IT ALL GOES BY VERY QUICKLY, BUT IT'S ALSO A NICE TIME FOR ME TO SLOW DOWN IN THE WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS. I TRY TO TAKE A FEW DAYS TO CLEAN THE SHOP AND DO NAGGING TASKS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT OFF FOR TOO LONG. I'VE ALSO BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2024 FOR THE GUILD. WE HAVE SEVERAL GREAT CLASSES ON THE BOOKS INCLUDING A WHOLE WEEKEND AT ARROWMONT AT THE END OF APRIL.

I WILL BE STEPPING DOWN AS PRESIDENT THIS YEAR AND HANDING THE REINS TO THE VERY CAPABLE MIKE CASEY, WHO HAS SERVED AS OUR VICE PRESIDENT AND BECAME A JURIED MEMBER LAST YEAR. IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT THESE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. EVEN THROUGH THE DISRUPTION OF COVID OUR GUILD HAS CONTINUED TO MEET AND PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY FOR OUR MEMBERS. THE BOARD HAS PUT IN A LOT OF WORK TO FACILITATE AND IMPROVE OUR MEETINGS AND EXTRA CLASSES. I CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED MORE ACTIVELY WITH THE GUILD BY BRINGING THINGS TO SHOW AND TELL AT THE MEETINGS, ATTENDING CLASSES, AND BEING WILLING TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE EAST TENNESSEE WOODWORKERS GUILD IS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR ANYONE WILLING TO GET INVOLVED AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. I'D LIKE TO LEAVE EVERYONE WITH THE 3 OBJECTIVES OF THE GUILD AS STATED IN OUR BYLAWS:

1. TO ADVOCATE AND PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPRECIATION OF SUPERIOR WOODWORKING SKILLS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS.
2. TO ENCOURAGE AND RECOGNIZE HIGH STANDARDS OF WORKMANSHIP IN WOODWORKING.
3. TO PRESENT AND CELEBRATE EXEMPLARY WOODWORKING SKILLS AND PRODUCTS THROUGH SPONSORSHIP OF AND PARTICIPATION IN SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.

THANK YOU ALL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

STEPHEN SHANKLES

## Presentation-Master Woodworkers Show (MWS) Debrief

The meeting presentation was a short debrief of the successful show, and the first of many to come partnering with Able Trade, and with leadership from Heather Ashworth. Several members who had work in the show shared their personal experience of being in the show and the process of designing and making their pieces. The quality of work and the Guild representation in the show speaks highly of the creativity and talent of the members. A huge benefit of the show is that it provides a great vehicle for Guild exposure in the community. Thanks to our sponsors and the Arts and Culture Alliance for hosting the event at the Emporium.



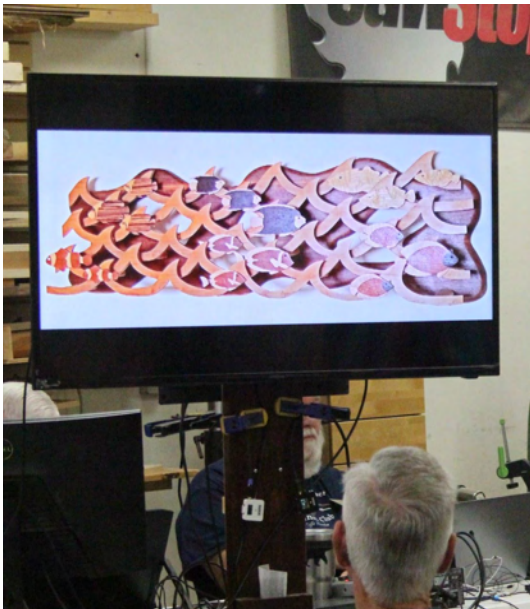
Scott Dewaard introduces Heather Ashworth to the membership, and everyone acknowledges appreciation to both for their cooperative leadership in organizing and making the show happen.





Mike Johnston with slide presentation and a detailed description of his process, tools, templates, and jigs for the making of his Maloof style rocking chair.





Denny Siemsen talks about his wall hanging representing a school of fish and his shelf, both made of various woods. The shelf is made using shop scraps and the construction utilized sliding dovetails. Congratulations! as it received a People's Choice Award.





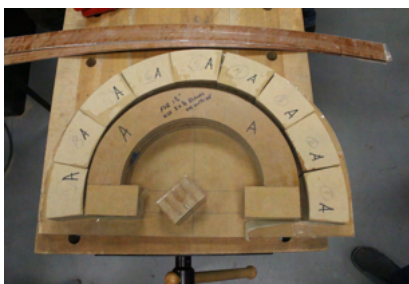
Lou Mansur had four pieces in the show, and discussed his designs and how he made each of the pieces, two stools, a live edge desk and a cantilevered table.





Mike Casey brought one of his tables to the meeting and presented slides of both of his tables with drawers that were in the show.





Round cherry table with round legs,  
Congratulations to Tony Grenis, another  
award winner! Best of Show/ETWG  
Member.



## Show and Tell and Other Member Pieces in the MWS

Stephen Shankles brought in a bench that he made and demonstrated tapered mortise and tenon tools from Veritas, Lee Valley that he used for the leg to seat joints.



Turned wood cowboy hat that was in the Master Woodworkers Show by Jim Vogelsang.



This cabinet with sliding doors was also in the Master Woodworkers Show, by Stephen Shankles.



## Other Member Pieces in the MWS (cont.)

Jerry Spady had two major sculptural pieces in the Master Woodworkers show. *Truth* below shows the relationship of civilizations & individuals and the total accumulation of all we know (below left), and a sculpture about life, destiny and journey to Valhalla (below right). *that is what I think anyway* See Jerry for full interpretation.



Award winners for the show:  
People's Choice Award: Brian Brace  
People's Choice Award; Dennis Siemsen  
Best of Show/ ETWG Member: Tony Grenis  
Best of Show; Ronald Young





## Education

At Monday's ETWG meeting we will begin sign-up for both of the April education opportunities. A brief description of each opportunity is given below. More detailed information will be sent to all Guild members and will also be available at Monday's meeting.

### **April 6 – The Art of Chairmaking with Tom McLaughlin**

Location: Woodcraft training room (Knoxville)

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cost: \$30 (lunch included)

Description: Tom will introduce and attempt to simplify the art of fine chairmaking, considered by most to be the most challenging of woodworking projects. While he will include inspirational examples from the great designs of the past through slide discussions, there will be plenty of practical examples and demonstrations of the approach and process to making great chairs.

The presentation will begin with an explanation of the fundamentals using as an example a classic mortise and tenon Craftsman style chair. Then Tom will show how the principles involved in building this chair extend to the more curvilinear Queen Anne style. Finally, he will explore chairmaking design and construction in the style of one of a modern-day masterpiece, the Hans Wegner Classic (round) Chair.

### **April 26 – 28 – Woodworkers Weekend at Arrowmont**

Location: Arrowmont Wood Studio (Gatlinburg)

Time: 12:00 PM Friday (26th) to 12:00 PM Sunday (28th)

Cost: \$50 plus materials; lodging and meals cost to be provided (<\$350)

Description: Topic is still under discussion but will probably be either instruction on design and construction of a stool or advanced veneering including adhesives, thick veneers, and substrates. Class will be inclusive of lecture, demonstrations, and hands-on work.

### **Another Opportunity/ Invitation from Arrowmont**

We have an adult three night wood rotary carving class coming up and some one day woodturning classes that folks in the guild may be interested in attending. Below is a link to our general Community Class page and then we have kids and adults class categories. Folks do need to call to register but everything is included in the fee as far as materials, open studio time, and instruction time. Any help in getting these classes out for folks to sign up for would be appreciated!

General Page: [Community Classes - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts](#)

Adult Classes: [2024 Adults Classes - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts](#)

Kids Classes: [2024 Kids Classes - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts](#)

Rotary Carving Class: [Arrowmont Rotary Carving](#)

## **Membership**

Please contact Mike Casey if you need a nametag. [mecasey4235@gmail.com](mailto:mecasey4235@gmail.com)  
A new Membership Directory is available to members. Be sure to pick one up at the meeting.

**Membership Dues for 2024 will be collected at the meeting, See Charlie Cutler.**

Mail your check for **\$50** to Charlie Cutler.

East Tennessee Woodworkers Guild

% Charlie Cutler

1631 Laramie Lane

Seymour, TN 37865

## **Juried Membership**

In perusing the membership contact list, you will notice that about one in five is designated as having juried status. The term denotes the highest level of achievement in woodworking, as rated by a jury of the most accomplished woodworkers within the Guild. Juried members serve as a resource, who can be consulted on a wide range of questions ranging from design, to specific techniques, tools and methods.

To seek juried status a member may request that their work be evaluated. To help decide whether work is ready to be considered by a jury, it is recommended that you start with self-evaluations. First, do your pieces meet your own highest standards? Be honest and critical. Second, as objectively as you can, compare your pieces to recognized works of merit.

Examples may be those displayed at the ETWG Master Woodworkers Shows, at national shows generally acknowledged to highlight the finest furniture and woodwork, and within highly distilled magazines like Finewoodworking. If your work does not do well by comparison, in your judgement, then delay your request to be juried. Make some improved pieces based on what you have learned.

If you are ready to take the leap, contact Lou Mansur our ETWG standards committee chairman [mansurlk@comcast.net](mailto:mansurlk@comcast.net).



## Your Guild

How can you be more involved?

- We are currently looking for someone to take Bill Key's place as Education Committee Chair. Contact any Member of the Board if you have an interest in being more involved. Bill has done a wonderful job, but it is time for someone else to step up. If this position doesn't fit there is most likely another position that will help you be involved.

## Guild Staff

### Board of Directors and Special Advisors

President	Mike Casey
Director Treasurer	Charlie Cutler
Director Secretary	Tom Ehrnschwender
Director	Jim Vogelsang
Director	Lou Mansur
Director	Jeff White
Director	Bill Key (end of term)

### Committee Chairs and Project Coordinators

Education Committee	Bill Key (end of term)
Standards Committee	Lou Mansur
Membership Committee	Mike Casey
Door Prizes	Hal Flynn & Tom Wallin
Newsletter	Tom Ehrnschwender
Web/Audio Visual	Jim Vogelsang
Photographer	Tom Zachman
Assistant Photographers	Brent Quarles & Pat Bryan