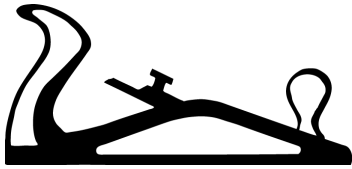




Siskiyou Woodcraft Guild



SHOP-CHATS, FLASH-CHATS, AND SHOP-TOPICS

Shop-Chat is an informal gathering for members and friends to meet and share their space, projects, and ideas with each other. Carpool if you can and bring a snack or beverage to share.

Any member is welcome anytime to announce an impromptu open house / shop **Flash-Chat** if they have a special project (about to be delivered), tool, or idea they want to share with SWGers. Notify Tom and feel free to broadcast to the guild members the date, time, and place using the guild's group email address:

swgmembers@googlegroups.com

Shop-Topic is focused on a specific topic. Think of it as an informal Insight Into Woodworking class offered exclusively for guild members by other guild members.

**10/17: Sat. 9:30am ~ ?
At Jerry Pendzick's shop**
Jerry is offering a **Shop-Topic** on a specific topic which will be his approach to chair building. You need to RSVP to Jerry to hold a place for this. It will likely run into the early afternoon so bring your own lunch. More info about this has been and will be sent out via email. Max. group size is 12 members.

Expect more shop-chats to be announced later!

We will e-send out the exact address and other details for these shop-chats during the week prior to each gathering.

Message from the President

Hello SWG Woodcutters,

I hope your 2026 is going well with shop projects and activities outside the shop! It's already time to put our Fall Schedule on your calendar for show preparations, a social dinner gathering, and a chair making presentation as a *Shop-Topic* gathering.

Those last two activities were developed as a result of the questionnaire / survey that Guy Tutland spearheaded. Your Steering Committee reviewed the responses and determined ways to implement a few suggestions. Their decisions reflect the continued dependence on volunteers to assist any and all activities. That usually means if someone wants something done then we encourage that person to volunteer with that. Luckily for us Guy has volunteered to host an evening Potluck & Barbeque in October at his beautiful home at Dark Hollow west of Phoenix.

Guy has also been a strong proponent for a mentoring program that gives any member, and new members in particular, assistance in getting to know who's-who & what's-where around the SWG network. We now have a list of 10 members who are willing to be contacted for assistance. We hope more members with experience volunteer to be mentors. This type of networking, namely woodworkers helping woodworkers, is a key function of the SWG and we hope the mentoring program helps to fulfill that function. If you wish to be a mentor then please contact Tom or Herb for more details.

In this newsletter we are adding a new feature called Meet-A-Member. This personal profile will give us a chance to learn a bit more about other SWG'ers. In this issue we get to know our secretary Herbert Edwin Harris III a bit better.

It is typical that we miss opportunities and later look back thinking "I could have done or said that better". With these new activities and 'small improvements' to our organization mentioned above I wonder why we did not get around to doing these earlier! Ultimately, this will depend on YOU participating and / or

helping to organize these extra activities so that the guild can continue to evolve and satisfy the mission of providing a useful network for woodworkers to help one another to be better at their craft. - **Tom Phillips**



MEET-A-MEMBER Herbert Edwin Harris III

Where did you 'grow up' and how did you start building things?

I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. I took an adult ed class with my dad in the late nineties and we built cutting boards – which I still use! The Japan Woodworker store in Alameda CA had a shop setup in the back where hands-on classes were held. So I took a number of weekend classes there. Then my woodworking skills took a massive leap when I took a number of Japanese Joinery classes at a community college in Oakland. We used Japanese hand tools almost exclusively.

Who taught you how to refine your skills?

In 2007 just before the big recession I somehow convinced my wife to quit our jobs, sell the house, and move to Boston so I could enroll in the two year woodworking program at North Bennet Street School. I had a blast learning at this wonderful school.

What was one of your favorite projects & why?

Just before graduating from North Bennet Street School I was able to obtain great photographs of the original Greene & Greene Blacker House Armchair along with critical dimensions. These photographs provided accurate front, side, back, and plan views of the chair. I created transparencies of these photos and projected the images onto large sheets of drafting paper taped to the wall. I was able to get accurate sketches of the chair – in particular the angles and curves. After I got my shop setup in Ashland this chair was one of my first projects. You may have seen this chair on display at one of the guild's shows. I have gotten a couple Greene & Greene style commissions as a consequence.

What was your profession and how did that influence your woodworking?

Well, being a physics major and a former programmer by profession requires patience and problem solving. I suspect this helps with woodworking. One of my North Bennet Street instructors came to class one day and told us about how some donor at some social gathering the night before said that it must be nice to do woodworking since it doesn't require much thinking. We all laughed at that.

Favorite couple of tools & why?

I have a custom made Marcou S20A low angle smoothing plane. Philip Marcou lives in New Zealand but is now retired. The bed is 20 degrees rather than the typical 12 degrees of most other low angle planes. This allows for higher cutting angles with reasonable blade edge profiles – excellent for tough woods. The plane is made of brass and stainless steel. It is beautiful, heavy, and wonderfully effective! I smile every time I pick it up. Despite being a potential 'collectors item' I use this plane a lot. My other cherished tools is a set of Japanese chisels. Now, those of you who are experienced with Japanese chisels will know that their steel is very hard. But that hardness also has the potential to be brittle. However, my chisels have this wonderful balance of hardness and toughness. The cutting edge I get with these chisels is amazing.

What is the future looking like for your woodworking?

I am confronted with three obstacles. The first is that I have a small house and it is full of furniture! Second, at this stage in my life, I will accept a commission only if I find it interesting and if it has no pressing timeline to be finished. As I get older I find timelines to be a real downer. Third, there is the economic reality that custom woodworkers are now facing – the lack of interest and diminishing desire to purchase custom heirloom pieces. YET, all it takes is a few passes with my beautiful Marcou smoothing plane on a piece of hardwood and witness (and hear!) the almost transparent shavings roll out to remember why I enjoy woodworking so much.

What are some things you like to do outside of the shop? Bike riding, martial arts, bearded dragons, and dancing with my wife.

POTLUCK & BARBECUE!

10/10: Sat. 5:00pm ~ darkness

At Guy Tutland's home

Family members are welcome! More details will be sent out as we get closer to the event.

By the way, if you ever forget the schedule for our various meetings, Jeff has included a month-by-month event **calendar** on our website. Go to the Event section, then click on Calendar!

We have our newsletters on file there, too!

FALL SHOW SCHEDULE

Our policy for participating in the show is as follows: Returning members who have previously been juried and recently participated in a show are grandfathered in and can request the same location they used in previous shows. This allows for better preparation and easier setup and tells us how much space is available for members showing for the first time. We try to bring in as much variety to our shows as we can fit in. Please contact Tom Phillips before **9/20** to tell him one of the following...

1) You have recently participated and would like to participate again this year.

2) You have recently participated but will not participate this year.

3) You have never participated in the past and would like to be juried at the show meeting to participate this year.

The show registration form can be downloaded from our website (scroll down to the bottom of the page):

<https://siskiyouwoodcraftguild.org/events/annual-fine-woodworking-show/>

Important dates!

09/26: Sat. 10am ~ noon

One-n-Only Show Meeting.

@ Morgan Pierce's shop in Ashland. His address will be emailed the week prior to the meeting. Send in your Registration form or bring it to this meeting. We will be planning advertising and setup. **New participants:** We will jury new participants here so bring a Reg. form and couple of pieces for assessment. Pay show fee afterwards if accepted.

10/10: Sat.

Due date for Registration forms and fees.

11/24: Tues. 5:00pm

Meet at the Stor-a-While (south end of town on Siskiyou Blvd. near Tolman Creek Rd.) Our unit is down the first lane on the right as you enter. We need volunteers to move boxes, platforms, and panels to the OSF room. **You do not need to be a show participant to volunteer!**

11/25: Wed. 9:00am ~ 12:00am

Deliver and setup time! Once you are in the room you can work as long as you need. Remember to be ready with the display equipment that you need and to work things out with your show neighbors for good visibility and foot traffic flow.

11/27: Fri.

8:30am - 9:30am: Final Set-up.

9:35am: Pre-Show meeting with all participants!

10:00am - 7:00pm: Open to the public (until some-time after the parade dust settles).

11/28: Sat. 10:00am - 6:00pm:

Open ...

11/29: Sun.

10:00am - 4:00pm: Open ...

4:15pm: Show wrap-up meeting and Pizza Party!

5:00pm: Take it down, pack it out (as much as possible), and clean it up...

11/30: Mon. 9:00am

Final Clear out. Pick up anything left overnight. Trucks and folks needed to take SWG Display gear back to Stor-a-While.

**OUR MISSION**

The Siskiyou Woodcraft Guild is a regional association of woodworkers encouraging a wide range of skills, knowledge, and interests. Our mission is to offer fellowship by providing networking among our members. We value the principles and practices of fine woodworking by encouraging technical discussion and development. We promote an appreciation of quality workmanship to the general public by providing access to our products, experience, and design expertise through shows, classes, and other events.

2026 OFFICERS**President**

Tom Phillips

Treasurer

Jens Sehm

Secretary

Herbert Edwin Harris III

Webmaster

Jeff Roberts

Steering Committee

Stephen Bacon,
Herbert Edwin Harris III,
Eric Olson, Tom Phillips,
Morgan Pierce, Brent Poulton,
Jeff Roberts, Will Sears,
Jens Sehm, Wayne Tarris, Jay Treiger

REMINDERS: Please send contact information updates to Herbert Harris