

OREGON WOOD WORKS

SPECIAL EDITION GUILD FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

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There is an old expression about life being a journey. Woodworking can also feel like a journey sometimes. As we begin we see many options but are unsure of what direction to take. As we start moving our feet and taking steps, we begin our journey and begin to see a direction. The experiences we have shape our next project, next tool, or how we work. And just like many journeys, we end up somewhere far from where we started, but it is all connected by each step being close to the last and near to the next.

Our Guild has been on a journey as well. When this organization started in the late 70's, it was a small group of professionals that wanted to unite together to be able to have shows of work together, and to discuss the nature of how to work in woodworking and still survive. These early Guild members recognized the value of camaraderie and sharing of ideas. The Guild members wanted to learn how to do better; how to improve their skills and themselves. Through the last forty years, the Guild grew to include hobbyist woodworkers, to have classes, and to serve the community that we live in.

In recent years we have grown our membership significantly, we started having our own Guild Shop, we add-

ed many classes to our offerings and began to bring in world renowned instructors and presenters. Our Guild has journeyed far from its roots, but we still hold the ideas that started this organization; camaraderie, improvement, and service.

It is good at times along a journey to stop and look back and look forward, to get a bearing of where you are and where you are heading, to make sure that you are still on the path.

This past month, The Guilds Board took a moment to look back and to look forward. For the second time in the history of the Guild, the Board met for a retreat together to have a strategic look at how to plan for the future of the Guild. The two-day event was facilitated by Gail Haskett, and was well attended with Board members, committee members, and some general members, all lending a voice to how best to manage and serve the Guild.

In the coming months we hope to be starting to implement some of these changes.

We recognized the importance of focusing on offering the best service to our members while also encouraging greater participation for our volunteer programs. To



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help facilitate the ease with which a General Member, such as yourself, might be able to step into a role of responsibility, we will be putting together a manual of the Guild. Including such key points as role descriptions and guidelines, committees and communication charts as well as procedures for how to handle different situations that arise.

At the coming meeting on September 18th be sure to look for members of our Board as well as instructors and longtime members to have badges on that say Guild Ambassador. These are the people to ask questions of; how to get involved with volunteering, what classes are coming up, or what are good local sources for lumber or tools. To the best of their abilities, they will try and help you navigate the Guild; if they don't have the answer, they can at least point you in the right direction of the person to ask. If you have ideas for community projects, or ways that the Guild can best serve our members, please let our Guild Ambassadors know.

In general, The Guild is looking for the best way to serve our members, while giving our members an op-

portunity to serve in keeping woodworking alive. We need your input as well, this is your Guild, and we want you to be part of the involvement of this organization going forward. Volunteers make up the crew at events like Art in the Pearl this weekend, where we get out in the community. Volunteers helped build over 300 bird-houses with children at two different events this past month; Multnomah Days, and the Clackamas County Fair. Volunteers make up the Board and the committees that run this Guild.

Please consider helping volunteering for roles within the Guild and helping shape the next 40 years of the Guild. This is our journey in woodworking, lets do it together!

