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April 2025
Volume 43, Issue 4

# TWA Newsletter

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 pm

Location options:

(1) Klingspor's

(2) Zoom videoconference; use the information below to join.

*https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85935455005?pwd=SrbMbqJcE3hxSJg0wdcmD9e7jrpimw.1*

Meeting ID: 859 3545 5005

Passcode: 966062

Topic: Bent Lamination at Hill Country Woodworks

Presenter: Mark Todd

For our April meeting, we are pleased to welcome Mark Todd, co-owner of Hill Country Woodworks, a furniture producer based in Chapel Hill, NC. His company specializes in designing and building furniture using time-tested construction techniques and beautiful hardwoods. Mark is returning to TWA to share insights on how he incorporates bent laminations to add elegant curves to his designs.

To explore more of his work, visit *Hill Country Woodworks*.

We look forward to an inspiring presentation!

*Host: Jeff Leimberger*

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# TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—MARCH 18, 2025

*(meeting minutes: James Sapp)*

The March meeting was held at Klingspor's in Cary. We had a great turnout with twenty-five attendees in person and three joining via Zoom. A big thank you to Bob Gabor for bringing the refreshments.

The meeting was kicked off by Roy Brookhart with introductions. Next, was an auction led by George Mills for a mirror kit donated by Judy Sanwald, with Roy Brookhart placing the winning bid of $50. All proceeds were donated to Toys for Tots.

Next, meeting attendees discussed the possibility of resuming on-site shop crawls, and there was enough positive interest to likely start them in the summer. If you're interested in showcasing your shop, please reach out to Roy or Kerry.

Kerry Schoolfield shared a message from Nicole Queetham about the Visionary of the Year fundraiser at Duke Children's Hospital. If you're interested in contributing, please contact Kerry for more details. Nicole expressed her gratitude for the eighteen Beads of Courage boxes that were recently delivered to Duke's Cancer Center.

Looking ahead, the April meeting will feature Mark Todd from Hill Country Woodworks in Chapel Hill. He will be discussing how he incorporates bent laminations into his furniture designs.

The March raffle was won by Bob Gabor.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring fever has infected me for 2025 and I'm feeling the need to see what others have been working on lately.

I am getting some good response to the call for members to open their shops for a good old in-person shop crawl. Please let me know if you are interested in letting your fellow woodworkers drop in some Saturday in the July timeframe. Even if we have visited in the past, please keep in mind that we have new members, and old members with bad memories, so you can be on the schedule again.

Member projects are some of the best received programs we have. Please take some photos of the progress on your next work and put together a simple presentation to share or send a photo to the webmaster to be posted on line.

Have you bought a new tool lately? Product reviews are always welcome and of interest to many of us in the group.

We look forward to catching up with you and your projects.

*Roy Brookhart*

## BIRDHOUSE COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Join the JC Raulston Arboretum's annual spring festival, Raulston Blooms!, featuring the 23rd Annual Birdhouse Competition.

- Open to all ages, with four categories: Functional, Flight of Fancy, Creativity for All, and Children (by age group).
- Drop off all entries on Friday, April 25th.
- Entries will be showcased Saturday, April 26th at Raulston Blooms!
- All participants will receive a Raulston Blooms! family ticket.

More details about the individual categories as well as the overall competition can be found here: *https://jcra.ncsu.edu/events/details.php?ID=3765*

All TWA members and friends are encouraged to participate. Should you enter, your birdhouse would also be a great thing to show at one of our meeting show-and-tells.

The JC Raulston Arboretum Event Team can be contacted at: *jcra-events@ncsu.edu*

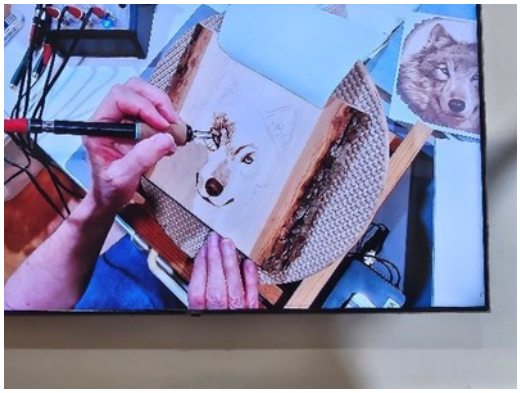
# TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—MARCH 18, 2025

## INTRO TO WOODBURNING

*(meeting minutes: James Sapp)*

Kerry Schoolfield introduced the featured speaker for the March meeting, Michele Parsons, a professional pyrography artist and author of several books about pyrography. She has been teaching pyrography for over twenty years. Her books include: Leather Pyrography and Quick-Start Woodburning Guide. Pyrography is derived from the Greek word fire and drawing. Why use the term pyrography versus wood burning? The simple answer is the pyrography best describes the craft as it is applied to many kinds of materials including wood.

Michele introduced the audience to pyrography equipment including the power units, pens and other accessories. In the past, Michele had her own store where she sold the equipment. Time commitments to her pyrography teaching and commission work made it impossible for her to continue with her pyrography store. So, she sold the business to Klingspor's, where all of the equipment she uses and recommends is sold. Visit the Klingspor's shop or web -site to view and purchase equipment.



*Michele introduced the club to pyrography (photos: Roy Brookhart)*

Next, Michele demonstrated how she burns a design onto wood. For wood she prefers a close -grain wood and one that would not generate toxic fumes during the burning process. She recommends basswood as an ideal medium for burning, especially for beginners. In her first example, Michele transferred an image of a floral picture on to basswood by tracing it using graphite paper. This is not carbon paper but a special paper that doesn't transfer excess carbon deposits onto the substrate. Saral brand graphite transfer paper is the brand she recommends. Next Michele demonstrated her wood burning techniques using various pens to first outline, and then to shade and knife lines on to the wood. She holds the burning pens as if they were ball point pens. She discussed how to add color, if desired, by adding dyes to the figure.

Michele's second demonstration was wood burning a figure of a wolf's face onto a basswood substrate. In this particular example, she showed how the effects of shading and knifing brought out realistic features of hair and shadows of the wolf. She outlined the eyes and the nose in dark brown, almost black, to bring out these features. Pyrography pens need to be cleaned during the burning process. For cleaning Michele recommends wiping the tips on a piece of denim cloth and stropping with yellow rouge. Also, during the burning process never let the tip get red as this will remove the annealed properties of the metal tips.

Wood burning has quite an artistic characteristic about it. For those seeking art lessons, Michele recommends connecting with *Udemy* as a good start point for developing artistic skills.

Be sure to view the recorded video of Michele's presentation on the TWA website.

## THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

TWA would like to thank members who provide donations to the club or the Toys for Tots fund. The following members made a generous donation to the club or the Toys for Tots fund within the club in the last month.

- Barton Meeks
- Tom Hegele
- Bill Burton
- Ray Savarda

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

No new members in March. Don't you know a woodworker you could bring into TWA? Our last three new members are Toni Janz, Will Perschau, and Michael Shenhouse.

I've updated the *member map*. Don't like to drive to night meetings? Who is your closest TWA member?

*Barton Meeks, Membership Committee*

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send newsletter content for future newsletters to Karin Pihel (karin.pihel@ gmail.com).

Contributions for each newsletter are due by the last day of the previous month.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Date and Time**: May 20, 7:00pm

**Topic**: Sharpening

**Speaker**: Jim Wallace

**Location**: Klingspor's

Jim Wallace has been a professional woodturner and woodworker for more than 50 years. After graduating from the University of South Carolina with a degree in French Literature, he studied woodturning with Rude Osolnik, Dale Nish and Peter Child. Since 1981, he has taught woodturning at Alamance Community College, and has taught woodturning classes and sharpening workshops at the NCSU Craft Center. His work has been included in American Craft Magazine, and in exhibitions at the NC Museum of Art, NC Museum of History and at the Cary Arts Center. He built a timber frame house and wood studio in Wake Forest, where he continues to live and work.

During the May meeting, Jim will discuss sharpening methods for the hand tools in your shop. Come with your questions and look forward to learning about more effective ways to sharpen tools.

*Host: Kerry Schoolfield*

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**Date and Time**: June 17, 6:00—8:00 pm

**Topic**: Annual Kick-off Meeting for Toys for Tots

**Location**: Atria Senior Living Center in Cary

The annual kick-off for Toys for Tots, will be held at Atria Senior Living Center - Cary from 6:00-8:00 pm on June 17. Refreshments will be served. More details to follow.

*Host: Joe Sabo*

## TREASURER'S REPORT (FEBRUARY)

| | |
|---|---|
| Beginning Balance: | $18,509.62 |
| Income: | $1,155.00 |
| Expense: | $140.05 |
| Ending Balance: | $19,524.57 |

Does not include Petty Cash of $86.00.

*Submitted by Jack Kite, Treasurer*

# BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| POSITION | BOARD MEMBER |
|---|---|
| President | Roy Brookhart |
| Vice President | Kerry Schoolfield |
| Secretary | James Sapp |
| Treasurer | Jack Kite |
| At-Large Board Member | Ray Essington |
| At Large Board Member | Chris Gebhardt |
| At-Large Board Member | Joe Sabo |

| COMMITTEE | CHAIRPERSON / MEMBERS |
|---|---|
| Program Committee | **Kerry Schoolfield /** Jeff Leimberger, Cecil Raynor, Bob Gabor, Mike Payst, Cathy Harms, Roy Brookhart |
| Toys-for-Tots Committee | **Joe Sabo**<br>Material Procurement: Bob Andrews<br>Workshop Hosts: Joe Sabo, Pete Hodges, Roy Brookhart, Bob Andrews and Judy Sanwald, Jim Rhodes, Les Hall, Alex Knittel, Ray Essington, Bob Guenther, Tom Hegele, Bill Watkins, Alex Harp, Gary Brookhart |
| Newsletter Publications Committee | **Karin Pihel /** Fred Ford |
| Library Committee | **Jerry Rhoades** |
| Publicity Committee | **Roy Brookhart** |
| Sponsor Committee | OPEN |
| Internet | **Paul Holzworth** |
| Mentor Committee | **Allen Campbell** |
| Membership Committee | **Barton Meeks /** Judy Sanwald, Paul Holzworth, Sue Bunch |
| Audio/Visual Committee | **Chris Gebhardt** |
| Photographer | **Roy Brookhart** |
| Social Media | **Chris Gebhardt** |
| Raffle Committee | **Dick Raup** |
| TWA Duties and Responsibilities Editor | **Fred Ford** |

# TWA SPONSORS

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mkeglers@earthlink.net

**Klingspor's Woodworking Shop**
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4317 Pleasant Valley Rd.
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raleighwoodcraft@bellsouth.net
http://www.woodcraft.com
*$25 gift certificate at each TWA meeting for the raffle*
*10% discount*

**Wurth Wood Group**
919-231-6620
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Raleigh, NC 27610
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