



APPLE COUNTRY WOODCRAFTERS

History

In 1985 eight local woodworkers: Albert Davey, Howard Douglass, Dr. Carlton Herman, Walter Hoyles, Charles MacLaughlin, William Ninness, William Overton, and Donald Wesley, became the Charter Members of Apple Country Woodcrafters, with Dr. Herman elected as the club's first President. They created a club with the mission to promote the art and craft of woodworking.

Meetings were held at members' home shops, where they also built toys for local children at Christmas. Membership quickly grew from the original eight members and they moved to share a small wood shop in the Opportunity House in Hendersonville. The growing club began acquiring club-owned equipment, with two of the first large pieces being a Jet table saw and a North State jointer. The Opportunity House also became the venue for the club's annual Christmas toy giveaway.



In February 2011, the club began to meet at the Hendersonville Train Depot until December 2012. Needing space to house the growing collection of tools, the club relocated to the Leisure Craft facility in January 2013. In May 2015, needing a new home, the club relocated to the current facility at Building C at 55 P.E.M. Drive. Apple Country Woodcrafters achieved 501c3 public charitable status in August 2011.

Expansion into an adjoining space in 2017 resulted in a fully equipped 3,750 sq ft woodworking facility. Club membership has many benefits. Members can use the shop to not only make toys, but to craft whatever personal woodworking projects they may wish such as a quilt rack, book cases, pictures frames, segmented turned bowls, step-stools, or a cradle for a new grandchild. For personal projects, members can bring their own wood or purchase wood from the club wood store, often at lower rates than commercial retailers. Plans for projects like these can be found in the club library. The library contains magazines such as Wood, Fine Woodworking, and WoodSmith plus over 500 books. The computer-indexed collection allows members to search for specific topics of interest.



Each month, members meet to share ideas and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded individuals. Most meetings not only discuss club business, but include a Show-and-Tell session and a feature Presentation. The Show-and-Tell sessions allow members to present their woodworking projects made from many different disciplines including turning, carving, and pyrography. Items range from cutting boards, bowls, frames, and hand carved animals, to chairs, chests and

of course toys. The Presentations segment feature a guest presenter that discuss and demonstrate a woodworking skill or topic. Past presentations have included wood movement in projects, marquetry, Windsor chair making, finishing and guitar making.

The club's monthly newsletter, Apple Country Shavings, keeps members up to date with information on upcoming events such as field trips, the latest news from special interest groups within the club, woodworking television show listings, board member reports and many other items of interest.

In 2012, Keith Maddox expanded the club's reach into the community by designing the club's first website to inform the community of the club's efforts and to help recruit new members. In 2017, the club moved into Social Media by launching its own Facebook page, sharing club news and photos showing the wide variety of fascinating woodworking projects our members produce.

One of the club's largest efforts is making wooden toys for children in our community. At the annual Christmas party and Toy Giveaway, the club hosts many of the community organizations that specialize in helping families in need. In 2017, over 2,500 Apple Country Woodcrafter toys were distributed by agencies such as The Salvation Army, Hendersonville Rescue Mission, MissionsCarolina Baptist Association, Edneyville Lion's Club, Calvary Food Pantry, The Storehouse and A Helping Hand Prison Ministry, to the children of deserving families.



This massive effort is accomplished in several ways. Each Wednesday, club members work in organized parties using a variety of production techniques. This is part of the attraction of the club. Some pieces are produced using power tools and some are made on lathes, while others are cut using the club's CNC machine. Group efforts are not the only way the club produces toys. Members produce toys on other days of the week and there are many members who produce toys in their home shops using club-supplied materials.

While ongoing toy making is the largest workshop held by the club, other workshops are held to follow up on skills and techniques covered in presentations from the monthly meetings. Occasional educational workshops are also held. Some workshops are in joinery

techniques like dovetail joinery, biscuit joinery or the use of faster methods such as using the Kreg pocket hole system. Other aspects of woodworking are covered such as finishing or math for woodworkers. Instructional workshops in the use of power tools such as bandsaws or table saws or for setting planer knives are just some of many topics covered for members learning how to use these tools, and some are a refresher for those wishing to “dust off” some of their older skills.



Special-interest groups focusing on particular segments of woodworking are another club benefit. These groups meet regularly to hone skills and share techniques on turning, embellishing, and carving. Members learn how they can use these crafts and skills to create projects such as pens or small object boxes, or to enhance projects they’ve made by other means. Apple Country Woodcrafters also provides members the opportunity to “give back” to the community through service projects. Our members have donated their time and skill since the club’s beginning, to help with projects that benefit our community directly or through other organizations. Projects have included working with the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site, the Henderson County Heritage Museum, the Henderson County Human Services building, the Hendersonville Little Theater, the Elks Club, the Girl Scouts and various local churches.



Since the early days of the club, members have enjoyed group field trips, traveling to woodworking-related places of interest such as tool manufacturers Makita and Ryobi, Cormark International which has over 75 different environmentally harvested woods, both exotic and domestic hardwoods, Brian Boggs Chair Makers where members can watch the handcrafting of wooden furniture, or neighboring woodworking clubs such as the Greenville Woodworkers

Guild, one of the largest woodworking clubs in the United States.

Apple Country Woodcrafters have played an important part in Henderson County. From providing wooden toys to local children to serving with community service projects, we pass on the skills and traditions of woodworking to the next generation of woodworkers. Our members from the past to the future, have and will continue to educate and serve our community with our passion for the art of woodworking.

Membership has grown steadily over the years and stands at over 225 in early 2020.