

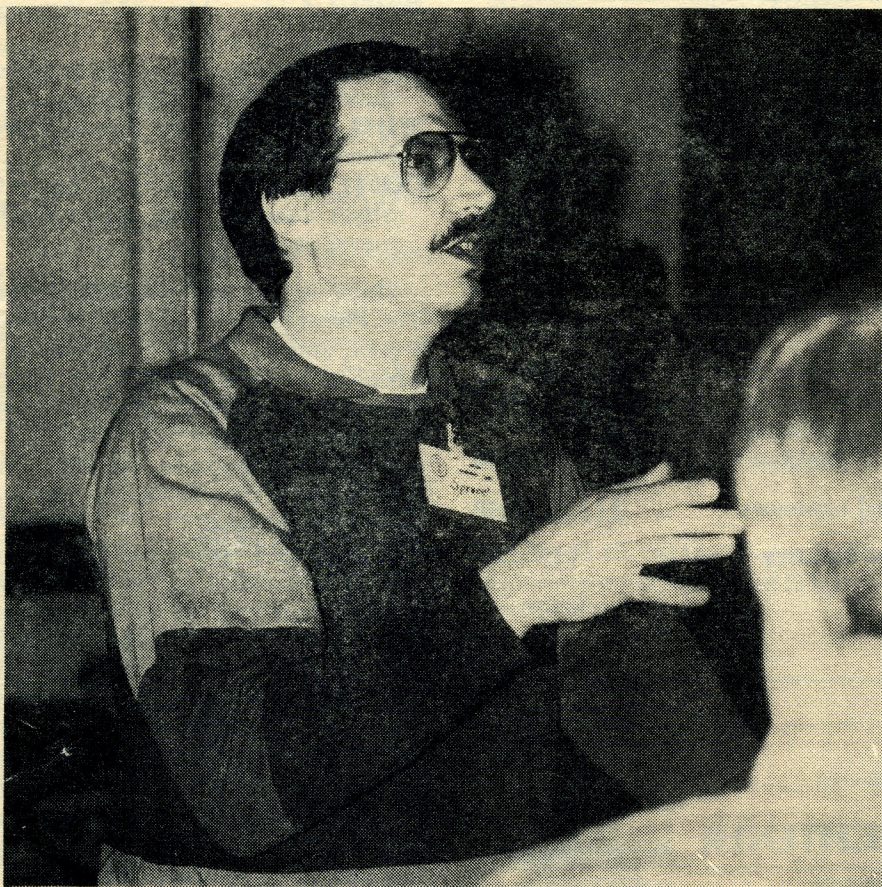
NEWSLETTER

Volume III

No. 5

May 1985

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Guild President, Spruce McRee, encourages members to enter Spring Show.

Photo by Bill Hayley

Gentlemen,

We had another excellent turnout last month. I was glad to see a lot of folks since Craig came all the way from Tuscaloosa to be with us. It was interesting to watch a craftsman turn a piece of file into a fine carving tool.

I hope more of you are working on show pieces than what was indicated at our last meeting. This is our biggest

event of the year. We put a lot of planning and a lot of **your** money into it. Without your participation we could have a flop, an expensive flop. As of this date we have 2 entry forms. Please note that the entry form in April's Newsletter stated that it must be in by April 12th. That was a misprint. The entry fee is \$10. A late fee of \$2.00 will only be imposed on those

who wait to enter the day of the show.

How would you like to have a picture of your work in an issue of *Fine Woodworking*? We received a letter from the Editorial Department of *Fine Woodworking*. They requested that we send slides and descriptions of the outstanding pieces at the show and they would **try** to publish them. How's that for incentive? Don't let your club down — get busy and enter your work with pride.

All members who have not renewed their membership have been dropped from the mailing list. Work is underway to print the 1985 membership directory. We hope to have it for you at our next meeting, if not, we'll have it ready by the show. This should be a big advantage to us and encourage and enhance new friendships.

Board member Chris Lorish is now in charge of our mini-workshop series. He will be contacting many of you about setting up workshops in the near future. We hope to have some good ones for you soon.

If you were at our last meeting you noticed a sign-in sheet. We are doing this to keep a record of attendance. There is a place on the sheet for you to indicate a change in address or phone number, so please keep us informed of any changes. It also allows us to keep up with visitors and prospective new members.

We have a good meeting planned for you in May, so please make an effort to come on down. **DON'T FORGET THE SHOW!** See you in May.

Spruce McRee

ALABAMA WOODWORKERS GUILD

Minutes and Comments From:
April 11, 1985

Spruce McRee opened the meeting around 7:15 p.m. with thanks to Ronnie Acton for donating the wood used in the building of benches for use at the guild meetings. The benches were built by Spruce, Ronnie and Walter Barnett. Give them a word of thanks next time you sit next to them on one of those benches!

Everyone was reminded of the upcoming Spring Show, May 31 through June 8. The judging will be done during the day of June 1 with a nice social and award ceremony that Saturday night. Spruce asked for a show of hands indicating how many would participate and too many members were too shy to admit it. The key to a successful show is for everyone to make the effort to enter something. This is one of the best learning experiences we can have during the year — count yourself in for this one!

The bulk of the evening was reserved for our guest demonstrator — Craig Nutt. He showed us the steps necessary to make a custom carving tool out of an old triangular file. A little grinding here and there, a handle and some heat treatments and we were all ready to start adding carved ornamentation to our table legs. Craig also shows some of the pieces that have made him one of the premiere woodworkers in the Southeast.

Kerry McCalla
Secretary

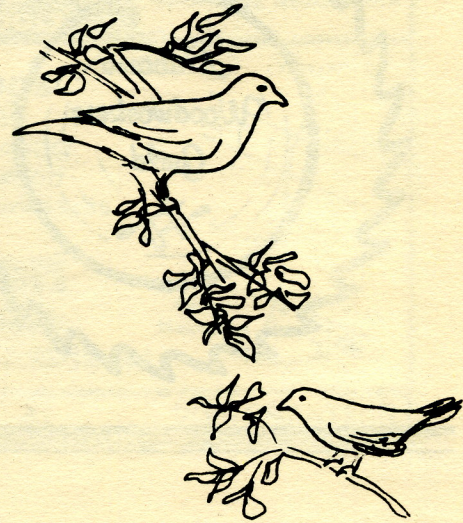
TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 4/21/85, the status of the club's finances is as follows:

Checking acct (per checkbook) — Balance carried forward	\$1,700.67
Income:	
Income from dues — 6 new members	\$180.00
Income from dues — 31 renewals	\$460.00
Income from newsletter ads	\$ 00.00
Spring Show entry fees — 1	\$ 10.00
Total income	\$650.00
Expenses:	
Photography — Newsletter (2 months)	\$ 50.46
Typesetting (Apr. newsletter)	\$225.17
Printing, folding (Apr. newsletter) — no bill yet	\$ 00.00
Name cards — printing & plastic inserts	\$ 39.00
Bank service charges	\$ 3.85
Press Release (50) — Spring Show (Printing & postage)	\$ 17.42
Labels, data base establishment — Press Release	\$ 16.50
Total expenses	\$352.40
New balance	\$1,998.27

A. Larry Aaron
Treasurer

SPRING SHOW



WHEN? Friday, May 31st through Saturday, June 8th.

WHERE? South Central Bell Headquarters Building downtown.

WHO MAY ENTER? Every AWG Member.

COST? \$10.00 per member (used to offset cost of show and refreshments at social).

Show set up will be Friday, May 31st. Please bring your pieces between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. There will be a panel to help you decide on which category to enter (beginners, intermediate, craftsman, and turnings). It will be your decision on what you want judged or whether or not you want to be judged.

Judging will take place during the day on Saturday, June 1st. The awards presentation and social will be that evening (Sat. 6/1) beginning at 6:30 p.m. and lasting till 10:00 p.m. The social will be covered dish so bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres. Soft drinks, plates and napkins will be furnished by the guild. Please do not forget this will be a one-week show so plan to leave your work until the following Saturday, June 8th, if possible. You may pick them up anytime during the day on Saturday, June 8th. We must be clear of the building by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 8th.

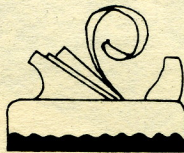
I encourage every member to enter. It may be something you built 10 years ago but please participate. Do not be shy or intimidated. You will never regret your participation. (All show pieces will be under 24 hour guard.)

See you at the show!

Richard Gilbert
Show Chairman

KRAFTSMAN KORNER

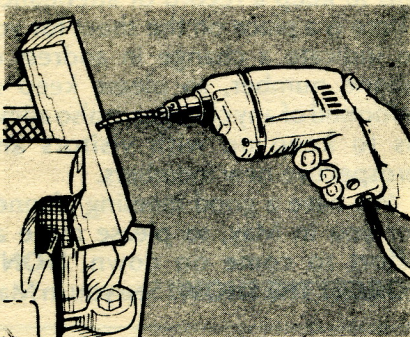
DRILL-BIT STRAIGHTENER



Small-diameter drill bits are easily bent during normal use.

To straighten a bent bit, chuck it into your drill and, while running the drill at full speed, insert the drill point into a piece of scrap wood. Apply slight sideways pressure to the drill to return the bit to its proper shape. When you release the pressure, the bit will continue to run true.

— Robert S. Tupper, Canton, S. Dak.



How to Make a Board (cont'd)

7. I try to repair the lamp on the spot. Usually, I look for a likely trouble spot and whack it with a blunt instrument. This often works on lamps. It rarely works on microwave ovens.

8. If the on-the-spot repair doesn't work, I say, "I'll have to take this lamp down to the home workshop." This is my way of telling my wife she should get another lamp if she has any short-term plans — say, to read in bed.

If you follow this procedure, after a few years you will have a great many broken objects in your home workshop. In the interim, however, it will look barren. This is why you need tools. To give your shop an attractive, nonbarren appearance, get several thousand dollars' worth of tools and hang them from pegboards in a graceful display.

Basically, there are four kinds of tools:

Tools You Can Hit Yourself With (hammers, axes);

Tools You Can Cut Yourself With (saws, knives, adzes);

Tools You Can Stab Yourself With (screwdrivers, chisels);

Tools That, If Dropped Just Right, Can Penetrate Your Foot (awls).

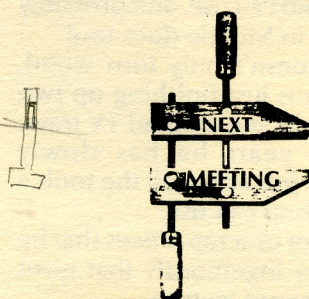
Note that all of these tools are dangerous, so you should never touch them. What you should do is stand among them wearing craftsmanlike clothes and listen to sporting events on the radio.

If, in the event of some kind of national emergency, you *must* use your tools, you should take all kinds of extreme precautions. For example, I own a radial-arm saw, which is a popular style of saw that has a blade that can spin at several billion revolutions per second and sever your typical limb in a trice. When I am forced to operate my radial-arm saw, I use a safety procedure developed by X-ray technicians: I leave the room. First, though, I turn off all the power in the house, place a piece of wood near the saw, and then plug in the saw. Finally I retreat to the other room and turn the power back on. This is how I would have made my board had I not bought it at the lumberyard.

I also have a router, a tool I highly recommend. My router has never given me any trouble, and even if it did I wouldn't know it because I don't have the vaguest notion what routers are for. I bought this one because it was on sale.

The instruction booklet that came with the router says you can use it to

make a "dado," which sounds like a bodily function but is apparently something you can do a piece of wood. I have been giving serious thought to making a dado on my board, on the theory that this will make it a more effective anti-spider device. I'll let you know how it goes, assuming I still have the use of my hands.



The next meeting of The Alabama Woodworkers Guild is Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m. at Acton Moulding and Supply in Helena.

AWG member Leonard Sanders will be giving a demonstration on bowl and spindle turning. Leonard has been a turner for 13 years. He comes highly recommended. This should be one you really don't want to miss.

FOR SALE

Woodworking Shaper, 1/2 reversing motor plus bits & collars, cast iron table, 1/2" and 3/8" spindle, spare spindle, fence. \$250.00. 991-6109.

FOR SALE

Rockwell 46-150 14/11" gap bed lathe including metal stand and 1/2 hp motor. Jim Caldwell, 870-4729.

OFFICERS ...

President

Spruce McRee, III 663-9453

1st Vice President

James Ross 991-8249

2nd Vice President

Ronnie Acton 663-0130

Secretary

Kerry McCalla 991-0413

Treasurer

Larry Aaron 595-7844

Librarian

Frank Jones 663-9057

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ...

Chris Lorish 823-0098

Ronnie Acton 663-0130

Jim Stevens 987-0975

Tom Godfryd 991-8217

Richard Gilbert 786-1346

David Traylor 786-1346

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at the residence of Walter Barnett, 3409 Hanford Lane, Hoover. Members welcome.

MINI-WORKSHOPS

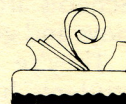
Attention! This month's mini-workshop schedule is spare. I guess everyone is working on their show piece. Volunteers are welcome. Topics can be very basic, like using a planer, making a favorite jig, cutting a favorite joint. The point is to have some hands-on experience and some fun talking "shop". This month's mini-workshop is:

"SHARPENING PLANES AND CHISELS."

It will be held by Frank Jones on Saturday, May 25th at 9:00 a.m. Space is limited so first come, first served. Sign up at the May meeting.

In the near future, Leonard Sanders will do a follow-up workshop to his meeting presentation on wood turning.

Chris Lorish
Mini-Workshop Chairman



NEW MEMBERS

Roy Bates
Jack Cater
John E. Cover
Mike Majors
Robert M. Moore
Donald Pate
Roy W. Rutland
James E. Smith



COMPLETE CABINET HARDWARE SUPPLY

• ABRASIVES • CABINET HARDWARE •
DECORATIVE WOOD MOULDINGS • APPLIANCES
• COMMERCIAL HARDWARE • GLUES • NEVAMAR
LAMINATED PLASTICS • LOCKS



3912 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35222
TELEPHONE 205-595-4655

WOODBUTCHER OF THE MONTH — LEONARD SANDERS



Leonard Sanders fell in love with woodturning when he was a freshman at Phillips High School. (He said, "Don't mention the year, and I won't," as he's the same age I am.)

All those years as secretary to

Alabama Power he dreamed of enough time to get his own lathe and turn wood. In 1972 he just **took** time and has been making really lovely things ever since. I think it's safe to say that his wife, Dot, has all the bowls, music boxes, candelabra, etc., that one household can use, and probably his daughter in Mobile does too!

Leonard doesn't only turn wood, however. He is just finishing up two very nice inlaid and pegged TV trays.

Over the years he has slowly accumulated just about all the tools a home workshop can use.

He uses a lot of scrap pieces that he glues up very ingeniously that gives his work a unique texture.

Leonard plays a little golf now and

then at Green Valley. He has a firm rule. He won't start a round in the rain, and he won't play after dark. Consequently, he only gets in 5 or 6 rounds a week since he retired a couple of years ago. He has an 11 handicap. I don't know what that means, but it's a whole lot better than my woodworking handicap. I must have about 50.

Leonard is a native of Birmingham and has been a member of Trinity Methodist Church for 33 years, and has been singing in the choir for about half that time.

I think Leonard is thoroughly enjoying his retirement.

Frank Jones

HOW TO MAKE A BOARD ... and other ways not to use your home workshop

Condensed from Rodale's New Shelter, Dave Barry

Reprinted from Reader's Digest, October 1983

Most of what I know about carpentry, which is almost nothing, I learned in shop. I took shop during the Eisenhower Administration, when boys took shop and girls took home economics — code for "cooking." Schools are not allowed to separate boys and girls like that anymore.

They're also not allowed to put students' heads in vises, which is what our shop teacher, Mr. Schmidt, did to Robbie Williams in the fifth grade when Robbie used a chisel when he should have used a screwdriver. (Mr. Schmidt had strong feelings about how to use tools properly.) I guess he shouldn't have put Robbie's head in the vise, but you can bet Robbie never made the same mistake in later life. Assuming he made it to later life.

Under the guidance of Mr. Schmidt, we hammered out hundreds of the ugliest and most useless objects the human mind can conceive. Our first major project was a little bookshelf that you could also use as a stool. The idea was that someday you'd be looking for a book, when all of a sudden you'd need a stool, so you'd just dump the books out and there you'd be. At least I assume that was the thinking behind it. Mr. Schmidt designed it.

Over the years, I have used my shop skills to make many useful objects for my home. For example, I recently

made a board.

I use my board in many ways. I stand on it when I have to get socks out of the dryer and there's water in the basement (usually with a healthy layer of scum on top). I also use my board to squash spiders. (All spiders are deadly killers. Don't believe any of the stuff you read in *National Geographic*.) Generally, after I squash a spider, I leave the board in the water for a while, spider-side down, to wash it off, assuming the scum isn't too bad.

To make a board, you'll need:

Materials: A board, paint.

Tools: A chisel, a handgun.

Get your board at a lumberyard, but be prepared: lumberyards reek of lunacy. When they tell you a board is a "two-by-four," they mean it is *not* two inches by four inches. Likewise, a "one-by-six" is *not* one inch by six inches. So if you know what size you want, tell the lumberperson you want some other size. If you don't know what size you want, tell him it's for squashing spiders. He'll know what you need.

You should paint your board so that people will know it's a home carpentry project. I suggest you use a darkish color, something along the lines of spider guts. Use your chisel to open the paint can. Have your gun ready in case Mr. Schmidt is still lurking around.

Once you've finished your board,

you can move on to more advanced projects, such as a harpsichord. But if you're really going to get into home carpentry, you should have a home workshop. You will find that your workshop is very useful as a place to store lawn sprinklers and objects you intend to fix sometime before you die. My wife and I have worked out a simple eight-step procedure for deciding which objects to store there:

1. My wife tells me an object is broken. For instance, she may say, "The lamp on my bedside table doesn't work."

2. I wait several months, in case my wife is mistaken.

3. My wife notifies me she is not mistaken. "The lamp still doesn't work," she says.

4. I conduct a preliminary investigation. I flick the switch and note that the lamp doesn't go on. "You're right," I tell my wife. "That lamp doesn't work."

5. I wait 6 to 19 months, hoping that God will fix the lamp, or the Russians will attack us and the entire world will be a glowing heap of radioactive slag and nobody will care about the lamp anymore.

6. My wife then alerts me that the lamp *still* doesn't work. "The lamp *still* doesn't work," she says, sometimes late at night.

(continued on next page)

CHISELER'S CORNER . . .

Are you having a problem trying to buy, sell or trade something? Do you want help on a specific project? Having difficulty trying to locate a rare tool or supply?

Place an ad in our Chiseler's Corner column next month. Mail this form 2 weeks prior to the next meeting and your ad will be printed.

Want to buy sell locate swap

Describe item _____

Cost: _____

Your name & phone number: _____

Mail to: The Alabama Woodworkers Guild
 P.O. Box 327
 Pelham, Alabama 35124

MINI-WORKSHOP FORM

I will be willing to host a mini-workshop on _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Workshop Location: _____

Date: _____

Approximate Length: _____

WOOD SHOW ENTRY FORM

Alabama Woodworkers Guild
Post Office Box 327, Pelham, Alabama 35214

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Year's woodworking experience _____

Exhibit(s) _____

Previous shows _____

Skill Level

Furniture
Novice

Furniture
Intermediate

Furniture
Craftsman

Wood Turnings
& Misc.

Entrance Fee: \$10

ALABAMA LUMBER & SUPPLY CO.

4204 1st Avenue South
592-6331

*Soft & Hardwood Lumber
Builders & Cabinet Hardware
Ray & Ralph Zorn*

*Specialty Brass items
for the Woodworker*

BRANDINO'S Brass Co.

101 Loehmann's Village
Birmingham, AL 35244
(205) 988-3918

INJECTA
INCA
Wood
Working Machines

HEGNER
Scroll Saws
Makita
POWER TOOLS

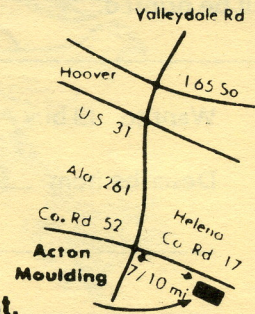
VEGA
Wood
Working Machines

Record
Marples
Watco Stain
Minwax
Books
DML
Saw Blades
Router Bits

Mouldings
Stair Parts
Hardwood Lumber
Cabinet Plywood
Hardware — Handtools

Acton
Moulding & Supply

6 to 4:30 M-F.—7:30-12 Sat.



County Road 17

Helena, Al.

205-663-0130

This newsletter printed by All Star Instant Printing, 1124 20th Street South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205.

MOBILE BRANCH:
Coastal Saw & Machinery
901-D Butler Dr.
Mobile, AL 36609
(Local) 666-1180

MAIN OFFICE
Birmingham Saw Works
910 North 28th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
(Local) 252-9737
Ala WATTS 1-800-292-4032

BIRMINGHAM SAW WORKS

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild
P.O. Box 327
Pelham, Alabama 35124

