

ROY BATES = POWER MATTIE  
CLIFF MARLEY = SEARS SAW  
SIM DODD

SAT. MAR. 31  
9:30 = 15.00  
BR. LUNCH

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII

NUMBER 3

MARCH 1990

JUNE 2 = SHOW  
MAR-23-25  
ATLANTA

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Spring Show will be June 2, 1990 through June 8, 1990 in the South Central Bell Headquarters Building lobby, 600 North 19th St. Setup will be Saturday morning June 2 with judging that afternoon. I hope that every Guild member will enter at least one object. Let's all get to work on that project!

Ben Erickson from Utah, Alabama has a very interesting group of subjects for the Guild Seminar on March 31, 1990. Ben will discuss frame and panel door construction, cabinet construction using biscuit joinery and water based lacquer finishes. He will use the new vertical raised panel router bits to make the door panels. Sounds like an interesting day. The seminar will start at 9:00 am and end at 3:00 pm. The Guild will furnish coffee and soft drinks. Bring your own lunch. Registration will be \$15.00 at the door. At the February meeting 22 people signed the list saying they would attend. Sign up at the March meeting or give me a call. We need to know approximately how many are coming for planning purposes. (So we don't run out of donuts and coffee!)

The Guild visit to Kentuck Center, North Port, Alabama is set for Saturday, April 28. Graig Nutt will show us his shop and discuss his work. Anden Houben will show us his shop where he builds harpsichords and other musical instruments. The glass studio will also be in operation at the Center. The Kentuck Center houses some of the finest craftsmen in the Southeast. The Kentuck Museum will be open for us after the Kentuck Center tour.

Craig Butterworth will be with us for the March meeting describing how to use the

"Story Board" to plan and layout built in cabinets. You have got to see it to believe it.  
Jim Caldwell

## LAST MEETING

Since the editor was involved, along with Fred Baker, in the February meeting he finds it difficult to be objective about the quality of the program. But here goes. For the benefit of those members who were not present, the program was about workbenches — yes, workbenches. When Fred and Leonard were asked to put together a program on workbenches, they were at a loss to know how to begin. Upon considering moving their respective benches to the meeting, it became clear this was impractical due to the size and weight of them. Fortunately, a friend of Leonard's, Montgomery (Monty) Truss (and a friend of several of the other members) came to our rescue with his TV camera. Monty came to each of our homes and taped us explaining how and why we built our benches, and what material was used and why the style was employed. Fred's bench, a monster, with a 10' top, and perched on a cabinet containing 16 drawers (each drawer perfectly dovetailed) is a thing of beauty. He has a screw vise on one end to operate the moving part of his bench-dog arrangement along the front edge of the bench; and a conventional side vise on the other end. He also has provision for hold-down devices (in addition to bench dogs) which attach to bolts submerged in the bench top which are pushed up for attachment to the hold-downs. Fred relied on Issue No. 50 of Woodsmith Magazine, "Workbenches" by Taunton Press, and a couple of other publications. As for Leonard's bench, it

faithfully followed Woodsmith's No. 50, a European style bench. It is made entirely of hard maple, except for the underneath cabinet which is made of 3/4" plywood, faced with maple strips. It has a screw vise on one end to operate the bench-dogs arranged along the front edge, and a conventional side vise on the other end. The bench measures 5' long and 30" wide (including a tool and dust trough). The cost of constructing the bench was \$465 which includes about \$185 worth of vises. The members present, some 90 of them, showed their appreciation by applause and complimentary remarks after the program.

## NEXT MEETING MARCH 8, 1990 • 7:00 P.M.

So you want to know more about cabinet making? Now is your chance. Not only do you have a chance to learn how, you may learn the simplest way to do it. We are privileged to have Craig Butterworth as our guest and he will demonstrate the "Story Pole" method of making cabinets. Some of us have heard of this and others have not. As best we can explain, visualize a pole made of a piece of 1" x 2" and long enough to be as long as the longest measurement as will be required in making the cabinets. In other words, if the longest measurement is 48", then you need a "pole" 48" long. All shorter measurements are marked off on the "pole" and when you go to the saw to cut parts for the cabinet you make your cutting marks from the marks on the "pole." The theory behind this is all parts will be of equal length or size if the same mark off the "pole" is used in making all cuts. If you still don't get it, just come to the meeting and find out first hand from the expert.

## IN MEMORIAM

The Guild pauses to honor the memory of Trip Kitts, son of Nancy and John Kitts, who passed away on February 4th. John is a member of the Guild and an employee of Acton's. If you would like to remember Trip in a special way you may do so by making a donation to the Alabama Chapter, Cystic Fibrosis, P.O. Box 530442, Birmingham, AL 35253. Please enclose a note with your check asking that Nancy and John Kitts be notified of your contribution at 1813 Smoketree Lane, Alabaster, AL 35007. We know Nancy and John will appreciate our concern for them.

## SPRING CLASSES

The classes of instruction will commence on March 13 as previously advertised. The instructors for the classes explained how they will be conducted: General Woodworking, Fred Baker, will consist of ten weeks and admit 20 students at a cost of \$48; Basic Woodturning, Dale Lewis, will consist of five weeks and limited to ten students at a cost of \$33; and Carving, Ivan Kronberg and Jerry Vines, will consist of ten weeks, limited to ten students and will cost \$48. Prospective students were required to commit to the class of their choice at the February meeting. If you were not present and intended to participate, you may contact the instructor to find out if the class is full. Bessemer Tech is assisting us in this undertaking.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

We take some pride in our participation in the TOYS FOR TOTS program each year. Now we have an opportunity to engage in a different kind of community service. Judy and Mike Roy, who have been conspicuous by their absence recently, were present. Judy represents Independent Living Center, which is devoted to the severely handicapped. After

Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena, AL 35080 or calling the Editor, Leonard Sanders, at 822-6876.

a VCR presentation, Judy asked for volunteers to make adaptive devices and aids for these unfortunate people. She demonstrated some devices, which on the surface seem simple enough, but on consideration are reasonable and useful. Judy appealed to the Guild for volunteers to make these devices, some of which have only pictures to use as guides, but others with sketches or plans. She compared the prices for them from catalogs with using scraps in our shops, and they can be made for less than 5% of the purchasing cost. Judy may be reached at work at 251-2223, or at home at 426-0939. Give her a call — you will be blessed and the handicapped will benefit.

## GREAT OFFER

Our most prolific toy maker, Charlie Brown, was on a trip recently to Texas. While there he happened to discover and visit Mesquite Products of Texas, Inc. What he discovered was a woodworking business specializing in mesquite wood. They harvest and kiln dry mesquite and produce parquet-like flooring and furniture. They sell the wood too — they have plenty of turning blanks and short (2' or less) of 4/4 and thicker pieces at \$5.00 a board foot, and can ship UPS. Charlie will have some pieces at the next meeting for you to examine. He says it is pretty hard, dense, but with interesting grain and color. If you want to write for a price list

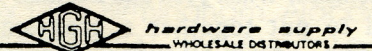
you may write to the company listed above at P. O. Box 415, Bulverde, Texas 78163, or you may phone 512/438-3118

## SHOW & TELL

We had three members to bring items to the February meeting (well, two and a half if you consider Frank Jones' offering). Of all things, he brought the skeleton left after cutting out some cabriole legs, which he glued together to create absolutely nothing. Showing seriously was Harold Phillips who had a lovely bowl and an example of how to make square holes in turning chisel handles — you cut the blank in two, route a groove in each half, glue the halves back together and turn the handle. Nice going, Harold (who taught you that?). The other displayer was Mike Key who has certainly taken to woodturning. Mike did his first turning at our Spring Show last year and has since acquired a lathe and is turning out some really nice work as demonstrated by the bowl he showed us.

## KERRY'S ANTIQUES

Due to the press of time at the February meeting we were unable to have this much appreciated feature. We hope to resume at the March meeting.

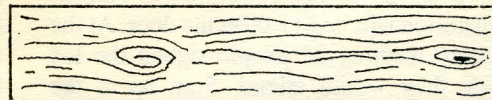


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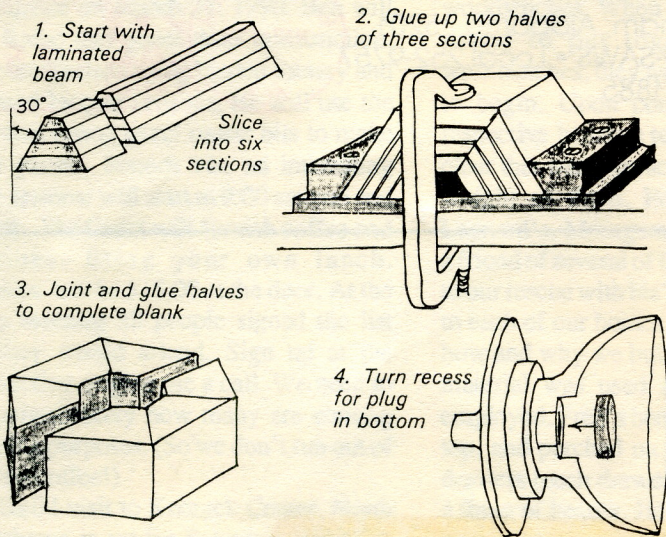


According to the rules under which the Guild operates, dues must be paid by February 28 of each year. If you failed to meet the deadline due to extenuating circumstance you may discuss it with Kerry McCalla, Secretary/Treasurer of the Guild on telephone number 991-0413 at home or 988-7107 at work, to seek dispensation (Kerry is very good at dispensations). Should you want to mail your dues now address them to Kerry at 3325 Culloden Way, Birmingham, AL 35242.

### Laminated bowls

The method I use to make six-sided bowls creates boldly repeating patterns and reduces layout and blank-assembly time. I start by laminating a wedge-shaped beam with 60° sides, sandwiching veneer of various thicknesses between four 3/4-in. hardwood boards. The widest part of the wedge (which I make of a highly figured wood) will be the outermost part of the bowl, and 5 in. here will produce a 10-in. diameter bowl. The length of the wedge will determine the bowl's height.

I set the jointer fence at 30° and joint off two sides of a scrap 2x4, leaving a chunk of wood angled 60° on each edge. Then I cut off six thin wafers, arrange them in a circle and check for proper fit. If there are gaps, I adjust the angle of the jointer fence and try again. When the angle is correct, I joint both sides of the laminated beam deep enough to clean out depressions and glue. Then I cut the beam into six equal sections and dry-fit.



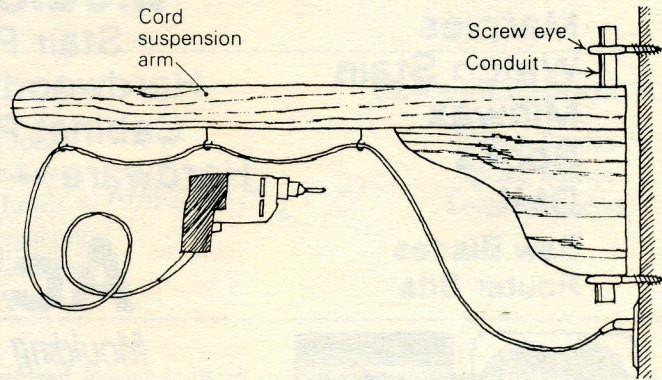
Now glue up two bowl-blank halves of three sides each. Use a clamping jig. Next, dry-fit the two halves and, if they don't fit perfectly, run the faces of the two sections over the jointer. Glue the two halves together to complete the blank. When you turn the blank, simply make a recess for a round plug to fill the hole in what will be the bottom of the bowl.

—Roy Ashe, Luther, Mich.

### Electric-cord suspension arm

It is much easier to use portable electric tools if the cord can be suspended from above so it doesn't drag across your workbench. This cord suspension arm is designed to move easily to different heights or to different locations in the shop. The arm pivots on electrical conduit pipe, which is cheap and light but strong enough. The conduit slips into 1-in. screw-eyes spaced so that when the arm is raised, the lower pipe will disengage for removal.

—Pendelton Tompkins, San Mateo, Calif.



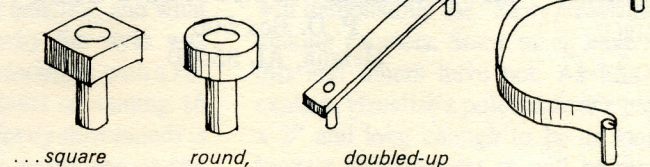
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Fine Woodworking, Jan./Feb. 1980

### Bench dogs: round versus square

While building a European-style workbench, I experimented with both square and round bench dogs. I concluded that round dogs (wooden or steel) are superior in several important ways. First, it is much easier to put a round hole into a bench top (or anything else). Second, the round dogs are easily made in a variety of shapes that will rotate in the hole to conform to the shape of the work. Square steel dogs cannot rotate, more easily mar the work, and can drop through the hole in the bench top.

Round dogs can be turned on the lathe or built up from 3/4-in. doweling by gluing hardwood shapes to the tops of the

Bench dogs can be...



or used with leather.

dowels. A wide variety of shapes, padded or in combinations, can be used as the work requires.

If I had a bench with square dogs, I would convert it to use round dogs by filling the square holes with wood of the same density as the top and re-drilling new round holes.

—William E. Betzner, St. Petersburg, Fla.

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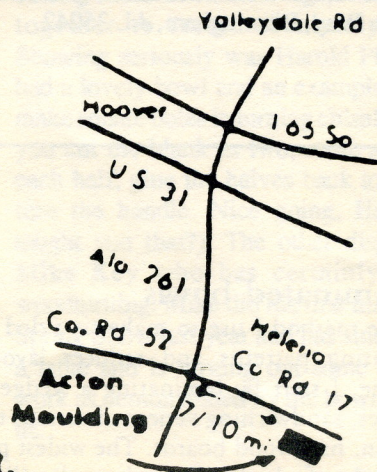
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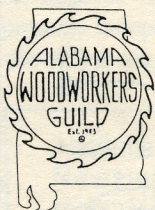
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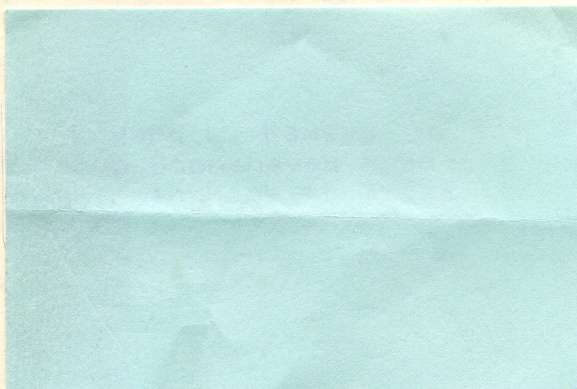
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