

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII

NUMBER 5

MAY 1990

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The SPRING SHOW is only one month away! Set up and judging will be Saturday, June 2, 1990. I hope everyone is further along on their project than I am!

We hope to kick-off TOYS FOR TOTS early this year. Ben Neighbors will be heading the effort but will need a lot of help to make the drive a success. If you can help out let me know. Toy safety is something that we will be emphasizing during the drive. I hope to have some informative handouts in the next month or so.

If you need some custom saw mill work there is a small band saw mill in the area. Luther Johnson operates a part time mill in the Smoke Rise community near Warrior. If you can get logs to the mill he will saw them for you for a reasonable price. The mill does a good job and the band saw doesn't waste as much of the wood as a circular saw. He has a kiln drying operation available if you want the wood dried fairly quickly (4 to 5 weeks). His telephone number is 647-7549.

LAST MEETING - APRIL 1990

Our good member, Frank Jones, lived up to his advance billing and did a splendid job of sharing some of his techniques in furniture building with us. He demonstrated how he uses a steel rule and a small (3") machinist square for measuring and marking, especially for mortise and tenons, as well as dovetails. He showed us the jig he uses for cutting tenons on his table saw, certainly a jig we all can use. He brought along a table saw jig for cross-cutting. The jig rides along in the miter-gauge

slots for stability. Coincidentally, the latest (June) issue of American Woodworker has the plans for making one. You can see it in our library. Frank revealed his use of the dead-blow hammer and how it can drive home a tenon or a dowel without marring the surface. He also recommends the use of a barber's strap for removing the burr off chisels and plane blades. Finally, in answer to the question about mortise and tenon joints, he explained that the ends of each tenon should be trimmed on a 45° angle where they come together in the mortise; and he recommends spreading glue on both the mortise and the tenon as you fit them together. We appreciate Frank sharing his expertise with us.

KERRY'S ANTIQUES

It was kind of nice to have Kerry (McCalla) back on the job. Not only do we enjoy seeing his antique tools, of which he has many and varied, we enjoy his presentation. This month he dealt in miniatures. There was the miniature Stanley Plane some two inches long; a violin makers plane a little smaller than the Stanley; a three-inch chamfer plane, and a miniature (boxwood) moulding plane about two inches long. With some of our big fingers and hands we might have trouble handling these little ones, but wouldn't it be fun?

ORGANIZED SHOP

Sterling Brewer had occasion to visit Bill Purson's shop. He said he never in his life saw such organization as Bill has in his shop. Everything is in its proper place; everything

has a proper place; everything is designed to accommodate Bill; and Sterling says even the saw dust is categorized as to its origin. Sounds like we all need to take a lesson from Bill, and maybe he ought to have all of us out for lunch and let us see it too.

PROGRAM - NEXT MEETING MAY 10 • 7:00 PM

Haven't you wished many times you had a certain shaped carving chisel, or turning chisel or carpenter chisel? Now is your chance to see how it is done. Robert Taylor (not the famous actor), who is a member of the Alabama Forging Council is bringing a forge to the meeting and will demonstrate how this ancient, but baffling, art is done. He will show and tell us about tool steel, where to get it and what it is. Dream up your questions in advance and come prepared to witness a truly fascinating program.

SHOW AND TELL

We had several exhibitors. Leading off was Leonard Sanders showing how a table top will check if the top has a separate edging glued to it — the top can't move if pinned in; Don Bennett displayed a sign made with a router (his first ever) and a bed made to fit the bed of his pick-up truck which he uses for camping; Ben Landrum showed his hand mirror made of maple and paduk and made with a router; Frank Morrison displayed a delightful rabbit made in several pieces for assembly and disassembly by children; and Stephen Powers had several walking sticks

made from dowels, brass tipped and splendidly crafted handles. We get good ideas from our members showing and telling us what they have made or are making. Bring 'em in folks!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

As has been explained for several months now, your 1990 dues were due by February 28th, and if not by then your membership is terminated. If you have a valid reason for having missed the deadline, you may discuss it with Kerry McCalla, our Secretary-Treasurer. As for those members who did renew their membership, membership cards and rosters were available at the last meeting, and will be available from now on. You must pick them up at a meeting, for they will not be mailed out.

PROGRAMS

As a part of getting our programs together, our Program Chairman, Gene Benitez, has added a feature at the close of each meeting. It has to do with S A F E T Y, a very real and important part of being good woodworkers. Last month he had available Xerox copies of plans for making functional as well as safe push-sticks or push-boards. We look forward to more of these tips and suggestions.

DOOR PRIZE

Ben Landrum had signed in at the right time, and his name was drawn and for his trouble in signing in he received an 18" adjustable clamp. If you want to be eligible for the door prize, please sign the attendance sheet and get your name badge before taking your seat for the meeting.

SAW MILL WOOD

It was reported that up the road somewhere, North we think, there is a saw mill owned and operated by one Luther Johnson, at telephone number 647-7549. The lumber he has is rough, and will need to be planed, but according to the reporter, it is good hardwood and at a reasonable price.

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.



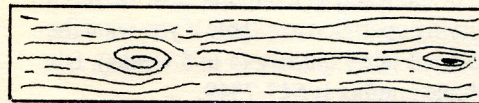
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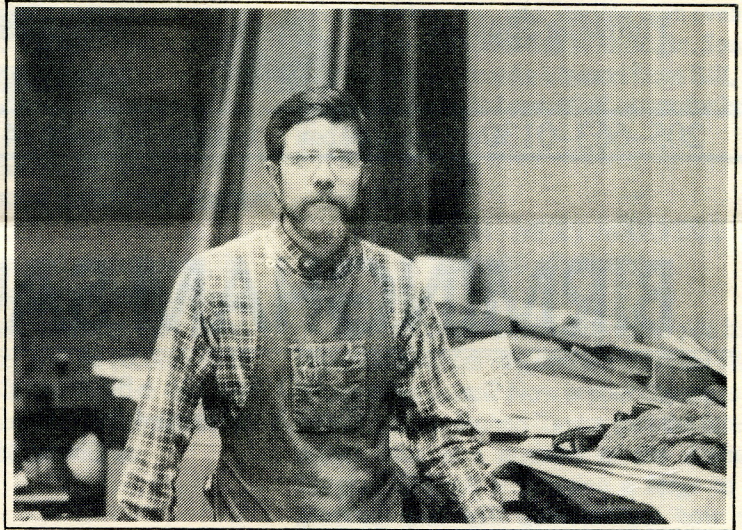
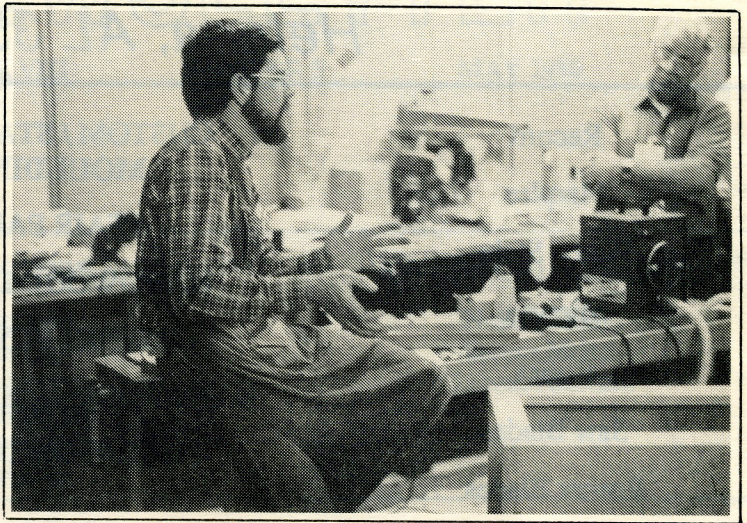
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SPRING SEMINAR



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It is fair to state your Guild officers were disappointed in the number of its members who took advantage of the golden opportunity to see a professional woodworker in action. Some of you had signed the list that you were coming and didn't show up. It was your loss. Ben Erickson, Eutaw, Alabama, who has had articles in *Fine Woodworking* and has another coming up shortly, presented an outstanding demonstration of making raised panel cabinet doors and then making the cabinet to put it on. Someone remarked it would take them several days to do what he did in one day between 9:00 and 4:00 with an hour off for lunch. Ben distributed a sheet describing the making of a through mortise & tenon cabinet door detailing 15 steps necessary to make such a door. He relies on a router table for most of his work. He has a steel plate table top and a steel

plate fence for his router table and has a Bosch router in it. Here is a man who got a degree in sociology and is now a full time woodworker. He got started by building a log cabin for himself and his wife to live in. One thing led to another and before long he was accepting commissions to make shutters, doors, cabinets, furniture — you name it and he makes it. He suggests anyone interested in making kitchen cabinets that they secure "Making Kitchen Cabinets", by Paul Levine, a *Fine Woodworking* (Taunton Press) publication. Mr. Erickson has many timesaving shortcuts he employs in order to "get the work out" so as not to suffer a loss on every job. For instance — take the palm sander, he puts a 280, 220 and 110 grit in the clamps of the sander (in that order, too) and when he finishes sanding with the 110 grit he just tears it off and the 220 is ready to use, etc. He cautions us to check any doors we make

diagonally for square, and do so before the glue has set up. For many of us it was the first time we had seen biscuit joining. The carcass is put together with biscuits, as well as the top frame. The drawer was also biscuited together. He says biscuit joining is not a substitute for dovetail joining, but as drawers for lots of cabinets they are completely adequate. To demonstrate the seriousness of wood movement (as in the raised panel of a door) he brought with him three strips (about 1/2" wide and 15" long). There was some 7/8" difference in the length of the three pieces, and they had been cut from the same piece. The shortest piece had been dried in an oven; the second was air dried; and the third was still wet. This was a graphic demonstration that wood does indeed move. Ben shared many more tips and suggestions too numerous to mention and the Guild extends to him its warmest appreciation for his seminar.

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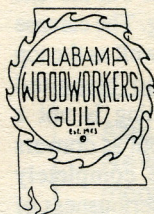
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