

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IX

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JUNE 1991

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Spring Show was a great success. The quality of the work on display was the best ever. Thanks to everyone for all the hard work. Ed Sheriff did an outstanding job of organizing the show. Ed and his crew, Jerry DeVenny, Roy Bates, Ethel Owen and Dale Lewis deserve special recognition for a job well done.

Don't forget the Seminar by Randy Cochrane coming up on June 16. Sign up at the June meeting. Randy, an outstanding craftsman from Decatur, AL will be discussing his special techniques for making chairs. Dale Lewis is in charge of the arrangements.

Only four people have indicated an interest in the Jack Harich hands-on dovetail seminar in October. We need 10 for one session. Jack says he will come back the next weekend and repeat the seminar if there is sufficient interest. Please sign up at the next meeting or let us know if you are interested so that we can firm up the schedule.

Roy Bates and I have located another bandsaw mill that will do custom sawing. Mr. Leon Gargus operates a "Wood-mizer" mill in the Gallant community just north of Chandler Mountain (Horse Pens 40). He sells mill cut local woods, pine, poplar, oak, gum, etc. at very good prices. \$0.30/bd. ft. for widths less than 10 inches, \$0.35/bd. ft. for 10 inches wide and over. He does not have a kiln, you have to air dry it at home. You can pick what you want and he will sell in any quantity. If you provide the logs he will saw them for \$0.15/bd. ft. Mr. Gargus can be reached on

1-205-538-6948. To get there take I59 north to the Ashville, highway 231 exit. Left on 231 to the Horse Pens Forty turn off (St. Clair County road 35). Right on 35 go 7.5 miles (do NOT go up Chandler Mountain to Horse Pens) and just past the Bethlehem Baptist Church there is paved road on the left with a sign "G. W. F. Inc. Bandsaw Mill". The mill is less than a mile down that road.

Jim Caldwell

NEXT MEETING JUNE 13, 1991 • 7:00 P.M.

A very timely program has been arranged by Dale Lewis. We all have our problems keeping our carpenter chisels, carving chisels, turning chisels, plane blades and spokeshaves sharp for maximum performance. There are several members of our Guild who are talented in this area, and they will demonstrate how to sharpen, when to sharpen and on what to do the sharpening. Come prepared to ask your problem questions.

LAST MEETING MAY 1991

The program presented by Jerry Schol, a Birmingham attorney, was certainly an eye opener when it comes to paying attention to details. Mr. Schol builds model ships, not just any ships, you understand, but ancient sailing ships as well as modern warships. He got into this hobby by building ships from kits but soon tired of

this method and began investigating ship building as it was done long ago. There are books that give some information but hardly enough to easily build a ship. He acquired some old English books and from them gleaned enough information to enable him to draw scale plans. Some of the information came from documentation used to build models of ships for the British Admiralty, which was required in that day to secure approval of the Admiralty before a ship could be built. On display for our viewing he had a model of H.M.S. PRINCE, which was commissioned in 1617 into the British Fleet. It took him between eight and nine years to build it, spending about a year and one-half just on the rigging. The "O" rings strung along the side were cast metal and coated in gold leaf. His next big undertaking was a German warship, The Bismark. Generally, plans for warships are available but still have to be scaled down to the size one wants to build. Then came the ALABAMA and the BIRMINGHAM, and he has plans for the WISCONSIN in the works. He uses basswood, mostly, and white carpenter's glue. Probably the most complicated part of ship construction is getting the bulkhead ribs shaped and sized correctly since these determine the shape and size of the ship when completed. We do appreciate Jerry's sharing his fascinating hobby with us.

SUMMER SEMINAR

We look forward to welcoming Randy Cochrane as our seminar leader. Randy gave us our program at our March 1991

regular meeting. If you saw this program you have an idea what a splendid opportunity we have to learn more about constructing chairs. Chairs, you say, what's so great about building chairs? Well, there are chairs and then there are chairs. Some are pretty, and some are just functional. Some are sturdy and others break down after a few years. What Randy does, and will share with us, is build lovely and sturdy chairs and he makes a living at it. The fee for the seminar is \$20 and at that price how can you lose? The program will be held June 15th and will begin at 9:00 and end around 4:00. Cold drinks and coffee will be furnished by the Guild but you will need to "brown bag" a lunch or be prepared to leave the premises and buy your lunch elsewhere.

FALL SEMINAR

A little advance notice that our fall seminar will be held in October 1991. It is a little complicated, but here goes as to the way the seminar will be arranged. Our guest speaker will present our regular Thursday night program; on Friday a day-long, hands-on class limited to ten participants will be held on making dovetails; Saturday will consist of a lecture/demonstration on furniture design, joinery and finishing etc.; and Sunday will conclude the program with another day-long hands-on dovetail making class, again limited to ten people. Our expert will return the following weekend for more dovetail instructions if there is sufficient demand.

BY-LAW CORRECTION

Our Secretary/Treasurer, Roy Bates, presented a correction that needed to be made to the By-Laws. In the section dealing with the address of the Guild it was necessary to change the mailing address to Box 603, Helena, Alabama.

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.

SHOW AND TELL

This is an important part of our monthly meetings, and more of us should bring some of our work to the meetings and share with the rest of us. There is much to be learned from examining the work of others because none of us (except Dale Lewis) is sufficient all unto himself. Speaking of Dale, he displayed several of his unusual (to say the least) bowls, and Harold Phillips showed us a shallow bowl which he shaped with a template and displayed the template. If more of us could bring ourselves to show and tell about some of our work, it is possible we could have a program on that one month. Let President Caldwell know how you feel.

NEW MEMBERS

We want our new members to know we welcome them and look forward to years of association. Usually, you will have an identification badge to wear at meetings in a month after joining. Of course, timing enters into when it becomes available since your names are turned over to our printer, Riverchase Print & Copy, to add to the mailing list for monthly Newsletters and to make you an I.D. Badge. As for our newest members, we welcome:

Willie B. Byars
Alton W. Talley

AN ITEM

What is AN ITEM? That is when there is something we believe would be of interest to you. You remember a month or so ago we were treated to an abbreviated chronicle of how and why Ed Ramsey got into the business of making rocking horses? Well that same Ed Ramsey has reason to be proud of his DOT this month for she is featured in an article in the June issue of SOUTHERN LIVING magazine. Nice going, Dot. Now we know where all the looks are in the Ramsey family.

DOOR PRIZE

Our attendance continues to be outstanding at the regular meetings as evidenced by the sign-in sheets we use to record our attendance. The door prize is raffled off by lot, and this month it went to Dale Lewis who won a jig for sharpening chisels.

LIBRARY

We want to keep you reminded we have a growing library. When the glass doored cabinet was made by Guild members, it wasn't half full. Now it is beginning to look like we might have to build another cabinet to hold our books and magazines. Frank Jones is and has been the only librarian we have had, and he will assist you before any of our regular meetings to find whatever you need to assist you in your woodworking. Give the library a chance to help you.

IN MEMORIUM

We regret to report the death of Bob Harfst, a recent new member. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

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The culmination of all the work by our members occurred Saturday, May 25, 1991. We have an outstanding display of our talents and work at the Sloss Gallery, and we are indebted to them for the use of their facility. There are a group of people who regularly check out whatever is going on there, and it will be through them a lot of people will learn of our show. Our judge was Van Yeager from Greensboro, Alabama who is a professional woodworker and restorer. We appreciate his coming all the way to Birmingham and spending more than half a day judging our show. Below are the winners of ribbons in the various categories. There were three ribbons (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) awarded in each category, and they are listed in that order:

TRADITIONAL FURNITURE

- Intermediate Level
 Jack Perry - Quilt Rack
 M. Healey - Table
 Ray Little - Shaker Chair
 Advanced Level
 Frank Jones - Pie Crust Table
 Fred Baker - Work Bench
 Ray Little - Basket

WOOD TURNING

- Intermediate Level
 Robert Hook - Bowl
 Jesse Whitfield - Bowl
 Robert Hook - Vase
 Advanced Level
 Dale Lewis - Bowl
 Leonard Sanders - Bowl
 Dale Lewis - Bowl

WOOD CARVING

- Intermediate Level
 Gene Benitiz - Dog
 Gene Benitiz - Shoe
 Mike Majors - Sculpture
 Advanced Level
 Jerry Vines - Mallard
 Sterling Brewer - Coat of Arms
 Ivan Kronberg - Relief Carving

CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE

- Intermediate Level
 Ethel Owens - Sculpture
 Cliff Saxon - Cradle
 Advanced Level
 Dale Lewis - Bench
 Dale Lewis - Coffee Table
 Ed Sheriff - Jewelry Case

SMALL OBJECTS

- Intermediate Level
 Jerry DeVenny - Card Case
 Frank Ryerson - Lap Desk
 Hugh Craig - Spoon Rack
 Advanced Level
 Ed Sheriff - Jewelry Box
 Gene Boley - Jewelry Box
 Richard Brewer - Box

TOYS

- Advanced Level (only)
 Ed Ramsey - Rocking Horse
 Ed Sheriff - Pieron's Bellissimo Scatola
 Jim Caldwell - Dinosaur

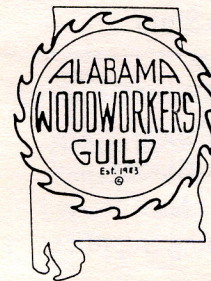
HONORABLE MENTION

- Roy Bates - Turned Bowl
 Hugh Craig - Carving
 Ben Landrum - Chest of Drawers

We are indebted to, and thank, our advertisers who were so generous with tools which were distributed by lot to the Show participants. Porter Cable for a palm finishing sander; Birmingham Saw Works for a drill bit set, and sanding drum set and two carbide tooth circular saw blades; and HGH Hardware Supply Co. for two Quick Grip Clamps.

FIELD TRIP

About 30 of our members took advantage of the opportunity to visit Dean Black's and his wife's shop and gallery on a recent Saturday. Dean has been a friend to our Guild from the beginning and is always a gracious host. His shop and gallery have been remodeled and expanded to where it is a thoroughly fascinating experience to visit it. To demonstrate the complexity of gluing-up columns for turning, Dean had prepared the material in advance and each column consists of eight pieces held together with splines. He had three helpers and used steel traps to hold the pieces together while the glue set. Dean said he has an order for some twenty of the columns which will be used on a building in Montgomery. The Gallery is new for Dean. It contains Mrs. Black's paintings, stained glass, pottery, baskets and jewelry. If it is quality art work you are looking for, it will be found at the Gallery. We appreciate the hospitality of the Blacks, and all of us are welcome to visit his shop at any time.



Have a Great Summer!



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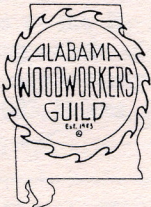
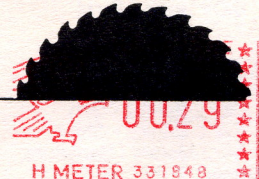
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