

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IX NUMBER 8 AUGUST 1991

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The scenery in the Provence region of France is not quite what Leonard hinted in the June Newsletter but it was spectacular none the less. I wasn't able to learn much about the woodworking activity in the region due to my poor command of the language. I tried to get some olive wood to bring home but was unsuccessful. The owner of the farm house we rented said that there was very little olive wood available. There are a few sawmills around. Cottonwood is grown on tree farms for making vegetable and fruit produce boxes and pallets. Hardwood is apparently "live sawn" and left waney (not edged) in most cases. I have seen a lot of it stacked in lumber yards. The August issue of *The American Woodworker* has a good discussion of this and other sawing techniques. Most of the oak trees in the region are quite small, similar to what you see in Texas. Silver oaks are often planted in rows and cultivated for truffles. The truffle is fungus that grows in the root system of the oaks. Pigs are used to locate the truffles for harvest in January and February.

Don't forget to sign up for the October seminar. If you haven't already signed the list, can't make the next meeting and want to attend give me a call. If two hands-on dovetail seminars are needed we need to know that now.

See you all at the August meeting.

Jim Caldwell

NEXT MEETING

Woodworking comes in many forms. There are the cabinet makers, furniture makers, house builders, moulding makers, dowel and broom handle makers, bowl-candlestick-spindle makers, and many more. We are going to be treated to a different kind of woodworker this month. Our speaker is Robert Long from Boaz, Alabama. Robert is carrying on the tradition of several generations of his family in the making of bent willow furniture. It will be of interest to learn how he bends the material and how it is fastened together. This should be a fascinating meeting, so come, sign in and enjoy.

LAST MEETING • JULY 11, 1991

The kind of thing that makes us turn gray or age excessively happened to Dale last month. Having arranged to have a good program, he was comfortably gliding along when all of a sudden his speaker has a family problem that will prevent him from coming to our meeting. So, what does he do? He turned to the most interesting and experienced talent known to man, our Guild members. He asked four of them to participate on the program, and all four graciously did so.

The first to appear (and considering his size, he really appears) was Nelson Brooks. Nelson displayed and explained his new deep bowl boring tool. He and his brother made it, patterned somewhat after the Dennis Stewart tool described in a

brochure which most of us received recently. It has two "bits," if you will, one straight shafted and the other with a bend in the shaft near the cutting tool. The shafts are fitted into a "handle" which holds the shaft with allen screws. On the extreme back end of the handle is a "U" shaped piece welded to a shaft which fits nicely around the arm to offer stability to the tool when in use. Now, the purpose in the tool is to enable you to make bowls with tiny openings at the top through which you feed the tool. The tool is designed to be adjusted so as to reach the underside (inside) of the top of the bowl. It gets a bit tricky when cutting in that position, but with a little practice it becomes more understandable, and therefore creates confidence, and with these two conditions anyone can turn great bowls. Thanks, Nelson.

Then came Harold Phillips. Harold is just back from Smithfield, Tennessee, where he attended a week-long turning seminar. He says he became proficient, and therefore gained confidence, with the deep-fluted bowl gouge. Harold has now attended several turning seminars and with the knowledge gained has gone so far as to build a bowl-turning lathe (just for bowls, mind you). He has learned, for instance, green wood is preferable to dry wood for turning bowls. Green wood may be turned so as to produce bigger, better and cheaper bowls. He picked up a very useful tip at the school — everyone who has tried to saw a log in a circle has experienced difficulty. Try making a circle of plywood the diameter of the log, tack it to the top of the log and follow its edge with the bandsaw.

It works. He advises the use of dry wall screws for attaching bowl blanks to the face plate instead of wood screws. He also suggests, should the dry wall screw work loose, replace it with a larger (in diameter) wood screw. Harold highly recommends to anyone who is interested in turning bowls that he attend one or more of the seminars put on each year by the professionals. Thanks, Harold.

JOHN TOW -- John is a relatively new member, but with credentials. John is an instructor at Jeff State (engineering) and his forte is making his own tools. When he has to buy tool steel (when he can't find any old files) he buys unhardened blanks so as to be able to work the metal more easily. He likes to make shafts (15-20" long) and fit a cutting bit on the end with a set (allen) screw, then flail away at the subject, a bowl. If he is making a cutting tool from unhardened tool steel, then he has to have the steel hardened by a commercial concern. He also enjoys making the wooden handles for his tools. His handles are perhaps a little bit oversize, but he counters the extra size provides extra weight which is helpful in bowl turning. He plans to put lead weight in the next handle he makes. He suggested grinding a couple of flat spots on the tool shaft portion that will be placed in the wooden handle, so as to provide a place for the epoxy to grab hold when placed in the handle. Thanks, John.

TIM HOLMES. Tim hasn't been one of us very long either. When you read what his claim to fame is you may wonder how he got on the program with a bunch of bowl turners. Tim is an antique restorer. He takes broken down, finish lacking and parts missing antiques and restores them to beauty and service. Tim says he prefers to spray on most of his work. He says he prefers a solvent-based stripper in his work since it is more potent and therefore works more quickly. He uses Minwax oil-based stain which he prefers to spray on most of his work. He says he hopes to become more proficient in water-based stains as time

goes on but hasn't reached the place, yet, where he can abandon what he has always used. He prefers lacquer to all other finishes, and after staining and lacquering he uses sanding sealer. He made a statement all of us can take to heart, "sanding provides the surface you will end up with." So, I guess he means we all should be more diligent about sanding our work before applying the finish. He applies steel wool to most finishes, and sometimes uses wool rub solution, followed by pumice and rotten stone. After all that work, it is easy to understand why it costs so much to have furniture refinished or restored. Thanks Tim.

We should congratulate Dale on coming up with a superb program like that.

DOOR PRIZE

When the number was called it belonged to Pauline Morris (hope we got the name right) and it was a fine framing square. Maybe she will let Don use it if he behaves himself. If you want to participate in the door prize each month, it is easy. All you have to do is sign the "sign-in" sheet by the coffee pot and you are automatically in the running. While on the subject of coffee pot, let's take a moment to thank Sue (not Ron) Acton for the coffee and cookies she provides for our enjoyment each month.

THE LIBRARY

It may seem to some of you we just won't quit promoting our ever growing library. We are pleased to announce that THE TAUNTON PRESS has presented us with a copy of their recent publication SOLID-WOOD CABINET CONSTRUCTION. This is a most interesting book. It is an English version of a German book on this subject. If you have any idea you might want to build a china, book, linen, desk, or any other kind of cabinet in the near future you need to check out this book. Frank Jones, Librarian, will check it out to you on a first-come, first-serve basis, and it is literally loaded with ideas relating to the appearance, as well as the construction aspects of a good, and good-looking, cabinet. We appreciate FINE WOODWORKING (who also send us their fine magazine each issue) for providing us with this new tool for cabinetmaking. There are many more books and periodicals in our library that can be most inspirational and informative. Why not try it, you might like it.

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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Ivan Kronberg announced he is in the mood to make still another Windsor chair very shortly. He invites anyone who has never done any bending, or even seen any bending done, to come to his house on an upcoming Saturday morning and watch this interesting operation. You need only to call Ivan (988-8278) to find out when he is going to do it, and he can tell you how to get to his house. Here is your chance to learn something new and useful.

SHOW AND TELL

Speaking of Ivan Kronberg, he had a lovely bowl made from a railroad crosstie made of Hackberry. Of course the tie had not been treated yet, or he wouldn't have tackled it. Nice bowl, Ivan. Then our Board member and staunch supporter, Mike Key, had a soft maple bowl that was superb. It was 10-12" in diameter, finished dark and about 1½" deep. Nice, Mike. Why don't you (you, being someone who has never brought a show item) bring and share with the rest of us some of your work? Your work is probably better than you think — so bring something and let us tell you how good you are.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Roy Bates, Secretary-Treasurer, submits the following:

June 1, 1991 Beginning balance		\$3,639
Receipts, June 1991	\$583	
Disbursements, June 1991	493	
June 30, 1991 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,729</u>

When Dale Lewis, presiding in the absence of President Jim Caldwell, asked for a show of hands on those planning to attend the Saturday demonstration/lecture in October, there were not nearly as many hands up as expected. You must understand this gentleman from Atlanta has ideas, skills and expertise few of us have. How are we to even know about some aspect of woodworking if we aren't told about it. When someone makes his living with his woodworking, he must have some abilities most of us do not have. We are having two sessions on dove-tail making — one on Friday and another on Sunday. He cannot handle more than ten hands-on students at a time, so to be "one of the ten" it behooves you to get on the "list". You may never get this type of opportunity again. Then on Saturday, he will hold forth from 9:00 to 4:00 on general topics associated with woodworking. You will have to pay for either, or both, seminars but it is minuscule when compared with what you get for your money. Haven't you ever wondered on many occasions if there is an easier, or better, way to do whatever it is you are trying to do? Now is your chance to describe your dilemma to the instructor and get a professional answer. Come on, for Pete's sake and get signed up for these seminars. Prices will be forthcoming in the September Newsletter, or sooner, if available.

It is always a pleasure to announce the addition of new members. We only have one this month to report and he is GARY K. ROBERTS who joined last month and we are glad to welcome him. We always try to inform the new members they will be placed on the mailing list for the NEWSLETTER immediately, and usually you will get your first one the month following, but certainly no more than the second month. Also, your I.D. badge will be available to you in about the same time frame as the NEWSLETTER. Welcome, Gary.

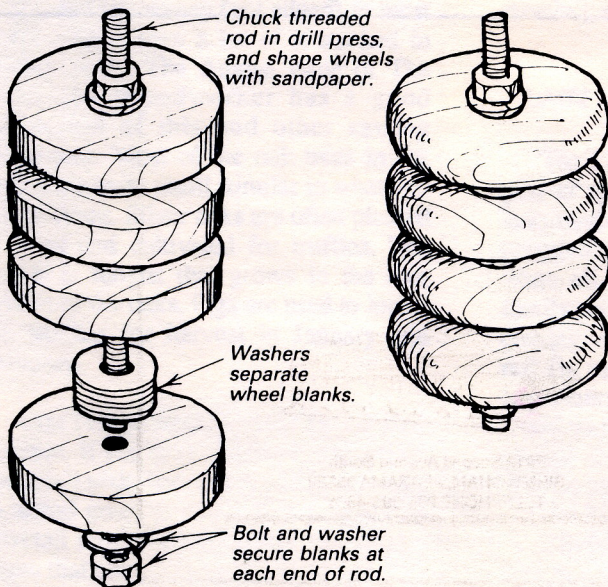
SELL - BUY - TRADE

We are glad to list items our members want to sell, trade or buy in the NEWSLETTER. This month we have a CRAFTSMAN 10" Table Saw with sliding table and with a B & D Piranha blade on it; also a CRAFTSMAN Router Table with Dust Collector. If you are interested call MIKE HEALEY at home 987-8191 or at work 988-3000.

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to report the death of Barbara Markley, wife of Cliff Markley, who passed away on July 19, 1991. The Guild extends its condolences to Cliff and the family.

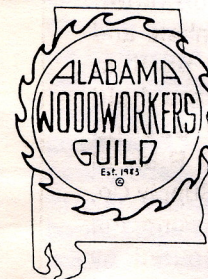
Sanding toy wheels



cutter, mount the blanks on a threaded rod with four or five washers between each blank, and chuck the rod in your drill press. Use sandpaper on a block of wood to true up the diameters of the wheels. Round over each wheel's edge with hand-held sandpaper, but wear a thick leather glove to absorb the heat.

My toy vehicles are so popular with my grandchildren that I have a constant demand for wheels. I speed production by using the gang-sanding setup shown in the sketch to true the wheels and round them over in a single operation.

After roughing out the wheel blanks with a hole saw or fly-



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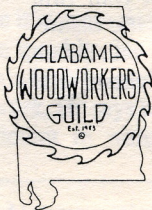
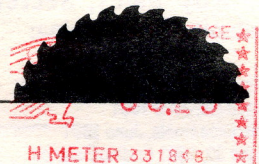
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