

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X NUMBER 3

MARCH 1992

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### SPRING/SUMMER SHOW

The Spring/Summer Show will be held at Sloss Furnaces on August 22 through August 31. Ben Erickson of Eutaw has agreed to judge the entries. Ed Sheriff has also graciously accepted the task of heading the committee that will oversee all the details and mechanics for the show. Serving with Ed will be Jerry DeVenny, co-chairman, Mary Spanos, Steven Back and Gene Benitez.

We have plenty of time for all members to build something for the show. Let me encourage everyone to have at least one or two entries. Again the categories are:

- Traditional Furniture
- Contemporary Furniture
- Woodturning
- Wood Carving
- Small Objects
- Toys

The competition levels are intermediate and advanced. You might consider placing an entry in several areas. You might even be intermediate in one area and advanced in another. This would give you a chance to branch out and try something new. Everyone places themselves in the proper category when the piece is entered.

### SHOW AND TELL

One of the more enjoyable parts of the time I have at each meeting is Show and

Tell. I am sure that you may have said to yourself — "I should have brought my project and let everyone see it." I encourage you to bring things in and I promise that if you're not comfortable in standing and discussing the object, just mention it to me beforehand and I will show the piece and acknowledge the builder.

### AT LEAST ONCE

Everyone should completely renovate their kitchen at least once! Once probably will be enough however. If you are considering this project, I suggest that you check with Steven Back. I looked through his photo album of before and after on his undertaking and the finished product looks very good. Excellent job Steve!

See you at the March meeting.

Fred Baker

### NEXT PROGRAM

MARCH 12, 1992 • 7:00 P.M.

Going back to July 12, 1990 we were treated to a most informative and instructional program by Mike Franklin, Senior Service Technician, with PORTER-CABLE. There were some of us who missed that meeting and quite a few of us who were not members then, so to have a repeat is a good idea. Mike will tell us how and when to do those things to our portable and stationary tools to make them perform as designed and to continue to perform properly without excessive professional (expensive) maintenance.

This gentleman is truly a professional who spends most of his time trouble-shooting tools and equipment for industrial customers. Come see and hear.

### LAST PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 1992

After having missed John McGee, Carrollton, Ga. when he couldn't make it in January, we were pleased he made it in February. John has an interesting background. He has taught woodworking at a community college in Georgia, builds and flies airplanes and has operated a commercial woodworking business. One of his favorite things is making his own hand planes. He has operated classes in plane-making in the past and has become something of an expert. He utilizes most any stable hard wood including purple heart, ash, rosewood (East Indian), South American Maple, and he says dogwood, oak, walnut or any similar wood may be used. He buys the blade blanks and customizes them to fit the project. He had a jewelry box, some 9" to 10" square standing on legs some 24" high. The legs were curved slightly, but the interesting thing about them was they had not been sanded, just planed. Naturally, some of his planes have a concave base and some have a convex bottom. One has a rounded bottom for planing out a channel. These planes can be fine tuned so as to produce curls so thin you can practically see through them. When asked what kind of finish he puts on his planes he said wax is all. Honing the blades, he utilizes water stones beginning with 400 grit, to 1,000 grit

and finishing with 4,000 grit. When asked his reason for using wood planes instead of metal, he responded it is merely a matter of preference. There is no particular advantage of one over the other. He did share with us the fact that a wooden plane sometimes warps and has to be trued up before using. We sincerely appreciate Mr. McGee's bringing us this excellent program.

### KUDOS TO FRANK

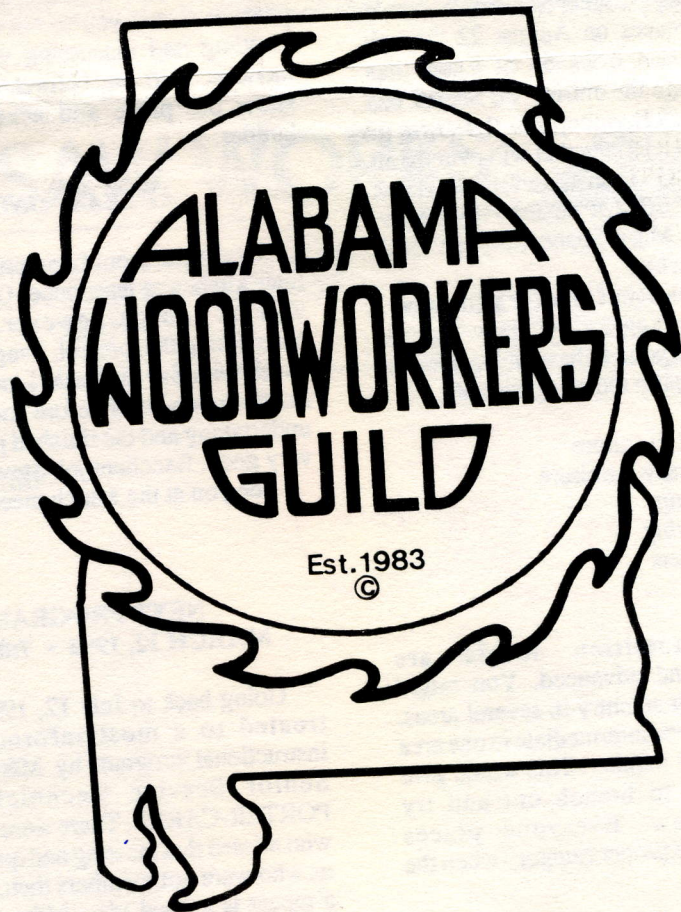
This is something of a repeat, but Frank Jones is certainly an asset to our Guild. That is why he was awarded a plaque of appreciation and a lifetime membership in the Guild at our Christmas party. When we approached the Helena United Methodist Church about having our party there again last year, they consented graciously as they always do. However, this year they asked if we could make them a coat and hat rack to be placed in the foyer at the entrance to the building instead of donating an amount of money. The Board considered and resolved to comply with their wishes and build the rack. Frank took the bull by the horns and purchased the material (oak), designed, and built the rack and installed it before any of us knew anything about it. But that is just the kind of person he is, and we wanted to be sure all the members were aware of his contribution.

### DUES — DUES — DUES

We don't have to talk about dues except at the beginning of the year, which it is now. It has been our practice to publish a booklet containing the roster of the membership and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Guild. We hate to leave anyone out, but it is also our practice to include only those names of members who have paid their annual dues by the end of February. We have reasoned, correctly, in the past that a member who hasn't paid his dues by then doesn't intend to renew his membership. As you read this, you may have overlooked making payment but don't want your membership to lapse and want your name in the roster. If any of you are in this category, call Cliff Saxon at 823-4467 and see if you can arrange a reprieve.

### CELEBRITY DALE

We all take pride in having Dale Lewis as a member of our Guild and as its Vice-President last year and again this year. Even though Dale is still employed full-time by U.A.B., he is very productive in his shop. Not only does he win contests, prizes and ribbons with his entries, he has been published several times. He had his occasional table "Dem Dry Bones" shown in FINE WOODWORKING Design Book Five last year. Then recently, in the March-April issue of WOODWORK he is featured on page 56 with a bowl "Close Encounters of Some Sort"; a table named "Crab Louie XIV"; and on page 59 a really handsome 64"H, 42"W chest made primarily of Australian Lacewood. The chest was part of a bedroom suite he made for a client. We appreciate Dale's lending us his talents and arranging our programs each month. Congratulations, Dale, and if any of you haven't see WOODWORK, it may be seen in our library.



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.

Probably the only ones who don't think this door prize business is important are those who don't win it. We just want a record of those members who attend the meetings and for that reason we try to entice you to sign in upon arriving by offering a nice tool as a prize. At the February meeting a guest, Dewey Fleming, won it and it was an adjustable clamp.

### SPRING/SUMMER SHOW

What started out to be our usual Spring show has turned into more of a summer show. We were unable to find an appropriate place to have the show this spring so have settled for an August show. It will be held at Sloss again in conjunction with their annual Kudzu Festival. This will work to our advantage in the long run, since there will be many more spectators cruising the festival and seeing our exhibit. We are asked to reconsider making an entry for the show since there is more time available to get it done in. This is something we can all participate in and enjoy. There isn't one of us who doesn't make, or has made, an object of some description that the rest of us and the public would enjoy seeing. It doesn't matter what it is, whether large or small, just so it is wood. There will be ribbons awarded for First, Second and Third place in TRADITIONAL FURNITURE, CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE, WOODTURNING (ANYTHING THAT CAN BE TURNED), CARVING, SMALL OBJECTS, and TOYS. Each of these categories are divided into two groups — INTERMEDIATE LEVEL and ADVANCED LEVEL. Most of us fall into the Intermediate group, but anyone who has won a ribbon in that level is considered Advanced from then on. We don't know what else we can say to encourage you to enter something. This is a fun thing as well as a friendly competition among us. Study your woodworking magazines, or even look at furniture in the store, or maybe check out the craft fairs. There is bound to be something you can make, have fun doing it and possibly win a ribbon for your trouble. One more thing: there are prizes awarded to the ribbon winners, mostly donated by our supporting advertisers, but also from the Guild treasury. Why not give this real serious consideration and join the fun? Oh yes, we almost forgot, Mr. Ben Ericson, Eutaw, Al. has consented to judge the show again, and Ed Sheriff has consented to be Chairman of the Show again, and we all know what a great job he did with it last year.

This is a popular part of our monthly meeting since we get to see what our colleagues are making in their shops. These shown objects are a preview to the Show too. This month: Jesse Whitfield: a bowl containing six species of wood, a Weed Pot of Elm, a walnut bowl; Michael Healey: a small box, some 2" x 3" x 6" which has some three sliding/locking shafts designed to make it almost impossible to open to get at the contents; Ivan Kronberg: two walnut sculptures depicting the gentle curves of spruce trees but flat on the back so they can be hung as a decoration on a wall; Fred Baker: a router jig made from the plans in WOODSMITH for cutting mortises and tenons; Leonard Sanders: a bowl made from spalted buckeye. Thanks men.

### CORRECTION

We are sure you noticed something was wrong in the February Newsletter where Fred (Pres., that is) Baker is described as demonstrating his mini-lathe. Of equal error was the omission of Jim Caldwell being given credit for bringing the lathe and making a turning on it. Actually, Fred had three or four burnishing devices for burnishing cabinet scrapers. We can only guess the type-setter left a line or two out of the script furnished him and this horrible mistake was made. We are just glad it happened to a couple of insignificant members and not to any of our leaders, past or present.

Jim Caldwell informed us of some software now available for use on our P.C.'s. There is one for Fine Woodworking that includes all issues from the beginning. You enter the subject of your concern, and it will research its file and print out all mention of the subject that has been included in its publications. The cost is \$30 and he indicated he gets his print-out in about 30 seconds. Then there is Infoware, a new one, that has some nine magazines in its memory, but about only half of Fine Woodworking. This program costs some \$45. If you are interested, call Jim at 870-4729 (and if you're lucky, you'll get Linda which will make your day).

### JUST PERCHANCE

Upon surveying the NEWSLETTER file we find three missing issues. If, perchance, any of you have these three we would very much appreciate your helping us make the file complete. They are May, 1988; July, 1988; and July, 1991.



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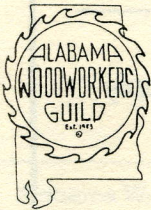
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