

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI NUMBER 3

MARCH 1993

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's great when woodworking is a family affair! Many thanks to Ivan, Elsie and Grant Kronberg for being a part of our last program. Although I had seen Ivan doing steam bending before, it never ceases to amaze me that a piece of oak or ash could become almost plastic and bend with such ease. Good luck Grant in your business endeavor and thanks also for the door prize.

We had over forty members indicate that they would like to take a weekday tour of the Delta manufacturing facility in Tupelo, Mississippi. I have checked with one charter bus firm and if 40 of us made the trip, the cost would be about \$12 excluding lunch. We could go in private automobiles or take a charter, arrange to have some barbecue sandwiches and soft drinks or find an eatery along the way. Let me know at the next meeting what you want to do.

Over forty members approved of the idea of the "silent auction" concept for one of our future meetings. Ed Sheriff introduced the idea and will work out all the details. We should have a lot of fun giving this a try.

We also had a good response to the question about volunteering to open your shop for a Saturday Guild visit. Eleven members indicated willingness to participate. There will be more on this when the plan materializes.

Lately, I have had the opportunity to tell several people about the Alabama Woodworkers Guild and to invite them to visit and join our group. Cliff Saxon, our

Secretary/Treasurer told me that we already have eight new members so far this year. This is encouraging.

Josie Hughes, the newsletter editor and co-founder of the Northeast Alabama Woodworkers Association apologized for not being able to attend the February meeting as he had planned. Gerald Latham, the other co-founder had to be hospitalized the day of our meeting. We hope that Gerald gets well soon. Any time that any of your group would like to visit us the welcome mat is always out.

See you at the March meeting.

Fred Baker

NEXT PROGRAM THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1993 7:00 PM

We are certainly in for a great program this month. There is a member of our Guild who can be "stacked up" against any router jockey in the country and would win the contest. If you were a member when he was teaching our classes a few years ago, you will remember he demonstrated his skills to the class and at some of our meetings. He is frequently engaged by woodworking tool companies to demonstrate the use of the hand-held router and its various applications. He is going to make dovetails with the router and those of us who have seen him give this demonstration come away amazed. He plans to show us how to use the router to make inlays and devote some time to the safety aspect of operating the hand-held router. By now you should

have guessed whom we are talking about. You're right, our president, Fred Baker. Now that you know who is doing the program we are expecting a record turnout.

LAST PROGRAM — FEBRUARY 1993

Another of our talented members presented our program in February. Ivan Kronberg, a charter member of the Guild and one who has brought us many other interesting programs on a wide variety of skills just notched another spot on his rifle. He went to the trouble, with the help of Elsie (without whom he could not do much of anything) and his son, Grant, from Lexington, Ky. to bring to the meeting his equipment used to steam-bend the ash he uses in constructing Windsor chairs. His equipment is not very sophisticated, but completely useful and effective. It consists of a platform (a bench in this case — or a table would also work) on which he sets his Coleman Stove, yes just like you use when camping. He uses two pressure cookers, one on each eye of the stove, and has fitted a hose to the top of the cookers to direct the steam. Suspended above the stove and cookers is a 4" diameter, and four feet long, piece of PVC pipe which has been plugged permanently on one end and with a removable stopper in the other end. The hoses from the boilers are fitted into the bottom of the pipe and thus the source of the steam inside the pipe. Ivan had to arrive way ahead of the meeting to get all this set up. He then explained how you go about selecting the pieces to be bent. It is even

better if you can split the piece of wood so as to get a piece truly following the grain. If not that way, saw a piece with the grain straight, even if you have to change the edge of the piece to produce a truly straight grained piece to be bent. After having selected the pieces to be bent, Ivan soaked them for some 36 hours in water to which he added a little Downey Fabric Softener (no commercial intended). It takes about an hour for the steam to do its thing, but when it is ready you have to be ready too. Ivan has constructed a bending jig which, as demonstrated, works to perfection. It consists of a form which produces the perfect sized bending for either the top OR the middle bending in the back of a Windsor chair. Just outside the form are dowel holes into which one inch dowels are placed to be used with wedges to hold the bending in place until ready to remove. A key device to this operation is a flexible strap fitted with wooden handles on each end. The hot piece is placed in the form and the steel strap (about four feet long) is pulled so as to bend the hot piece around it and a helper is required to put the dowels and wedges in place while the bender continues the bending. Once all dowels and wedges are in place (all this takes about two minutes) the steel strap is released and a strong cord is used to tie the ends of the bent piece together to keep it from relaxing and returning to its original straight shape. He lets these bent pieces (with the cord in place) dry for about four days and after that Ivan says you can't bend these pieces back to their original straight state. After demonstrating the procedure himself, he encouraged any of the members who wanted to come up and bend one for himself. He had come prepared with about six pieces to be bent. Sincere thanks, Ivan.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

President Baker, in his professional way, circulated a tablet with three suggestions for future activities and asked us to indicate a willingness to participate. The three were 1) Open our respective shops for member visits; 2) Conduct a silent auction of wood or machines any of us might want to sell; and 3) Make a trip to Tupelo, Miss. to visit the DELTA manufacturing plant on a week day (their requirement). We are sure the results of the survey will be revealed at the next meeting.

IVAN'S WOOD SALE

If you didn't attend his sale, you missed out. He not only had a tremendous selection but he also had terrific prices. There were already about a dozen there at 8:00 AM when we got there, and if he offers again we can attest to its being worthwhile. We apologize for having misstated Ivan's address in the previous Newsletter.

CHARLES BROWN

We are sure when you see an introduction like that you know you are in for something interesting. Charlie has inspired us on many occasions with his work, sure, but also with his sharing methods or materials we might not know about. This time it was two products. You may have seen in some of the recent woodworking magazines a product advertised to help control dust in our shops by spraying the air and floor. After considerable investigation which included visiting the Sherwin-Williams stores who did not carry this item he learned he needed to inquire at a Sherwin-Williams automotive paint store. Automotive shops use this liquid to hold down dust in painting booths. Well he got some, a gallon for \$20., and swears it will last forever, and he swears it works. Something for you to ponder. Then a Sears product. It is a rosette cutter, you know, the square block placed in the top corners of door facings into which there have been cut rosettes. It can also cut wheels we can use in our Toys for Tots. The cutter costs \$40. and can be fun to work with. Thanks, as always, Charlie.



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

Our meetings would not be the same without this interlude. Our members are the best and most talented people we know, and it is such a pleasure to see some of the products of their labors. Last month we had: JESSE WHITFIELD had a couple of small bowls, one made of maple and the other of Ishkooda Rosewood (cherry) and very well done too; ED SHERIFF shared one of his exquisite jewelry boxes. It is made of Gum and has a recessed well in the top just under the lid. It also has three drawers designed to hold whatever jewelry the lady might have; MIKE KEY had three awls — he made the metal shafts too — whose handles were made of Dogwood, Bubinga, and spalted Walnut. Great job, Mike. DALE LEWIS treated us to seeing one of ten dining room chairs he is making for a client. It is of walnut, a little different in design, but truly a lovely piece of work. OUR THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR SHARING WITH US.

DOOR PRIZE

This month we had two. Mary Spanos, our door prize guru, selected a stainless steel depth gauge, and it was won by Bryan Wingard (sp?). Congratulations, Bryan. The second was a pint of liquid bowl finish won by Rich Myers and provided by Grant Kronberg, for which we are appreciative. If you want to participate in our door prize each month all you have to do is sign-in at the front desk right by the door where we enter Acton's.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?

There has been, over the years, a piece in the Birmingham News with this title. In it they bring us up to date on someone who had been prominent in the community or some other reason. This month we want the question answered about one of our past presidents and long-time supporter — NELSON BROOKS. We haven't seen hide nor hair of him in a coon's age. Let's

everyone call him at 988-3530 and tell him we have missed him and to get himself back to the meetings.

PROTECTION OF OUR FORESTS

We were pleased to have a representative of such an organization at our February meeting. We have missed his Forestry Trade Show at the Civic Center in Pell City on February 25th, but there will be another at Camp Sumatonga, Gallant, Al. on May 20, 1993 beginning at 9:00 a.m. You may get more details by calling Sandra Jones, 205-629-6421, Ashville, Al. It is a short drive up there and if your interest lies in this area, this should be a meeting you will want to attend.

OUR LIBRARY

We want to keep before you the fact that we have some terrific books and magazines in our library. Last month your editor challenged Frank Jones, Librarian, to find me some information on building workbenches. I want to build a new one and wanted some ideas. He came up with THE WORKBENCH BOOK, published by Taunton Press, the publishers of FINE WOODWORKING MAGAZINE. It is a beautifully done book and traces the history of workbenches back to the Egyptians and on up through the ages. It goes into vises and just about everything to do with a workbench. We go into all that explanation so you will know there probably is something in the library for you too. All you have to do is ask Frank just before one of our meetings.

TOYS FOR TOTS

What, you say, are we doing talking about that this early? Well, let us assure you we are not the only ones getting a head start on this annual project. Our Guild sends courtesy copies of our Newsletter to quite a few Guilds around the country and receive from them their Newsletter in

return. A review of these interesting Newsletters reveals several, in fact most, of these other Guilds are already started on this year's production of toys. One Guild has already set up a Saturday at a convenient location for a day of toymaking. So, it is not too early to get your projects going and in that way you might be able to beat Charlie Brown and Ben Landrum by having your ten or fifteen toys made early and will be able to bring them to our first designated meeting.

FOR SALE - TRADE - SWAP

The Guild is glad to list anything you have that you think another Guild member might be interested in acquiring. We have a fairly successful track record, in fact your editor disposed of a band saw last month this way. This month we have a table saw, eight years old, in excellent condition that needs a new owner. DUNCAN MCKINNON has purchased a new saw and needs space for it. He wants \$250 for it and may be reached at home 870-1716 or at work 879-2545. As a last item, Jim Anchers would like to talk to anyone who wants to sell a thickness planer. Call him at work on 972-7781 or at home on 967-1444.

VACUUM VENEERING

It is certainly fortuitous that FINE WOODWORKING would come along with an article on vacuum veneering just after we had our splendid program in January put on by Sterling and Richard Brewer. If you missed the January program, or saw and heard the program but don't remember much of it, or didn't get much out of the account of the program in the Newsletter, or none of the above but have an interest in it, get a copy of FINE WOODWORKING (Ronnie sells them) and learn just how much fun this operation can be. They present the equipment needed, who makes the bags and pumps, prices of each and how to build a shopmade press for under \$100. Get the April 1993, No. 99 copy.

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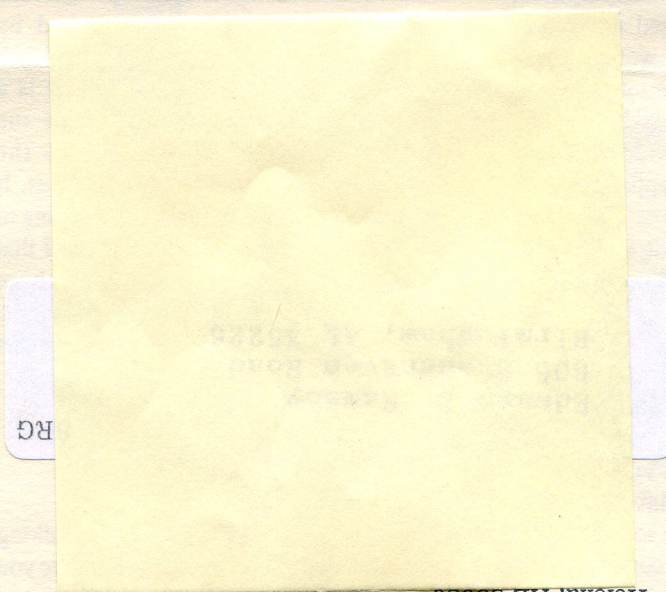
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