

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI NUMBER 6

JUNE 1993

OFFICERS

Fred Baker President
Ed Sheriff Vice President
Cliff Saxon Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Frank Jones
Mike Key
Ben Neighbors
Harold Phillips
Mary Spanos

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Nelson Brooks
Jim Caldwell
Spruce McRee
Leonard Sanders

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've heard many favorable comments concerning our last program. Not only was the program informative, John has a good sense of humor as well. We all enjoyed the program. Keep em coming, Ed!

Thank you letters have been sent both to Joseph Thuston and Sons Saw Works and to Delta for entertaining us recently. On April 29th we were invited to attend a private party at the Saw Works where we saw demonstrations by several factory representatives and later in the evening we had barbecue and all the trimmings. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. On the twentieth of May, thirty-two of us traveled to Tupelo to visit the Delta Manufacturing Center. Delta went out of their way to make us feel welcome. It seems that their entire engineering staff assisted in the factory tours. Small groups of three or four of us were led by one of their people. Later we ate barbecue in their cafeteria before returning to Birmingham.

Dale's northern and southern workshop moving crews performed flawlessly in helping him move his workshop recently. We didn't break too many things in the move. Everyone worked pretty hard and when we were through, Ed Ramsey even had a small bead of perspiration on his forehead! Dale is very proud of his new home and workshop and we are all looking forward to visiting him when he gets it set up.

Don't let the Annual Show slip up on you. August seems like a long time away, but in twelve weeks it will be here. I hope

that many of you have decided to participate this year. It's a lot more fun when you do. There is a category for everything so get busy and let's make this year's show the best one yet.

See you at the next meeting — June 10 at 7:00 pm.

Fred

NEXT PROGRAM JUNE 10, 1993 • 7:00 PM

The June program confronts our worst fears head on — Finishing! Ed Sheriff, program chairman, has solicited the services of two of our better finishers, Ed Ransey and Jim Caldwell. These two will demonstrate a spray and a rub finish, two widely separated finishes. Then a half dozen, or so, other members will be bringing finished projects with other types of finishes. These finishes will be on a square of walnut plywood with instructions on the back and will become a permanent part of our library for your future use. Now is your chance to ask the finishing questions you have always wondered about.

LAST PROGRAM — MAY, 1993

It was a pleasure to see and hear our own John Lord describe his methods of tackling Parquetry, Marquetry, Intarsia and Inlays. If you attended our show last August, you saw his Indian shield which won a ribbon. John uses veneers, natural

woods and dyed woods, as appropriate. Dyed wood is also known as "harewood". He is not bashful about using other materials such as brass, bone or shells. Of course this type work must be pressed somehow whether by a heavy and flat weight or vacuum press. When the work is ready for finishing he seals the face with diluted sealant using a 5:1 ratio and such sealant must be compatible with the glue used. He also suggests newsprint should never be used while pressing. The equipment he employs runs the gamut of fret saw, knife, exacto blades, chisels, router, sandpaper, press, glue, brown paper and parcel tape, to name a few. He explained how to shade a color by sanding, bleaching, applying lye, dusting, scorching with an iron and pyrography (look it up). The shield John had in the show last year had 15 coats of water-base polyurethane. Someone asked him what he does between coats and he replied, drink a beer. He also sands with 440 grit sandpaper between coats. It is obvious John has a thing about inlays, etc. and we are glad Ed Sheriff asked him to share with us. Thank you, John.

DOOR PRIZE

The stage was set and her nibs, Mary Spanos, had selected a stainless steel ruler as the door prize and good buddy McQueen won that. Then Ray Doran won a bottle of MARK VI finish donated by the other Kronberg. Nice going fellows.

TIMELY WARNING

We appreciate Bob Minor bringing to our attention the tragic loss of his home the Saturday after our blizzard in March 1993. We grieve with him. His point in talking with us about his loss centered around having adequate documentation of furniture, appliances and fixtures to satisfy the insurance company of the contents of the home. Of equal importance is a good record of our tools. Obviously, the best way to make such a record is with a video camera. If you don't have one, or don't have a friend who has one, you could and should make still photographs of your household property. It eliminates the hassle with the insurance adjusters almost completely. A picture is worth a thousand words, it is said.

THE SHOW

It is never too early to be getting started on our entries for the SHOW which will be held again at Sloss Furnace from August 16th to August 27th. There can be no doubt that this is the high point of the year for our Guild. Our past SHOWS have attracted wide approval, and the satisfaction of having made an object of which we are proud cannot be overemphasized. The point of our SHOWS is to encourage and promote the idea that making an object of wood can be and is a thoroughly satisfying undertaking. Most of us have been a participant in the past and know how much fun it is. It is not suggested that the only reason for entering is to win a ribbon but rather to show the fruits of our labor. There will be ribbons awarded, yes, but the SHOW is just that, a show, to show the public we are serious about producing useful as well as lovely wood products. Please don't hold back by saying your

skills aren't good enough for entering the SHOW — that simply is not so. All of us have some skills that are commendable and the fact we belong to the Guild is an indication we are there to learn and improve our skills. Also, please don't put off getting started on your project. We are pleased to announce Mr. Dean Black has accepted our invitation to judge our SHOW. Mr. Black is a seasoned professional and one whom many of us know. His shop and gallery is in Springville, and the Guild has been to his place a couple of times to see him at work. We think all this adds up to an incentive to make and enter a project or two.

SHOW AND TELL

We didn't have an overabundance of show and tell items this month but did have a couple. Richard Brewer had an end table with exquisite veneering. Even the legs were veneered and the application of ebony tips to the legs (bottom) is a fine touch. Leonard Sanders, who is just back from Australia and New Zealand, showed a small 5" bowl made from RIMU a species of pine tree that grows in New Zealand and is also known there as Red Pine. It is soft, reddish in color and light weight but firm enough not to tear when gouged. The bowl blank was packed in my suitcase and gratefully was not inspected by the customs people.

ALABAMA WOODWORKERS GUILD INFORMATION APPEARS IN WOODSHOP NEWS

The following is an excerpt from the June, 1993 issue of WOODSHOPNEWS. The title of the article was "Clubs offer a forum for woodworking give-and-take" and included information on guilds and clubs from all across the United States that had been solicited by WOODSHOP NEWS about one year ago.

Alabama

Alabama Woodworkers Guild, P.O.
Box 506, Helena, AL 35080. Tel:
205-663-0130 or 800-228-0474.

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild, established in 1982, has 158 current members, about 10 percent professionals. Woodworking practiced by members includes traditional casework, contemporary work, wood turning, carving Shaker boxes, toys and antique tool collecting.

The guild sponsors spring and fall seminars and classes for members, divided into beginner and advanced levels. Each class, which costs \$70, not including materials fees, meets once a week for 10 weeks.

An annual juried craft show is sponsored for guild members. The event last year featured 57 pieces submitted by 24 members, and included demonstrations on bowl turning, toy making, carving, making dovetail joints and other techniques. The guild also makes toys each Christmas, which are donated to area hospitals, the police department and to the U.S. Marine Corps.

The guild publishes a newsletter each month, and meets on the second Thursday

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.

of each month at Action Servistar in Helena at 7:00 p.m.

Annual dues are \$25.

ACTON'S GENEROSITY

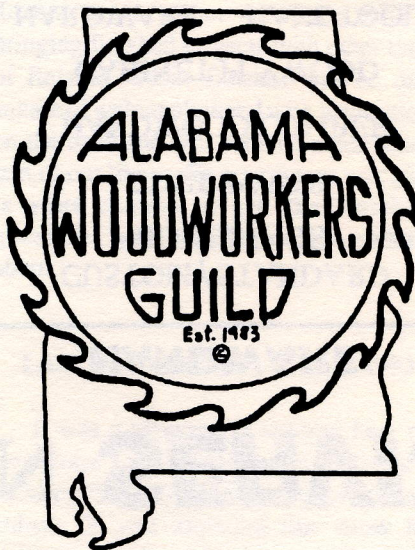
Ronnie Acton not only continues to let us meet at his store and plant, as he has for about 10 years, he also returns to us the profit contained in the materials we buy from him in the form of cash and intended for use by us in conducting seminars to further the education and skills of our members. We are certainly appreciative of Ronnie and Sue and want them to know we appreciate them.

DELTA VISIT

It is unfortunate a few more of you did not take advantage of our visit to the Delta International Machinery Corp. in Tupelo, Miss. Some 33 of us met at the Galleria and traveled by bus to Tupelo. It took three hours each way. Upon arrival it was inconvenient for us to eat at that time so the tour of the plant was done first. We were divided into about five to a group and they supplied a tour guide for each. What a modern plant they have. Over the past five years they have upgraded their manufacturing equipment to the tune of \$17 million and expect to add some \$15 million over the next five years. For instance, they sell the scrap from each process and before the last modernization they might have had as much as \$20,000 of scrap from several of the processes but after the modernization they now have only that amount from the whole plant. They have gradually taken over the business from Taiwan and have about eliminated them from their competition both in price and quality. Quality is their middle name there. They have quality controls to control the controls and this has and is paying off. They instituted a S.W.T. (Save Work at Tupelo) program with the cooperation of their union and have reduced their employment from 500 to 300 without laying off anyone. It became obvious that once a machine was boxed it was tuned and ready to use. Their assembly workers don't leave anything to chance. Painting the frames and cabinets is interesting in that they are electrostatically painted. The parts arrive at the painting booths hanging from

an overhead conveyor belt and are painted without humans making a contribution. Assembly of their radial arm saws is done by one man to a machine which in their opinion eliminates any oversights. You know those little bags of parts that come with each machine, well you should see the assembly line for that. There are a dozen or so hoppers with washers, nuts, bolts and whatever, and the computer is programmed to dump the correct part and the proper quantity onto a small conveyor belt and the parts are sacked, all by computer. To save manpower they have A.T.V. (Automated Truck Vehicle) that follows a buried cable in the floor and may be called to a manufacturing process to pick up completed work and rerouted back to the loading facility. We did not see anything in the plant that is not automated and controlled by their computer. It was a thoroughly fascinating and fun trip for our Guild members, and the list that follows is of the tools they manufacture at Tupelo:

- 10" Unisaws
- 10" Tilting Arbor Saws
- 8 1/4" Bench Saws
- 14", 16" & 20" Band Saws
- 14", 16" & 18" Radial Saws
- 10" & 12" Radial Saws
- 10" Contractors Saws
- 18" & 24" Scroll Saws
- 4" & 6" Edge Sanders
- 12" Disk Sanders
- 6" Belt Sanders
- 6" Belt & 12" Disk Sanders
- 12" Lathes for home shop,
standard & heavy duty
- Utility, cabinet and heavy Shapers

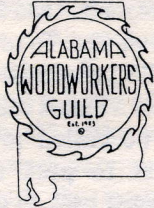


JOS. THUSTON AND SONS

SAW WORKS

928 North 28th Street Birmingham, AL 35203

P. O. Box 12264 Local (205) 328-4300
 B'ham, AL 35201 Call us Toll Free 1-800-289-SAWS



The Alabama Woodworkers Guild

P. O. Box 506
 Helena, AL 35080

8 TO 6 M-F — 7 to 12 Sat.

1-800-228-0474

205-663-0130

Guild Nite Special!!
 15% off all items in store,
 except Sale items



POWER TOOLS:
 Makita
 Porter Cable
 Black & Decker
 Bosch
 Skil

**CUSTOM / STANDARD
 MOULDINGS
 STAIR PARTS
 HARDWOOD LUMBER
 CABINET PLYWOOD
 HARDWARE — HANDTOOLS**
 (TRADE DISCOUNTS)

**Record
 Marples
 Watco Stain
 Minwax
 Books
 Saw Blades
 Router Blades
 Electrical /
 Plumbing Supplies**

HARDWARE

ACTON SERVITAR®