

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII NUMBER 4

APRIL 1994

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month's program was special. Bobby Michaelson makes his living at designing and building custom furniture, and he certainly had some beautiful pieces to show with his slides. You've really got to be good to make a living at it, and Bobby's been doing it for quite a number of years.

I'm embarrassed! After setting up the "open shops", the first one completely slipped my mind. I missed them. I left myself out. Both Fred Baker and John Tow said it was an enjoyable experience having so many visitors into their shop. Fred said that the visit was a good excuse to clean up and toss out. Likewise, John Tow's wife said she enjoyed the visit since John swept up his floor also. From what I hear, the visits were useful for both the hosts and the visitors.

The next "open-shop" visits will be to Sterling and Richard Brewer and to Dan Browning on Saturday, April 23, between 9:00 AM and noon. Hopefully, Richard will have some of that fine furniture in progress; and you will get to see the last word in dust collection systems at Dan's shop. To get to Brewer's shop in Hoover, turn off Route 31 across from Hoover Commons shopping center into Deo Dara Drive; turn left at Thornton Drive, then right into Thornton Place at the roundabout and go to the garage in back at number 1806 just before the cul de sac. I wasn't able to get in touch with Dan before this goes to press, but from the map, it looks like the easiest way to find his house is to go

down Bessemer Cut-off (Route 150) from Route 31, turn right at South Shades Crest Road, right on Caliente Road, then right again on Shelterwood Road to find house number 2229. (Frank Jones, would you give me a call to remind me about these visits?)

Bo Thuston has graciously asked the Guild to open-house at his Birmingham Saw store starting at 5:00 PM on Thursday, April 28. Dinner is included and if you were there last time, I'm sure you'll want to be this time also. Bo has a big inventory of power and hand tools and all those things that woodworkers need, and he offers a 10% discount to Guild members, so don't forget your wallet.

On Saturday, April 30, at 9:00 AM, Ivan Kronberg will be demonstrating turning bowls with a natural bark edge in his shop at 618 Riverchase Parkway West. It's easy to find coming from Route 31. This demonstration is by popular request since he's had several inquiries on how to do it. I'm sure it will be an informative session.

The time is soon coming when the new membership directory will be printed. We want you to be included, so be sure that you have paid your \$25 dues. At this writing, we have about 140 members, 20 of which are new. And bring a friend to the next meeting.

See you then; and I do hope your project for the Annual Show is coming along famously.

Thanks so much for all those show-and-tell items at the March meet.

Ed

NEXT PROGRAM APRIL 14, 1994 • 7:00 PM

Our Vice-President and program chairman Richard Brewer has engaged our own Charles Ard to bring us our program. Charles is an air conditioning expert by profession, but when he isn't cooling people off he builds boats. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out boatbuilding requires a lot of skill, know-how and patience. Charles is bringing two boats to the meeting, and he will describe how they were built and what they were built of. One of the boats will be a 24' job and will require some maneuvering to get it into the meeting place but he is going to do it, he says. Come see and learn.

LAST PROGRAM • MARCH, 1994

Last month's program was one of those that rarely come along. Bobby Michaelson, owner and operator of RAMWOOD FURNITURE, caused us all to marvel at his talent and creativeness. His hour-long presentation of slides of some of his works was enthusiastically received. As each piece was displayed on the screen he would explain how it was joined and finished, and would answer questions from the audience. His shop creates furniture for clients who have a need for a particular piece of furniture to fit a particular place in their home or office. He even has a fence, or railing, in the Brookwood Mall. Some of the pieces we enjoyed seeing were: an entertainment center; a glass display

cabinet with an arched top; a gun cabinet of white oak for 12 guns; a baby cradle; an unusual chest of drawers; a pencil post bed; a table with octagon shaped legs; a white oak entertainment center (7' tall) with all kinds of drawers, nooks and crannies; a walnut glass display case; a bird's eye maple bedroom suite; a folding screen made of Spanish cedar; a Ling chest (oriental) and finally a set of stacking tables of walnut. This is just a sampling of the pieces we saw. Space doesn't permit listing them all. You can see, those of you who missed the meeting, what you missed. We sincerely appreciate Bobby's taking the time to assemble his slides and bringing them for our enjoyment and education.

SHOW AND TELL

A high feature of our meetings is when our members share with us some of their pieces. It is educational to see the pieces and learn how they were made and of what material. We hope more of you will honor us with some of your work. Last month we had: Charley Brown with two exquisite jewelry boxes, made of antique quarter sawn pine secured from a building built in the early 1800's; Charles Yerby showed his first (ever) raised panel door (great job); Richard Brewer placed in our library a VCR tape of an interview with Carlton McLendon, owner of an exotic and imported wood store in Atlanta. Mr. McLendon is in his 80's and has a lot to tell about wood, so if you are interested, check it out of our library; Ivan Kronberg displayed some rolling pin blanks and a finished pin in the mode of Rude Osolnik which has multi-colored wood in a swirl; Jesse Whitfield with two bowls of holly and maple; Harold Phillips held up a stack of pictures of his shop tools, explaining we should all do that so as to establish proof

for insurance purposes; Jim Barr with a child's rocking chair made of walnut.

ACTON'S GENEROSITY

We continue to be favored by Ron Acton with a check each month representing profit on sales to the guild members. Last month amounted to \$50.90 and we appreciate it, Ron.

DOOR PRIZE

This is a regular feature of our meetings and is designed to encourage us to sign-in as a measure of attendance. The \$15 door prize check went to Dale Lewis. In addition to the regular prize we had three gifts left over from our Christmas party which were raffled off and they were: a wire brush to Gene Benitez; a roll of two-sided carpet tape to Ben Landrum; and a can of aniline dye to Bryan L._____.

DALE LEWIS RETIRES

On March 31, 1994 Dale retired from the University of Alabama in Birmingham after 16½ years of service to them. Prior to that he had served the Birmingham School System for about 15 years, giving him a total of over 31 years in the education field. As we all know, he only began woodworking 13 years ago but quickly advanced to the forefront. He now has his shingle out full time, and we can look forward to seeing more of his commission pieces as time marches on. Congratulations to Dale on his matriculation to the land of full-time retirees.

DALE LEWIS • ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

He did it again. At the 42nd Fairhope, AL Arts and Crafts Show, Dale won best-of-show and received a check for \$1,500 as his prize. In addition he sold a couple of tables and took orders for two more. A great way to start full-time woodworking.

WOODWORKER ON A MISSION

That is the title of a short piece in a recent issue of WOOD MAGAZINE, and we gratefully acknowledge and appreciate permission to reprint the piece. We didn't make a note of which of our members passed this piece to us, but we appreciate it. After reading it you may want to comply with the request of this missionary in Bolivia.

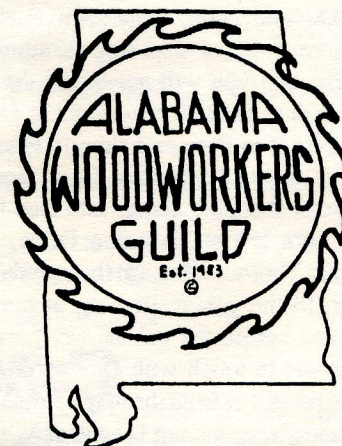
Here is the piece:

At WOOD magazine, readers write to us from all around the globe. In the past, we've corresponded with woodworkers in Australia, South Africa, Japan, and Europe. And recently, we received a letter from Kevin Brown, a missionary in Bolivia, that really grabbed our interest.

He wrote to request copies of articles that he saw referred to in an issue of WOOD. He found the magazine in a book display during market day in Cochabamba, the town where he's stationed. Of course, we obliged Kevin, because woodworking publications in his part of the world are next to nonexistent. In his letter, he also mentioned the difficulty in subscribing to any English-language magazine; it seems that copies get stolen before delivery. That's particularly sad because Kevin has a group of neighborhood boys that he wants to teach woodworking to. Although Kevin didn't specifically ask for help, why not give him some?

If you have any woodworking periodicals or books you can spare, please send them to Kevin. Here's his address (and according to him, first class gets through best): Kevin R. Brown, Cajon 3279, Cochabamba, Bolivia.

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.

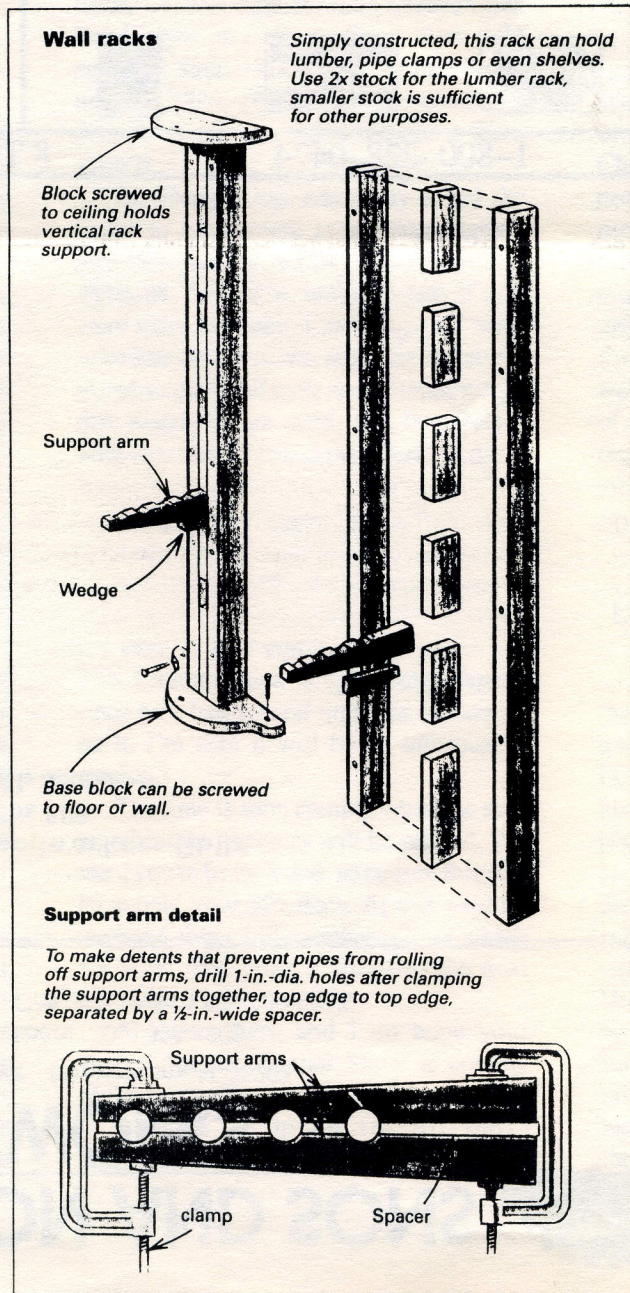


It was suggested by Charles Brown we, as a Guild, might like to enter an arts and crafts show somewhere and display and sell some of our work. There will have to be some details worked out, such as finding a show that will accept our application, sharing the cost of a table among the entrants, securing a tent (if appropriate) and display pedestals, etc. There will be more about this as the project develops.

The first of our visits to our member's home shops was held March 26th. Fred Baker and John Tow were holding "open shop" and it is reported some 25 members made the visits. There are going to be more of them, in fact they will be going on all summer. This is designed to let us visitors see how others arrange their shops and what brands of tools they use. President Ed will be announcing the next visitations at the meetings so listen up if you want to know.

CLAMP STORAGE

There may be dozens of ways to hang and/or store your gluing clamps. One such way is shown in the March/April 1994 issue of FINE WOODWORKING. We appreciate FW permitting us to reproduce this article and we recommend your subscribing to FW as a fine magazine for anyone interested in working with wood.



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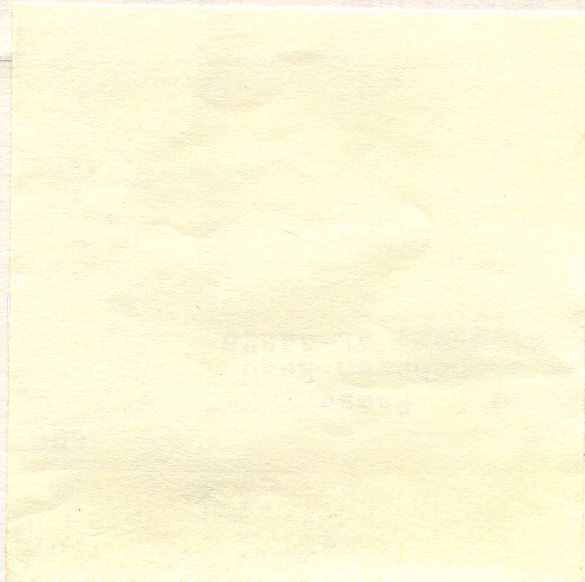
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