

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII NUMBER 5

MAY 1994

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The deadline to get this letter to the printer is the Wednesday before the Thursday before the day of the Guild meeting. Now I could say fifteen days before the meeting but that's too easy to remember. So I have learned to forget and then I have to get busy at warp speed on the word processor to make the deadline. It certainly rolls around fast, but I'm lucky to have our newsletter editor telephone me before I get up in the morning to remind me that I need to get busy. Now this Guild owes a debt of gratitude to Leonard Sanders for writing and publishing the newsletter every month is so reliable and creative—and demanding—manner.

The Guild's master marine architect really put on a big show last meeting night. Talk about large projects! That was a large project just getting those boats in and out of the building, but Charles Ard did it masterfully, as he did in building them and then conducting the program. Many thanks, Charles, and safe and happy boating!

Last Saturday was the second "open-shop" day and we visited with Dan Browning and Sterling and Richard Brewer. There were quite a few woodworkers on the circuit and we were shown Dan's central dust collection system that he put together and Richard's edge sander that he designed, as well as many other shop arrangements as woodworkers are prone to devise. The visits were well worth it.

On Saturday, May 21 we will be visiting the shops of Frank Jones and Dale Lewis.

They both live in northern Shelby County not too far away from each other. Now the previous visits have been seen as opportunities by those woodworkers to get their shops cleaned up once again, but I'll bet that at Frank and Dale's shops we will see some shavings. Both are most likely to have projects in progress. To get to Frank's shop, go to Acton Hardware and on south on County Road 17 about one and one-fourth miles where you will see a lake on both sides of the road. There will be a white fence on the right and Frank's driveway is the first one after the fence, marked with a mail box with his name on it. To get to Dale's shop, go south on I65 and exit at the one marked for Shelby County Airport. Turn left on County Road 87 and go to the end of the block to a "T" and turn left onto County Road 12. After about a mile turn left once more onto County Road 22. One block farther, turn right into Southern Hills development. At the first street turn (where else but) left again into Rosemont Circle. Dale's wife says if you just keep on going straight you will drive into the shop and out the back (not that she recommends it) since they live at the far end of a cul de sac—No. 25. I'll see if I can get some maps scratched out for the May meeting, but you'd better keep this verbal map in case I don't.

OK! Now the way I see it, there is still plenty of time to start a major project for the annual show which opens with a reception on the evening of August 16. I hope we can have the best show ever this year, and if we follow the same trend over the years, it surely will be so. Last year we had about 75

pieces and this year we should have even more. The quality of the work coming out of this Guild has improved every year that I know of. Don't let that deter you from entering, because it is a satisfying experience just to be able to participate and get your work before the public. You may win a ribbon, but if you don't, you've had the fun of building and trying. The satisfaction of woodworking is in creating something that you can be proud of, but you haven't completed the satisfaction process until you put it up for display to the public. My recollection of the traffic through the show last year exceeded thousands. Deliveries to Sloss Furnaces will be on Monday, August 15, and the show will continue through the Sloss Kudzu Run and Festival featuring the Guild woodworking demonstrations on Saturday, August 27, with take-down on Sunday, August 28. There will be more to report in the June newsletter. So if you haven't started your project yet, there is still time. Happy woodworking!

I've written to the people who put on the International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta in August to check on pre-registration procedures, and Fred Baker has tentatively reserved us a bus date. At the June meeting I will be asking you who is planning to go and requesting an advance non-refundable deposit of maybe \$10 for making the reservations. You may have a later opportunity to reserve your bus seat, but you may not get the pre-registration—we need the commitments to charter the bus and I'm told that registration on location is a zooooo! Please keep this in mind. We will be leaving

here early morning on Thursday, August 26, and returning that evening.

I have nothing to report on a Guild booth at a craft show this fall, but I would like to meet with those persons interested after the May meeting is adjourned.

Keep those "show and tell" projects coming—that's a very important and interesting part of our monthly meeting. See you then.

Ed

#### NEXT PROGRAM MAY 12, 1994 • 7:00 PM

Continuing with a fine group of programs, this month will be no exception. Richard (Brewer) has engaged Mr. Jack Winslett, owner of Winslett Millworks, Bessemer. Richard said he came to know, and know about, Jack because of his (Richard's) work with veneering. Jack wanted to know about the vacuum method of applying veneers and thus the association. During this association Richard learned about a sideline, or hobby, Jack has. He has made several airplanes for himself and some for others. When you think about it there have to be some exacting dimensions involved with making the wings and fuselage for an airplane and retain balance and size (you wouldn't want one wing larger than the other, now would you?) The structural applications, so as to not have the landing gear collapse, for instance, should be of great interest. We believe we are in for a great evening of learning from Jack Winslett. (One week it is boats, and the next airplanes — what will it be next?)

#### LAST PROGRAM — APRIL, 1994

There was nothing disappointing with the program presented by Charles Ard.

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.

Charlie also favored us by bringing his lovely wife along who, we understand, is of much help to him in his boatbuilding. Charles brought two boats to demonstrate. One was a flat bottomed skiff or row boat with the use of oars. The boat is wide and it would be almost impossible to turn it over, and it also can be outfitted with sails and made into a cat boat (would a cat boat be the same thing as a cat house?) It is made of Southern yellow pine and finished with ordinary house paint. The boat has no ribs, but is built over a temporary frame, has lapped sides which are screwed together and caulked. The deck has parallel/butted and caulked boards and all screws are stainless steel. Charles says this is his favorite boat, and he has used it extensively on the Gulf coast as well as our rivers. After being awed by the skiff he turned our attention to his "big" boat. The boat is 17' long, has a flat bottom, is powered by a 140 HP stern-drive inboard engine. The frame and ribs are of white oak with plywood gussets. He says there are 1600 hot-dip galvanized screws in the boat. The sides are 3/8" fir plywood (not marine), and he shared with us how much fun he had bending this stuff at the forward section and such glue as was needed (affixing the plywood to the ribs) was thickened epoxy. The outside of the shell was covered with one layer of fiberglass cloth, with four layers in vital spots. It is painted with automobile paint. It has a cabin in which sleeping will be available when completed. The cap rail around the top outer edge is oak, and underneath the cap rail will be some urethane foam to assist with flotation, which hopefully won't ever be needed. Charles was very careful not to answer questions about the cost of building such a boat, mainly because his wife was present ('nuff said?) He has been working on it about a year, not full time, of course, and from the looks of it he has done a splendid job. It became apparent from some of his remarks he is adept at adjusting to whatever situation might present itself. He had to invent procedures as he went along, trying to follow the plans he had bought. When the plans weren't clear, or he knew some other way would work or some other material would do just as well, he turned to his instincts and it has all turned out just great. We applaud his efforts in making these boats, and we hope he has as much fun sailing them as making them. Oh yes, he mentioned that the upper deck, at the prow will be used for sunbathing. There were offers to go along on those trips where bikinis might be employed in sunbathing. We certainly do appreciate Charles going to

the trouble to tow these boats to our meeting and congratulate him on his fine job.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

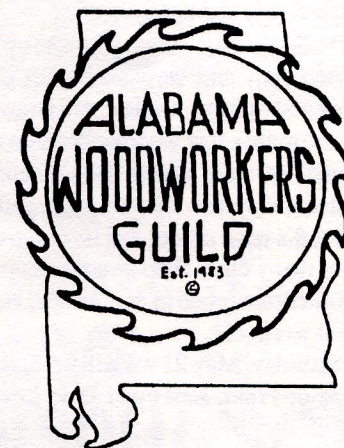
John Parker, Secretary-Treasurer, reported we are in excellent financial condition and that the membership is being maintained. Thank you, John.

#### ACTON'S CHECK

Again, as always, we appreciate Ron and Sue Acton for their generosity. They not only provide us with a truly wonderful place to meet, they provide a convenient place for us to shop. In addition to giving us a discount on purchases from them, they return to us by check each month the profits from sales to us. This month is was \$49.15, and we plan to use this money to finance seminars, etc.

#### CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Guild has received a request from our friends at Children's Hospital to make a "fence" to surround a place where the "little red wagons" are kept. The little red wagons are used to transport the little fellows from their rooms to the X-Ray room or wherever they have to be taken. The children find such a ride fun and aren't nearly as intimidated about where they are going when riding the wagon rather than in a wheel chair or walking. Well, they have several wagons and want to fence in a place for them. We, the Guild, are going to make the fence and paint it for them.



## SHOP VISITS

By the time you read this there will have been another of the Saturday visits to our members' home workshops. The most recent, April 23rd, our two members showing their shops were Dan Browning and the Brewers (Richard and Sterling). There are more coming up, so pay attention at the next meeting for the next outing dates. Along with the other shops, Ivan Kronberg will have held open house for the purpose of demonstrating bowl turning. Ivan is very talented at this and if he offers to do this again be sure to take advantage of his offer.

## THUSTON SAW WORKS

A long-time friend of our Guild is Bo Thuston and his Saw Works. We have been good to him too and by the time you read this he will have held an open house and bar-be-que dinner on April 28th at his store. We appreciate the 10% discount he gives us, and it is certainly a lot of fun to visit a tool store such as his. And, if you get dinner too, what do you have to lose?

## SHOW AND TELL

Once more we had some fine work on display by our members. Ivan Kronberg showed three bowls, all splendidly turned and finished. Ivan never seems to want for "different" woods to make his bowls. His association with Seaman Timber Company almost ensures him of woods most of us would never have access to. We appreciate Ivan introducing us to some of these woods. Then the incomparable Dale Lewis "allowed" us to view one of his exotic tables. The legs looked as though they had been plugged into an electrical outlet and held there until a zig-zag was created near the bottom. The top was a truly beautiful slab of walnut, laminated down the middle and book matched. Dale also had two bowls made of mesquite and apple. Jesse Whitfield showed a fine bowl made of persimmon and we were pleased to learn Jesse is showing some of his turnings at Vestavia Library. We appreciate you bringing and sharing with us and hope more of you will do so at the next and all following meetings.

## DOOR PRIZE

Tending to this matter was Mary Spanos, one (just one of them) of our lovely and

talented lady woodworkers. After determining if everyone had signed in, Pres. Ed asked for a number between zero and eighty-three, and Jack Perry was the lucky recipient of the \$15.

## THE SHOW

We could never, nor would we ever try to, compete with Pres. Ed Sheriff when it comes to delivering a sales pitch to us concerning our upcoming show in August. All we are going to try to do here is explain there is nothing to be afraid of and you don't have to be a Dale Lewis, Jim Caldwell, Fred Baker, Ivan Kronberg, Ed Sheriff, Ed Ransey, or the numerous other members who always participate in our Show each year. All you have to do is make something. What is so hard about that? Just make something, enter it in the show for judging, and stand back and be as surprised as the rest of us when you win a ribbon. But, and we emphasize BUT, even if you don't win a ribbon, just by entering you are a winner. You will have helped the Guild show the public what we do and what we stand for — excellence in woodworking. We have had between 700 and 1,000 visitors who have signed the registration book each year since we started having it at Sloss Furnace. The visitors to the Cudzu Festival come away marveling at the work of our members in their shops. Now that you know that, get cracking and make something. It can be a toy, a large piece of furniture, a novelty, a small piece of furniture, the furniture can be contemporary or period, turned objects, scrollsaw objects and just about anything else you can think of. Last year Frank Jones made a huge snake all coiled up and ready to strike. So, please help make our Show another triumph this year by just doing what you like to do best, woodworking. We are required by the management to continue to pound this message home, so if you don't want to be harassed further about this just tell us at the next meeting you are going to enter and we will leave you alone.

## DALE LEWIS' RETIREMENT

We wonder how Dale is adjusting to full-time woodworking. But more than that we wonder how Carol is adjusting to having him around the house all day every day. We wonder if she has invoked the old adage, "I married you for better or worse, but not for lunch."

## FOR SALE, TRADE OR SWAP

We have a camera this month: PENTAX ME. 1.7 35mm, with UV haze lens; PENTAX AF16 flash unit; 3.5 135mm, with UV haze lens, Telephoto lens; Zoom 1.4 70-200mm, with UV haze lens in padded carrying case. All equipment except the Zoom lens fitted into a typical carrying bag. Original manual included. Call Leonard Sanders, 822-6876.

## A NEW HARDWARE SOURCE

We thank Charles Brown for letting us know about this one. He says several times he has bought brass "reproduction" type hardware from Anglo American Brass Company of California. Recently they began confining their sales to licensed dealers and manufacturers, so he bought from a dealer of theirs in California. Now he has found there is a licensed dealer of theirs in Montgomery. J.P. Finishes Co., at 1-800-447-3723, will send a catalog on request and will ship C.O.D. or on credit card. Their hardware is reported to be all solid brass and the quality has all been good. If anyone needs any "period" brass hardware, this might be a good place to inquire.

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## COMPLACENCY MIGHT CUT YOU SHORT

Recently, there has been a great deal of interest in jointer safety. I've read the articles and letters with some personal interest. On Nov. 27, 1993, I stuck my right index finger into my jointer. For the rest of my life, I'll have a constant reminder of the day I did something really stupid because of complacency.

I use guards, push sticks, hearing protection, respiratory protection and safety glasses religiously, but on that day, I became complacent. I usually run stock on my jointer large enough to hold safely without a push stick. It never even crossed my mind that I should not hold a 1½-in.-sq. stock without a stick until it rolled. And *zap!*, I lost a half an inch of my finger. All the safety equipment in the world won't help if you get so caught up in what you are doing that you don't think to use it.

-Thomas Usher, McCloud, Okla.

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