

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII NUMBER 6

JUNE 1994

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month's program was a substitute for a "no show," but it was a good one. Richard Brewer had figured that might happen sometime, so he was ready to step in and present a program of his own. Those hand mirrors that he makes are more complicated than one might think—there is a jig for just about every operation. They are certainly works of art, and we thank Richard for the program.

Earlier this year I had asked Tommy Sanders if he would head up a committee to review the by-laws of the Guild. Tommy was a corporate executive before his retirement and thus knows about such things. He selected Walter Barnett, Bob Moore and Wallace Williams (who also know about such things) to help him and they have changed the language of the by-laws to conform with the way we are currently carrying on our business and to change the way we elect officers and directors. The Board of Directors has approved the new write-up. A member of the committee will summarize the changes with you at the next meeting and then the new by-laws will be posted on the Guild library for one month. We will vote on them at the July meeting. Many thanks to the committee for doing this good work.

We will be collecting earnest money at the June meeting for the trip to Atlanta to the International Woodworking Machinery and Furniture Supply Fair on August 25. Fifteen dollars will reserve a bus seat and purchase your registration. Registration at the door

costs an expensive \$20. We will collect the rest of the tariff when we get on the bus—I expect that to be an additional \$10 (making a total of \$25). We will leave from the Colonnade at I-459 and 280 at 6:00 AM. More later.

At the last meeting we were talking about a couple of other trips, one to Powermatic in Tennessee and another to a furniture factory in Montgomery. The Board thought it would be nice to take that long trip up to McMinnville in the colorful fall of the year, so we're setting our sights on mid to late October. That will be a mid-week trip. More later on the Montgomery trip.

We were treated to two "openshops" in May. Dale Lewis showed us his new shop at his new home in north Shelby. It's out back in a nice sized space and well equipped. Dale had a desk underway that is going to be a beauty—a thick curly maple slab with a set of those "squiggly" legs which have become a signature of his. Frank Jones' shop is in his house in a setting that is idyllic—back in the woods by a stream. You can tell he's been there for quite some time. He kept pulling things out from behind other things, wondering what he had used them for. He was making dovetails the artisan's way for banks for his grandchildren. His house is kind of like a museum with many Remingtons, ivories, antique pistols and his own woodwork. Neat! (In one sense of the word.)

In June we will have "openshops" at Richard McCree's and my shop. We both live off Valleydale Road (County Road 17 running between Route 31 and 280) not very

far apart. I've not been to his place before, but I understand that Richard's shop is a pretty nice set-up so you won't want to miss it. To get there, go to Caldwell Mill Road (County Road 29) and turn east toward Route 119, up the hill to County Road 14 where you turn left for 0.9 miles and turn left again into Sunny Meadows. After 100 yards farther, turn left again into Meadow Garden Lane and the sixth house on the left is 5337, his house. My shop is very small but with all the power tools I need, so you can see how to make do without a ballroom. I expect to have a dining room extension table underway by then. To get to my house get on Valleydale Road (County Road 17) between Route 31 or Route 280 and enter Inverness at the Inverness Parkway entrance, turn first right into Kerry Downs on Kerry Downs Road, come to a Tee, turn left on Cameron Road, and fourth house on the left is 5018, my abode, parking only on street. We'll try to have some maps. Y'all come—to both places.

I hope you are remembering the annual show which sets up at Sloss Furnaces on Monday, August 15. The Board has designated a new category titled "Hand-Made Tools" which will include such things as benches, router tables, planes, knives, special jigs and the like with one level of competence. So there are three more chances to win a ribbon, making a total of thirty-three. This year too we are making provisions to advise the public whether your entries are available for sale. Craig Nutt is going to be the judge of the show this year so you will be judged by the best. Do make

those shavings fly, and glue together something for which you will be proud. Entry blanks will be published in the July and August issues of the Newsletter on which you can indicate whether you are interested in later displaying at the Hoover Library.

Keep those show and tells coming, and thank-you for those last month. See you on June 9.

Ed Sheriff

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**NEXT PROGRAM
(HE GETS A SECOND CHANCE)
JUNE 9, 1994 • 7:00 PM**

The "second chance" remark relates to the fact Mr. Jack Winslett, owner of Winslett Millworks, in Bessemer, had to cancel his appearance at the last minute in May. It was unavoidable and we understand. We are just glad he can make it this month. Richard Brewer, our VP and Program Chairman, came to know Jack mainly because he was interested in vacuum veneering, which, as we all know, Richard is an expert. Besides running a millwork and moulding shop, Jack builds airplanes. He has built several for himself and some for others. The exacting dimensions involved in building an airplane that will fly, and in which one would be willing to ride, overwhelm the mind. The structural soundness of the wings, fuselage and landing gear just have to be exceptional, to say nothing of attaching the engine to the wing or nose of the plane so as not to lose it. This should be a learning experience for us all to hear Jack Winslett.

LAST PROGRAM — MAY, 1994

As we know from reading what our program is this month, Jack Winslett was unable to join us. Richard's opening remark

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.

was, "They told me this might happen to me that if a program should happen to fall through, I would have to get another program or do it myself." And that he did, and did it very well. Most of us are familiar with Richard's hand mirrors, the kind most of our wives or girl friends would love to own. What we didn't know until this program, those mirrors are devilishly difficult to put together. Richard says he has made about 35 of them in between commissions. The inspiration for the shape came from the Shell Oil Company signs at their service stations. The shape of the shell, with a handle, and you have a mirror. What you might not expect is the number and sophistication of jigs required for routing. There appear to be some 20 to 25 pieces which have to be made, assembled and finished to make a mirror. Richard uses slow curing epoxy for the laminations. To use any faster curing glue would be disastrous because it would set up before all the pieces were in place. After gluing, the shell-shaped blank is sanded flat, and a place is routed for the round mirror. The joint where the handle is attached to the "shell" has a touch of class in that he makes a "button," a round decorative piece which bridges the attaching of the handle. A piece of moulding is made to hold the mirror in the "shell" and the moulding has to be bent on a form so it will retain its effectiveness. It takes him 15 to 20 hours to make one. The finish is Hydrocote which he applies some 10 to 12 coats before the mirror is finished. They are truly lovely, and he makes them from exotic woods which adds to their uniqueness. We appreciate Richard favoring us with this program.

SHOW AND TELL

Now comes the, almost, favorite part of our meetings. We all are interested in what our colleagues are doing in their shops, and there is always enough time for any and all of us to bring our makings for the rest of us to enjoy. This month we had:

Frank Jones
Dale Lewis

A cherry quilt rack.
A splendid bowl, complete with little fishes hung all around the rim, and the fish were wearing glasses. The piece is named "Wave Runners."
A lidded bowl looking like a bug, and named "Beetle Punch."
Another lidded bowl named "Criteria" which means critter.

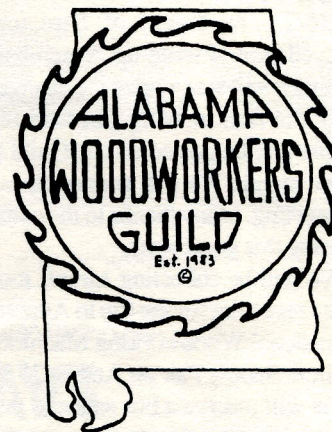
Jim Anchors A lovely inlay piece of "Praying Hands." Jim says there are 50 pieces in it.
George Shoppert Into his second childhood, spinning tops.
Ivan Kronberg His usual expert job of bowl turning, this one with the bark left on the rim.
Leonard Sanders Three candlesticks, looking kind of like crooked walking sticks. They were turned with two axis. A vase made from a piece of green walnut.
Ed Sheriff A walnut framed panel of leaded stained glass which Ed has hung in a large window of his den.
Ted Elrod Ted made a perfectly beautiful dagger-type knife for a friend and encased it in a box with a sliding top.

ACTON'S CHECK

We are always appreciative of Ronnie's check, which represents the profit he would have made on purchases by Guild members. This month it amounted to \$37. Of significant importance also, check out Ronnie the next time you see him—he has lost some 55 pounds and is now just a small shadow of himself.

**INTERNATIONAL
WOODWORKING SHOW**

Things are shaping up for our trip to Atlanta to attend the International Woodworking Show. There will be tools from all over the world and some of them are astounding. It looks like we will go on August 26th by leaving quite early in the morning and returning late in the evening. If you haven't ever been to one of these, don't



miss it. It is exhilarating and inspirational to see the machinery that can be had (whether we can afford it or not) to create wooden objects. Reservations will be required and at our June meeting, this one coming up, we will have to make a pre-registration deposit of \$5 so earnest money for the bus may be collected. The Guild will take care of pre-registration at the show which will save us a little money, and we won't have to stand in line to buy our admission tickets. Come to the JUNE meeting prepared to make your reservation.

President Ed is also working on two other trips. One is to McMinnville, Tennessee to visit the POWERMATIC manufacturing plant. Our visit to the DELTA plant last year was superb, and we expect this year to be just as good. Then there is a furniture plant in Montgomery that makes Victorian Classics we hope to put on the schedule later this year.

THE SHOW

Most of you know what is meant by that term, THE SHOW. In case there is one amongst us who doesn't, our annual show of things made by our members will be held from August 15 to 26. This is a fun time. Everyone who has ever entered something once never fails to do so each year thereafter because it is exciting to have our work judged. Craig Nutt, a nationally renowned professional woodworker in Northport will be our judge. Craig is just simply astounding in his craftsmanship. He brought us our program some years ago and judged our show not too many years ago. As an outing for the Guild, we visited his shop in Northport and saw the creations in progress. He understands we are just a bunch of "hackers" but he gets a kick out of judging our work. Please don't be bashful about putting your work in the show—there is a category for most anything you care to enter. Ribbons are awarded to First, Second and Third place in each category. There is the Grand Ribbon. Visitors to the Show are asked to vote on their choice for the People's Choice ribbon. There is a reception held after the judging where goodies are served. In other words, this is a fun thing to do and you are strongly encouraged to participate. Another new wrinkle this year—the Hoover Library would like to display some of our work at the library after the Show is completed.

TOYS FOR TOTS

It won't be long before we will be pushing everyone to get cracking on their toys for 1994. There will be a questionnaire in the July Newsletter dealing with this subject. It is hoped everyone will give the survey their best appraisal of the program, ways to improve it and ways to promote participation in it.

REVISED BY-LAWS

The By-Laws under which we have been living since the beginning of the Guild, in 1983, are out of date. A committee has been formed to make amendments and improvements in them, and we will be bringing them to you for ratification in the near future.

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A LESSON IN WOOD IDENTIFICATION

A friend of mine invited me to his newly occupied residence, an older, well-built home in the Coos Bay area of Oregon (once noted as the world's largest lumber port, but no longer). During the visit, I was requested to inspect the home closely. The floor was of particular interest.

Mike and his wife, Pat, were from out of the area and were bewildered by this strange looking "oak" floor. I was a bit more familiar with this fine-grained, clear, old-growth Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) as it was. As Mike and I politely bantered between ourselves about the distinguishing qualities of oak and Douglas fir, a girl in our midst spoke out.

His daughter, not yet 3, said, "You are both wrong."

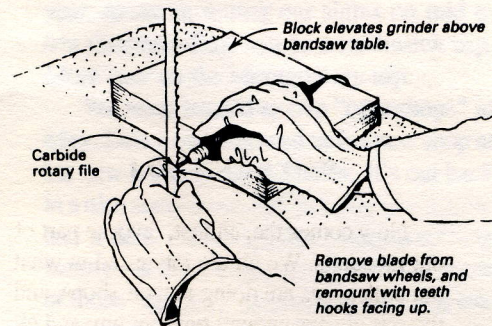
At which point, I felt totally defeated with the child's response. Full of expression, patient but wide-eyed, Mike stayed still. I replied, "It's not fir?"

"No, it's not."

"Then, Katey, what is it," I asked.

Looking up, elated to give us the answer, she responded, "It's wood."

Sharpening bandsaw blades



SHARPENING BANDSAW BLADES

I use this simple procedure for accurately and quickly re-sharpening bandsaw blades. Compared with the commercial rate of \$16, it is certainly worth the 20 minutes. Perhaps more important, it is liberating to know I'll never run out of bandsaw blades over a busy weekend.

The first step is to unplug the machine. Take the blade off, turn it inside out and replace it on the wheels with the hooks up. Then, using a carbide rotary file mounted in a Dremel grinder, grind the hook and top of each tooth. Hold the grinder straight to the front. No odd angles are needed. Support the grinder on a book or scrap of wood. Set the grinder to just below maximum rpm.

The technique works well on the 4-teeth-per-inch, 3/4-in. blades I commonly use, but it gets a bit tedious on smaller blades with finer teeth.

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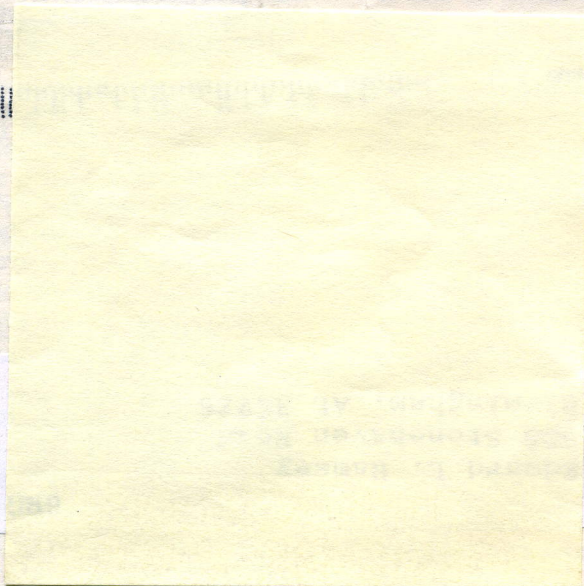
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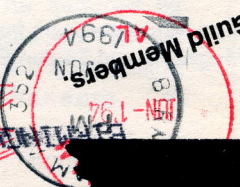
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