

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 1994

OFFICERS

Ed Sheriff President
Richard Brewer Vice President
John Parker Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Frank Jones
Mike Key
Ben Neighbors
Harold Phillips
Mary Spanos

PAST PRESIDENTS

Spruce McRee 1983 - 1986
Leonard Sanders 1987
Nelson Brooks 1988 - 1989
Jim Caldwell 1990 - 1991
Fred Baker 1992 - 1993
Ed Sheriff 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The trip to Powermatic last month was impressive! Here is a company that was hardly holding itself together several years ago, and is now working 10 hour days 5½ days a week to keep up with demand. They showed us their "just-in-time" manufacturing process which promotes worker satisfaction, requires minimum rehandling, results in low inventory, and creates quality production. The visit was very well organized. If you want a quality tool, you won't go wrong with Powermatic.

Next meeting night is the time when you should be finished with your Toys-for-Tots project. Bring them all in and we'll display them for all to see. Representatives from Children's Hospital of Alabama and from Helena Police will be there to pick them up after the meeting. If you don't quite get finished, you can bring them to the Christmas Party in December. Now, at the Christmas Party there will be a drawing of names of those woodworkers who contributed at least ten toys to the program. There will be 11 winners of gift certificates redeemable at Acton's, 10 for \$50.00 and 1 for \$200.00, so you'd better get those toys made. You don't have to be at the Christmas Party to win. But if you aren't interested in participating in the drawing, it's perfectly OK to bring less than 10 toys—one will be fine, as will be nine. Just do it!

The Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 3 starting at 6:00 P.M. Your ticket for entry will be a covered dish as always. We'll have the usual sing along and rumor

has it that this year Leonard Sanders and Frank Jones will be doing a duet—don't miss it! I'm announcing this now since this is the last newsletter of the year. You will be reminded of the party by postcard close to that time. Ya'll come!

Election day is approaching. Next meeting night we will be electing president, vice president and treasurer and three new board members. Don't miss this most important event. The nominating committee came up with an excellent cast of characters for next year, but if you want to run yourself, I'll certainly give you a chance. After all, these are hotly contested positions of power!

This letter and the party will be my swan song. I've enjoyed being an officer over the last two years and being associated in that sense with the Guild membership. The other officers and the board have been very supportive and helpful with their time and talents, and I thank them very much. Even so, I will be looking forward to attending future meetings—without a care in the world.

Keep those show-and-tells acoming. See you on November 10.

Ed Sheriff

NEXT PROGRAM • THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1994 • 7:00 PM

Those of you who have been around for a while know of the talent that abounds in our Guild. November will be no exception to having a member bring the program. Bill West, Homewood Chief of Police, and a

long time member will be our program. Well, he won't be the program, but what he has done will be the program. Bill has a shop full of tools he has made himself. He will share with us the kinds of material he employs, the motors he uses and other hardware needed. This will be an outstanding program, so try to attend.

LAST PROGRAM OCTOBER, 1994

It can never be said our Vice President didn't rise to the occasion when a program he had arranged for didn't materialize. Richard Brewer, a talented professional artist and woodworker, shared with us how he enhances his furniture by artistic inlays. He employs several types of inlay — String (straight line), rabbet (corner), circular, and pattern routed to name a few. As for adhering the inlay to the piece, he uses yellow glue, contact cement, epoxy, hot shot, so you see it doesn't matter too much what you use if you use it right. Routing a groove for a string inlay, he uses the router with an edge guide and a straight bit. For a circle he uses the router with a compass board attached. He makes inlays on chair arms, table tops, table legs, box tops and on most everything he makes if appropriate. He has used a system he developed himself called LAMBLASTING. The LAM comes from LAMINATE and the BLASTING comes from SAND BLASTING. The process requires an air compressor. The area being prepared for an inlay is masked off and then

the air gun, which has been charged with silica, is employed to cut away the inlay spot or area. It would appear that this process would only be employed when the router could not, and especially on irregular outlines. Then to enhance his program, Richard called in Pres. Ed Sheriff to show a panel he inlaid depicting some trees, in three dimension, made of vermilion paduk on a panel of walnut. A lovely and expert job. Ed showed us the several patterns required to produce this exceptional work. It was an outstanding program and one we won't soon forget and we appreciate it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Treasurer, John Parker, presented his Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 1994. It shows a cash balance of \$2,428 and a membership of 167. We appreciate John's attention to our Guild and its business.

ACTON'S GIFT

We continue to be appreciative of the support Ronnie and Sue Acton give our Guild. They are so generous with their facilities so we have such a great place to hold our meetings. On top of that they return any profit derived from sales to members of our Guild. It amounted to \$52 for September, and we appreciate it.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee appointed by Pres. Ed consisted of Nelson Brooks, Chairman, Dan Browning and Leonard Sanders. The report of the committee was made by Dan Browning, and it consisted of the following nominees for the year 1995:

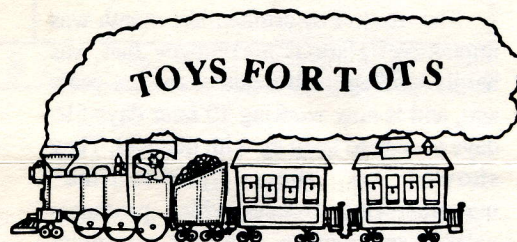
- President..... Mike Key
- Vice-PresidentWallace Williams
- Secretary-Treasurer.....John Parker
- Board Members: Ben Neighbors
Harold Phillips
Frank Jones
Dale Lewis
Charles Ard
Dan Browning

In accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, this constitutes publication in the NEWSLETTER of the nominations for officers and board members for the year 1995 and makes notice that the election will be held at the November 10, 1994 meeting.

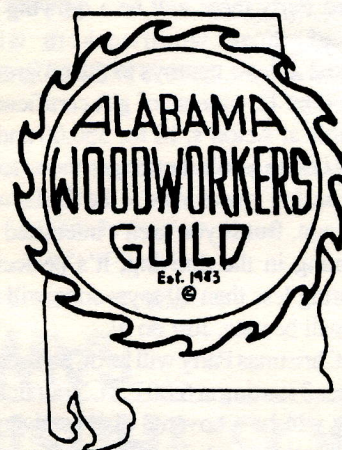
TOYS FOR TOTS

There cannot be enough said about this civic project our Guild has supported and engaged in since its beginning in 1983. We have consistently donated between 500 and 1,000 toys for distribution to needy and/or children who are ill. This year is no different. Ben Neighbors has successfully guided us through this annual undertaking for several years and is again pushing us to respond with the same enthusiasm he brings to the project. There are two principal destinations for our toys this year: CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL and the HELENA POLICE DEPARTMENT. We had representatives of both these groups at the September meeting, so it isn't necessary to repeat a report of those visits. Our goal this year is ten toys from each of our members. For some reason we never have quite attained that goal even though a couple of years ago we had a little over a thousand produced by less than fifty of our members. It is difficult to understand why everyone doesn't enjoy making toys. It is more fun than you can imagine. Ben Landrum, who has produced toys in great quantities over the years, spoke to us about his involvement. Ben used to make and sell crafts at craft shows and in the course of being so engaged developed a need for mass-producing his crafts. He now employs the same philosophy to making toys. Once he has a set-up or jig made to produce a toy, he just keeps cutting parts until he thinks he

has made enough. We were told by the representative of Children's Hospital that the patients there thoroughly enjoy receiving unfinished toys, games, puzzles, or whatever so they can paint them themselves. They love to get messy with paints, as we who have children all know. To accommodate this idea, Ben is cutting out letters and numbers for them. They will learn their alphabet and numbers as well as pass dead time painting them. Thanks Ben Landrum. The plans call for us to bring our toys to the November 10th meeting when representatives of the hospital and police department will be there to take them away. In the event some do not get their toys finished by then, they may bring them to the Christmas Party which will be held this year on December 3rd. President Ed mentioned in his column last month there will be awarded several gift certificates to ACTON'S to those members who produce ten or more toys for this year's undertaking. Please turn your talents and a little of your time to this rewarding experience.



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.



Woodworker's Christmas Party



It is time for our annual WOODWORKERS GUILD Christmas party again. What a great time we have at our party. It is the one time we get up from the dinner table completely satisfied. Of course, we must all bring a covered dish in order to make this wonderful meal happen and we know you will, as you always do. This is the time when we bring the toys that weren't quite finished by the November meeting, at which there were some 687 toys delivered to representatives of Children's Hospital and the Helena Police Department. Then there will be the drawing for gift certificates for those toy makers who made ten or more. Following that will come Santa Clause (you should see this familiar figure all wrapped up in a red suit and stuffed with a pillow). There will be group singing and contrary to erroneous reports Frank Jones and Leonard Sanders will NOT sing a duet. We will all have fun though and you will miss a lot by not being there. Helena United Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, December 3rd.



SHOW AND TELL

This continues to be a prominent part of our monthly program when our members bring an example of their craftsmanship. They SHOW the object to us and TELL us how they made it and how it is finished. This month we had two and one-half as will be explained below:

Dale Lewis A magnificent sitting bench. The seat has the markings to depict where the occupant should sit, and it will hold two very comfortably or three in close communion. Made of maple and with the ends made to show two figures facing each other and entitled (as Dale always does with his creations) Mother and Child Reunion.

Fred Baker An exquisite tool chest, the type a machinist would have located near his machine. It has several drawers, including an innovation of placing a small drawer in the middle of the large ones. The chest is approximately 16x22x10" in size, and made of walnut with brass pulls and other hardware.

Jim Caldwell Now comes Past President Jim, praying to be heard, with a small log in his hand. He represents the one-half mentioned above. It seems he has discovered some place in Tennessee where this fellow has developed a system of drying logs and limbs without the benefit of a kiln. This sounds impossible but Jim continues to aver (look it up) the logs are dry and very turnable on his lathe. Call him if you want more information.

DOOR PRIZE

We had 72 in attendance and when the number was drawn, it was Ben Neighbors who won the gift certificate. Why does it always seem to go to those who need it least?

LIBRARY

Some of you newer members may not know we have a pretty good library. Sometimes it seems some of our older members have forgotten we have one. Frank Jones continues to be our volunteer librarian, and he announced we have a new book called JIGS AND FIXTURES. This is just one of many books on most subjects we are interested in in the library. In addition we have quite a collection of woodworking magazines which have been and continue to be given to us by the publishers. We surely appreciate these magazines, and many of our members have utilized them over the years. Come a little early next meeting and check out some books or magazines.

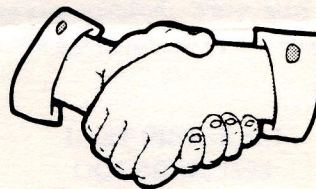
FIELD TRIP

On Thursday, October 20th, some twenty-two of us boarded a bus at the Colonnade at 6:00 AM for a trip to McMinnville, Tennessee. A little longer trip than those we have made in the past but thoroughly enjoyable. What's in McMinnville? The manufacturing plant of POWERMATIC. We are all acquainted with the machinery they produce, and it was thought we should go see how they make them (the tools). We arrived there around 11:00 AM, a little later than expected, and they rearranged the day for us due to our late arrival. We were treated to a buffet lunch right away, which was appreciated. Then we toured the plant. This place is one huge machine shop. All these table tops and other components of their machines are machined right there. The plant is divided into modules and each of them makes a machine from start to finish. Their machinery is almost completely controlled by computers, and as a result if something is made wrong it is because the program for the computer was wrong. Each step begins with a cabinet which has been painted and from there each part is drilled or machined and added to the cabinet until a chine is produced ready for shipment. We saw table saws, band saws, stationary sanding machines, scroll saws, and lathes. Unlike the other manufacturing plant we visited last year, POWERMATIC

does its own casting. We toured the foundry and saw everything from the pattern shop to the cast table tops and other parts. All of us came away with a better understanding and appreciation for what goes into the production of some of the machines we use in our shops. We appreciate Pres. Ed Sheriff and Past Pres. Fred Baker for arranging the trip for our benefit and enjoyment. We arrived back at the Colonnade at 7:00 PM, a little tired and hungry, but happy. One word of warning for future trips — don't share a seat with the President, it doesn't work.

GEORGIA WOODWORKERS GUILD

Pres. Ed and Vice-Pres. Richard have been in contact with the Georgia Woodworkers Guild. They propose an exchange of programs in the near future and our management has agreed. As a matter of fact Richard is scheduled to do a program for them shortly and sometime afterward they will do one for us. The idea is to see what each other are doing as a Guild with the idea of benefiting from the exchange of ideas and activities.



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