

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 6

JUNE 1995

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The John Jordan Seminar was a big success. Thirty people were in attendance, and everyone had a good time and learned a lot. In between giving Leonard Sanders and Frank Jones a hard time, John showed slides, turned a natural edge bowl, and turned a hollow vessel. A special thanks should go to Harold Phillips for his help in setting the seminar up.

If you have not started your piece for the annual show at Sloss Furnace, times a wasting. Everyone should try to enter something. There are categories for everyone from beginner to advanced. Steve Onisick is chairman of the show committee, so if he calls you please try to help. Let's make this show the best ever!

This month's letter is short. I just don't have much to tell you about, so bring lots of show and tell pieces to the meeting and keep up the good work.

See you at the meeting,

Mike

You will probably remember Jerry Marramore as the gentleman who came to one of our meetings this year seeking information on how to dry mimosa wood from a large tree in his yard. He brought along some very stunning gunstocks made from colorful laminated wood. This is the *diamond wood* that is the subject of the program. He plans to have samples, demonstrate how he machines the material and produces a very fine finish.

A native of Alabama, he has lived in Birmingham for most of his adult life, graduating from Birmingham Southern College and serving on the staff for about 18 years. He is currently a private investigator.

He has been a woodworker for many years. Among his works have been the manufacture, repair and refinishing of gunstocks for a custom gun builder, and his own manufacturing of items of his own design. He holds patents on a gun cabinet locking device, and on a gun transporting case. About 1200 of these were sold by Orvis. The marketing of his patented trailer ceased when Sears discontinued their catalog sales division.

expert having been Manager of Timber Properties for U.S. Steel all his life until retirement. He began his program by showing slides of magnified cut-away photos of several species of wood. Some of the woods shown were Post Oak, Yellow Poplar, Southern Red Oak, and White Oak. Their characteristics as to whether porous or not was most interesting. We learned there is a condition known as tension wood which occurs in Aspen, Red Oak, and Cherry. Just so you will know, Red Oak is more porous than White Oak. To immediately recognize a red or white oak, just look at the leaves and the Red Oak will have leaves with points on them, and the White Oak will have rounded leaves. Water/Willow Oaks have small narrow leaves. Bet you didn't know that oaks and hickories are in the same family due to the fruit they produce. There are over sixty (60) species of oak in the United States, and we probably will never run out of them. Ivan gave us advice on shrinkage, quartersawn and rift-sawn lumber and how these cuts come from the different sections of a log. Throughout his presentation he showed us various conditions existing in different woods and even brought branches from trees so we could learn to recognize a tree from its leaves. By lottery, Ivan gave three boxes of wood samples to the members and the winners were Larry McCoy, Bob Foreman and Ben Angwin. It was abundantly obvious Ivan spent considerable time putting together our program and we very much appreciate it.

NEXT PROGRAM JUNE, 1995 • 7:00 PM

Presenter: Jerry Marramore
Subject: Diamond Wood

Description of a laminated, impregnated wood, its composition, characteristics, working properties, finishing methods, etc.

LAST PROGRAM • MAY, 1995

An outstanding program, to say the least. Ivan Kronberg has been a member of the Guild from its beginning and has contributed in many ways over the years. Our last meeting was no exception. Ivan is a wood

As always, we appreciate Ron and Sue Acton being our God Fathers and encouraging us to be woodworkers and be good woodworkers. An example, they afford us a discount on our purchases at their establishment. Then on top of that they account for sales to the Guild members and return to the Guild the profit included in such sales. What could be more generous and encouraging than that? The April check was for \$34. Thanks, you Actons.

SHOW AND TELL

A most interesting phase of our meetings is when our members bring something they have made and show and demonstrate its use. At the May meeting the following showed and told:

- George Shoppert A model train (all wood) consisting of engine, 4 cars and caboos.
- Harold Phillips A turned-lidded bowl of cherry.
- Bob Barr A full size rocking horse.
- Ivan Kronberg The pointer used in his program.

It goes without saying, but we will say it anyway, our members come up with an enormous variety of projects in their shops and the rest of us appreciate them bringing them and sharing them with us at our meetings.

We are all familiar with the huge variety of bumper stickers on the highways today. Well let's not get left out of participating. Dan Browning suggested the Guild should invest in some of them and he is actively pursuing the project. They will be blue on white, have our logo on them and will say (something like this) "Let Me Tell You About The Alabama Woodworkers Guild." It is not telling how far this will take us.

HAMMER TIME

Referring to the last sentence above, the Guild was mentioned favorably in an article in the Life Styles section of the Birmingham News and Birmingham Post Herald newspapers. The story as it unfolds depicts Ron Acton standing before a peg board hung with a variety of hammers. Now we knew Ronnie was an expert on wood, lumber, mouldings, antique cars, auto parts and cabinet making to name just a few. But hammers? Well, it turns out there is much to know about hammers and he knows much about them. The Guild was in for some great publicity too. One of our members, Earl Broadwell, started bringing his grandson to our meetings last fall. The young gentleman, Blane, became instantly addicted and sponsored by Earl is our youngest member at age nine. This was a feature of the hammer story. The article even tells readers that we meet on the second Thursday night of each month at 7:00 PM. It was interesting to note Ronnie even had his hair combed for the picture. Nice going Ronnie, Earl and Blane.

TREASURER'S REPORT

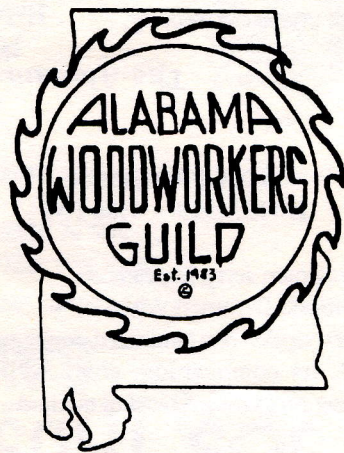
John Parker, our talented and devoted Secretary/Treasurer reports we began the year with \$638, have received \$3,915, have spent \$1,635 and had a balance of \$2,918 at the end of April. Thanks, John.

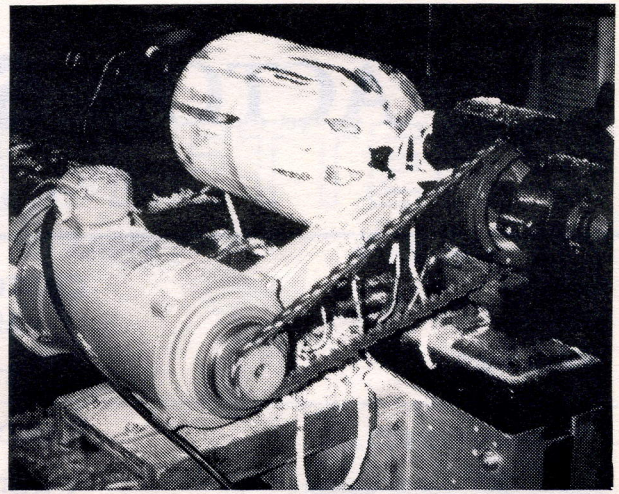
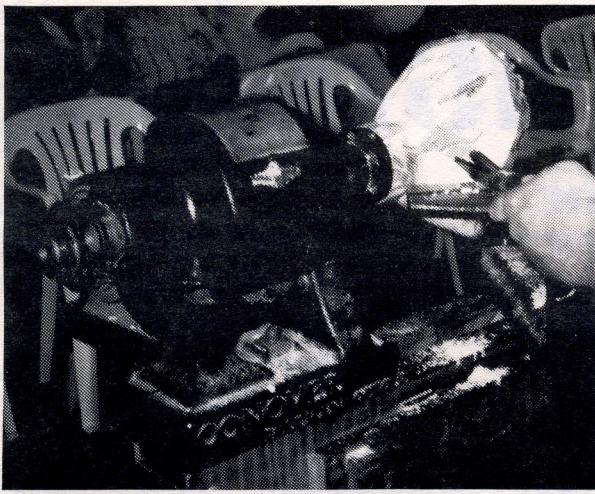
DOOR PRIZE

Yep, we had our door prize as usual and when the lottery was executed on Ivan Kronberg's nifty new calculator the winner was Bob Barr.

There were some thirty of us who attended the seminar/demonstration done by John Jordan, nationally recognized wood turner. We were exceedingly fortunate to be able to get him again, having had him several years ago. Mr. Jordan has work in many galleries and museums around the country and spends a lot of time at seminars and schools of wood turning. He brings his own Conover lathe with him. The stand is in several pieces, is assembled at the site, and features a special device along the bed of the lathe which is hinged to the bed and connected to an on and off switch so he can just lean against the bed and cut the machine off or pull up on the board to cut it on. This device leaves his hands free to attend to his turning. He frequently removes the tail stock and moves the head stock down the bed so as to get a better and more comfortable angle on the bowl or hollow turning which ever he is making. The lathe is powered by a DC motor and has a variable speed switch for convenience, rather than having to change belt settings when speed is a factor. He places great emphasis on the technique involved in using a deep-fluted bowl gouge. The tool works perfectly if one will only rub the bevel on the wood and gradually raise the tool handle until the ribbons or chips begin to fly. As for drying green wood without it checking, he says if the bowl or hollow vessel is turned thin (1/8" to 1/4") it likely won't check. If you choose to turn it down leaving it thicker, a good rule of thumb is to leave 10% of the diameter of the bowl/vessel. If left thick one should put the turning in a paper sack or cardboard box to dry. Since attaching a face plate to green wood can be hazardous, John recommends leaving a tenon, somewhat larger than the diameter of the face plate, to drive the screws into. Everyone had a wonderful time and learned much from having attended. Thank you, John Jordan.

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.





THE SHOW

It is never TOO late to get started on your project for the 1995 SHOW. This year's show will be held beginning August 14 and ending August 26th at the same place we have held it for several years. The Sloss Furnace annual KUDZU FESTIVAL will be held at the same time as our Show, and we appreciate being included in the festivities. This is a highlight of our year when we

members come together and show each other and all visitors what we have made (we had 700+ registered visitors last year and some didn't register). We know all of you make things in your shops. You wouldn't be interested in membership in the Guild if you weren't actively having fun in your shops. All you are encouraged to do is bring up to four of your pieces and enter them in the show. If for some reason you would rather not participate in the judging you need only

say so, but you may still participate. But consider this, it is great fun to come into the show room after the judging is over and browse around and see who won ribbons and also see what ribbons you have won. There is not a one of you who doesn't make projects worthy of entry in the show. Below is the annual reservation form for entering your projects in the show. Please follow the directions for filling it out and mailing to Steve Onisick.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING ENTRY BLANK

Exhibit space for your woodworking is preplanned. Therefore, the approximate dimensions in inches of each piece should be listed, as well as whether it should be exhibited on pedestal, floor or wall. Because of the planning involved for accommodating each piece in a designated space in as pleasing a manner as possible, late entries cannot be accepted. It will also be helpful in planning to list the category (Contemporary Furniture, Traditional Furniture, Turnings, Carvings, Small Objects, Toys) of the piece and the level (Intermediate, Advanced) of your work.

ENTRY BLANK - WOODWORKERS' ANNUAL SHOW - AUGUST 14-26

All woodworkers entering the show should complete this form and mail it to Steve Onisick, 703 Morris Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35209 so that it is in his hands no later than Monday, August 7. They may also be delivered to the July meeting. See above for explanation.

<u>WHAT IS IT?</u>	<u>DIMENSIONS</u> <u>L x D x H</u>	<u>PEDESTAL, WALL</u> <u>OR FLOOR</u>	<u>CATEGORY LEVEL</u>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Member's Name		Date	

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