

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII

NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1995

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Wallace Williams Vice President
John Parker Secretary-Treasurer

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Charles Ard
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Frank Jones
Dale Lewis
Ben Neighbors
Harold Phillips

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 LETTER NOVEMBER 1995

The November meeting is when we turn our toys in to the representatives from the Children's Hospital and the Helena Police Department. We need as many toys as possible at the meeting. If you can't finish by then, you should bring your toys to the Christmas party to get your name in the pot for the drawing. You need at least ten toys to get in the pot, but we will take less than ten toys to give to the children.

The November meeting is also the time for elections. This year we will be electing a new vice-president, treasurer, two new board members, and for the first time that I can remember a newsletter editor. The nominating committee came up with an outstanding list of nominees, but if you are interested in running, don't worry—you will have a chance, too.

As you all know, Leonard Sanders has been our newsletter editor for a very long time and has done a magnificent job of keeping us informed of all the news. This is a huge job each month, and Steve has a very big pair of shoes to fill. Everyone please let Leonard know how much we appreciate the great job he has done!

The Christmas party is December 9th starting at 6:00 P.M. Everyone needs to put this on their calendar and remember

to bring a covered dish and come join in the fun and great eating!

Don't forget the Woodturning Seminar that will be given Dec. 2nd by Chris Stott, the British woodturner. We will start at 9:00 and go until about 4:00. This is the last newsletter of the year, so this will be your last reminder!

See you at the meeting
Mike

NEXT PROGRAM NOVEMBER 9, 1995 • 7:00 PM

Another of our past presidents is going to share with us some of his secrets of how to make the absolutely lovely jewelry and other boxes. Those of you that have seen some of them know a tremendous amount of patience and skill goes into their production. The title of his presentation is "SECRETS OF THE WOODBOX TRADE—THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH" and with a title like that what more can we say? Ed Sheriff served as our president the year 1994 and has been a member since 1988. When he acquired a table saw in 1952 he was hooked and some of the furniture he made in those early years is still in service. A singular honor has come his way and that is Woodworker of the Year awarded by AMERICAN WOODWORKER.

LAST PROGRAM OCTOBER 1995

Our very own Program Chairman for 1995 was the presenter. The subject of his program was a table his wife wanted to put under a mirror, somewhere in the house. Now, if you know Wallace, you know he would not spend money or something he could make. Oh heck, I can build you that table. It took more doing than he expected but in the process he learned how to bend a skirt. You see, this table is a half table that rests up against the wall under a mirror. Well, she wanted it by a certain time when they were going to have company but he didn't make the deadline and didn't share with us what kind of rhetoric he had to endure because of his tardiness. Now to the bending. The method he used calls for resawing thin strips, the width of the skirt, which will be laminated into a solid piece. He built a form the size and shape of the skirt, and thus the table, around which the strips are bent. The first strip is bent around the form; the second strip is coated with glue and bent around the first strip and clamped until dry; the third strip is coated with glue and bent around the second strip, etc. until the desired thickness of the skirt is attained. After the whole thing is dry, it is removed from the form and is ready to clean and prepare for attachment

to the legs and top. Wallace varnished the form, then waxed it to prevent any of the squeeze out glue from causing the skirt to stick to it. The strips are cut to a thickness of 1/8"; the form is made of 3/4" plywood and 2 x 4" pine. He made a jig to assure him the slots for the legs would be sized correctly and angled properly to hold the legs straight. We surely appreciate Wallace sharing his talents with us in October.

ACTON'S CHECK

We continue to appreciate Sue and Ronnie contributing their profits on purchases by us, the Guild Members. This month it was \$36.

SEMINAR—CHRIS STOTT

As reported last month John Jordan, whom we have all come to appreciate and admire, called Harold Phillips with a suggestion we consider inviting Chris Stott, a friend of his from England, to put on a seminar for us. The deal has been struck and on December 2, a Saturday, Chris will give us a turning demonstration English style. The same fee we charged for John will be charged for Chris, \$25 and that is to cover his fee plus expenses. These turning demos are lots of fun and educational as well. You see the unfinished object start out and ultimately become a finished object, right before your eyes.

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 PM 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.

ELECTION—FOR 1996

The nominating committee brought their recommendations to the October meeting in accordance with our By-Laws and they were read. The By-Laws call for the reading at the October meeting and the election at the November meeting. The slate as recommended follows:

President	Mike Key
Vice-Pres (Programs)	John Tow
Sec'y-Treasurer	Charles Yerby
Newsletter Editor	Steve Onisick

Directors:	Walter Barnett
	Harold Skalka

VISION THEME PARK

Mr. Art Roper, of Homewood, asked for time to recruit craftsmen to help build a carousel at the new park. It will need 62 horses (or other animals) and they must be made. He asked for volunteers to help with the carving or other parts of the construction of them. If you are interested ask Pres. Mike Key about it.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

It is always such a pleasure to announce our annual Christmas Party. Those of you that have attended previously know it can, and probably will be, the highlight of the season. We have a covered dish supper and such vittles as you have never seen. All kinds of meats, bushels of vegetables, salads galore, and oh the desserts!!!! There will also be awards for the Toys for Tots makers and last but certainly not least—SANTA CLAUS. We have it at the Helena United Methodist Church, and it will be on Saturday, December 9th. More later.

DOOR PRIZE

We know Steve Onisick is glad he took the time and trouble to sign in at the front door because that is how you get your name in the pot for the door prize.

SHOW AND TELL

One of the highlights of our monthly meetings is the show and tell time when one of our members brings and shows us something he or she has made. This month we had only one show and teller—Dale Lewis. It is always fun to see and admire his work and the four bowls he showed were beautiful as well as unusual. The four of them have names as do all of Dale's work and the names are: Tripedus Ambulotus (Bug Bowl), "Stepping Out" (Bow Tie), "The Immortal Mr. Teigh," and "Bin-official." Now, we dare any of you to top those names. At the Mobile Museum of Art show, Dale won top purchase award. Then "Wanda the Wonder Woman" is now in the permanent collection of the Mobile Museum of Art. You may recall seeing this table at one of our meetings. Congratulations, Dale.

DAD'S WORKSHOP WAS JUST 'PLANE' FUN

This story is taken from REMINISCE MAGAZINE in their November/December issue. Saturday mornings were great fun because it meant Dad would be in his workshop, a safe place for a youngster in those days with no power equipment. Of all the hand tools Dad had, the planes fascinated me the most especially the heavy steel and rosewood beauty that rested in its own box—the "Stanley 45." Advertised as seven planes in one, Dad used it to cut rabbets, dadoes and decorative grooves in the plain boards he bought from the lumber yard. He made his own tongue-and-groove boards and usually they fit perfectly on first try, making one wide board of two narrower boards. I thought the sight and sound of the sharp blade going ZZIP on the wood was outstanding. The shavings weren't wasted, either. They were burned in the potbellied stove used to heat his shop. Other scraps were used as kindling so there really wasn't any waste. The Stanley company made the #45 for 70 years. For the weekend craftsman like my Dad and Granddad, it replaced several single-purpose tools. And, like so many other hand tools, it was perfect for a time when economy and patience were more important than convenience and speed. Power routers have replaced the wonderful multipurpose planes of my

childhood. But their high-speed whine will never dim the memories of the ZZZIP of Dad's old Stanley 45 biting into a fresh pine board.

WHAT A BUM

We now know how Harold Phillips gets such good finishes on the work he produces. We called him one day and his lovely wife Dot answered. We asked to speak to him and learned he wasn't home. Upon inquiring how she was we learned the secret to his finishing. What she was doing when we called was sanding and putting the second coat on a stool he had made. It seems that what he does is make the object, put the first coat of the finish on it and then he turns it over to her to sand and put the second finish on. Now how do you like that?

ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE BLADE AND BIT CLEANER

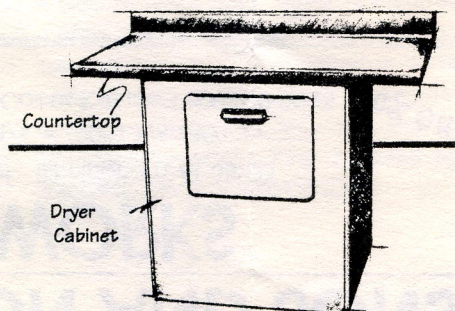
I had been turned off by all those warnings on the labels of commercial blade cleaners. After cleaning my kitchen sink one morning with my usual standby—baking soda—I thought why not try it on my saw blades and router bits.

Place enough boiling water in a plastic plan to cover the blade or bits, then sprinkle a couple of tablespoons of baking soda over the blade's perimeter. Within a minute the pitch will be gone. Heavier deposits can be removed with a small brush. Then, rinse the blade with clean water and dry it with a hair dryer.

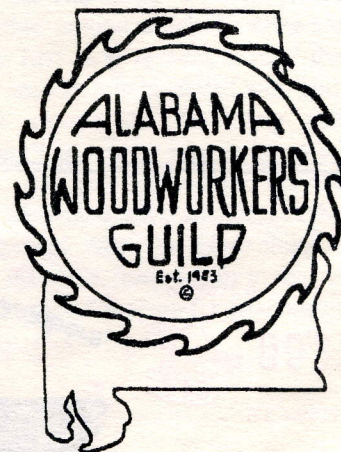
GREAT CABINETS FROM DISCARDED APPLIANCES

Old washing machine and dryer cabinets make excellent tools and workbench bases once you strip them of their backs and insides. At 29" high, they're the perfect height for my Woodworker, jigsaw, shaper, grinder, and other bench-mounted tools.

For tops, I often use laminated cabinet tops that I purchase very reasonably at home supply centers and lumberyards.



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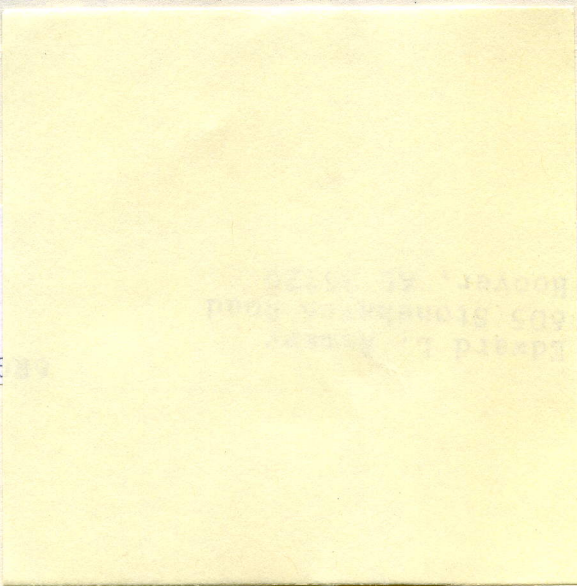
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