



GuildNews

VOLUME XIV

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JANUARY 1996

Up and coming Guild Meetings

Mark your calendar now!

January 11
WorkShop Design by
John Tow

February 15
Silent Tool Auction

March 14
Waste Management
for WoodWorkers:
Safe Disposal of
Hazardous Materials

April 11
Joint Construction
and Design

John Tow, our Vice President and Program Chairman, will get us started in the fast lane by pointing out practical considerations in designing and improving our workshop. (You know the area we sink so much money into that our wife thinks is just a garage.) We are fortunate to have John's practical teaching expertise plus knowledge of electrical circuitry and physics. John may also have shop layouts from some of our members to highlight what works for them.

Don't even think of missing the Silent Tool Auction. This is where you can capitalize on what Santa brought you that you already had five of. This is the time to turn it into cash or make a good swap. Don't forget about those woodworking books and videos that you either are not interested in or are bored with. And what about that old stack of magazines that the wife wants to toss--somebody may just want them.

The way the game works is the owner fills out a card for the minimum he will take for his prize possession. Next everyone goes around and fills out a card for every jewel he desires. On that card he makes an offer and includes his name. After everyone has finished the owners check the cards and accept the highest bid if it is at least equal to the amount stated as a minimum. To my understanding persons making bids are not allowed to look at the other bids fellow members have made. This may be a great opportunity to try that tool you've been meaning to try or maybe get rid of that one that you never quite mastered.

On March 14, John will instruct us on the hazardous chemicals we encounter in woodworking. John will teach us a little more about how to use them safely and also how to dispose of them in ways healthful to our environment. John may get into other safety considerations as a woodworker. If there is some aspect you want addressed contact John. He will probably be able to address the topic in more detail if you get to him early.

Our April 11th meeting will deal with the guts of fine woodworking: Joint Construction. The specifics of the meeting have not yet been decided. More details next letter.

Inside

<i>PRESIDENT'S LETTER</i>	2
<i>CRAFT CONFERENCE</i>	2
<i>GOOD WOOD NEIGHBOR</i>	2
<i>NEW OFFICERS</i>	3
<i>TOOL TIPS</i>	3
<i>AND MORE...</i>	

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This past year has been a lot of fun and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wallace Williams for a great job. He was a lot of help to me and I don't think I could have done it without him. Thanks Wallace.

By now you should have received something in the mail about the Craft Conference being held in Montgomery on January 19-21. We need to get behind this and support it. We are the best woodworking organization in the state, so we need to have as many members as possible attend. Let me know if you did not receive the information and I will tell you about it. I am looking forward to the next year. John Tow has some good ideas for programs plus some other ideas are being looked at as possibilities by the Board. Thanks again to everyone for all your help this past year. It's been a good one, and I hope the next one is even better!

See you at the January meeting.

Mike

Alabama Craft Conference 96

■ January 19 - 21
Auburn Campus in
Montgomery

Costs:
Full Conference 50
After Jan 9 60
One Day 25
Open Dialogue
(Sunday Only) \$5

■ January 19 Friday
Tony Lydgate

He will lecture and demonstrate the techniques of making fine wooden boxes. Tony is a resident of Palo Alto, CA and author of more than a dozen articles and books. His jewelry boxes and sculptural chests have been featured in "Fine WoodWorking", "The New Yorker" and the "American Craft Magazine".

■ January 20 Saturday
Michelle Holzapfel

Michelle is an expert in the practice of both turning and carving decorative vessels and "still life" sculptures from hardwoods. She will offer a series of short presentations: slides of her working environment and step by step process involved in creating a single piece, a comparative study of several individual works and forms that inspired them, a exercise in tactile awareness and an exploration of two and three dimensional form in sculpture.

This event is sponsored primarily by The Alabama State Council on the Arts and The Alabama Craft Council. As the

primary organization of woodworkers in the state, we need to be involved and participate.

Dale Lewis is our primary spokesperson and will actually be the host for Tony Lydgate. Let's help make this a yearly event and help the crafts flourish in Alabama. At our meeting we can discuss car pooling for these events. Mike will expound more on this in his letter.

For those of you that missed the Christmas party . . .

you missed a good one. The food and fellowship was great. Ronnie gave out a lot of prizes as usual - plus the gift certificates that were given out for the people who made toys. This year there were 949 toys made for the Toys-for-Tots. I think this is great! The Board of Directors voted to make Leonard Sanders our fourth lifetime member for his outstanding job as newsletter editor for the past eight years. A plaque was given to Leonard at the party. He is in good company with Spruce McRee, Ronnie Acton and Frank Jones. Congratulations, Leonard!

Chris Stott Seminar

We had 32 people attend the Chris Stott seminar on Saturday December 2nd. Chris's specialty is turned lidded boxes, and I think that everyone who attended will agree it was a very good seminar.

GOOD WOOD NEIGHBOR
Q&A

Sometimes I see something someone does or has and I want to know more and I'll bet some of you have some of these same kind of questions. This column will attempt to get some answers not necessarily from me but y'all. Since no one has yet submitted any, here are my questions for this week:

I saw someone in the toys for tots program have wheels covered by thick rubber bands--where can I purchase these.

Can anyone tell me how to effectively bond rubber to wood to make the wheels on a child's toy work better. So far I have tried superglue, epoxy, staples, brads, screws, polyethylene glue.

Does anyone have the plans for that nifty airplane bookshelf for a child's room that was brought in for Show and Tell?

Guild Member Dues Due in January

Yes it's that time of year again to write that check. Please either send your \$25 membership to our new treasurer Charles Yerby or bring it to the January 11 Meeting. Charles' Address is 433 Westhills Court; Bessemer, AL 35203. Please DO NOT send the dues to Acton Moulding--Charles will have to make an extra trip to retrieve them.

New Guild Officers for 1996

The following officers were unanimously elected by the membership in our November Meeting:

President:	
Mike Key	663-9036
Vice President and Program Chairman:	
John Tow	854-0020
Secretary/Treasurer:	
Charles Yerby	426-4320
Newsletter Editor:	
Steve Onisick	942-8075
Directors:	
Charlie Ard	956-1871
Dan Browning	979-3799
Frank Jones	663-9057
Dale Lewis	668-0115
Harold Phillips	424-0819
Hal Skalka	672-7686

Hardwoods for Toys for Tots

As many of you know this year we did not get a shipment of hardwoods for our Toys for Tots program.

It's not that we can't do without it--we can and had our best year ever. It's just that it's more fun making these things while staring at a gorgeous piece of lumber. Okay it's a perk. I have a few ideas about how we can get some wood for this project.

Recently I've been checking out Lumber Depot in Pelham. I let them know I was a member of the Alabama Woodworker's Guild. When I purchased some maple and poplar, they let me have it at unit price which was considerably lower than retail. Then we got to talking about how their company and our group should get acquainted--they want to sell we want to buy at a good price--seems like a match. I then presented the idea that if they donate \$200 dollars worth of hardwoods we could supply them with our mailing list--subject, of course, to Guild Approval. I've talked this over with Mike and a few other members and they think this would be a good swap. I understand that some might not want their name and address given out--if this is the case we would honor this request.

If you can think of other potential advertisers - please contact one of the officers.

Comments from a New Editor

It will be hard to follow in the footsteps of Leonard, but I am excited at the possibilities. This will be your paper. I would very much like this to be something that grows out of the fiber of the Guild. I am proposing the following sections: Wood Tips, Topic of the Month, Good Wood Neighbor and Buy, Sell or Swap.

Wood Tips will be ways to do a job or task faster, safer, smarter, slicker or cheaper. I very much want ya'll to contribute. Everyone of us knows something he or she can share. If you've done a job repeatedly you learn something. Most of us would never approach a job

that same way after completing it, simply because of what we've learned. Even our mistakes, costly though they sometimes are, are seedbeds for growth and new skill. I want your input and your thoughts.

For Topic of the Month, we want to examine the pro's and con's of some aspect of wood working or just laugh at some of the foibles we are all involved in while trying to produce some wooden creation. Here are two suggestions for Topics of the Month next month: 1) The Worst Tool I Ever Bought (Why I would never buy such and such again.) 2) Whether to buy a tool locally or through a mail-order catalogue.

Good Wood Neighbor will be a bulletin board for guild members to ask questions about how to do something or some particular item they are trying to find but unable to locate. The participant may or may not choose to identify himself.

Buy, Sell or Swap will be similar to what we have done in the past.

For Contributions to any of these write to me:

Steve Onisick
703 Morris Blvd.
Homewood, AL 35209
h 942-8075 ☎ w 939-7041

Tool Tips

■ Cutting Dowels

If you have ever had a piece of dowel shoot past you as you tried to cut a single dowel on your miter saw, you will appreciate this tip. Whenever cutting dowels, tape about 10 of them together with masking tape, then cut them. It's a lot less dangerous. Also make sure your miter saw gets up to speed before reaching the wood--it's a lot safer. If you're making something like axles for toys you'll

have a lot of the same size together.

■ Making Rounded Wheels

The toughest part of toy making for me has been the wheels. Often I have heard Guild Members say, "Well I'm just going to buy mine." I'm not looking down on this because often time is a real factor and wheels do take time. With some help from Leonard, I've kind of developed my own technique. First, get a good hole saw of the correct diameter (the heavier the metal the better--Acton or Thuston's Saw can help.) After you cut the wheel, you will have a cylinder with sharp edges not ideal yet. At first I tried various sanding approaches--never could quite get it even.

Then I went over to Leonard's--actually to learn to route around my ducks with a roundover bit. Leonard emphasized that the bit had to have a bearing so that I would not cut too deep. He showed me how to set the object to be routed on a mat--I think his was just carpet padding--then slowly move the router around the object. If necessary go around a second time--the bearing keeps the bit from getting too close.

Getting back to wheels, I found that if I set the router down on the wheel so that the bit does not touch the wheel to start. Then turn on the router and move in--the process is awesome. If the bit is touching the wheel--when you turn on the router--the wheel will kick out. Once you start the router should be resting on the wheel. Obviously, this is more a job for your 1-1/2 hp router as opposed to a massive 3 hp router.

Try it you'll be amazed--even I can do it.

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