

# GuildNews

VOLUME XIV

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## GUILD HAPPENINGS

*February 15  
Silent Tool Auction*

*March 14  
Waste Management for  
WoodWorkers  
(Safe Disposal and  
Recycling Waste)*

*April 11  
Simple Jigs and  
Fixtures by Guild  
Members*

*April 19-20  
HGH Hardware  
Open House*

Now is the time to cash in on Santa's Mistakes. (You know the fifth Power Screwdriver or cordless whatchamacallit that is cluttering your shop.) And don't forget about those books you ordered like "How to Become a Master Carver in 21 Days (Counting Weekends and Nights)" that you've had for three years and haven't finished. Or what about that subscription to Fine Woodworking that you've tired of looking at. Or what about that video, you've already mastered. Bring them to the Silent Auction.

The rules of the game are as follows: On a small slip of paper or a notecard which will be furnished, write down the least that you will take for your genuine one of a kind treasure, heirloom or jewel. The paper along with your GodSend will be placed at strategic points in the room. Then us shoppers will go around the room and write insulting prices on the slips. At the end, Mike assures me we can do this without pandemonium breaking loose, we one by one go around the room and let the person who bid the most for our treasure pay what he bid. Hopefully, he or she will not be waiting for their treasure to be

purchased before he can afford ours. This promises to be fun.

We've changed the April Meeting from joint construction to a show and tell for members. This is your chance to display and talk about the simple woodworking tools that help you get the job done. Examples are like those used for finger joints and for jointing two boards together. For the more daring—maybe a small demo of how it works. We're not looking for the expensive Omni/Everything Jig, rather the Mom and Pop bare bones jigs that get the job done without having to mortgage your first born.

April 19-20 is the annual HGH Hardware Bash. Last year they had some great demos, good food and free samples. The cost is something we can all afford—Nothing.

### *A Trip to the Sawmill with Charlie Ard*

We were recently given a large pecan tree that was blown down by hurricane Opal. "It'll make a ton of firewood" was the word we got, but I had other ideas and five tons was closer to the mark. Saturday morning found us with trailer in tow headed for Odenville. I was delighted to see that the tree was not completely down so I had room to get my trailer under it. After much cutting of

branches, I backed the trailer under the tree, cut off a 12 foot log and let it gently drop the 8 feet to the trailer—WHAM !!! The tree produced another 12 foot log but the drop was much lower this time and suprisingly the trailer survived. Away we went to the sawmill with two logs that tapered from 30" to 20" long and weighed about 4 thousand pounds.

Most backyard sawmills are leftovers from the last century that produce many tapered boards and little good lumber. I know one near Chelsea that is a living history of the industrial revolution. It has Diesel power for the saw, three phase power from a gasoline generator for the feed works, pneumatic controls, and hydraulic power

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The 1996 Alabama Craft Conference was a huge success. The Conference was held on the campus of the University of Auburn in Montgomery on January 19-21.

The workshop leaders were Tony Lydgate on The Art of Fine Boxes and Michelle Holzapfel on Turned and Carved Forms. The Guild was well represented and everyone that attended will agree that it was well worth the trip to Montgomery. On Saturday, everyone attended a luncheon where the Guild received an award for Community Service because of our involvement in the Toys For Tots program. A special thanks should go to Georgine Clarke and her staff for a wonderful weekend.

As you all know, Ronnie Acton gives back to the guild a portion of what we spend at his store. The money is being set aside for the purpose of having more and better seminars, so remember that the more you spend with Ronnie, the better off the Guild will be. Help the Guild out by thinking of Acton's the next time you need sandpaper, finish, or supplies of any kind.

The next meeting is the silent auction, so bring all those things that you just couldn't live without at the time, but can't figure out what to do with now. Maybe someone else won't be able to live without them!

Just a little reminder that now is the time to start building those show pieces.

See you at the meeting,  
Mike

on the carriage (with a hydraulic motor and lignum vitae bearings on the same shaft). Despite my desire to see lumber sawed on this fantastic machine I took another course.

Mr. Jessie Irwin of Brompton, Al. has a new and modern bandsaw mill and will cheerfully saw any log you can bring him including walnut. He is not too sensitive about nails in the logs but he does charge \$2.50 each to hack them out after he has found them with his metal detector. The mill produces nice straight lumber and the saw kerf is less than a sixteenth of an inch so you get more lumber per log. He charges 24 cents a board foot and will even unload your logs with his tractor. He also has various hardwoods for sale in the sixty cent range, all very green.

My two logs produced about 750 board feet of lumber of which about one third would grade FAS, one third pretty good, and one third not so hot. There are many clear boards. I buttered the ends with paraffin and stacked the boards on stickers in the loft of my barn. I have dried oak there to 8 per cent moisture in 4 months so we'll see what happens. Some people tell me that's a lot of work for lumber but it was fun and the limbs produced almost two cords of firewood so I guess you could say I did it the ARD way.

### *A Note of Sympathy*

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Leon Anderson at the loss of his son on January 19.

Our prayers are with him and his family.

### *My First Correction of Many to Come*

Frank Jones is no longer a Director rather Walter Barnett is the new director. I guess it's just hard not to think of Frank in that capacity.

### *My First Omission*

Bo Thuston of Thuston and Sons Saw Works told me in December that he was having a 20% off sale on all sharpening. Maybe being the good guy he is—he will let us have this discount in February.

### *Tools ordered from Chris Stott Seminar*

Ivan has received the parting tools that were ordered from the seminar. He will have them at the next meeting.

### *MSA Dustfoe 66 Dust Mask by John Tow*

We have all used the ubiquitous disposable paper masks to protect our lungs from the wood dust we produce. The fact is, they are very inefficient. The single and dual canister type filter is much more effective and expensive while its generally available replacement filter elements are actually designed for organic solvents rather than dust.

Mine Safety Appliances (MSA) has produced a line of true dust masks for many years. The Dustfoe 66 is such a dust filter. I have owned one for years, having picked it up from their now closed warehouse in Trussville. You can still order directly from MSA.

The Dustfoe 66 has a malleable aluminum body with

## GOOD WOOD NEIGHBOR

# Q&A

I haven't had any new questions this month: everybody must know everything—so I will give the answer to two of the questions I asked last month:

With regards to the beautiful bi-plane shelves, Bob Fortner is the contact person. He generously gave me the plans and modifications he made, along with two pictures to help stir me straight (if this can be done).

I would give his phone number but I can't find it yet.

As regards to the thick rubber bands—wouldn't you know it Mr. Toys for Tots himself, Ben Neighbors shared this address of a supplier with me: Meisel Hardwood Specialties. 1-800-441-9870 and ask for their traction bands or just ask for the catalogue.

Thanks Bob and Ben

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 Steve Onisick at (205) 942-8075.

a soft rubber face seal. The U shaped filter element has over twice the surface area of the typical canister element at a small fraction of the latter's cost. I have worn the filter with reading glasses, safety glasses, and gas tight goggles for hours on end with no problems. The filter element is easily changed.

I do not know of a local vendor for MSA products now. You can order direct from MSA at 1-800-672-2222 and charge to MC/VISA. I just got a spare with two five packs of spare filters (a total of sixteen elements) for \$28.07 including tax and shipping. UPS dropped mine off two days after I called the order in. A good product and great service. They also have many other safety goodies, so ask for a catalog.

MSA Dustfoe 66 Mask with 5 filters # 461683 \$16.80  
MSA Dustfoe 66 Mask filters (5) # 457486 \$3.80

Mine Safety Appliances Co.  
(1-800-672-2222)  
P.O. Box 426  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

**The Finish Line**  
by John Tow

Acrylic, polyurethane, HVLV Systems, ... ! All modern finishes seem to be expensive both in materials and equipment. What happened to the good old simple finishes applied with rags or brushes? They are still around, you just have to look harder to find them.

Shellac. This old favorite is hard but will be dissolved by alcohol and clouded by water. It can even be made edible by dissolving the

flakes in pure grain alcohol (ethanol). A thin coat of shellac is what prevents M&M candies from dissolving in your hands!

Shellac can be purchased in 3 or 4 lb mixes (3 or 4 lb shellac per gallon of thinner) from home centers. It should be well within its shelf life date (on the can) to be good. Old shellac will not harden, it will just get gummy and sticky. Orange Shellac is preferred since it has a longer shelf life than the bleached or white variety. It is also available in dry flakes and aerosol.

My greatest consumption of shellac is in a 1:5 or 1:6 dilution for sanding and sealing. The thin mix, often called a 'split coat', will dry quickly off of a freshly sanded surface leaving the loose fibers raised and stiff. Finish sanding can then continue with a very fine paper. The shellac that remains in the pores will even out subsequent stain and finish applications as long as they don't include water or alcohol based products. It is the best sealer for resinous woods and knots.

I mix the store bought variety 1:1 to 1:2 with thinner for finish use. The drying time is very short in low humidity. I also use shellac in the 1:5 'split coat' dilution for sealing for both sanding and staining. Use several thin coats rather than one thick coat since each coat will slightly dissolve the previous coats. Rubbing out is generally not required after the first few coats since it dries too fast to trap much airborne dust. I always finish with a good coat of wax for protection.

A good full china bristle brush is the best tool for application. Always tap the brush on the inside of the container rather than drag it over the container's lip to remove excess shellac before application. The brush should be pulled across the surface evenly. Never go over an area repeatedly since build up, and its resultant gummy surface, will occur. Always clean your brush quickly with shellac thinner or it will solidify. The thinner used for cleaning your brush can be used for future 'split coats'. Remember: shellac thinner (alcohol) is highly flammable.

In future installments I will cover homebrew oil, wax, edible, and varnish finishes.

**Tool Tips**

The first one comes from our own President:

Here's a tip for applying stain or messy finishes to small parts on the lathe. Use one of those small plastic tubes that has a sponge on the end like you get at the office supply store for wetting stamps. Works great!!

The second comes from your editor:

I found this at an Auto Supply Store—did we mention Ronnie Acton also sells Auto Parts. I had a problem putting plastic garbage bags around a garbage can I keep in my garage. Everytime I'd chunk a big piece of wood into the can—which is frequent at my skill level—the bag ends up in the bottom of the can and I fish around to get it back. I happened to notice

that the trash cans outside of this local store had pieces of tubing—like radiator hose—cut in sections and slit lengthwise and placed in three or four places around the perimeter of the can. Worked great—wish I could say the same for my projects.

Charlie Brown and at least one other member did not get the door prize that went to John Parker.

The editor would be more specific but he lost his notes and after checking with Mike Key, Frank Jones, Harold Phillips and Ivan Kronberg—he gave up.

**The Guild Officers**

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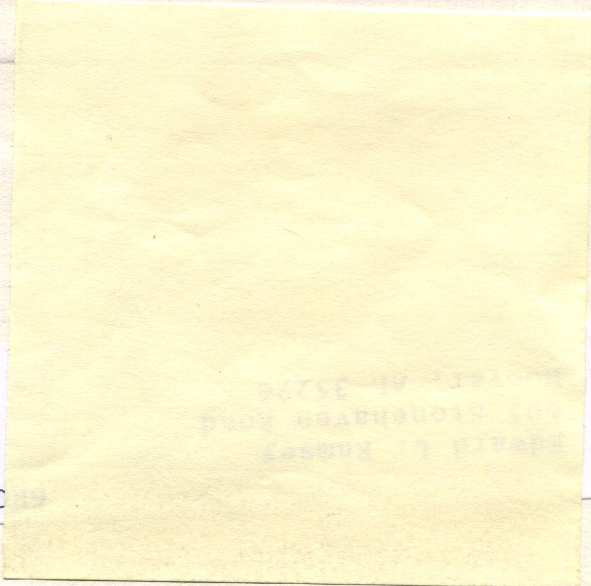
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