

GuildNews

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GUILD HAPPENINGS

July 11 - Meeting Dave Lucas to speak on making "Bowed Psalteries". Also, a brief discussion on the August Topic of "Favorite Weekend Projects" and "Simple Toys for Tots Projects"

August 8 - "Favorite Weekend Projects" and "Simple Toys for Tots Projects"

August 10 - Saturday - Setup for Sloss Annual Show

August 12 - 24 - Sloss Annual WoodWorker's Show

Y'all having fun with your summer yet?? Well — read this anyway. Our July topic has been slightly altered in order to make room for timely topics. Now, how often have you caught yourself wanting to make a lute, psaltery or dulcimer — but didn't know how to get started or even how to spell the above three? Well, you're in luck, Dave Lucas will be speaking to us, July 11 on — hold on to your hat — "Bowed Psaltery Making".

July 11 - Meeting Dave Lucas to speak on making "Bowed Psalteries". Also, a brief discussion on the August Topic of "Favorite Weekend Projects" and "Simple Toys for Tots Projects".

Also in this issue will be articles by Charlie Ard and John Tow. My spouse, or better half as she would say, who sometimes helps me type this stuff in, remarked at the quality of writing by these two guys. I guess she was amazed that people who like to do wood have some affinity with the pen.

Just because we like to do wood doesn't mean there's a dense forest above the neck.

This month's issue will again have the entry form for the Sloss Annual Woodworkers Festival in August. Please return these to Mike Key, 286 Wilderness Trail, Alabaster, AL 35007 — No later than August 8. (Speaking from past experience, there is a lot of organization to be done after the entries have been received.) If you think you could help, please give Mike Key a call at home 663-9036 or work 425-1614.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By the time this newsletter reaches you only six weeks will be left until our annual show at Sloss Furnace. All the plans have been made and we are ready to go. Ben Ericson will be the judge this year. The schedule for the show is as follows:

Deadline for entries
Thursday, Aug 8.
Delivery of pieces Saturday,
Aug 10 9:00-3:00,
Monday, Aug 12 8:00-
10:00.
Judging Monday, Aug 12
Noon-until.
Opening Reception
Monday, Aug 12 5:00-7:00.
Demo Saturday, Aug 24
9:00-4:00.
Take Down Saturday, Aug
24 After 4:00, or Mon, Aug 26.

I hope you have started something for the show. The work will be judged in a number of different categories, so everyone has a chance to win — even if you think you are a beginner.

Toys-For-Tots is approaching fast, so it is time to start thinking about what toys you will be making this year. Let's try to make this a record year for support from our Guild!

Dan Browning mentioned at the June Meeting that attendance for the past few months has been low. If you have any suggestions on how we can get our attendance back up, please give me a call. I welcome any suggestions.

July is your last chance to order shirts and jackets, so if you haven't gotten your name on the list, you better do it soon.

See you at the meeting.

Mike

The Finish Line

Preparing for a Good Finish

Surface preparation is the key to any good finish. The proper sanding, sealing, filling, and cleaning is mandatory for a good finish. Staining will be covered in a separate article. I will begin with the finish having the most demanding surface preparation: Lacquer.

Always use thinned lacquer as a sanding sealer when using lacquer as a finish. I do not use the water-based lacquers and thus cannot speak to their use. The sanding sealer will dry quickly and hold the grain proud of the surface for subsequent abrasive grades.

I always start with 100 or 120 grade PSA open coat paper on a random orbit or oscillating sander followed by another application of the sealer and successive grades: 150/180; 220; 320; 400; and 600 — the latter grades are only used on the more dense hardwoods. Any additional between the coats sanding is done with the grain, by hand. Always wipe the surface with a tack rag before applying your first finish coat. Don't blow with an air gun — that just redistributes the dust and allows some to remain airborne to cause future

problems. Additionally, humid air can deposit water on your work and raise the grain.

A tack rag is one of those antique finishing tools that will make or break a finish. It will pull dust from a surface that looks clean. You can buy them in the paint sections of most hardware stores (try Acton's before the next Guild Meeting). You can also make one with a dilute mixture of varnish, shellac, and thinner. Let the damp rag nearly dry before use — you don't want another type of finish! You can keep the rag and remoisten it slightly (it should be "tacky", not wet!) before use. Use it over the whole surface in any direction.

Cleanliness is of the utmost importance. An oily hand print will ruin lacquer, polyurethane, shellac, or varnish finishes. Wipe your surface with naphtha before applying the first finish coat.

Don't forget your finish area — mounds of dust will get stirred by air currents and deposit said sawdust in your finish before it dries — it's a fundamental physical law of finishing! Clean your shop!

What about other finishes? Polyurethane — if you have success with the lacquer finish, your poly finishes will look good as well. Shellac — the same story. The same with varnish — except use

GOOD WOOD NEIGHBOR

Q&A

For Sale

About 35 linear feet of 2 x 4 oak for about \$50, call Steve at 942-8075 after 6 pm.

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.

Show Nbr:	<input type="text"/>	Space Nbr:	<input type="text"/>	Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Work Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Home Phone:	<input type="text"/>		
Project Description:	<input type="text"/>				
Woods Used:	<input type="text"/>				
Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional <input type="checkbox"/> Turning <input type="checkbox"/> Carving <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary <input type="checkbox"/> Small Objects <input type="checkbox"/> Toys <input type="checkbox"/> Tools	Skill Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginning <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	Length:	<input type="text"/>
		Design:	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Reproduction	Depth/Width:	<input type="text"/>
		Displayed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Floor <input type="checkbox"/> Table/Pedestal <input type="checkbox"/> Wall Mounted	Height:	<input type="text"/>
Comments:	<input type="text"/>				
			Circular Objects Only:	Radius:	<input type="text"/>

Entry Form

Rules of the game:

Fill out everything except Show Nbr and Space Nbr (these will be assigned before the judging).
Circle the appropriate Category, Skill Level, Design, and Displayed Option. If the object is square like a box, chest or hanging fill out Length, Width and Height. If the object is like a Vase or Bowl fill out Height and Radius -- Remember Radius is one-half the Diameter.

thinned shellac (1:5) for sanding sealer. Penetrating oil finishes — stop with abrasives by 280 or 320 grit. Consider a different approach. Too much sanding leaves abrasive remains and sealer in the pores -- no room for oil finish. A fine wire brush and some elbow grease will remedy that. I use 100 - 220 and then fine and ultra fine Scotch Brite pads now with penetrating oil finishes (I did use 00 and 0000 steel wool before). I use it to apply successive oil coats as well.

The key to a good finish — don't skip abrasive grades, use a sanding sealer, tack rag, clean surface, and dust free finish area. Oh yes, be patient — let the previous coat set long enough to dry, cure, etc. before recoating.

Digging for Lumber
with Charlie Ard

We were cruising St. Andrew bay near Panama City one day not long ago in my newly finished wooden boat. Far back in the shallow water where few boats can go I spotted the remains of an old wrecked boat sticking up out of the sand. We waded ashore to check it out and found several planks and a few ribs exposed with more buried in the sand. Shaving with a pocket knife showed it was planked with a beautiful dark mahogany.

Speculation ran wild

as to how this boat came to be wrecked on this beach. Maybe Cuban refugees missed their landfall at Key West and sailed north 450 miles (they must have been unhappy with their chart maker before they fetched up at P.C.) Maybe it belonged to Forest Gump. He swam ashore and left the boat to guide itself here. Perhaps a Spanish cargo vessel was shot up by English pirates, the crew loaded the gold in a lifeboat and escaped only to die of thirst on this lonely beach (there's been a good deal of thirst evident here ever since).

Havana, Wednesday,
July 24, 1715

The war of Spanish succession has disrupted trade for two years, but on this day 11 ships known as the "Combined Armada of 1715" depart for Spain carrying among other things one hundred fourteen million dollars worth of gold and silver. The weather went from bad to terrible. 2 A.M. July 31 and one of the worst hurricanes ever known strikes the fleet. All of the ships are driven ashore but one, a French vessel forced to sail along to preserve secrecy. The Spanish spend the next several years mounting salvage operations with little success.

Back in Alabama, I have convinced my wife that we must return to Florida to salvage the lumber from this old boat and who knows what might lie under the sand. On the way down I read to her an account in an old National Geographic of English pirates attacking a Spanish salvage crew and stealing great piles of gold. They melted the coins in iron pots right on the beach and poured the gold into holes scooped out of sand. These chunks were holsted into boats and made off to the English stronghold at Pensacola. Could our boat be one of these? That's what we came to find out. Also the seafood festival was on so we'd at least get some shrimp (pink gold).

Early Saturday morning we were digging and prying lumber. After much effort we got a side turned over and what did we find underneath? Not Spanish gold but stainless carriage bolts (to a boat builder the next best thing.) Half the ribs were fastened with them. What they are doing in a boat from the eighteenth century is a mystery to me. I salvaged all the bolts and several pieces of nice mahogany but the ribs turned out to be treated pine (shows how far advanced English pirates were even then).

Maybe the hurricane of 1005 has uncovered

more this boat and I intend to find out the Ard Way.

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The Guild Officers

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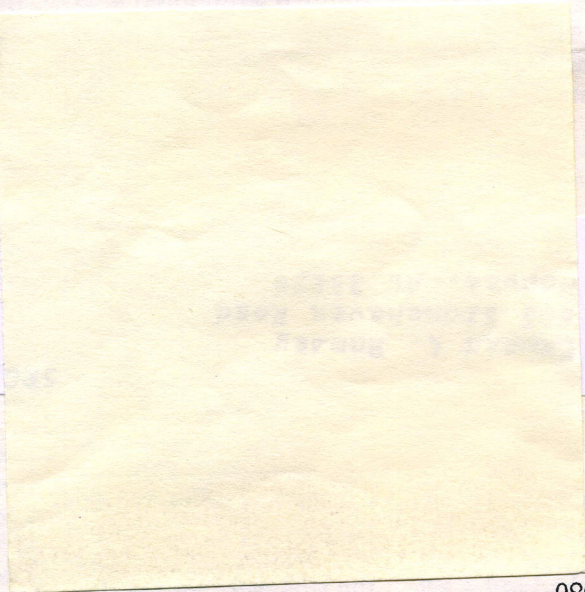
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8 TO 6 M-F — 7 to 12 Sat.



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