

# GuildNews

VOLUME XVI

NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1998

## *President's Letter*

I believe most of you will agree we had a great year in 1997. 1998 promises to be just as good and Dean Black kicked the year off in style. His program in January, was as usual, quite informative and entertaining. Dean concluded the program by inviting us all to his shop for a visit and some demonstration later in the Spring. Those of you who have visited Dean's shop tell me it is well worthwhile.

The Woodworking class at Thustons is in high gear. There are ten participants working on construction of a workbench. I understand most are also building their own workbench at home. The great start was no surprise since this is what we've all grown to expect when Fred and Mike are in charge.

Our attendance at the January meeting was real good—let's keep it up! It's always difficult to get "recharged" after a holiday season and a dull and dreary winter, but we have some real good programs in store for everyone so come out and enjoy!

One last note—I mentioned we have some good programs scheduled but this is no easy task for our Program Chairman and Board of Directors. What Charlie Ard (the Program Director) and the Board needs is your help. Let one of us know if you have an idea for a program, or someone special you would like to see on the program. Remember, this is Our Guild and regardless of woodworking skills level, we all want informative programs. So, pitch in and do your part.

See you February 12th.

*Dan*

## *Next Program— February 12, 1998*

Our second program of the year will be an engaging one. Charley has prevailed on Paul Mancil to secure the speaker who is Denis Hermecz (yep, that's right) from Silverhill, Alabama. Denis is coming a long way, too, all the way from between Mobile and Gulf Shores, so keep that in mind when deciding whether or not to attend. Denis is a custom woodworker, carver and sculptor and has been at it for 25 years. He will show slides of his work which is about the only way to present himself. He has a distinction in that he specializes in carving MDF (Medium Density Fiberboard) after which he paints it, a most unusual material for carving. It will be a fine program and we hope everyone comes.

## *Last Program— January 1998*

Charley Ard is off to a good start just as predicted in the GUILD NEWS last month. Our old friend Dean Black (not really OLD) delighted the huge turnout we had for the meeting. Dean engages in woodworking unlike anything most of us would ever be exposed to. He makes enormous turnings on his 27' lathe that most of us would not even like to attempt. The commissions he receives can generally be classed as jobs no one else in the Birmingham area has the capacity to attempt. He mentioned a huge china cabinet complete with secret compartments; the new gate to the

Botanical Gardens; interior doors for a Mt. Brook home made from 100 year old heart pine rescued from a cotton gin; a poker table about 4' in diameter turned on his lathe; and he shared with us his preference for #66 Varithane plastic sealer. His shop in Springville is only a few years old and is a joy to behold. He has some 7 or 8 lathes, some just for small bowls, a monster for large turnings (in diameter) and his Loc Ness Monster, the 27' lathe. He has invited us to come to his shop this spring or summer for a day of demonstration and just an all around good time. We, the Guild, have been to his place a couple of times and we look forward to going again.

## *The 3-M Company*

Our energetic president has accepted an invitation from the 3-M Company for each of us to receive a packet of about one half dozen grades of sandpaper. All we have to do in return is use the sandpaper and answer a questionnaire about how it performed and how we liked it. That isn't too much to expect of us, now is it? Be expecting your package in the mail soon.

## *Spain Clinic*

The Spain Rehabilitation and Occupational Clinic needs some help. They need several woodworkers to man a shop used to help therapy patients who need some kind of

therapy dealing with the use of their hands. The sessions will be three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon and will be conducted over a period of about two weeks. If you can fit something like this into your schedule and would like the satisfaction of knowing you have served some people who need your help, contact Spain or President Dan.

**Woodworking Class**

These classes have been an ongoing thing for many years. We have members who started out in such a class and have become fine woodworkers. Fred Baker and Mike Key will conduct the class which will run ten weeks. The class will be held beginning at 8:30 and ending at 11:30 each Saturday at THUSTON'S. The project is to build a workbench much like the one on the rostrum at our meetings. They plan to demonstrate the making of the several components of a workbench like this, and the student will go home and apply his newly acquired knowledge to making his own. They are scouting around trying to secure the two metal vises required for a bench such as this and you will benefit by their diligence. The class is limited to 15 students and as of now there are only 8, so if you would like to join late you are welcome. The cost is \$75 which will go to the GUILD. Fred and Mike have declined to be paid for their work.

**Show and Tell**

This feature of our meeting each month goes back to when Spruce McRee was president. Spruce thought we would be interested in what our members are making, what

they are made out of, and how they made them. At the January meeting we had:

- Dale Lewis      Another of his fabulous chairs, this one named Beauxs, Eyes and Butterflies.
- We regret we did not get his name      An Oxwheel, acquired in the Philippines, made of Mahogany, with carvings depicting several people.
- Ivan Kronberg      A Walnut goblet (wine glass) ,
- Ben Landrum      A splendid pencil box, two tier with sliding top.
- Mike Key      A great oak bowl

**Door Prize**

Even though most of you won't be flat broke if you don't win the door prize of \$15, it is nevertheless fun to win something. Each member's name is in the "pot" and the member's name that is drawn each month has \$15 to spend at Acton's. This month the lucky one was Lawrence Thomas.



**New Officers and Directors**

Just in case you didn't keep your November GUILD NEWS in which there were listed the duly elected officers and directors for 1998, President Dan thought you should be told or reminded that the following are those who will guide our destiny in 1998:

- President      Dan Browning
- Vice President      Charles Ard
- Sec'y/Treas      Charles Yerby
- Directors:      Walter Barnett
- Richard McRee
- Paul Mancil
- Hal Salka
- Pete Jenson
- Jack Perry

These are the people you should call or talk to if you have a problem or have suggestions concerning the operation of the Guild.

**Alabama Woodturners Association**

The National organization that goes by the name of AMERICAN WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION has spawned over a hundred local chapters around the U.S. It was formed, we believe, in 1986 and we have several Birmingham people in it. Nelson Brooks has undertaken to form a local chapter in Birmingham, membership in which will be open to

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.

any and all turners. They held their first meeting on January 10th at THUSTON'S, and there were over 50 interested people attending. They have selected the second Saturday of each month as their meeting day from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. They have set \$25 as the membership fee (for the year), and over 30 joined on the spot. Nelson will be its first President; Pat Johnson from Montgomery will be Vice-President; Mary Johnson, Secretary; Alton Sizemore, Treasurer; and the newsletter editor will be Conner Runyan. Glad to see some of our GUILD members joining. Good luck with this venture and maybe this will be a new source of programs for the Guild. By the way, their first program, in February, will deal with sharpening turning tools.

**Woodturning**

While we are on the subject of woodturning we thought you would be interested to know our old friend JOHN JORDAN is featured in WOODTURNING MAGAZINE, the Official Journal of the Guild of Master Craftsmen in England. John Jordan has demonstrated his art on two occasions for us at our Guild and escorted another craftsman from England to our Guild for a demonstration. The following notice is included in the February issue of WOODTURNING and please note that the dates his classes will be available include February 27-31. We wonder if February has a different number of days in England than the USA.

**John Jordan Turning Courses Offered**

American woodturner John

Jordan, who is in demand as a teacher and demonstrator all over the world, is running hands on workshops at his Nashville, Tennessee studio, over the next few months.

The three-day courses take a maximum of four students at a time, ensuring each gets enough personal attention to help them achieve their woodturning goals.

Each workshop can accommodate students ranging from beginners to advanced, and is tailored to the individual's areas of interest. Courses focus on how to use the deep-fluted bowl gouge and how to develop smooth, economical movements while turning.

Bowl turning and hollow turning will also be covered, as well as carving, tool sharpening and the use of green wood.

The dates of the three-day courses are: January 23-25, February 27-31, April 3-5, May 22-24 and June 5-7. The cost is \$500 per course.

For more details write to:

John Jordan  
6320 Burkitt Road  
Antioch, TN 37013.  
Tel: 1-615-941-1247  
E-mail: johnjordan@mindspring.com

**Want to Sell Your Stuff?**

There may be some of you who do work that would qualify for entering for sale at craft fairs. The Alabama Designer Craftsmen are such an organization, and some of them belong to another group in which they display and sell their products. If you have any interest in investigating such an opportunity, there will be a reception at Oak Mountain State Park at the craft building and will be held by Southern Highlands Craft Guild. The reception is from 10:00 to 2:00 on March 7th, at which refreshments will be served.

You may learn more about this by calling 621-1484 and ask for such information as you need. This is a juried group and is generally confined to the Appalachian Mountain area, and since we here are located at the very end of it we are eligible to join if we meet all the other requirements.

**Dues, Dues, Dues?**

Yes it's that time of year again. We had a tremendous turnout at the January meeting, and most of you paid your 1998 dues then. For those of you who won't be able to attend the February meeting and, therefore, won't be able to pay them at that time, you may mail your \$25 to our Treasurer, Charles Yerby, 411 Westhills Court, Bessemer, AL 35023. Please respond promptly so we may go to press with the Membership Roster and you will be included.

**Toys for Children**

What, again? So soon? We thought you might be interested to know that one of our fellow Guilds does about toys. This is the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers. They meet during the summer at a commercial-size woodworking shop, set up an assembly line and produce the same toy with each of the members participating. This past year they produced a toy bulldozer, and there were 125 of them when they were painted and ready to go. This is very good for a Guild of their size, and comparatively, a Guild of our size turns out 1,440 toys. The Guilds are doing their job. This report was in the AMERICAN WOODWORKER, February 1998 issue.

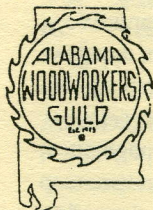
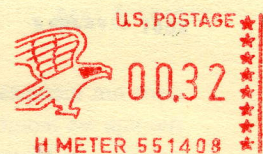


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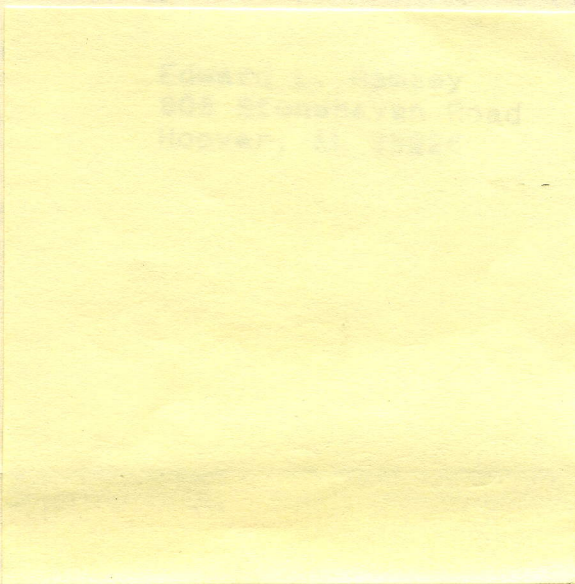
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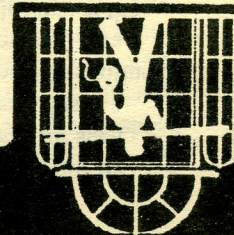
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