

Guild News

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APRIL 1998

President's Letter

Wow! How time flies when you're having fun—and we did have fun at our last meeting in the safe and warm confines of the Riverside Baptist Church (located in back of Ronnie's shop). We really appreciate Ronnie arranging for us to meet there on a real cold night. The program was great also, as we gained a better understanding of how those big, beautiful rocking chairs we see on folks front porch are constructed.

Seems show and tell is getting better and more interesting each month. Remember, there is nothing too large or small to bring in and show your fellow woodworker. Few of us are professionals; therefore, we're interested in your designs and creations.

I'm really sorry we were unable to get the number of toy wheels we requested. The suppliers said they were overwhelmed with request. We tried—besides I guess beggars really can't be choosy!

Don't forget the show in August. We hope this will be the biggest and best show ever. You folks are the ones to make that possible. So get in your shop and build something special for the show. We're working on more publicity through local TV and newspaper. We'll keep you informed of our progress in this area.

Our May Guild meeting is shaping up as a fun evening for members, family and friends. Free food and drinks (provided by the Guild) and an opportunity to get your hands on those

DeWalt tools you see advertised so much. DeWalt representatives will also be there to answer any questions we have about their products.

I continue to be impressed with the amount of interest you folks show in the Guild. Your interest is reflected in the number of visitors you bring to the meeting and the number of new members we have. Thank you!

See you April 2.

Dan

Next Program - April 9, 1998

So you think you are pretty macho and know all there is to know about running machinery? Hold everything! Dianne Stanton, Rockford, Alabama is our program this month. Here is a girl who makes furniture for a living which means she runs machinery, manhandles material and rubs a finish with the best of us. This should be a fine program, so come, bring your wife (or, girl friend) and let's have a really fine meeting.

Last Program— March 1998

Thanks to Charlie Ard, we had the pleasure of Lane Latham and his lovely wife as our program. Lane is a professional rocking chair, and stools, maker. His home and shop are in Chilton County (down amongst the peaches) and his shop away from home is in Tannehill Park, where during the warm months of the year he

plies his trade making and selling oak rocking chairs. I know most of you have seen that row of rocking chairs on the porch of Cracker Barrel, well that is the kind of chairs he makes. He has been at it for 29 years. He utilizes red oak and ash as his primary material which he buys in green form and dries it himself. The leg posts are turned on his lathe and the rockers and arms are bandsawn to shape. He has devised a drilling jig to place the holes in the legs precisely in the right and same place every time. He also turns the stretchers, which are just large dowels. Any tenoning that has to be done is also done on the band saw. Where the leg tenon is joined with the arm, he pushes it through the arm and puts a wedge in the tenon. He uses Titebond II where glue is required. As for the woven back and seat he uses rattan which he buys ready to use, soaks it until properly wet, and then begins the weaving. When it dries it shrinks thus making the back and seat properly tightened. The chairs are finished with an exterior gloss varnish and when satisfied they meet his expectations, he sells them for about \$300. We enjoyed having him with us.

Alabama Woodturners Association

Our own Nelson Brooks conceived and has started this Association which is the 111th such chapter in the U.S. It is affiliated

with the American Association of Woodturners which was begun about 12 years ago, and there are several of our GUILD members who are members of the National group. As you might expect, since Nelson started it he was elected President. They are meeting the second Saturday of each month at THUSTON SAW WORKS at 9:00 AM. The thrust of the programs and all comments are directed toward more and better woodturning. They already have some 40 members and we, the Guild members, are invited to attend and join. They need \$25 a year to cover their newsletter and its mailing.

Sanctification

If ever there was a GUILD that should feel sanctified it is ours. The cold weather that greeted us on the evening of our last meeting would have proved too cold for us to hold our meeting in the moulding plant (which has no heat), so Ronnie Acton decreed we would meet in the space he is renting to Riverside Baptist Church until they complete their new building. There we were, a bunch of woodworkers in our warmest clothing sitting on oaken pews facing the altar at which stood President Dan Browning at the podium. There was a tendency on the part of the membership to "hold it down" a little more than unusual. It was such a splendid gesture on Ronnie's part and we appreciate it.

Woodworking Class

You will recall we started a class in January of members interested in learning to make a workbench a la Fred style. Fred, of

course, is Fred Baker and his co-host to the students is Mike Key. They have ten hardworking students and it isn't just that they are learning how to make a workbench, they are learning how to make joints and a host of other usable procedures. Some of them have started their own bench at home utilizing what they have learned at class on Saturday mornings at THUSTON'S. We very much appreciate Fred and Mike doing this for the Guild.

Rubbertired Wheels

It is alleged, by the President, we will be receiving a shipment of 1 1/4" rubber tired wheels from some source (possibly outer space) which will be available to us, the members, for use in our toy commitments. This may come to fruition at some distant time in the future so be prepared in case it does.

Library

There is speculation that at some distant time in the future there will be wheels put on our library cabinet so as to make it possible to roll it into our meeting room on meeting nights, thus making it easier to peruse the library. If something pops up that the member can't do without, it may be checked out right then. Kidding aside, we do have a multitude of books and periodicals available to the members but due to the location of the library cabinet, it is inconvenient to get to. Consequently, many of us have missed out on the use of the publications which can and will make our learning to be better

woodworkers much easier. Be looking for the mobile library very soon.

Field Trips

All down through the history of our GUILD we have taken field trips so as to see how the other half does their woodwork. There are two such trips, possibly three, coming up. The first is to Dean Black's in April or May, so be alert to any announcement about that one. The second, though not confirmed yet, is to Folmar Woodworks. Mr. Folmar has been a friend to us, the Guild, by giving us scraps to make toys. He has a specialty shop that makes architectural windows, doors and anything else they dream up for him. The third, not confirmed yet is a trip to Atlanta. There is an international woodworking machinery show there each year, and we have rented a bus and attended it several times. It is a huge show and it is almost impossible to see it all in one day, but that will be our goal. We probably will leave Birmingham around 6:00 in the AM and get back around 7:00 PM. More about these field trips later.

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.

Show and Tell

We had only one presenter, Dale Lewis. It made it all worth while to see his CD rack. What a rack. It stands some five feet tall, is the width (inside) of a CD container and has a door that opens to reveal between 20 and 30 shelves. It is made of tiger maple, cherry and walnut. The door has a half moon turned to the left, and the back has a half moon turned to the right. The knob for the door is in the shape of a heart and is a piece of maple dyed red. Dale says the knob has to be a red heart because "A Gentle Heart Opens All Doors" and you can't argue with that. Thanks for sharing your beautiful work with us, Dale.

Toys for the Children

Our toys Guru, Pete Jenson continues to inspire us to make toys for him to distribute to the several needy places he frequents. In addition to Children's Hospital, who has need of our services almost year 'round, we now have a new entity we should give serious consideration. You may recall we had at the February meeting a representative of Kid One Transport in the person of Russell Jackson. This venture was begun a couple of years ago by Mr. Jackson using his own car and has now expanded to three cars. If there is an indigent child somewhere in Metropolitan Birmingham who needs a ride to the doctor or hospital, Kid One Transport may be called. Your board, meeting in executive session this month, decided we should do something to help this cause along. The decision was to implore our members to make toys and bring to the

meetings to give to Pete so he may deliver them to Mr. Jackson. Russell confirms it would be wonderful if he had a toy to hand to each child he picks up for transport. What about it? Think we can make a few toys all along the year for this purpose? It is not intended that we abandon Children's Hospital, rather to add Kid One Transport to our list. Bring 'em in y'all.

The 1998 Show

We don't want to pound on you unnecessarily but due to new members coming in every month and the "old" members forgetting how time can slip up on them, we want to keep you reminded that the show this year will be in August and will be held at the Hoover Library. This facility will afford us greater exposure to the viewing public than most of our recent places. You are encouraged, no, commanded, to undertake a project of your choosing and enter it in competition with your peers. The competition is pretty rigorous but on a friendly basis and all in good fun and sport. Most anything you want to make will fit into the several categories we have: traditional and/or contemporary furniture; inlay work; turned objects; toys; tools; cigar humidors; carvings; walking sticks; tool boxes; and most anything else you can think of. In each category there is a level of experience—Advanced, Intermediate and Beginning. You are judged on the level in which you place yourself. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd places awarded Blue, Red and White ribbons in each category. Have some fun and enter. You don't want to wait too long, however, because August will be here before you know it.

Hauling Plywood

We are sure you have seen a TV commercial in which a customer at a lumber/building materials establishment has driven his convertible to pick up a sheet of plywood. The solution the plywood dealer comes up with to get a sheet of plywood in a convertible is absolutely hilarious—they cut a hole in the plywood for the man's head to protrude through, and the sheet is lowered over his head and scotched under the dashboard and off he drives. If you haven't seen the commercial, watch for it.

Walnut and Pecan Lumber

So you have always wanted an inventory of these two hard woods. If you will call Mr. J. G. Green at 854-3664, he will tell you about some 900 BF of walnut and 450 BF of pecan he has for sale. He will tell you where and when he will show it to you and entertain your bid or offer.

Late Flash on Wheels

We reported earlier in this newsletter about an alleged distribution of ghost-like rubber tired wheels that might be forthcoming, some 2,000 in number. The latest flash is the wheels have arrived, not 2,000 but 400 wheels, and the method the loot will be divided up will be disclosed at the April meeting. Keep tuned for the latest flash.



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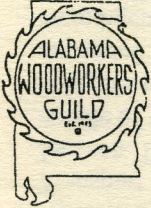
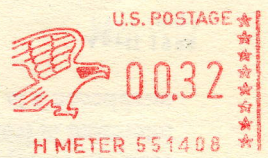
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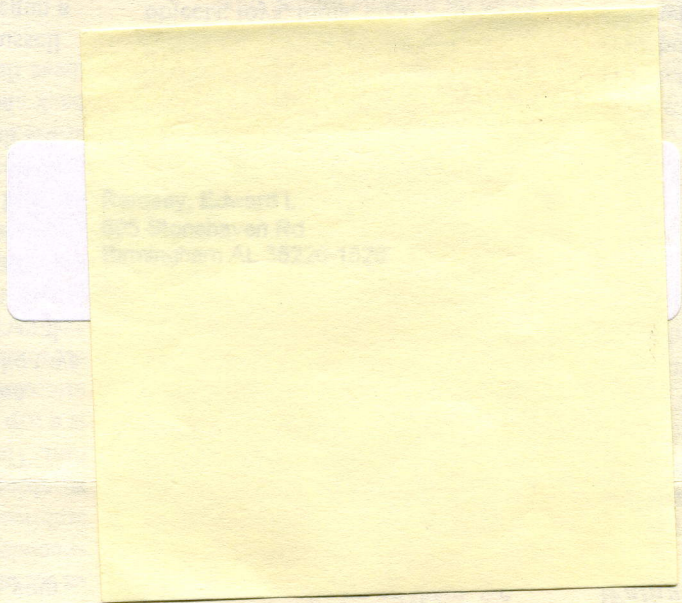
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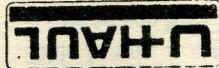
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