

# GuildNews

VOLUME XIX

NUMBER 4

APRIL 2000

## *President's Message*

I'm really excited about the Windsor Chair Seminar scheduled for June 24th. This should be a great weekend for all who plan to attend. (There is more detailed information about the seminar elsewhere in the newsletter.) In addition to the seminar we have some other great things planned for the year. For example, the demonstration at the Whistle Stop Craft Show, a continuation of our members' shop tours (this always is a favorite), toys workshops for those of you wanting to learn toy making or to simply step up your activity, and a silent auction (May). All of this activity takes time and effort on someone's part—so, if you want to help let one of the board members know.

Our shop co-chairmen are continuing to search for a location suitable for this year's show. The Hoover Library construction project is simply not going to be finished in time for our show. The library folks as well as the Guild are disappointed about this but such is progress. We certainly plan to return to the library next year.

See you April 13<sup>th</sup>!

*Dan*

*Next Program—  
April 13, 2000 • 6:30 PM*

The name Kerry McCalla will ring a bell with those of you who have been members since 1991, the year Kerry was transferred to

Nashville by BellSouth. He not only is a skilled wood craftsman who won ribbons at our show every year, but he is a collector of tools, principally antique tools. He always brought at least one of his collection to our meetings and challenged us to identify the tool and its use. There is a rumor that his collection had grown to such proportions he would have to add a room or dig a deeper basement to house them all. He had shallow boxes slid under their beds and his closets were bulging. A thoroughly likeable fellow, he will absolutely fascinate you with his knowledge of tools and their uses. All of this thanks to Charley Ard.

## *Last Program—March 2000*

The GUILD was treated to an absolutely thrilling and intriguing and fascinating program. All of this was possible only because the speaker was our own extremely talented Leonard Sanders. His subject was spiral candlesticks, that, if done right bring forth some lovely cork screw spindles in the candlesticks. The method used to accomplish the swirling body is with the use of masking tape stretched in a spiral up the body of the candlestick in rows about one-half inch apart. Thus the spiral is formed, and there only remains the task of carving the spirals. Using a dovetail saw, a groove is cut to the depth desired between the spirals of masking tape, after which the masking tape is removed and the

carving begins. The use of chisels and files hog out the worst of the waste, and the filing is followed by a generous amount of sanding. Starting with 80 grit, then 100, then 240, then 400 and finished off with steel wool. Your favorite finish can then be applied. We used gel stain and it worked fine—Bartley's Pennsylvania Cherry on mahogany. Hope you enjoyed it.

## *Kudos*

It was very much appreciated that Les Wilson brought to the March meeting a case of scratch pads and pencils, both carpenter's and regular. Thanks, Les. Then we are indebted to those members who build the desks that fit on the arm rests of wheel chairs at Children's Hospital. These desks make it possible for those children bound to a wheel chair to be able to paint things, play games and anything the other children can do except walk and run. You members involved in this endeavor are appreciated by the GUILD and the Hospital.

## *Woodworking Class*

Mike Key and Fred Baker undertook to be instructors back in January, and the class has been going ever since. An inquiry was made of the instructors as to when the class would end. The answer came back that it would

end when and if the table is ever completed. We are betting it will be soon.

## *Toy Workshops and Open Houses*

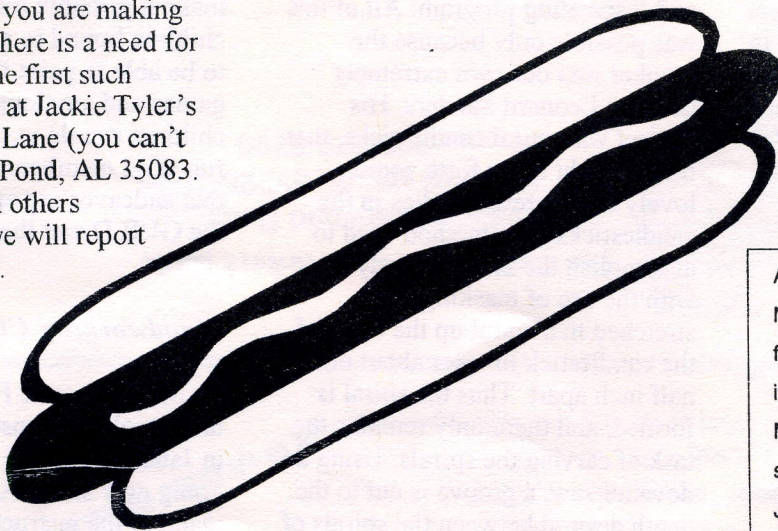
It has been decided to combine these two endeavors and save a little wear and tear on the membership. There was enthusiastic response to continuing our open houses. (What is it? The goodies or just something to do?) Seriously, the open houses have proved to be an interesting time spent on a Saturday morning when you can see what kind of tools the person has, how he has arranged them and generally what he makes with them. Last year all the open houses were well attended, and the comradeship together with the refreshments brought out the citizens. Now add to that the making of toys for the Children's Hospital, and you have a worthwhile program going on a Saturday morning. We continually remind you that there is a need for toys all year long, and while lots of you are making the interim toys there is a need for more of them. The first such gathering will be at Jackie Tyler's house, 132 Love Lane (you can't beat that), Holly Pond, AL 35083. There are several others scheduled, and we will report them in due time.

## *Hot Dogs and a Silent Auction*

Both these undertakings are a lot of fun. Who doesn't like hot dogs? Hardly anyone. After supper of the 'dogs, then the silent auction will be conducted. Now all of these two functions will be in M A Y, 2000, not April. Start looking around your home, garage and basement, wherever your supplies, timber and tools are located, and determine which of these could be disposed of without crippling your operation. Maybe you have a tool you haven't used in a year or more—well put it in the silent auction, the money therefrom and buy another tool you really want or need. Everyone benefits from the sale of a tool, or whatever—the buyer and the seller. There will be more about this in the May GUILD NEWS.

## *Windsor Chair Making Seminar*

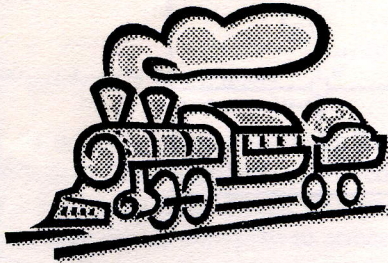
We have contracted with David Wright of Berea, Kentucky, to conduct a one-day seminar on Windsor Chair making. The date for the seminar is June 24, 2000. David has a degree from Berea College and Eastern Kentucky University, but is mostly self-taught when it comes to Windsor Chair making. David has been building Windsor chairs for 14 years. He has been featured in *Home Furniture*, *Woodwork*, *American Woodworkers*, and *American Woodturners* magazines. We are really fortunate to have a nationally acclaimed chair-maker coming to Birmingham. This should be a very interesting seminar. The cost will be \$50.00 per person with a limit of 30 participants. If you are interested in attending . . . we'll begin preparing a list of those who wish to attend and will collect the fee at the April 13 Guild Meeting.



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second Thursday at 6:30 PM at  
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*Whistlestop Arts and Crafts—Irondale*

This has been mentioned a couple of times recently, and now



the time has come to fish or cut bait. If you are interested in doing a demonstration at the fair, and quite a few of you indicated you are, you need to call Harold Phillips at 424-0819 and get the details of the procedures to be followed. You need to make your willingness to volunteer known by at least the April meeting.

*The Show*

Jack Perry, who has been our guru on this project for several years, reported we are in a heap of trouble with respect to having our show at the Hoover Library. They are remodeling the Library, and it doesn't look like it will be completed until late in the year, and late in the year is too late for us. If anyone knows of a suitable place, please let Dan know. We are almost desperate for a place. This is the first time in a few years we didn't have a place sown up by this time of year. Don't worry, there will be a SHOW.

*Ben Erickson—  
Eutaw, Alabama*

It was certainly a surprise to receive a letter from Ben in which he says he has found few things in life that can compare with the satisfaction of putting the final coat of finish on a piece of handcrafted furniture, then standing back to admire a job well done. He goes on, that is one reason he has enjoyed judging the GUILD's annual show over the years, which he did in 1992 and 1997. He says that in one afternoon he could vicariously (his word) enjoy that same feeling through each member's unique creation. Now he has written a novel entitled "A Parting Gift." If his book is as well done as his window shutters (which he demonstrated at a seminar for us), it will be a good book. He is



scheduled for book signings in the Birmingham area: The Little Professor Book Center, Homewood, May 23 from 12 - 2 PM; and Barnes & Noble (Summit) Sunday, June 4 at 2 PM. Those of you who know or remember Ben will surely want to get one of his books.

*Show and Tell*

This is always an interesting part of our meetings. Our members have made something and are willing to show us and they are always received with enthusiasm. With thanks, last month we had the following:

- |             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Earl Mann   | A carved cross                       |
| Ben Landrum | Two fish in intarsia<br>(look it up) |
| Buddy Finch | Scroll saw cutout<br>(circular)      |
| Mel Brown   | Two barrister file<br>cabinets       |



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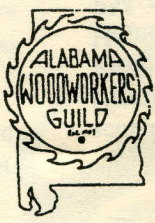
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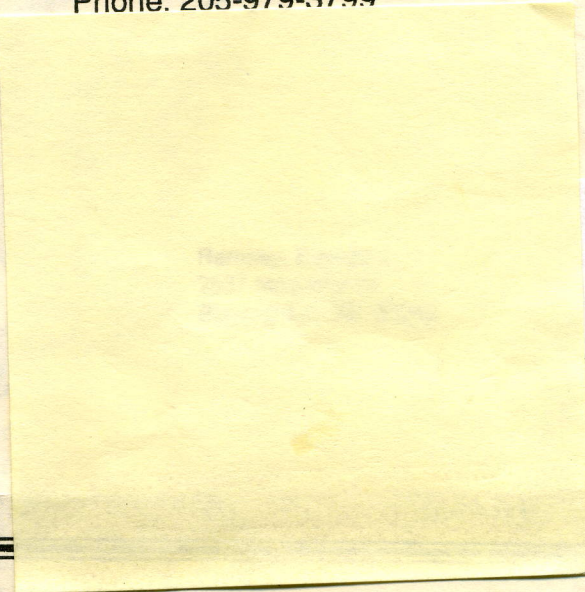


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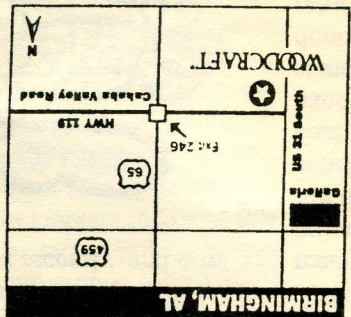
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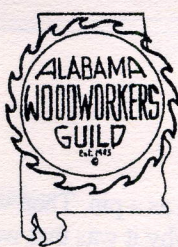
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# Guild News

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NUMBER 5

MAY 2000

**May 11, 2000  
at 6:30 PM**

## **Hot Dog Supper**

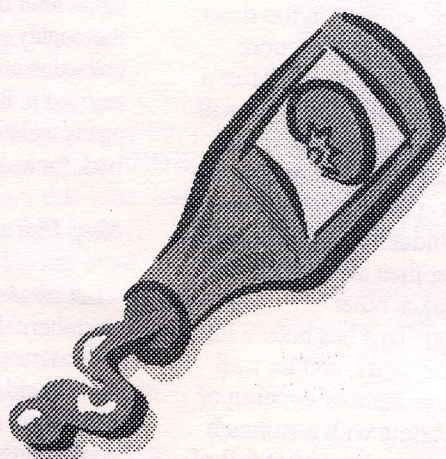
**and Silent Auction**

We have been talking about the HOT DOG SUPPER for a couple of months, and now it has arrived. It is time to round up all the wives and "chillun" and make a bee line for Thuston's. A couple of our guys will be

cooking the 'dogs after which they (the 'dogs) will be eaten

usually expected to go with hot dogs. This has been an annual affair much enjoyed by everyone so try not to miss it. Where else can you get all the hot dogs and trimmings you want for nothing?

along with all the trimmings



## *President's Message*

**THIS IS THE SPACE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN USED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER HAD THE PRESIDENT WRITTEN ONE.**

## *Silent Auction*

This also has been alluded to in previous GUILD NEWS, and now its time has arrived. This is a lot of fun. Circle your shop a few times and each time you make the circle look for tools, supplies or material you don't need, haven't used (tools) in a long time and don't expect to use. This is the time to make some room in your shop for better maneuverability, new tools or new supply of material. There is an expression that one man's trash is another man's treasure. You just never know unless you offer the unwanted or unneeded "stuff" in your shop. The way it works: You bring your stuff to the meeting with an idea of the least amount you will accept for the item. After finding a place on the table, you place a bid sheet (furnished by the Guild) beside the item on which you write the minimum you will accept. The bidder examines the item, decides how much he is willing to pay for it and writes that amount on the sheet. The next bidder may offer more than the last one, and so on. After a reasonable time, the auctioneer will declare the silent auction over and begin the process of announcing the winning bid on each item. It is up to the winning bidder to settle his debt with the seller then and there (unless he makes other arrangements). This has been a lot of fun over the years, and let's all look forward to another evening of fun. You go home with a stomach full of hot dogs and a pocket full of money or a new tool.

## *Last Program—April 2000*

What a joy it was to welcome Kerry McCalla back to one of our meetings and also his wife Lynn, without whom he would be nothing. Kerry was a charter member and an active member some eight years before he moved to Nashville with BellSouth. We enjoyed his practice of bringing an antique tool to each meeting and stumping us many times as to what it was. He began his extensive collection around 1973 and over the years he has used the walls of his home, the space under the beds, the closets, a newly dug basement and anywhere else he could find to store and exhibit his collection. He has some 700 antique tools and belongs to organizations who promote antique tool collecting. Some of the tools he showed us were Braces, like wooden braces with brass plates to strengthen the weak places; Scot's metal brace; gentlemen's brace from England; a Dutch brace; a Welsh brace; moulding plane circa 18th and 19th centuries; blind man's rule (large numbers and letters); a folding rule with braille; hand plane with wooden bottom from 1876; pipe organ tuning tool; French spokeshave; stairmaker spokeshave; and some books on antique tool collecting. It was obvious by the questions and the huddling around the tables after the meeting that Kerry thoroughly enjoyed talking about his collection and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. It was great to see him again, and hopefully he will come back for another visit some time.

## *Shop Visit*

Let us assure you that visiting our members' home shops is a learning experience. The open house Jack Tyler held at his home in Holly Pond was outstanding. Upon first look it didn't look like any woodworking was done in there—

it was clean as a pin. Then we found out why it was that way—Judy had supervised the cleanup. He began by building a double garage at the end of his driveway. A single double door closes and opens giving access to the shop. Among the tools and accessories he has are: Shopsmith, planer, jointer, drum sander, drill press, radial arm saw, band saw, scroll saw, router table, lathe, dust collector, grinding station, air compressor, morticer, numerous hand tools and power hand tools, a Norm Abrams workbench, racks for lumber, all arranged in a manner for easy access and use. It was a fine shop and a fine visit and we recommend you try and visit the next one. Thanks Jack for a fine effort.

## *Woodworking Class*

If you remember, Mike Key and Fred Baker started a class in woodworking in January, and at the April meeting they announced they had completed the farm/kitchen table they had been working on. It was finished with wipe-on polyurethane and it is a splendid job. Bo Thuston gets the table so don't get any ideas otherwise.

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**Door Prizes**

Please note the word prize is plural—prizes, not prize. That is because we now have two such prizes. Bo Thuston gives one and WOODCRAFT gives one. One was won by Buddy Webb and the second by Mike Key. We appreciate these two fine businesses giving the door prizes each month.

**Whistle Stop Craft Show**

Please make your plans to participate in this show, but if you can't at least attend and support our members who are participating. The known demonstrators are Jim Caldwell, Charles Ard, Fred Baker, Frank Jones and Mike Key. This show is in Irondale and there will be maps at our next meeting for your convenience. Our members will be demonstrating on the lathe, with a router or scroll saw, and you can't beat that with a stick.

**International W.W. Show**

This show is one our Guild attended several years ago. Inquiry has been made, and we can lease a full-size bus for a day to transport us to Atlanta and back. We will be asking for a commitment from you at the May meeting so we can determine if we can afford the bus. It should take only \$30 for the bus and an admittance fee of \$10 when we get there. If you haven't ever attended such a show you will be thoroughly overcome at the sight of some of the equipment and supplies on display. It is a day of awesome experiences and a memory you will never forget. Those of us who have been before want to go back so we may relive what we did and saw the

last time. Please give this serious consideration. The show is being held August 24 - 27, and we will probably go on Friday the 25th.

**Windsor Chair Making Seminar**

We are taking the liberty of reprinting the squib furnished by Pres. Dan last month. Here it is: We have contracted with David Wright of Berea, Kentucky, to conduct a one-day seminar on Windsor Chair making. The date for the seminar is June 24th. David has a degree from Berea College and Eastern Kentucky University, but is mostly self-taught when it comes to Windsor chair making. David has been building Windsor chairs for 14 years. He has been featured in *Home Furniture*, *Woodwork*, *American Woodworker*, and *American Woodturners* magazines. We are really fortunate to have a nationally acclaimed chair-maker coming to Birmingham. This should be a very interesting seminar. The cost will be \$50 per person with a limit of 30 participants. If you are interested, this is your last chance to get on the bandwagon. Please bring your \$50 to the May meeting and give it to Charles Yerby and your spot will be secured. The seminar will be held at Thuston's.

**The Show**

Please don't be discouraged by our losing out on having our SHOW at the Hoover Library this year. Jack Perry assures us we will have a show somewhere. He has been in contact with several places, but nothing firm has been arranged as yet. If you remember the Hoover Library is undergoing a renovation, and the area where we have our show is demolished and won't be

ready until November. We think that is too late in the year. If you know of a place where the lighting is good and the air conditioning is good and the price is right (free), please let Jack know. In the meantime please be about making your show entries with the same enthusiasm you always have, and you will be ready when the place is found.

**Show and Tell**

Three interesting pieces this month. A French mantle top made from solid Walnut about 12' long with Fleur-de-Lis and other carvings on the face of it, weighing 90 lbs. and made by Paul Mancill. John Powell had a Noah's Ark with targets of holes for the purpose of throwing beanie babies at the holes was of great interest. Jim Anchors brought a Marketry piece he had made of 9 pieces of wood cut into 50 pieces all arranged appropriately. Nice work men—do it again.

**Ten Commandments of Woodworking**

- Thou shalt not touch my mess.
- Thou shalt not give advice unless asked.
- Thou shalt not gripe about how long something is taking.
- Thou shalt not covet my tools.
- Thou shalt not interrupt a master craftsman at work.
- Thou shalt offer praise and encouragement often.
- Thou shalt not give me but one project at a time.
- Thou shalt honor my original plans.
- Thou shalt observe the metric system and keep it near.
- Thou shalt give all the glory to God, provider of all talents.



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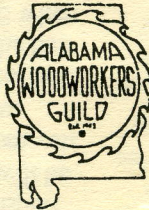
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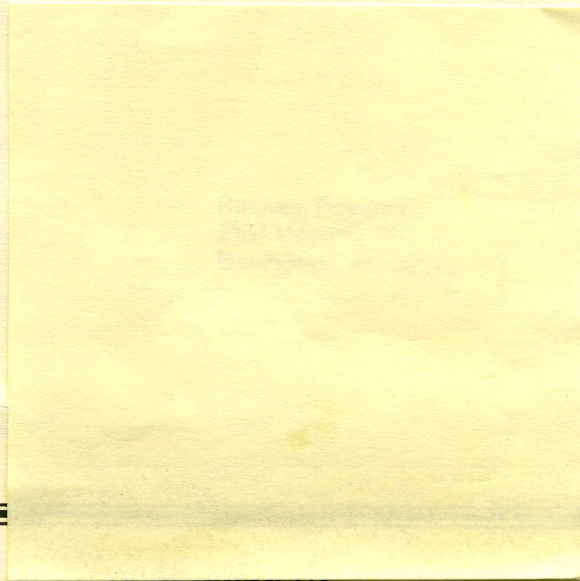
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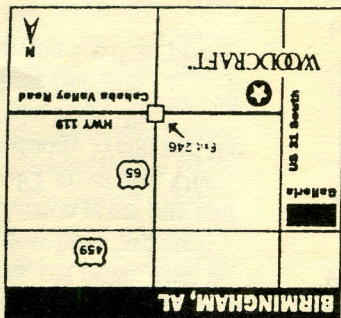


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