



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

My Fellow Woodbutchers,

Our second year is quickly underway. The membership renewals are already half of last year's membership and I realize a lot of you have still not sent your membership forms in for this year. We have also picked up quite a few new members. It looks as though this will be a tremendous year for AWWG. Those of you who have not yet sent in your membership forms please do so as soon as possible. We need the information on the forms to put programs and committees together.

I would like to give you an outlook on what we plan to do this year.

1) A lot of publicity. We have ordered posters to be placed all over town that will tell about the Guild. We are also going to have radio and newspaper advertising and we hope to also have some TV time.

2) Field trips. We are going to make trips around the state to visit places and people of interest to us. Our first field trip is Saturday, March 17. We will be visiting a sawmill operation (see further details in the newsletter). I have also talked to Craig Nutt about going to Northport to visit his shop. We will be going there later this spring. We are looking for other places to go so if you know of any, please let us know. We will also be setting up shop tours among our members to see how their shops are set up and any special jigs or tricks they use.

3) Various woodworking courses and hands-on seminars. We are presently setting up 3 woodworking courses, Basic and Advanced Woodworking to be taught by David Traylor and Richard Gilbert, and Clockbuilding to be taught by Spruce McRee. (More details in the newsletter.) We are trying to contact Ian Kirby and Tage Frid to see if there is any possibility of bringing them to Birmingham. We would also like to have Craig Nutt back for a seminar. We have already contacted

Shopsmith about giving a class for us but as of yet have not had a reply.

4) Shows. Our first show for this year is April 21 to be held at the Sloss Furnace. I hope most of you plan to enter. The Sloss Furnace will be doing a lot of publicity about the show and it would be terribly embarrassing if we did not have a good turnout. If you wish, re-enter what you made for our last show. There will be a new set of judges. Please make plans to enter. We will also be planning other shows throughout the year.

As you can see we have a busy year planned. We hope to have something of interest for each and every one of you. We have a lot of plans and a lot of energy but we need one more thing. We need YOU! You are what AWWG is all about. If you come and participate I'll personally guarantee your time and money's worth. See you in March.

Spruce McRee

FIELD TRIP...

Saturday, March 17.
Wilsonville, the home and shop of Jerry Willis.

To see a sawmill in operation and to see hand-made lathe and bandsaw. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at Pelham High School and will leave at 9:30 A.M. sharp! Bring your lunch — Guild will provide softdrinks. Don't come if it is raining.

THANKS RONNIE!

We really appreciate your generous hospitality for our last meeting. As usual you made it well worth our time for turning out. Thanks to your staff for a job well done and especially to Brenda Sue and Louise for the delicious snacks. We had a head count of 91.

NEXT MEETING...

The guest speaker this month will be Jim Rittman of Rockford, Alabama. Jim is a fulltime woodworker who specializes in lathe turnings and contemporary design furniture. Unlike most of the fulltime woodworkers, Jim's work is done primarily on speculation and sold at juried craft shows throughout the south. Jim will talk with us about laminating for turning and large panel construction. This should be a very informative meeting so plan to attend.

The meeting will be back at Pelham High School. The meeting begins at 7:00 P.M.

All officers and the Executive Committee will meet before the regularly scheduled meeting at 6:15 P.M. Please be prompt in that our time is limited.

NEED A LITTLE CLASS?

Three woodworking courses coming:

1. Clockbuilding

Starts March 16 — Friday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 for 6 weeks. Spruce McRee's shop — 512 Canterbury Road, Pelham. Limit 10 people. Cost \$25 plus cost of materials. Each person will build a clock. This is a course for intermediate or advanced woodworkers.

2. Basic Woodworking

Details will be announced soon.

3. Advanced Woodworking

Details will be announced soon.

If you are interested in any of these classes, please mail this coupon to P.O. Box 327, Pelham, Alabama 35124. All classes will be limited. Attendees will be admitted on a first come - first serve basis.

I am interested in taking:

- Clockbuilding
 Basic Woodworking
 Advanced Woodworking

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

THE PEN'S POINT...

Members:

Your newsletter is growing and getting more attention. Along with our Guild, the newsletter is "growing up" a little, too. We have some ambitious plans to make the newsletter something with useful content which you'd be really proud of. As Spruce said in his letter, we need help from you Guild members. We need people to help solicit advertisements from local tool and supplies vendors, cabinetmakers, hardware stores and the like. The Guild is organizing an advertisement committee. We'd like you to spend an hour or two a month to help sell an ad for the Guild. If you wish to become involved in this or any other activity, see Spruce McRee or myself.

We also need people to contact other clubs and national magazines to obtain permission to reprint their articles and suggestions. To boost membership and interest in the community, we will be printing posters with our logo on it to be distributed to various vendors, advertisers and other retail outlets. These projects along with contacting the media with public service announcements need some volunteers as well.

Before working on this newsletter, I had never done anything like this before. I have learned so much and met so many great folks by simply getting involved. I'm sure glad I did. How about you?

If you decide to give us a hand, just let me know.

Larry Aaron
Newsletter Editor and
Publicity Committee Chairman

LOOKING BACK...

—Last month's meeting was held at Acton Moulding & Millwork. All attendees of the Guild and the Homebuilders Association saw a tape on the techniques of building a fine, finished staircase. Ronnie Acton provided snacks and beverages.

—Several members brought samples of finished woodworking projects. This is always a welcomed practice.

—At the officers' meeting we launched a campaign to draw new members. Posters are being printed promoting our Guild to the Birmingham community. They will be posted in tool supply, hardware and paint stores as well as various public locations. Do your part and spread the news about the Alabama Woodworkers Guild.

—Radio and television stations have been sent a press release telling about our Guild. We hope they will make an announcement about our meetings. We will try our best to keep them updated with developments to increase our visibility in the community.

—The Vundervise is available from the Guild at a discount price. See Spruce McRee, III for information on the vise with the price.

—Finally, the Guild is now part of the Alabama Crafts Council. This will help the Guild as promoting the arts in Birmingham.

—Be proud of your Guild.

HAZARD PAY...

SHOP SAFETY by James Ross, M.D.

The thought of losing fingers motivates most of us to take certain precautions in our woodworking endeavors. There never was a more clear and present danger than the site of a sharp blade driven at 3450 RPM by a two or three horsepower motor. However, I would like to address a woodshop danger far less obvious but potentially much more serious. The sawdust that smells so good could ultimately lead to an untimely death from cancer.

Our airways provide protection from airborne particles in several ways. Nasal hairs filter the largest particles. The upper airway is covered with a mucinous material in which many of the smaller particles are trapped and this sputum is moved upward and we cough it out. The few remaining foreign particles are generally so small that they stay suspended in the air breathed in and go back out as we breathe out. However, particles between 10 and 20 microns in diameter tend to lodge in the alveoli (where oxygen and carbon dioxide are exchanged) and small defense cells called *macrophages* try to engulf and digest these particles. However, wood particles are particularly difficult to break down so the macrophage with the wood particle in it just sits there for a long, long time causing some local irritation. It is this type of chronic irritation that some physicians feel causes certain types of cancer.

This is why woodworkers are particularly prone to developing lung and nasal cancer. It has been very difficult to assess the increased risk of developing lung cancer among woodworkers but the risk is perhaps 10 times as great among woodworkers as it is for non-woodworkers. However, the risk of developing nasal cancer is nearly 1,000 times as great in woodworkers! There just aren't that many of us involved in woodworking but 4 out of 5 people who develop nasopharyngeal cancer are woodworkers. The fact that this type of cancer is usually curable should not relieve us too much. The cure generally involves surgically removing a significant portion of the face!

Another less life threatening danger involves asthma brought on by development of allergy because of repeated exposure to the dust. Many of us may ultimately develop chronic lung disease due to other causes (usually cigarette smoking). If we develop allergies to the sawdust, it would prevent any

further woodworking perhaps at a time when we were becoming proficient in the craft.

So how can these maladies be prevented? Simply by wearing a dust mask which is properly designed. I own several respirators and dust masks. The two I bought at Sears are inadequate in that they do not seal around the face. The best that I have found so far is a Devilbiss dust mask obtained at the Sherwin Williams commercial store at 1501 Third Avenue South. The cost was around \$20. The mask is fairly comfortable and provides excellent visibility. I know it was worth the trouble and money every time I blow my nose after working in the shop.

OFFICERS...

President:
Spruce McRee, III (663-9453)

1st Vice President:
Richard Gilbert (923-4022)

2nd Vice President:
David Traylor (822-1044)

Secretary:
Spruce McRee, Jr. (871-0237)

Treasurer:
Billy Lee (663-7045)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

Chris Lorish (823-0098) James Ross (969-3925)

Ronnie Acton (663-0130) Larry Aaron (959-7844)

Jim Stevens (987-0975) Kerry McCalla (967-4556)

Tom Godfryd (969-2617)

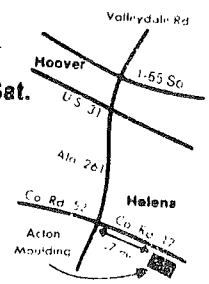
We invite you to come see
a unique and versatile

WOODWORKERS SUPPLY STORE

for the carpenter, contractor
and woodworker, with a
Professional approach in mind

Mouldings, Stairparts
Lumber, Plywood, Hardware
tools, Books for the trade

Acton
Moulding & Millwork
6 to 4:30 M.-F. — 7:30-12 Sat.
County Road 17
Helena, Al. 35080
1-205-663-0130



AN ABRASIVE SUBJECT...

This article is a continuation of a series of articles on wood finishing reprinted with permission of Mohawk Finishing Products, Inc.

PAPER & CLOTH BACKING

Of equal importance to the abrasives being used, is the backing to which the abrasive has been applied either by a form of gluing or electrostatic deposition. The more common backing designators are as listed below:

a. *Paper Backing* — A special quality paper that is used in various thicknesses called weights which are usually designated by an alphabetical letter. (1) "A" Weight — pliable and soft and is used with the finer grits of abrasives for finish sanding; (2) C & D Weight — thicker and more durable than the "A" weight. Used with the coarser grits of abrasives for production sanding; (3) E Weight — the heavy weight paper used primarily for machine sanding.

b. *Cloth Backing* — Specially made and treated for use with abrasives. It is also designated by alphabetical letters. (1) J Weight — lightweight cloth, normally used as a backing for emery cloth or polishing cloths, also used on the finer abrasive grits on abrasive papers designated Wet or Dry; (2) X Weight — a heavyweight cloth used primarily in machine sanding operations.

Terrific shirts & caps

The Guild still has a few ball caps and T-shirts for sale with the Guild logo on it. If you haven't seen them yet, they look really sharp. You can purchase them at the next meeting. Only \$5 for caps and \$6 for shirts. Wear yours to the next meeting.

CRAFTSMAN'S CORNER...

1. To circumscribe and inscribe a circle about a square.

In the figure, draw the diagonals AB and CB intersecting at E. With a radius EA, circumscribe the circle. To inscribe a circle, draw a perpendicular from the center (as just found) to one side of the square, as line OM. With radius OM, inscribe the circle.

2. To circumscribe a square about a circle.

In the figure, draw diameters MS and LF at right angles to each other. At points M, L, S, and F, where these diameters intersect the circle, draw tangents, that is, lines perpendicular to the diameters, obtaining the sides of the circumscribed square ABCD.

3. Here's the solution to an old problem — the marring of a wood surface by a hammer when nailing a fastener. To prevent the mars, dents and scars slip the nail through a hole in a small piece of pegboard. Now when you nail, the pegboard gets hammered — not your masterpiece.

SLICE OF LIFE...

Communication is often the subject of a joke or two. Since good communication is important in the fine art of woodworking this little anecdote between a shop teacher and a young student teaches us to listen carefully.

STUDENT: "What are those holes in the wood?"

TEACHER: "They're knotholes."

STUDENT: "If they're not holes, then what are they?"

SHOW OFF...

It's time to get those saws humming and those chips flying! Because the show date has been set for Saturday, April 21. This year the show will be held in the welcome center at the newly renovated Sloss Furnace. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to become better known in the Birmingham and surrounding areas. So if you don't have a project ready, dust off one of your old ones and bring it.

The show will be judged in several categories and levels of expertise. Prizes will be awarded.

This show is during tourist season so we should get a good turnout from within the community and outside as well.

Our show last year was a rousing success but Richard Gilbert, who is heading up this committee, has done a lot of work to make *this show even better.*

If you'd like additional information or would like to help with the show, contact Spruce McRee, III or Richard Gilbert.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 8, 7 P.M.
Pelham High School

PLAN TO ATTEND - BRING A FRIEND



FREE

information for the asking

Are you just hearing about the Alabama Woodworkers Guild?

Would you care to know more?

Just fill in and tear off this coupon. Then mail to the P.O. Box printed on the back.

Name: _____

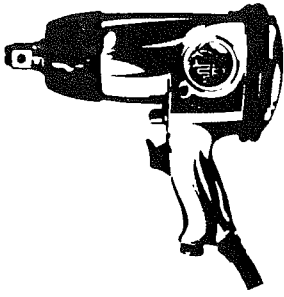
Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am curious about the Guild. Please send more information and a newsletter.

I am interested in joining the Guild. Please send application form.

Other _____



CHISELER'S CORNER...

Are you having a problem trying to buy, sell or trade something? Do you want help on a specific project? Having difficulty trying to locate a rare tool or supply?

Place an ad in our Chiseler's Corner column next month. Mail this form 2 weeks prior to the next meeting and your ad will be printed.

ALABAMA LUMBER & SUPPLY CO.

4204 1st Avenue South
592-6331

*Soft & Hardwood Lumber
Builders & Cabinet Hardware*

Ray & Ralph Zorn

Want to buy locate
 sell swap

Your name & phone number:

Describe item _____

Mail to:

Larry Aaron
5617 12th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35222

or

Bring this coupon to the next meeting.

Cost: _____

This newsletter printed by All Star Instant Printing, 1023 South 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama.

MOBILE BRANCH
Coastal Saw & Machinery
901-D Butler Dr.
Mobile, AL 36609
(Local) 666-1180

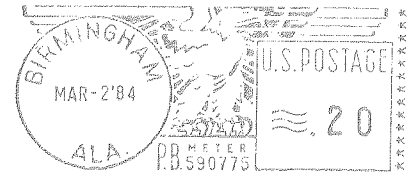
MAIN OFFICE
Birmingham Saw Works
910 North 28th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
(Local) 252-9737
Ala. WATTS 1-800-292-4032

BIRMINGHAM SAW WORKS

This newsletter typeset by Type & Graphics, 1023 South 20th Street, Suite B1, Birmingham, Alabama.



The Alabama Woodworkers Guild
P.O. Box 327
Pelham, AL 35124



111RG

Michael Henderson
4759 Wine Ridge Lane
Birmingham, AL 35244