



## FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

My Fellow Guild Members:

I would like to thank Jim Rittman for a fine program last month. He gave an excellent talk about laminating, bowl turning and wood in general. Judging from the amount of questions asked there is a lot of interest in lathe work. I would also like to thank Vernon Luther for bringing and sharing the beautiful bowls which he turned. They were magnificent. We are quickly learning that we have some real talent in the guild.

I would like to encourage the bringing and sharing of projects at meetings. It lets us all learn as well as encourages us to try something we may not otherwise attempt. Please feel free to bring any project you would like to show off or you're having trouble with. This demonstrates pride in your projects and your workmanship because our fellow woodworkers are the very ones who most appreciate our goals and problems.

Sorry about our first field trip, however we can't do much about the rainy weather. We will reschedule and try it again at a future date. There was a lot of interest in seeing the sawmill so we should have a good turnout. Many asked if they could bring their wives (more commonly known as "glue up assistants"). Yes, they are more than welcome. They are also welcome at our meetings so bring them on.

We have formed various committees with several members on each. These are outlined in the newsletter. We will be turning over various duties to these committees to alleviate some of the work load. This should also make things work smoother and make the overall operation of the guild better. If you are on a committee please give 100% and make AWWG the very best. If you wish to serve on a committee, contact the chairmen listed.

We're really enthused about our Spring Wood Show at the Sloss Furnace on Saturday, April 21st. We have many applications and fees in hand but are encouraging many more. There could be as many as 3000 - 5000 people passing through the refurbished museum due to other festivities going on there at the same time such as WTTO-TV's Birthday Party.

And a special event — A Party — The evening before the show. All members and spouses are invited. Exhibitions can drop off their pieces by 7 P.M. on Friday, April 20th. The party will start at 8 P.M. Food and beverages will be bought by the Guild. Come out and share in the fun both Friday and Saturday. Get those applications in early.

See you in April.

Spruce McRee

## DUES & DON'TS

If you haven't paid your annual dues yet then this will be your last newsletter. To continue receiving all the benefits of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild, send your \$20 check to:

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

## WOODBUTCHER OF THE MONTH

This month we chatted with our 1st Vice President, Richard Gilbert, who was born and raised right here in Birmingham.

Richard was first exposed to woodworking by his father who whittled a propellor for use on his bicycle when he was a little squirt — if you can imagine that. Richard's formal introduction to woodworking came while attending Jones Valley High School where he was fortunate in having Felix King as his instructor. At this point, with the only power tool owned being a circular saw, Richard built a bookcase in his parent's basement. This provided an excellent education on the use of hand tools and especially hand sanding. After three years of working for a food distributor, Richard then spent two years on high rise construction. It was at this point he really got serious about woodworking and decided to go to work for Raines Brothers Store Fixtures. While at Raines Brothers, Richard got his professional woodworking education and started building up his tools. His first purchase was a radial arm saw and he has been continuously adding as he's had the money. Sound familiar folks? Not soon thereafter he outgrew and out sawdusted his folks' basement and in June 1981 set up his first shop in Ensley. Can you believe it! Out of that first hand made

## NEXT MEETING. . .

This month's meeting will be in a different location. We will meet at Richard Gilbert & David Traylor's Cabinet Shop in Fairfield, Alabama. The meeting will be at 7 PM as usual.

Richard Gilbert, Arnold Askew and Craig Butterworth will each be talking about various aspects of faceplate turning and joinery. Arnold Askew will give a live wood turning exhibition.

Directions to the meeting:

Take I-59 South to the Parkway Exit in Fairfield. Make a left at the bottom of the ramp. At second traffic light bear right (not a hard right) onto Gary Ave. The cabinet shop is at 4606 Gary Ave. There's no sign on the shop yet but it's across the street from Am-South and next door to the Big Saver.

The Board and Officers will meet at 6:15 sharp.

bookshelf has grown his own business — RICHARD GILBERT, CABINET MAKER.

Although Richard does a great deal of refinishing and repairing furniture (sorry, no upholstery), his main product and challenge is building custom designed furniture. We will all have the pleasure of seeing Richard's efforts at our next meeting. The project he is most proud of is the oak raised panel doors with multi colored stained glass for his church, Central Park Ensley Presbyterian.

What ever became of that first project — the bookcase? Well it was presented to his wife of three years, Patricia, who is beginning a collection of books for their son Joey in their home in the Green Acres area of Birmingham.

Richard would like to see our Guild continue to grow and include more professional woodworkers. He believes that by building up with the well known professionals our Guild could become better organized and gain recognition as a quality unit as well as being able to have good teaching type seminars. Richard is very proud of our Guild and is pleased that it is as organized as it is and hopes it keeps growing. Well, guess what Richard — we're all mighty proud that you're a member and grateful for the time and effort you provide.

## NITTY GRITTY COMMITTEES

Thanks for your enthusiastic response to participate on our various committees. Below are listed the names of those who have volunteered to help out. This list represents those who have volunteered as of press time. We hope this list will continue to grow.

### PROGRAM

Richard Gilbert ..... 923-4022  
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 David Traylor ..... 822-1044  
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 Ebb Harris ..... 663-0823  
 William Fenn ..... 967-5384  
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 Steve Forehand ..... 663-9691

## AN ABRASIVE SUBJECT...

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

### GRIT NO'S. OR GRADES

In addition to abrasives of varying materials and backings of numerous types, a third description is employed in describing abrasive papers. This identifier would be in relation to the number of abrasive particles per square inch of backing. In the most commonly used form of abrasive papers, this parameter is often identified along with the weight of the paper or cloth backing. For example, 320 A would mean that there are 320 abrasive particles per square inch on this "A" weight backing paper. The higher the number of particles per square inch the smaller the particles are and the smoother sanding properties it has, conversely, the less particles per square inch the larger the abrasive particles are and the rougher the sanding operation will be in appearance. Often times the type of abrasive particle that the paper possesses is not given, or is given in terms of the trade name of the manufacturer. In this case the user must resort to color identification of the abrasive.

### PURCHASING

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 Douglas I. Moore ..... 497-0894  
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 Coy Ellis ..... 833-5101  
 Billy Lee ..... 663-7045  
 Richard Ellicott ..... 822-0963


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 Jack Kempf ..... 979-0424  
 W.W. Gay ..... 822-3762  
 Brad Steffler ..... 991-7253  
 Billy Lee ..... 663-7045  
 Richard Ellicott ..... 822-0963  
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879-8693

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

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### NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 12, 7 P.M.  
 Richard Gilbert & David Traylor's  
 Cabinet Shop  
 4606 Gary Avenue, Fairfield, Alabama  
 (See Directions Elsewhere in this newsletter)

PLAN TO ATTEND - BRING A FRIEND

## Y'AWL'S POINT. . .

### THE MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

Your comments or suggestions to the club should be addressed to:

Larry Arron  
 Newsletter Editor  
 5617 12th Ave. S.  
 Birmingham, Alabama 35222

Comments will be passed on to appropriate committees and may be printed when appropriate. Let us hear from you.

Also, we'd like to hear from other Guilds who read our newsletter.

## Terrific & caps T-shirts

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.

## WOODWORKING CAN BE PUN

Have you heard of these famous woodworkers?

Natalie Wood  
 Mike Hammer  
 Mr. Screwge  
 Whitley's Mother  
 George Washington Carver  
 Geouge-O Marx  
 Sid Cedar  
 Redwood Skelton  
 Teak Bradkowski  
 Dogwood & Blondie

Can you think of anymore? If you do, send them in! Entries will be judged by the newsletter committee. Winner will receive a \$5 gift certificate for woodworking related purchases. Newsletter committee members cannot participate.

## NEED A LITTLE CLASS?

Our first clockbuilding class is off and ticking. Five participants are meeting at Spruce McRee's house to learn the basics of building clocks. The class will last five more weeks.

More classes of this nature will be announced at a later date after the details are worked out.

## SHOW OFF. . .

Our spring wood show is expected to be a special occasion. Richard Gilbert has worked very hard at making the arrangements for this special event. Our weekend festivities also include a pre-show party.

### Show Details

The show will be on Saturday, April 21 from 10 A.M. on. It will be held at the newly renovated Sloss Furnace Museum and is free to the public so bring your family and friends. Those of you who haven't seen Sloss yet are in for an extraordinary treat. Our wood projects will be displayed at various locations within the museum. If the weather permits, we'll spill outside onto the patios.

The Sloss will help us promote this event to the public through the media. We are expecting a large turnout from the public due to this advertising. Also, WTTO-TV is having a party at the Sloss at the same time, which last year drew 3000 - 5000 people. We really think that this will make a great family outing on this holiday weekend.

We're excited about the exposure we will be receiving at the show. We want each of you to enter some piece into the show. It certainly need not be a new piece. Furniture, clocks, music boxes, carvings, toys, cutting boards and bowls are just a few ideas of projects which can be entered.

The entry fee is \$10 to participate with one or more projects in the show. Clip out the entry form below and mail it by Friday, April 13. A \$2 late fee will be assessed for entries

## CHISLER'S CORNER. . .

### WANT TO BUY:

12" Radial Arm Saw  
Might Consider 10"

Call Don H. Culley, Jr. — 663-2423

### FOR SALE:

Craftsman Lathe \$250.00  
Call Jim Bradley — 428-5199

5 Emperor Grandfather Clock Kits  
\$200.00 Each

Call Doyle Smith — 871-8510

Want to  buy  locate  
 sell  swap

Describe item \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

received after this date. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each of 4 categories: 1. furniture-novice, 2. furniture-intermediate, 3. furniture-craftsman, and 4. turnings, clocks, toys and miscellaneous. Projects will be graded by our panel of hand picked, non-Guild judges. The show, as you can see, is not just for the experts. The idea is to share information with your fellow woodworkers and solve common problems. Be proud and enter a piece in the show.

### Pre-Show Party Details

Our Pre-show party will also be held on the grounds of the Sloss Furnace on Friday night, April 20. All members and spouses/guests are invited. There is no charge and the guild is providing eats and beverages. Since all show judging will be done this night and not on Saturday, you are asked to have your exhibits at Sloss by 7 P.M. This will allow enough time to get set up before the party begins at 8 PM. All projects will be locked inside the museum's buildings overnight. Dress for the party is casual and be prepared for a large turnout since we may even provide some entertainment.

### Directions to the Sloss:

Coming from downtown, go east (away from town) on 1st Ave. N. Cross the viaduct and turn left at the traffic light at 34th St. Make another left at 2nd Ave. N. and you're there. You will also see signs in the vicinity of the Museum so you shouldn't get lost.

SEE YOU THERE!

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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.

Your name & phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Larry Aaron  
5617 12th Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35222

or

Bring this coupon to the next meeting.

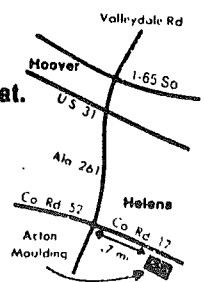


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So the younger brother drives back to the lumberyard and the dialogue continues.

Younger Brother: *We'll take the 2 x 4's, if you don't have any 4 x 2's.*

Sales Clerk: *O.K., how long do you want them?*

Younger Brother: *I don't know, I'll have to ask my brother.*

So he gets back in his truck and finds his brother waiting impatiently.

Older Brother: *Where's the lumber?*

Younger Brother: *Well now he wants to know how long we want the 2 x 4's*

Older Brother: *It's about time for you to make some decisions for yourself. Go back and get the lumber!*

So on his third haul to town the younger brother made his first big decision in life.

Sales Clerk: *Back again, huh? Well how long do you want those boards?*

Younger Brother: *Well since we're building a house I figured we'll want them for 25 years or so!*

Feel free to submit your own anecdote to our Slice of Life column. Mail to P.O. Box shown throughout this newsletter.

### **LOOKING BACK. . .**

At the last meeting we had Jim Rittman show us the various techniques he utilizes in glue-up for wood turning and furniture making. It was interesting as to how Jim admittedly cut some corners in procedure to save time yet not sacrifice much in the quality of results. Bowls, tables, clocks and vases are only some of the items which Jim produces for sale on a day to day basis.

Thank you Jim for an interesting talk.

60 to 70 people came to this meeting with approximately 10 new people joining up that night. Welcome to the Guild.

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

