



Guild News

Volume XXII Number 3

Celebrating 20 years in 2003

March 2003

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Bob Browning
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Jim Lee
Bill Shivers
Bill Thomas
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Saturday,

March 15, 2003

- *Social Hour 8:00 AM until 9:00 AM*
- *Meeting begins promptly at 9:00 AM*
- *Program by Fred Baker*

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President's Message

I understand I missed quite a meeting in February. I have heard **Frank Jones** talk about hand cut dovetails but never had a chance to watch him demonstrate the process....my loss! **Frank** is a charter member of the Guild and perhaps one of the finest of the Guild craftsmen. He is certainly a great resource for you young folks. He is always willing to stop and show us the "how to" when we have a question.

Speaking of craftsmen, **Paul Mancill** is quite a craftsman in his own right! **Paul** is our program chairman (Guild Vice President) and is doing an outstanding job putting together our programs. He is also teaching a course on how to build a blanket chest. (The class is being held at **Buzz and Nelda Kelly's** shop). **Paul** is doing a great job teaching the course.

The report is that Bo did a great job as host at our last meeting. The space worked out very well (with heat) and Bo cooks a mean hot dog! Thanks again, Bo.

While we are thanking folks lets not forget our board of directors. This group really keeps our organization going. In addition to our regular meeting, this group meets at least one other time each month to plan our monthly and yearly activities. Give these folks an occasional "pat on the back"...they deserve it.

Make sure to mark your calendar for the Marc Adams cabinet making workshop in November. Also, shop visits begin again in April.

See you on March 15th. Don't forget that Bo has relocated to 3021 4th Avenue South and so has our meeting place!

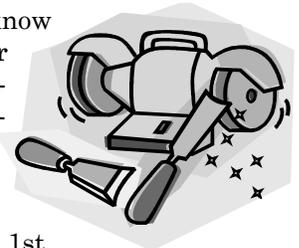
March Meeting

For our March program we will once again tap into the valuable and deep pool of talent from within our ranks. **Fred Baker** will discuss and demonstrate turning spindles for furniture. **Fred** will show us which turning tools to use and which are better left in the drawer. He will also elaborate on how to make that second, third and fourth pesky table leg look like the first one.

Additionally, he will touch on sharpening your turning tools which

is a very critical aspect of turning.

Most of you know that **Fred Baker** is a master woodworker and hopefully you saw the "toy" car he had in last years show. **Fred** won 1st place for turning with that car. So, come out and learn and then go home and turn.





February Meeting

Our first meeting at Thuston's new location was well attended. We welcomed three new members and a couple of guests.

Show and tell included a mahogany table by **Paul Mancill** then a shop made air filter and a mahogany and maple desk clock by **Fred Hogg**.

Our program was "How to Hand Cut Dove-tails" with **Frank Jones**. **Frank** made it look real easy. See **Frank** with the completed joinery above.

Then we were treated to lunch by Bo Thuston. Thanks to **Frank** for a great program and Bo for meeting space and lunch!

Personal Appearance

While I was recovering from my knee surgery, I got a chance to catch up on some of my favorite TV "how to shows". As I watched these shows I began thinking what it might cost to get some of these guys to make a person appearance for our woodworking clubs. Hey!! It could happen.

Anyway, to make a long story short, I contacted Joe L'Erario of the "Furniture Guys". Joe and Ed Feldman have a show on the Learning Channel called "Men in Tool Belts". It is a comedy how to. I asked if they made personal appearances and what their prices would be to do one.

This is the answer I received back..."Our appearance fee is \$4000 per day plus air fare and hotel. We perform about a 45 minute demonstration showing a few techniques and are open to all questions. Let me know. Thanks, Joe L'Erario"

I wish to thank Joe for my answer and I see why it does pay to have your own TV show....Now I wonder how much Norm charges?????

Jim Burt

Welcome New Members

Bill Host of Birmingham

Larry Taylor of Birmingham

Bill Snyder of Birmingham

Paul's Class Continues

The blanket chest class continues. As you can see from the picture of Marty (page 3) we are cutting dove-tails. Below is a preview of what the feet for the chest look like.



About Us

Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the third Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at Jos. Thuston & Sons Saw Works, 3021 4th Avenue South.

Information concerning the Guild may be secured by calling **Harold Phillips** at 205-424-0819.

See our website at: www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org

Contact our **Guild News Editor**, **Nelda Kelly** at nelbuz@msn.com.

Marty Cogen - Spotlight Member

*When we asked **Marty Cogen** to be our spotlight member for March he sent the following reply:*

I am really quite flattered, and don't know what to say—especially in the company of so many accomplished craftspeople. I can tell you that I feel very fortunate to have been introduced to the Guild by someone who I can never repay for all he has done for me, **Harold Skalka**. As then the Chairman of the UAB Department of Ophthalmology, **Hal** saw my potential when others did not, and accepted me as a resident. He is most responsible for me being an ophthalmologist today, and has continued being a mentor and role model, inspiring me personally and professionally. **Hal** introduced me to woodworking, again inspiring me with his accomplishments and humble demeanor, and took me under his wing. He took me out to his shop, and gave me a large block of oak, which became the bench-dog vise for my very first project (the New Yankee workbench, constructed with just three power tools: a circular saw, a drill, and a router).

Hal knew I would be shy by nature and made sure I first met **Dan Browning** (who immediately greeted me like a long-lost family member—is it even possible to feel shy and reserved with **Dan**?) and then Bo Thuston who has been generous and helpful beyond words. Bo talked model airplanes and coin collecting for hours with my son Alec, and made sure I got hooked up with the Saturday class building the English Garden Bench, taught by **Paul Mancill** (who is a gifted and selfless teacher and really should be the author of “Zen and the Art of Woodworking”). From there, everything just “mushroomed” as they say...meeting so many good people like **Buzz** and

Nelda Kelly...the kind generosity of **Jim Lee** over a particularly nice piece of cherry...**Dan Browning** helping me with elegant boxes, and spraying lacquer, and introducing me to **Harold Hall** who gave me hands-on spraying tips...**Jim Anchors** who let me participate in the flag case project...and so many others too numerous to mention, but quite familiar to those who have been in the Guild far longer than me. I only hope that with continued learning and practice, someday (many years from now), I can bring it full circle and maybe even be a teacher myself—well, at least I can dream about can't I?



***Marty** cutting dovetails on his cherry blanket chest during the Blanket Chest Class*

1983 to 2003—Goals Remain the Same

In May of 1983 Spruce McRee had the following comments in the newsletter. Our mission this year remains similar to that of our founders in 1983:

I would like to tell you about some of the goals and ideas we have for The Alabama Woodworkers Guild.

First and foremost would be woodworking education. This would be done by special speakers such as Mr. Kronberg and Mr. Hutson, and our own fellow Guild members who would not mind talking to us on different aspects of woodworking that they might specialize in. Also, by just talking and visiting with one another

and just sharing ideas. We would also like to bring in outside experts from around the country to give two and three day “hands on” seminars.

Secondly, we want to have a variety of shows so we can share our work with each other and the public. We would like to have competition and prizes and awards to work for. I hope most of you can participate in our first show this coming July. Its success or failure depends on each of us. We can have a lot of fun and learn a lot from these shows, so I hope each of us make a special effort.

Spruce McRee



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