

Guild News

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 7

JULY 2004

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Board of Directors:
Cliff Daniels
Jim Lee
Chuck Solomon
Bill Thomas

Toy Chairman: Buddy Finch

Show Chairman: Walter Barnett

Next Meeting
Thursday,
July 15, 2004
gather at 6:00 PM
meeting starts
promptly
at 6:30 PM

Don't forget your
Show and Tell items

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New Leadership for AWG

At our last meeting I asked for volunteers to take responsibility for coordinating our Friday afternoon training sessions. Later, **Buddy Finch** and **Lee Beadles** agreed to become co-coordinators of that program. Let's all give a big "Thank You" to **Buddy** and **Lee!!** When **Buddy** or **Lee** asks you to share your particular knowledge, skill, jig, or whatever for a Friday program, please give them your full support.

Also, be sure to say "thanks" to Tom and all the people at Woodcraft who make it possible for us to meet there.

We are so fortunate to have members like **Buddy** and **Lee** who will put forth the effort to make our Guild a success. In addition to **Buddy** and **Lee**, we have others who always step forward to take care of this or take care of that and our Guild is what it is today because of these people.

We currently have other needs that require a wide range of skills or talents and I believe we have other members who would like to volunteer to make our guild even better. If you would like to be one of the leaders of our Guild I would like to ask you to make me aware of your willingness to help with those needs.

Also, give a big "Thank You" to **Paul Mancill** and **Bill Shivers** when next you see them. **Paul** is stepping in to complete my 2004 term as president of the Guild due to my resignation. **Bill** is moving up to serve as Vice President to complete **Paul's** term. I hope you will give them and the Board your support.

Though I have resigned as president, I will continue to make sawdust and hope that you all will too!

Shalom y'all.

Dean Black Presents Program in July

We have a special treat for our July program! Dean Black will fill us in on what he has been doing since he finished the Korean exhibit at the Museum of Art. Dean, as I'm sure you know, is a professional woodworker and both a fabulous craftsman and a very entertaining speaker. For those who are not familiar with Dean's work, take a trip to the museum and look at the walnut casework in the Asian exhibit or the pine used in the Korean room. You won't want to miss Dean's program!

Last months program: Thanks to **Buzz** and **Nelda Kelly** for an excellent program on finishing. I know that everybody picked up something they could use from this program - I know I did!

Paul Mancill

Don't forget our demo day at WoodCraft on July 17th.

Library Notes!!

Our recent request for the return of several books and a VHS tape were successful --- they have been returned! However, the following items have gone missing without being signed out.

Fine Woodworking on Woodworking Machines

The Workbench Book

VHS tapes:

Marc Adams Series – Routing, Jigs & Fixtures
Marc Adams Series – Finishing

Please return the above item by the next meeting and remember to sign out the items you borrow.

Our members have donated twenty-three very nice books to our library during the last year. Thanks to each of you, we will all enjoy!

The periodical section of our library is now in place in our new bookcase. Our collection of Fine Woodworking contains volumes 1 through 157 except #'s 142, 143 & 146. The current issue is # 171 so we need 14 issues to have a complete set. Do you have any you want to donate?

The family of Haskins Bowman acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Dear Members,

Thank you for sending the generous gift in memory of **Haskins**. He would have been so pleased to be remembered this way. We feel fortunate to have the prayers and support from friends and family to help us thru this sad time.

Sincerely,
 Mary Bowman

ELSIE BAKER MEMORIAL TOYS PROGRAM

Over the past few years as **Fred Baker** built his helicopters for the toys program, **Elsie Baker** kept him company. **Elsie** spent many long hours at the scroll saw making cut outs for the toys program. She always made at least a hundred each year.

Sadly, with her passing there will be no cut outs from **Elsie** this year or any other year to come. Because of **Elsie's** hard work and dedication to the Toys Program, the Guild Board has decided to honor **Elsie Baker** by dedicating our Toys Program to her.

We ask that you honor her and add a few cut outs to your toy production this year in memory of **Elsie**.

“WHERE THERE’S A WILL THERE’S A WAY”

While working on a recent project I experienced what I considered a serious problem. But through superior intellect, cunning and woodworking genius, YEA RIGHT !!!!. But I did think about it for a while and came up with a solution that worked for me.

The project was a hope chest for my granddaughter (hope chest, blanket chest or cedar chest are all about the same construction, just used differently). I wanted to do something a little different and maybe a little special for her. So I decided to make the chest out of “Hackberry”. I had cut the tree, taken it to the sawmill and had been air-drying it in my shed for about a year. After building the basic box I made the top by edge gluing two boards together and attaching a breadboard on each end and then routing the edges. I set the top aside and continued to work on the feet and other parts of the chest.

One morning, after a drastic change in temperature overnight, I found the top bowed severely. My first reaction was to cut the breadboards off hoping (but knowing better) the top would straighten itself, but it just got worse. I trashed that top and cut two more boards for a new top. They warped and bowed before I could even get them glued together. I didn't have a moisture meter to confirm it but I assumed my problem was caused by too much moisture in the wood. The rule of thumb when air-drying lumber is to dry one year for each 1” of thickness. This was apparently not enough in my case.

I contemplated at this point scraping the whole project and starting over with your more favorite woods like cherry or walnut but I'm too stubborn to scrap something I had put so much time into. So I asked myself (I talk to myself a lot when working, especially when I have a problem) – What would I do to over come this problem if I was using cherry or walnut or any other common woods? The answer of course would be to make the top using ¾” plywood of the particular wood being used. Obviously I couldn't go out and buy any “Hackberry” plywood but again I asked myself, why can't I make some? So I got two boards about 8” wide and of appropriate length and proceeded to resaw, plane and sand until I had four pieces 1/8” thick, 8” wide and about 36” long. I then glued these four pieces to a piece of ½” Baltic birch plywood and I had myself a piece of ¾” hackberry plywood.

Of course the process of gluing all this together was definitely not as simple as it sounds, but that's another story. Once I had this piece of homemade plywood I simply cut it to size and put solid trim around to hide the edges and had a top that was stable. The project was successfully completed and is now in my granddaughter's bedroom.

I guess the moral of this story (if there is one) is as the title implies, that if you are willing to put a little thought and maybe a lot of work into it you can usually overcome most woodworking problems.

Cliff Daniels

Remember to start collecting door prizes for our Christmas Party. Vendors allocate their budgets early so don't wait until the last minute!

OPEN INVITATION

To Whom: All Alabama Woodworkers Guild and West Alabama Woodworkers Association Members

To What: 21st Annual Juried Show

When: October 23, 2004 through October 31, 2004

Where: Hoover Public Library, Hoover, AL

What to Bring: Items that you have created recently or in the past. Surprise us,
Bring your work to be judged or display only as you choose.

I hope everyone will plan to participate in the show. I know that many members have items that need to be in the show just from our monthly show and tell features, but for those of us who have not brought anything to show and tell, we still have time to complete a project for the show or polish up a piece that may have been built some time ago. The show does not require a new project, previous shows have allowed us to enjoy many pieces that were built in the past and were being used daily prior to and after the show.

Several months ago members were asked to complete a survey with questions about the show. From this survey there was not an indication that members would like to see the show changed in any significant way. However, there were a number of questions and/or comments about the categories and skill levels. During the years that we have been having the shows, as the categories and skill levels developed, there has been a lot of discussion trying to clear up the ambiguities of both, unfortunately we have not had a great deal of success in accomplishing this.

I have tried to find definitions of "traditional furniture" and "contemporary furniture" to help us, but had to settle for definitions of "traditional" and "contemporary". The most applicable definition of "traditional" is the handing down of information, beliefs and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instructions. Insofar as furniture is concerned, there are many plans and drawings in existence today that are based on traditional pieces that were created without the benefit of written plans or instructions. The most applicable definition of "contemporary" is marked by characteristics of the present period: modern, current. Each of us has our interpretation of modern and current, which allows room for differences of opinion on some designs.

I won't even attempt to define skill levels, I will only offer a suggestion. If you have been honored with the first place ribbon in a category and skill level once or more, consider entering in the next skill level. Everyone who enters would like to win a ribbon, but the foremost reason for entering the show should be to challenge you to be the best woodworker you can be and constantly improve your skill level. I personally do not enter items in the show to compete against anyone other than myself, but one of the best ways that I can measure my own progress is in comparison to works of others based on the opinion of an independent third party. Woodworking is like any other activity or sport, to improve your game, play over your head.

The bottom line of all of this is it is your entry and it is whatever category and skill level you want it to be. We want to have a well-represented show, of which the members and Guild can be proud and one that reflects the talent and workmanship of the participants. **Please keep in mind that an entry does not have to be judged, we are equally as proud of the items that are entered for display only.**

Meeting Directions:

Homewood Senior Center 816 Oak Grove Road
Homewood, AL

To Homewood Senior Center:

From I65 South, take the West Oxmoor exit, merge into center lane. Go through 2 lights.

When in doubt, merge left. At the 3rd light (Florida Grill and Weygand Survey-

ors) take a left. Go to the black mail box and turn right into Senior Center property. The center has a green roof. (205) 943-0018

From I65 North, take the Oxmoor Road exit. Turn left. Go under interstate (3 lights).

When in doubt, merge left. At the 3rd light (Florida Grill and Weygand Surveyors) take a left. Go to the black mail box and turn right into Senior Center property. The center has a green roof. (205) 943-0018

About Us

Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Homewood Senior Center, 816 Oak Grove Road, Homewood, AL.

Information concerning the Guild may be secured by calling **James Armstrong, Treasurer** at **205-681-8165**.

Our Webmaster is **Bob Browning**. See our website at:
www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org

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



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Directions

Take I-65 to Exit 246.
Take Highway 119 West (Cahaba Valley Road)
3/4 of a mile. We are located on the left,
in the Cahaba Valley Station.

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205-988-3612

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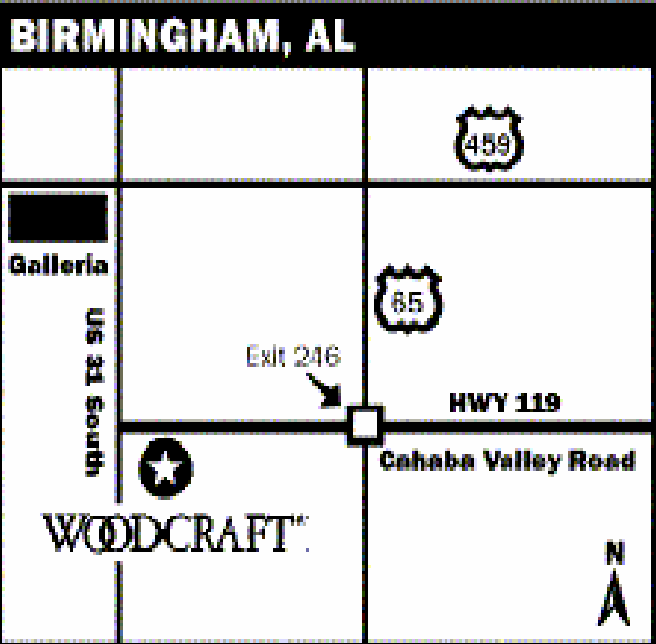
Store Hours

M - T - W - F: 9AM - 7PM

Th: 9AM-9PM

Sat: 9AM-6PM

Sun: Noon-5 PM



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