

Guild News

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 7

JULY 2005

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Toy Chairman: Buddy Finch
Show Chairman: Walter Barnett

President's Message

What a great meeting we had in June! Norm Ellis is an outstanding woodworker, furniture designer and lecturer. If you missed this one, you missed both an interesting and informative program.

There are some exciting new ideas and plans in the making for our Guild. We are in the process of rolling out the Patron's Program and I am asking each of you to think of any business that may want to become an AWG Patron. A Patron would contribute at least \$250/year to the Guild and in return will have the opportunity to put a short advertisement in our newsletter that would run every month for a year. If you know of anyone that may want to become a Patron, please give this information to me and I will see that they are contacted. I will need a contact name, phone number and an address if possible. Also, don't forget that we now have official tax-exempt status so donations are tax deductible.

What will we do with all this extra money? Well for one, we are exploring the possibility of either building, buying or leasing a building where we can have our meetings and also have an equipped shop set up for use by our members. *(continued on page 2)*

July '05 Meeting Program Nantucket Lightship Baskets



Having seen pictures of various Nantucket baskets, I decided that some day I would make one. A few years later I found an excellent book titled "Basketry: The Nantucket Tradition" by John McGuire. After reading the book from cover to cover several times, I started making the tools necessary to make the basket. One of the most unique aspects of Nantucket Baskets is that they are made on molds. So I had to start with making my first basket mold.

After making a couple of baskets using many of the techniques described in the book, I started coming up with my own "improvements" and techniques. The traditional method of making staves, rims and handles was by splitting a log of "green" wood such as white oak or cherry with a froe and then continuing to split and shave the wood until pieces of the correct sizes were finally achieved. I quickly found this method wasteful of the newly cut tree which was probably due to my novice attempts with a draw knife, spoke shave and shaving horse, but if you've ever dealt with splitting white oak from a log you probably found the knots and twists in the wood just as troublesome as I do. I soon found that sawing the log into the proper sized pieces works much better, although the knots and twists can still cause a lot of failures when trying to bend the "green" wood around molds. I also came up with basket rim and handle molds so that I could dry the shaped pieces in advance. I usually cut up a "green" log into manageable sizes and then, much to my wife's consternation, store the wood in the deep freezer until I need it. My wife claims I'm the only husband in the world with a freezer half full of frozen wood.

During July's presentation I will go into the art and history of Nantucket Lightship Baskets and show the various jigs and techniques that go into making one of these unique baskets.
By **Dwight Hostetter**

Next Meeting
Thursday, July 21, 2005

Pre-Meeting presentation
begins at 5:30 PM
Meeting begins at 6:60 PM

Don't forget your
Show and Tell

Toy Wheels available for sale at
the meeting

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Major Addition to Our Regular Monthly Meeting (See page 2)

The Alabama Woodturners have expressed interest in a permanent building and it may work out that we have cooperative effort with them. We are just beginning to seriously explore this idea but already there has been a lot of enthusiasm expressed!

Greenville SC Woodworkers Guild has a permanent shop and **Bill Shivers** has recently visited and will give us a report at the July meeting.

See you then. Do good work.

Paul

Pre-Meeting Program

The Board of Directors is happy to announce a major addition to our regular monthly meetings! For some time we have wanted to add a "Pre-meeting Program" to our regular meetings. Until now that has not been possible due to the unavailability of space at the time needed. We now have the space and we will implement the addition at our next meeting.

The Pre-meeting Program's purpose is to share knowledge and skills. It will be an informal gathering around a bench where one of our own will demonstrate a particular skill and discuss and answer questions. Come as early as you can, get a cup of coffee or snack and join the group as long as you wish. Learn from the presenter and share your experience and questions with the presenter and your fellow members.

Each program will start about 5:30 and end at 6:15, just prior to the regular meeting at 6:30. It will take place in our regular meeting room.

It is planned that the programs will follow a sequence of skills with the first series focusing on the basics.

We believe it is appropriate that **Fred Baker** present the inaugural program! **Fred** will share his knowledge on the preparation and use of the scraper for surfacing wood.

Items for Sale

Delta Contractors Saw,
50" Vega Fence—\$350

Shane Carter 205-563-2588

Delta Router/Shaper—\$125
Grizzly Jointer 6" - \$300
Makita 12" Planer—\$100
Charles Williams 205-616-3600

Child Life Week Children's Hospital

Pictured is the completed bean bag toss made by our Fridays at Woodcraft



group. Suzanne Reeves asked for our help to create several games to be used in their Child Life Week celebration. **Buddy Finch** and group made several projects that will be used for years to come. Also built were a fishing game and a putt-putt golf game. The children loved them!

Imitation Ivory

By **Jim Anchors**

Get a nice looking unbruised potato. Wash it in dilute sulfuric acid until the surface is clean. Then boil it in the same solution in which it was washed until it becomes perfectly dense and solid. Next wash it in tepid water followed by cold water until all traces of the acid are removed. Dry in a warm place. When it is dry, the potato can be carved and colored with dye.

From The Girl's Home Annual 1895 acquired from the submitters aunt in Scotland. This turns the spud into celluloid. (I have not tried this one myself so there are no promises there will be an elephant's tusk under your pillow when you get done!)

Dean Black of Blackwood Galleries in Springville

has invited the AWG and friends to attend a

Gallery Show and Party

on *Saturday, July 16th at 5:00 PM*. It should be a really nice show with discounts on many gallery pieces of 30% during the event. With over 40 artists' works available, there is something for everyone. Included in the showing are woodworking objects, pottery, glass objects (blown, fused and leaded), gourd baskets, wall art, mirrors, greeting cards, bronze, porcelain and much, much more.

Dean has recently begun to do some blacksmith work and will be demonstrating his smithing skills. The ever-popular Ken Langley will be blowing glass objects. Other artists including Frank Fleming will also be in attendance. Meanwhile, there will be music and singing. Dean invites us to BYOB and come join in the fun.

The Blackwood Galleries will be able to take credit cards for purchases during this special event. To get there take I-59 N to exit 148 towards US-11/Argo. Turn left on US-11 and the gallery will be 4.6 miles to the northeast. (205) 467-7197

If you have been with the Guild for a while you will recognize the name. Dean Black makes incredible furniture and has done a great deal of work on the displays at the Birmingham Museum of Art and built the gates at the entrance to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Dean has spoken with our group many times, judged our juried show, and invited us to his shop. If you don't know Dean or his gallery this is an excellent time to be introduced.

Mike Key reports that several Guild members met with members of the Woodturners Association at **Harold Hall's** son's cabin on June the 30th and turned Christmas ornaments for the Children's Hospital.



SHOP VISIT
JULY 23RD 1:00 PM
HAROLD HALL'S
249 BURBANK DRIVE
205-822-7183

90 DAYS & COUNTING

By **Walter Barnett**

We are 90 days from show time...are you ready? We have seen a lot of nice work though show and tell this year, unfortunately we are never able to get it all back for the annual show for a number of reasons, however, I hope you are beginning to make plans for the items you intend to place in the show.

As has been mentioned earlier, there were a number of categories last year for which we had no entries and several where we did not have enough entries to award all the ribbons for the category. With the number of outstanding woodworkers we have in the organization that should never happen. Over the last several years we have had a number of people to participate every year, some participated in some years but not others, let's all get together this year and everyone participate to have the best show we have ever had.

Our goal should be to have a better show each year, with participants processing though the skill levels as their experience increases but always encouraging new members to begin early participation even if they are totally new to woodworking. There is no better way to improve your skills than to build a project and enter it in the show. The critique you receive from the judge and fellow woodworkers will be much less severe than your personal critique of the project and from the process you will almost always learn ways to improve your work and new techniques to make the process easier or the end results better.

If you don't already have an item to enter, start now and join us on October 15th for best show ever.

We mourn the passing of yet another Guild member this year. **Ben Landrum** (4/9/1920—6/21/2005) a World War II veteran and fellow woodworker will be missed.

Going to School

By **Charles Williams**

Since joining the Alabama Woodworkers Guild and attending the monthly meetings, the things I enjoy most are "show and tell" and the demonstrations put on by you craftsmen. It's amazing what you fellows can do. I'm still a long way from doing the things you have shown and demonstrated.

I, like many people, enjoy looking at a nice completed project whether it's a birdhouse or a piece of furniture. I wonder how everything is made to fit just right. In my mind it's definitely an art form. Often I wish I could do that well when I try to make something.

In order to raise the bar for myself, I started taking some courses at the Dog-

wood Institute in Alpharetta, Ga. The institute provides the very basics for a novice woodworker such as myself. It has hands-on courses from their Fundamentals I (teaches you how to disassemble, reassemble your tools and then sharpen them) up through Fundamentals V (you learn to construct a raised panel cabinet door and install it in a cabinet provided by the institute.

In the Fundamentals IV class we were required to build a drawer to fit a pre-made cabinet opening with minimal tolerance to give the drawer a piston type fit. All corners had to be hand dovetailed. The front-to-drawer sides were to be half blind dovetails and the sides to the back through dovetails.

Our training in Fundamentals II and III came in to play here. In II we learned how to make dovetails and in III we built a small bench using dovetails of our choice. Our instructor was

Jim Stafford, a very capable woodworker who has taught a variety of classes for the Dogwood Institute and Woodcraft. Jim kept us on track to see that our projects came to a timely and successful completion.

After we completed our project, time was allotted for Jim to provide dissertations concerning glues, abrasives and surface preparations. These are all important in woodworking projects. This information was very enlightening and will be very helpful as I progress through my woodworking education.

Some of the bonuses I got for working with skilled instructors such as Jim and the others was little tricks they show to cover your mistakes and still have your project come out looking good.

Another article by one of our scholarship recipients.

MARC ADAMS

FURNITURE MAKING TECHNIQUES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2005
8:30am to 4:30pm



FURNITURE MAKING TECHNIQUES takes you through different ways of making furniture, start to finish. Marc discusses simple ways to design furniture and explores form, function, ornamentation, and the process of woodworking.



Other topics that Marc covers are understanding how wood works, the difference between air dried and kiln dried wood, preparing stock, joinery, sharpening scrapers and chisels, making cabriole legs, sculpting wood, and adhesives.

Where: WOODWORKS
614 24th Street South

Cost: \$60 member;
\$95 non member
(Includes One year Membership)

(Lunch is Included With Cost)



CONTACT: Mike Key • 205-663-9036 • mkeyww@bellsouth.net or
The Alabama Woodworkers Guild • P.O. Box 26665, Birmingham, AL 35260

FURNITURE MAKING

Another article by one of our scholarship recipients.

A Week at the Windsor Institute

By Jeff Bishop

This past April I attended the Sack back Windsor chair class at the Windsor Institute in Hampton, NH. The idea of building a Windsor chair has intrigued me for quite some time and I was finally able to attend the class. The Sack back chair is the first class everyone attending the Windsor Institute must complete because it teaches the basics of Windsor chair making from which all the advanced classes progress.

The first day of class began with an introductory slide show by Mike Dunbar of "What is a Windsor Chair?". We learned some of the history of the Windsor chair, how its construction methods differed from previous chairs and when they came into being. Mike described the Windsor chair as a "composition in the element of line", with line being a tool or device to design or make a piece of furniture or art. Mike then discussed the four objectives of furniture making, it must fulfill its purpose, be comfortable, be well made, and be pleasing to look at.

Mike or one of the assistants first demonstrated each step in the chair making process and then we would perform that task. The first task we did was to shape the chair's bent members, the arm rail and bow. The arm rail was flattened on two sides with a hand plane, brought to thickness with a power planer, the sized to width with a hand plane. The bow was rough shaped with a drawknife and then a spokeshave to about 1" diameter. Next we put these parts in the steambox to get them ready to bend. After lunch we bent these pieces around forms and then put them aside to dry.

Our next task was learning to shape the spindles by using the drawknife and spokeshave. These tools take a little practice to feel comfortable with but after a little use you get the feel for them. After completing the spindles, they were put aside to dry with the arm rail and bow.

Day two began with shaping the seat for our chair. The blank for the seat was hand planed to remove mill marks and provide a good platform for layout. Using a template, we laid out the pattern for the seat, marked the centerline and registration marks, and connected the lines on the seat blank. The seat was then bandsawn out of the blank. Then shaping of the seat was begun around the rear edge and the front with a drawknife and then the spokeshave. Saddling of the seat was accomplished with the gutter adze, scorp, compass plane, and travisher to hollow out the seat. Each of these tools refines the seat more than the previous one. The last part of the shaping of the seat was to relieve the front of the seat on either side of the pommel, the high point on the front of the seat, with a drawknife and then a spokeshave. These areas are where your legs would rest while sitting in the chair.

The process of "legging up" is the next procedure performed in the chair's construction and is started on day three. The angles of the legs both fore/aft and left/right of the chair seat are called rake and splay. Bevel squares are

used to drill and ream the first leg, but the rest of the leg angles are referenced to the first leg by using winding sticks and bevel squares. The stretchers are measured to put the joints in compression by cutting the stretchers slightly longer than the distance between the legs. The stretchers and leg assembly are joined to the seat and the legs are wedged to complete the legging up process.

Day four began with drilling the seat holes for the spindles and reaming the stump holes in the seat for the front of the arm rail. The next task was to finish fitting the spindles to final shape and forming the tenon on the end. After this was done, we positioned the arm rail and located where we would drill the stump holes. The arm rail was mounted on the stumps and the process of fitting the spindles was begun by finding the center hole on the arm rail and drilling the hole for it to pass through. Then the rest of the spindle holes were located and drilled.

The last day of class found us attaching the bow to the chair. The first task was to form a taper on the ends of the bow to fit into the arm rail. The holes for the bow were located and drilled and the bow was mounted in order to locate the spindle holes in the bow. The spindle holes were measured out from the center spindle and drilled and the spindles were inserted and the bow was mounted on the chair. The final tasks were to wedge the spindles and the bow and have a seat in your hand-crafted Windsor chair.

This class involved learning quite a number of new techniques, using some tools most people have never heard of before (much less used), and learning how a chair is designed to accomplish its purpose. I can highly recommend The Windsor Institute to any one interested in learning how to make Windsor chairs and hope to return there for another class sometime.

STILL TO COME.....

KERRY MCCALLA, WITH A NATIONAL REPUTATION FOR HIS COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE TOOLS WILL BE SHARING SOME OF HIS RECENT FINDS AT OUR AUGUST MEETING.

HAORLD HALL, ONE OF THE BEST ANTIQUE REPAIRMEN AND RESTORERS IN THIS AREA WILL SHOW US SOME OF HIS SECRETS AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING.

KELLY MAHLER WILL BE HERE IN THE SPRING OF 2006

Meeting Directions:

Homewood Senior Center 816 Oak Grove Road Homewood, AL

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 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

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



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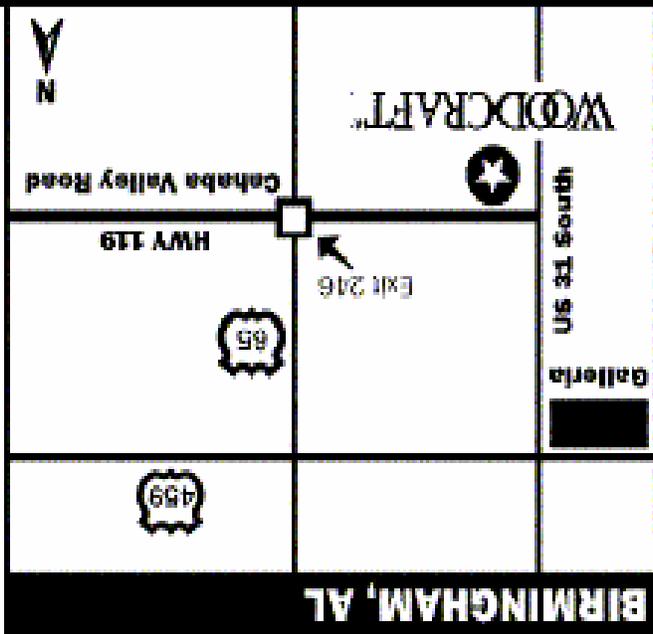


*The Alabama Woodworkers
 Guild*
 P.O. Box 26665

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.



Store Hours
 M - T - W - F: 9AM - 7PM
 Th: 9AM-9PM
 Sat: 9AM-6PM
 Sun: Noon-5 PM

Phone 205-988-3600
Fax 205-988-3612
Website: www.woodcraft.com
 e-mail: WC511@aol.com

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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