

## August meeting in Homewood

# Guild News



VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2008

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**Show Chair:** **Paul Mancill**

### President's Message

Those lazy dog days of summer are almost over. There's a hint of fall in the air...well if you get up real early in the morning you can almost imagine it. School has started back and not only for the young folks riding school buses each day but for us older students as well. **Jim Caldwell** and **Bill Shivers** have come up with a schedule for the WEC (see details on pages 2 and 3) that ought to get us going real soon. **Paul Mancill** says it's about time because he's not hearing too much about what folks are entering into our annual show yet. (See page 2 for a message from **Paul**)

We've been looking high and low for a qualified Shop Manager for the WEC that is willing to work for nothing and finally roped **Bill Shivers** and **Cliff Daniels** into agreeing to split the duties. They said they would do it provided we let them choose one more person to help them out. I think they're out there now trying to round up one more "volunteer". Speaking of roping, **Dan Browning**, **Harold Hall**, and **Robert McClure** are out there rounding up board members and officers for 2009.

See you on the 21st of August.

### Don't forget your Show & Tell

*For our Pre-meeting program on August 21st, Ron Peyton will be sharing information about the Dogwood Institute School of Fine Woodworking and its educational offerings.*

### Upcoming in 2008

**Jim Lee/Shane Carter**  
**Build a Kitchen Island Class**  
September 6th

**John Lawson**  
September 18th meeting

**Craig Satterlee**  
Seminar September 20th

**Doors with Michael Tomlin**  
October 16th meeting

**AWG Annual Show**  
October 18th through 26th

**Annual Show Reception**  
Tuesday, October 21st

**Fred & Elsie Baker Memorial Toys Program**  
November 20th

**Annual Christmas Party**  
December  
(see schedule for WEC page 2)

Ron has attended and consulted with several schools all over the country including The Center For Furniture Craftsmanship in Maine where he was inspired to create a woodworking school in Alpharetta, Georgia. His school teaches the "process" of fine woodworking as opposed to concentrating on "project" building. Many of our members have attended classes at the Dogwood Institute and can attest to the fine programs offered there.

### How to Build a Gentleman's Toolchest

Ron Peyton, a master woodworker of 30 years from Alpharetta, GA., is the director and owner of The Dogwood Institute School of Fine Woodworking. He is one of our patron sponsors, has presented programs at the Alabama Woodworkers Guild on two previous occasions, and judged two of our annual shows.

Ron will be presenting "How To Build A Gentleman's Toolchest". Ron's chest won three Awards at the last Wood Show in Atlanta 2008. The Awards were First in the Master's Level, Best of Show, and the People's Choice Award. He will not bring the entire Toolchest as it is a very large piece of furniture. Instead, he will bring segments such as a door and drawers from the chest to show and discuss how they were made. Highlighting his presentation will be the discussion on how he inlaid over 352 pieces of veneer into the doors and drawers to accentuate the toolchest. He will also discuss how he chose the finish. Time will be allowed for questions and further discussion.

You're sure to enjoy his presentation.

## Fall Island Class

On Saturday, September 6th, the kitchen island class will begin. This hands on class will take place in the WEC on 5 or 6 Saturday mornings between 8:00 AM and Noon. **Jim Lee** and **Shane Carter** will lead you through the process from design to installation. The class, working together, will build a kitchen island for the WEC.

The cost for all 5 sessions is \$45. Class dates are 9/6, 9/13, 9/27, 10/4, 10/11 and (10/18 if needed).

This is a rare opportunity to learn from and work with experienced professional craftsmen. Sign up and pay your \$45 at the August meeting to reserve your spot. Or contact Jim Caldwell, Education Chairman, at 205-967-0415 or k4jpm@bellsouth.net to make your reservation.

## A Note from our Show Chairman:

Only two short months left before our annual show at the Hoover Library. We had a fabulous show last year with over 100 pieces and hopefully this year will be even better.

Set up will be Saturday, October 18th and our reception will be on Tuesday, October 21st. The categories and levels will be the same as last year and will be published in the next newsletter.

Our show is always better when we have a lot of participation so I hope that everyone will participate and support the Guild.

## IWF, August 20 -23, Atlanta, GA

There's a terrific woodworking show going on in Atlanta. The International Woodworking Machinery & Furniture Supply Fair - USA® is one of the world's largest trade shows for the furniture manufacturing, architectural woodwork, and custom and general woodworking industries. IWF also meets the needs of the engineered wood product, composite, wood substitute, display and store fixture, plastic fabricating, flooring, surfacing and laminating, and upholstery industries. There's something for everyone amateur to professional.

Hardwoods of Alabama will be exhibiting at the show. Hardwoods have invited any AWG member who may be attending the IWF on Friday to join them on Friday evening for a barbeque.

## What's Happening at the Woodworking Education Center?

### Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00 – 4:00 Toy Workshop

Lunch will be provided (sign up at August meeting so we can arrange food for those attending)

### Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 - 3:00 Free Class

#### Buzz Kelly teaches Building an Out-feed Table

The table built will remain in the WEC.

### Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00 – Noon,

**Island Series Session 1** -Jim Lee and Shane Carter will begin a 5 or 6 week series of cabinet building sessions. The subject for this series will be a kitchen island. Cost for series is \$45.

### Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM – Noon,

#### Island Series Session 2

### Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 3:00 Free Class

**Mike Key will lead a session on using a Tormek** to sharpen tools. Bring your plane iron, chisels, and other tools to practice on.

### Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 - 4:00

#### Craig Saterlee Seminar (see article page 3)

### Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00 - 4:00 Free Class

#### Cliff Daniels leads hands-on turning of pens

### Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM – Noon,

#### Island Series Session 3

### Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 - 5:00

#### Toy Workshop

### Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM – Noon

#### Island Series Session 4

### Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM – Noon

#### Island Series Session 5

### Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM – Noon

#### Island Series Session 6

## Word from the “Splinter Group” from Cull-

**man is...** coming up September 15th - 20th they will be hosting a booth at the Cullman County Fair. On October 9th they have a hot dog social planned for members and guests. Then on October 25th they'll have a booth set up at the Peinhardt Farm Days.

Thanks to **Pat Weissend** for sharing all the news. Remember **Pat** has asked us to let him know if anyone in our group is interested in traveling to Cullman to talk with their group. They are offering \$75 to out of town speakers.

**You can also find us at [www.awwg.info](http://www.awwg.info)**

ALABAMA WOODWORKERS GUILD, INC.

*One More Month Until...*

# Techniques for making and fitting doors and drawers for furniture

*Saturday,  
September 20, 2008*

*9 AM until 4 PM*

*\$75 including lunch*

*Register today*

ALABAMA  
WOODWORKERS GUILD,  
INC.

**Where:**

Woodworking Education Center  
10544 County Rd 17  
Maylene, AL 35007

**Contact:**

Jim Caldwell, Education Chairman  
Phone: 205-967-0415  
Email: k4jpm@bellsouth.net

Or

Alabama Woodworkers Guild, Inc.  
P.O. Box 26665  
Birmingham, AL 35260  
[www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org](http://www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org)



Craig Satterlee, well known furniture maker and instructor, will conduct a one day seminar at the Woodworking Education Center in Maylene.

Craig builds furniture on commission in his own shop. He is also an instructor at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine, provides private instruction and has taught at the Dogwood Institute for Fine Woodworking as well as Woodcraft in Atlanta.

No matter what your skill level don't miss this opportunity to learn from a true professional woodworker.



## A Visit to Kelly Mehler's School of Woodworking

I've been a woodworker for 30 years. The first 25 years were probably more hacking than woodworking, but I never gave up. My first large purchase when I bought my first house was a tablesaw. Really, I was a single guy with an 80 year old house that needed work, a new Craftsman tablesaw and little furniture.

One of the tools I acquired from my Dad around that time was his lathe, an old Blue Star driven by a line shaft. I also acquired a bag full of my grandfather's lathe tools. I moved the lathe and tools 4 or 5 times across three states over the next 25 years and never set it up, partly due to lack of interest and partly due to having to mount the lathe, mount the line shaft and mount the heavy old electric motor.

Fast forward to 2007. Unable to pass up a good deal on tools, I bought one of the Delta lathes that the Guild had access to from The Dogwood Institute. It's the last significant tool my shop needed and it was about time to learn how to use a lathe. So, I chucked up some scraps and went at it. Then I built two Shaker trestle tables with turned legs. I never got comfortable using the lathe and struggled through turning those four legs. When the lathe tossed a gouge across the shop, I decided it was time to learn the right way before I got hurt. I convinced Cathy, my wife, that **five days at Kelly Mehler's School of Woodworking was a great way to spend a week's vacation**, and she was welcome to spend the week in Berea, KY with me. She declined, but **granted permission** to attend the school.

So, in early June I made the trek to Berea for a weeklong class on Turning Legs and Spindles for Furniture. Kelly's place is tucked back off the road on 10 acres. The building was designed to be an instructional facility and is laid out well. **The class had 7 students with Nick Cook as our instructor. Nick is a well known turner with his own school and shop in Marietta, GA.** I was amazed at how effortless he made turning a table leg or a spindle - beads, coves and tapers literally in minutes, and perfect. Nick was

well prepared for the class with materials, handouts and tools all provided. He was very patient and took the time to put his hands on yours and explain exactly how to hold the tools and maneuver them.

We had a project to complete each day (and subsequent days and nights to finish them up!). The first day we were introduced to the skew. Yes, the scary sharp skew that we are all taught to be afraid of. The first thing Nick told us was that **your skew must be sharp - very, very sharp.** The project was a garden dibble. Well, I had the honor of proving how sharp my skew was, by providing the first blood, and of course, on the first day. That darn lathe tossed the skew right into the my ring finger and sliced it good. Kelly offered to call his close personal friend, an ER doctor, who would "work me in" to the front of the line. Well, I did the manly thing and bandaged it up real good and kept on going. I even used the skew to turn the blood off my dibble.

For the next couple of days, Nick introduced us to rough gouges, bedans, spindle gouges and parting tools, including the "Nick Cook" parting tool that he designed (buy one, it's worth it). As Nick introduced each new lathe tool, he also showed us how to sharpen each the correct way (did I mention that I put the scary sharp edge on the skew that attacked me?). The projects were making 4 identical table legs, 4 identical spindles and a table lamp (or candleholder, depending on how you worked the design).

On Thursday, we were introduced to the lathe chuck and bowl gouge. The project was a three legged stool. Working on a free spinning chunk of wood that would eventually be the stool seat was an entirely different skill set from turning legs. Again, **Nick was right there the entire time with his patience, skills and knowledge.** The project on Friday, the last day, was a four legged shop stool. We put all of the skills from the week together into the last project. I was surprised how it all came together for me by the end of the week.

**You might recall when Kelly did the seminar for our Guild, that he was very safety conscious. He practices what he preaches, and expects**

**the same in his school from students and instructors.** There were a couple times that Nick ran across the shop shouting - Stop! Stop!, and correcting someone. It wasn't me, not even when the second bloody incident happened....

Kelly, his wife Terry, and his assistant Jordan, were gracious hosts and provided all the amenities we needed during the week. This included snacks, soft drinks, bottled water and lunch each day. **Lunches were always hot, freshly made that day and plentiful. They were considerate of any special dietary needs.** On Wednesday evening, appetizers and adult beverages were served at a reception for the students.

Berea is a small, college town with basic services. There are a half dozen budget hotels, plus Boone Tavern, an upscale hotel run by Berea College students. I stayed in a dorm room on the college campus the first three nights, then moved to the Country Inn. Ask Kelly, Terry or Jordan why I didn't stay the entire week on campus. It is quite a story. Ask me sometime and I might tell you! Restaurants are limited - there are two Subways, one Chinese restaurant, a couple of Italian/pizza places and some local places tucked away on side streets. There is one Wal-Mart and no Walgreen's/CVS/Rite Aid. No night life that I know of. Berea is "dry", so come prepared, or Richmond, KY is 15 miles north and Lexington is an hour away. During the summer, Kelly recommends that you attend the free "Pickin' on the Porch" local music fest on Thursday nights. Local musicians bring their instruments and just start jamming on the front porch of an old, restored cabin. There were 7 musicians when it started and over 20 when I left three hours later. The music is gospel, country and bluegrass and very entertaining.

**I highly recommend attending a woodworking school, and certainly endorse Kelly's school. You will be totally immersed in making sawdust for 8 hours a day and learning new skills to take back home with you.** I accomplished my objective and have even used my skew a few times since June.

## Guild Patrons

*We are very fortunate to have the following patrons who support the Guild. They are excellent suppliers of products or services in the local area that provide monetary support or allow us to use their various facilities for Guild functions:*

### **The Dogwood Institute School of Fine Woodworking**

Offers woodworking classes for beginner to advanced woodworkers on various topics with concentration on teaching the "Process" of making furniture. Our signature courses on *Foundations for Fine Woodworking*, has been extremely popular and guides the student through a series of Foundations Courses to prepare them for building quality furniture. Other courses include veneering, turning, finishing and project classes. Next year the school is expanding facilities/courses and will offer several weeklong courses. All courses are taught by master craftsmen with a vast amount of experience in different areas of expertise. Courses are conducted in our spacious horse farm in Alpharetta, GA featuring two large fully equipped barns including a turning studio & steam bending equipment. The environment lends to learning woodworking skills in a pleasant surrounding. Our mission: "To provide quality instructional courses to individuals who are interested in furthering their knowledge of woodworking at all levels of interest and skill." 1640 Mid-Broadwell Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004 (770)-751-9571 [www.dogwoodwoodworking.com](http://www.dogwoodwoodworking.com)

**Charter Fire Systems, Inc** Shawn O'Brien & David Pavey have served as valuable advisors to the Guild relative to fire safety issues. If you or your business have need for fire protection or inspection in the future please consider using Charter Fire Systems. (205) 982-3301

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**The Awards & Engraving Place** is a full service engraving shop, offering both laser and flatbed rotary engraving. We engrave directly on wood, glass, plastic, and a variety of coated metals. We offer plaques, glass and acrylic awards, trophies, interior signs and name badges. We have

been in business in Hoover since 1987. Contact Ken Murer, The Awards & Engraving Place, 1883 Hoover Court, Hoover, AL 35226, (205)-823-7676 fax (205)-822-1111

**Woodcraft** The Woodcraft franchise in Pelham, AL (see our ad page 6)

**Commercial Heating and Air, Charlie Ard**

**ABC 33/40 - Alabama's TV News Leader**

Our thanks to local television station **ABC 33/40** and videographer, **Bill Castle**, for their support of the community activities of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild.

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### **Directions to AWG Woodworking Education Center**

From **I 65 South**

Take **exit 238** for US31 toward Saginaw/Alabaster.

Turn **right at US31 N**,

Turn **left on AL 119/Montevallo Rd**

Turn **right on CR12**

Turn **right on CR17**

Look for school house **on your left**

**Mel Brown** has DVDs available at [www.bama4u.org/video.htm](http://www.bama4u.org/video.htm). A wide variety of topics for Woodworkers and Woodturners. We often forget the details by the time we get home. Guild members get a special price for only \$10 each DVD including postage.

### **Keep Your Tools Sharp!**

**Fred Sandlin**, an AWG member who owns and operates a professional sharpening service, will pick-up your saw blades and other tools at each meeting, sharpen them, and return them to you the following month. **Fred's** charge for this service is at his standard rates less a 5% discount for Guild members. Call **Fred** at (205) 663-7524.

### **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.

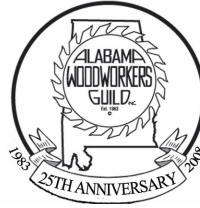


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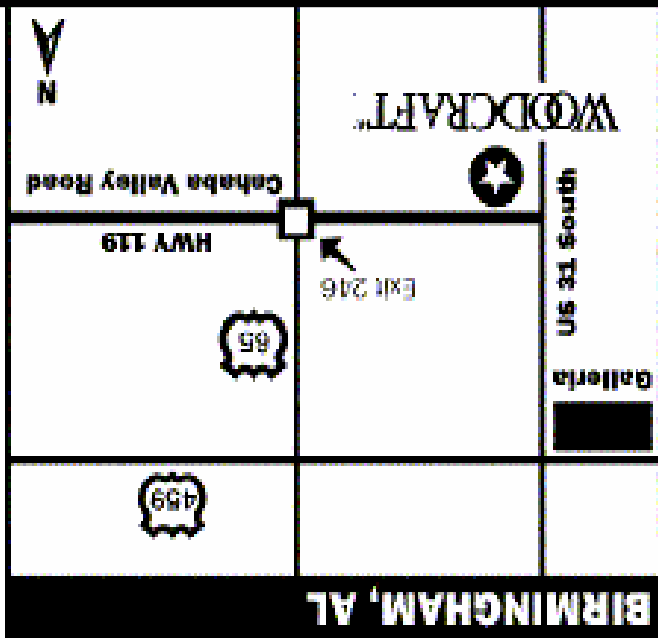


*The Alabama Woodworkers  
Guild, Inc.*  
P.O. Box 26665  
Birmingham, AL 35260

### 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. *(note exception for April)*

Information concerning the Guild may be secured by calling **Walter Barnett, Treasurer** at (205) 933-9207.  
Our Webmaster is **Brian Stauss**. See our website at: [www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org](http://www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org) or [www.awwg.info](http://www.awwg.info)  
Contact our **Guild News Editor** at [nelbuz@msn.com](mailto:nelbuz@msn.com).



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**Directions**  
Take I-65 to Exit 246.  
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3/4 of a mile. We are located on the left.  
in the Cahaba Valley Station.

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