



# Guild News



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WWW.ALABAMAWOODWORKERSGUILD.ORG

JUNE, 2010

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**Show Chair:** Paul Mancill  
Brian Stauss

**WEC Shop Managers:**  
Cliff Daniels  
Bill Shivers

## President's Message

### President's Message

Have you ever examined authentic Shaker furniture? My wife and I recently visited Shaker Village (<http://www.shakervillageky.org/>) in Kentucky and I had a hands-on opportunity to view their woodworking up close and in detail. Their simplistic and unadorned style is often misconstrued as being simple to build but the joinery combined with the practical functionality makes each piece quite unique. Shakers religious beliefs encouraged their craftsmen to design and build their furniture to be highly useful in everyday life and to last for many lifetimes. The dovetailed drawers in the dressers I saw fit and operated just as smoothly as the day they were built back in 1817.



What is even more impressive the Shakers built all their furniture using hand tools and even those were self-made. This wood lathe operated like the old time sewing machines by peddling the foot frame to reach 400-500 rpm. Of course the key to turning at such low rpm is a very sharp set of chisels. That brings me to the topic of our June meeting. We will have a sharpening demonstration by a representative of Woodcraft. Woodcraft recently met with our friends at the West Alabama Woodworkers Association to do this demonstration and it was very well received. Please plan on joining us!



Monta King

**Next Meeting**  
**Saturday,**  
**June 19, 2010**  
**Pre-meeting 9:30 to 10 am**  
**Meeting 10 to 11 am**  
**Lunch immediately after.**  
**Don't forget your**  
**Show and Tell**

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### **Bulletin Board**

**Art in Avondale Park: October (Dates to be set).** The guild will participate and sell items made by the members.

**Membership Dues:** See Walter ASAP! Dues are still \$50 per year.

**AWG Annual Show at The Hoover Library: October 9 through October 17.** Members are preparing their entries. Is your entry ready? Entries don't have to be new items. See John Lawson or any Board member for more information.

**Hot dogs & hamburgers will be served for lunch after our meeting. It costs about \$5 a person to provide so you're asked to chip in to help cover the cost.**

## JUNE MEETING

### KEEPING YOUR EDGE IN A TOUGH ENVIRONMENT

Many of you will recognize our June speaker as “one of the guys” at Woodcraft. Tom Boothe has worked at Woodcraft for the past two years, but most importantly he has been a woodworker for more than ten years. He has developed a seminar on the various ways to sharpen tools and he will share this with us at the June Meeting.

**Tom Surtees**

## WOODWORKING EDUCATION CENTER ( WEC )

The Thursday group continues with their efforts of building children appliances and inventorying and pricing items that will be for sale at the “Alabaster City Fest “.

We are still in need of a good riding lawn mower. If you know of one please let us know.

With the silent auction last month we were able to sell most of the surplus equipment that was stored in the north room. That room (our portion ) has been cleaned and better organized. Please help us keep it that way.

Not everyone is taking shop clean-up seriously. I remind everyone it is your responsibility to clean-up after yourself and any other area that you see that needs cleaning.

**Cliff Daniels**

### May Tool Sale

The proceeds from the sale of tools generated \$702. This annual tool sale replaces the usual program at the May meeting each year. Some members left the WEC with some great bargains and outstanding tools. Some pictures from the event are shown below.



**Pre meeting Program:**

**Cliff Daniel** demonstrating the new Powermatic Lathe



Some of the hand tools that were for sale.



### *Comfort Bucket*

There's a bucket sitting on the sign in table at each of our meetings. *That bucket is there for you to put in a couple of bucks for the “comfort” of having a nice place to meet.* Those contributions help to defray the costs of heating, air conditioning, refreshments, and paper products. There was a time when we met in a warehouse without any of these amenities and at the convenience of others. Be grateful!



# AWG and Woodworking Center Calendar

June/July 2010

| Sunday  | Monday    | Tuesday | Wednesday                                 | Thursday                                     | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|-----------|---------|---|--|--|--|
| 20[25]<br>1:00pm - 5:00pm .... Father's Day - WEC closed        | 21<br>Jun | 22      | 23  | 24<br>9:00am - 3:00pm<br>Thursday @WEC       | 25<br>9:00a-1:00p Monta King<br>11:00a-3:00p - Toys<br>1:00p-5:00p Troy Stroud<br>5pm-9p Eddie Heerten         | 26<br>9:00am - 1:00pm ....<br>Monta King<br>1:00pm - 5:00pm<br>Randall Robertson   |
| 27[26]<br>1:00pm - 5:00pm .... Bill Shivers                     | 28        | 29      | 30  | 1<br>Jul<br>9:00am - 3:00pm<br>Thursday @WEC | 2<br>9-1 Randall Robertson<br>11:00am - 3:00pm - Toys<br>1pm - 5pm R Hardwick<br>5p- 9pm Eddie Heerten         | 3<br>WEC closed for<br>Independence day<br>weekend   |
| 4[27]<br>1:00pm - 5:00pm ....<br>Independence Day-WEC<br>closed | 5         | 6       | 7<br>6:30pm - 7:30pm AWG<br>Board Meeting | 8<br>9:00am - 3:00pm<br>Thursday @WEC        | 9<br>9-1 Randall Robertson<br>11:00am - 3:00pm - Toys<br>1-5 Randall Robertson<br>5pm - 9 Eddie Heerten        | 10<br>9:00am - 1:00pm ....<br>Monta King<br>1:00pm - 5:00pm .... no<br>supervisor  |
| 11[28]<br>1:00pm - 5:00pm Bob Moore,<br>supervisor              | 12        | 13      | 14  | 15<br>9:00am - 3:00pm<br>Thursday @WEC       | 16<br>9:00a-1:00p Troy Stroud<br>11:00am - 3:00pm - Toys<br>1:00p-5:00p R Hardwick<br>5:00p-9:pm .... Mike Key | 17<br>8:00am - 9:00am<br>Monthly pre-meeting<br>(Woodworking<br>Education Center)<br>9:00am - 11:30am<br>Monthly Guild Meeting<br>9a-1:00pm Paul Owen<br>1p - 5p Bob Moore |

## AR Bray

Artist, engineer, innovator, collector, inventor, entrepreneur, furniture maker, tool maker, woodcarver, amateur archeologist, instructor, gardener. All of these words describe AR Bray. His interests, skills and abilities are broader than the words can convey. In a recent visit with Mr. Bray, I learned more about him and wanted to share one view of the person we all know as "AR".

AR was born in 1937 in the coal mining town of Bondtown, Virginia-a town that no longer exists. His Father worked for the Carnation Milk Company and his family moved to several locations where the company had manufacturing facilities. One of these moves was to Dadeville, Alabama where AR attended high school. He graduated from nearby Auburn University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation he worked at paper mills owned by International Paper in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Moss Point, Mississippi and Bastrop, Louisiana. After working for International Paper, AR began a career as a representative for George S. Edwards Co. where he managed product lines such as instrumentation and control systems for paper mills. His background in mechanical engineering came into play in this position as he worked with control systems in chemical and other industrial processes.

AR has interests in archeology and paleontology. He has collections of Native American artifacts and fossils in his home and shop. He also collects old tools. He has an extensive collection of wooden planes and maintains many of them in ready-to-use condition.

A recent tour of AR's shop and home found many completed woodworking projects and many items under construction. His woodworking interests are varied. He has done full-relief carvings, whimsical items (some shown in the attached pictures), traditional items (a current example is a variety of Windsor chairs that are under construction in his shop), tables, tool chests, Shaker boxes, music-related items (see the guitar stand that he designed and created), stools, shop furniture and other shop equipment. The list is long and varied.

One item that amazed this writer is the carving of Thomas Jefferson that AR carved on a cowry shell (shown below). He also carved a very detailed and lifelike American Indian that is in his shop.

AR is a long-standing member of the Guild and has served in many capacities. He is now instructing a class in the construction of continuous arm Windsor chairs. Several members have completed chairs and they are beautiful examples of a classic design. AR shared with class members his skills with hand tools and traditional construction methods to add to the repertoire of the class members. These skills will be useful to them in many other areas of woodworking.

Many members of the guild have interesting stories about AR. Space does not permit relating all of those stories, but one that I found to be fascinating was a venture that he partnered in with his brother. They organized a business to sell Arkansas stones and a honing lubricant that they called "Possum Fat". I have an idea that a book could be written about AR's ventures (and possibly, misadventures). He is a treasure for our guild.

**Bill Newman**



AR Bray teaching a class on making Windsor chairs.



Windsor chair by chairmaker, AR Bray



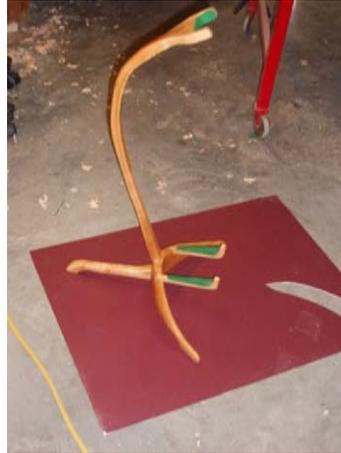
A Windsor chair under construction in AR's shop

**Some Examples of Items Made By AR Bray**

AR's work is so varied and creative that it defies classification. Many of his creations are completely original. He occasionally works without plans and produces items that are free-form in nature. From three dimensional sculptures, to cameo carvings on a cowry seashell, toys, custom tools, traditional Windsor chairs, Shaker boxes, fine tool boxes, steam bending equipment and many other items, AR does it all



Closet stepper for Ladies made by AR Bray,



Guitar stand by AR Bray



Fireplace surround and mahogany/marble coffee table By AR



Shaker boxes, carved figure and turned vessel by AR



Cowry shell with carving of Thomas Jefferson by AR



Unusual free-form stool by AR



Tool cabinet made by AR



Sculptured walnut table by AR Bray



Bamboo trellis for gourds being grown at the Woodworking Education Center by AR Bray

### Guild Fundraising Activities at Local Festivals in May and June

The guild participated in two major festivals in May and June. On May 7 and May 8, many dedicated guild members set up and manned two tents at the Buck Creek Festival in Helena. Despite the best efforts of the team, the results were disappointing. On June 5 the guild participated in the Alabaster CityFest. The members manning the booth were diligent in their efforts to sell our items, but again the results were disappointing. Sales did not come close to covering the cost of participation. Those attending the booths were subjected to extreme heat and humidity. One member suffered from sunburn and all of the workers got wet when a thunderstorm came up as they were packing up the sale items. Thanks to the capable leadership of the Fund Raising chairman, Troy Stroud, the team packed up quickly and avoided the worst of the storm. The combined proceeds to the guild for these two events did not cover the fees for participating. The guild did, however, gain some favorable exposure in the communities closest to our shop. Some pictures from the Buck Creek event are shown below.



The Guild's Booth at Buck Creek



Cliff Daniels demonstrating a turning technique at Buck Creek



Cliff getting deep into his work



Cliff with an audience.



Jeff Hood demonstrating the scroll saw at Buck Creek



Eddie Heerten working with a potential customer



**Welcome new Members**

**Rolando Gutierrez and Jeff Oetting**

## 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)

**Paul Mancill, Realtor** Residential, land, & commercial (205)-706-6252

### **Commercial Heating and Air, Charlie Ard**

**J.R. Prewitt & Associates, Inc.** Independent Insurance Agent—Founded in 1974, J. R. Prewitt & Associates, Inc. is a family owned agency that has grown to one of the largest firms in the Birmingham area. Representing over a dozen insurance carriers, the agency provides a full spectrum of insurance services to over 3500 clients. From individuals to multi-state corporations, the agency prides itself on it's loyal, long term client base as a result of unparalleled customer service. Contact us for your personal, business, or professional insurance needs. 2146 Highland Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35205 Telephone (205)-933-9207 FAX (205)-930-0450

**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 wards, 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

**Max Tool, Inc.** is a distributor of cutting tools, abrasives, MRO and machine shop supplies. Founded in 1985, we are located in Birmingham, Alabama. Max Tool represents the product lines of many of industry's foremost manufacturers from around the world.. 119 B Citation Court, Birmingham, AL 35209 (205)-942-2466 [www.maxtoolinc.com](http://www.maxtoolinc.com)

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### **Sara's Tax Service**

100 Foust Avenue, Hueytown, AL 35023  
205-497-4020 Fax 205-497-4011

### **Snow's Sharpening Service**

Ed Snow can take care of all of your saw blade sharpening needs. You can leave and pick up your blade at Woodcraft or you can contact Ed at 205-218-1885 or [redsnow\\_3@hotmail.com](mailto:redsnow_3@hotmail.com)



A prize-winning table from a past show! Remember our show at the Hoover library in October. If your entry is not ready, you might want to get started right away. The show is scheduled for October 9 through October 17.

### **Directions to the 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**



# WOODCRAFT<sup>®</sup>

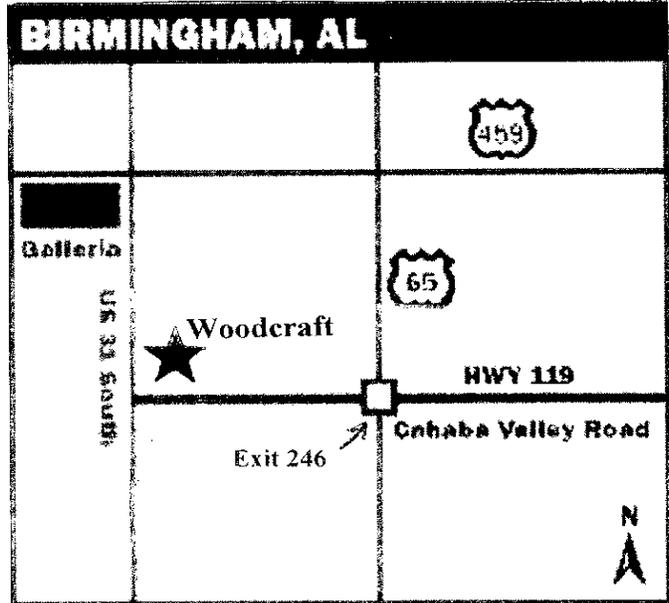
**Helping You Make Wood Work<sup>®</sup>**

Directions:  
 Take I-65 to Exit 246  
 Take Highway 119 West (Cahaba Valley Road)  
 3/4 of a mile to US 31. Turn right on US 31 and travel north approx. 0.3  
 mi. Our store is on the right (east) side of US 31. Our new address is:  
 2215B Pelham Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124

**Phone**  
 205-988-3600  
**Fax**  
 205-988-3612

**Website:**  
[www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)  
 e-mail: WC511@aol.com

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



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 the Woodworking Education Center, 10544 Hwy 17, Maylene, AL 35114

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 [nwkschop@bellsouth.net](mailto:nwkschop@bellsouth.net)

## About Us

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