

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII NUMBER 10 OCTOBER 1990

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall classes in woodworking, turning and carving are shaping up. See the details elsewhere in the newsletter. David Traylor will be the instructor for the general woodworking class. David is a professional woodworker and will bring a wealth of experience to the class.

Bring your toys in for the October meeting if you have any completed. We would like to get as many as possible in by the November meeting. Commitments are in for over 650 toys — with a little more effort we can break the 1000 mark!

Need a good idea for a simple toy? Make some building blocks. Simple rectangular 1x2x2, 1x2x4, 1x2x6, etc. are a good start. Add a few triangular shapes to match and a couple of 1x2x6s with 1" radius semi-circle cut out in the middle for an arch and you have a great toy for kids from 1 1/2 to 6 years of age. Just round off the edges with a sander or 1/8 roundover bit, sand well and you are through. No finish needed. Toys like this sell for \$30 to \$50 in specialty toy catalogs. Yet they are simple to make from scrap wood. Give it a try.

See you at the October meeting.

## PROGRAM - OCTOBER 11, 1990

Our program chairman, Gene Benitez, has done a superb job of enlisting speakers this year. He had a speaker lined up for October too but at the last minute he canceled. Since we go to press two weeks before the meeting he did not have time to

settle on a substitute speaker by that time. However, you can rest assured he (Gene) will come through with a good, timely and interesting program.

## LAST MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1990

What a fascinating infusion of quality information we received from Dr. Jim Kassner, assisted by his son. Conceiving a wooden clock probably has never occurred to any of us, but it did to Dr. Kassner. In his opening remarks he shared his considerable knowledge of the history of wooden clocks which were in use centuries ago. The intricate works of a clock made from wood appear inconceivable on the surface, but Dr. Kassner has whipped that problem. The parts are made of maple. In consideration of the precision required to make escapements and wheels for the movement of a clock, it is apparent the parts must be cut very accurately. To accomplish this, Dr. Kassner has devised and built a computerized overhead router machine with four routers doing the work. The stock is affixed to the bench top and when the switch is thrown these four routers, guided by a computer, go to work and cut the parts scheduled for that moment. Other parts are similarly cut. The slide presentation of the progression of his machines (there are others besides the routers) convinced us that this former college professor borders on genius. There is no reason why the clocks won't last a hundred years. He did say the farther you

can put your wooden clock from the kitchen the better off you will be since grease in the air will find its way to the clock and require it to be cleaned more frequently. He told us the clock can be disassembled and reassembled in a few hours, so cleaning should not be a big problem.

## FALL 1990 CLASSES

We are pleased to announce our three classes will be offered again this fall. The classes will begin on October 23rd and run for varying lengths of time. Mr. Fred Baker, our sterling member and teacher cannot teach the General Woodworking class this fall due to his teaching load at Bessemer Tech. We are fortunate to have Mr. David Traylor take over the class. David has been in woodworking professionally several years and has given us a program not too long ago. He knows his business and those of you who sign up first will benefit from his teaching. The Carving class will be taught again by Ivan Kronberg and Jerry Vines. The Woodturning class will be taught again by Dale Lewis. The fees for attending these classes are \$48 for General Woodworking; \$35 for Carving; and \$35 for Turning. The General Woodworking class must have a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 18, and the other two 7 and 11. The registration for the classes will be held at the October meeting so please come prepared to register and pay your fee at that time.

## WOODWORKER OF THE YEAR

At the end of 1989, the Guild awarded a plaque to Ivan Kronberg as Woodworker of the Year. The award was based on a vote of the membership. This person should exemplify the epitome of a woodworker, one who has participated and contributed time and energy toward the advancement of the Guild. We will take nominations from the membership at the October meeting, and the election will be held at the November meeting. Finally, the award will be made at the Christmas party.

## SHOW AND TELL

There were several members who brought something they had made so as to be able to show and tell. President Caldwell showed us some blocks of wood he is making for Toys for Tots. The blocks are square, rectangles, triangles and round. Little tots thoroughly enjoy playing with stackable blocks of wood. John Taylor displayed a toy tractor; Ivan Kronberg had a piece of spalted hickory on which was mounted a desk type pen; Dale Lewis brought one of his unusual bowls (President Jim asked him if it would fly), a bowl on stilts, with lid, and with inlaid bits of contrasting woods; Leonard Sanders had a bowl made from Box Elder, a lovely wood with a red streak down the middle.

## DOOR PRIZES

We had four last month. The drawing produced Ben Anguin for the Danish Oil; Mike Key won a piece of oak donated by Ivan Kronberg; a can of Antique Oil Finish (Minwax) was awarded Bill Battle and some special wood was won by Larry Patton. Just remember, guys and gals, to win you must register when you arrive.

Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena, Al 35080 or calling the Editor, Leonard Sanders, at 822-6876.

## FOR SALE/TRADE ETC.

You may recall two of our members have made exquisite coin banks using the brass door from a Post Office letter box. Bill Purson, a postmaster himself, brought one and Ben Landrum, who has made dozens of them and sold them at craft shows, has brought one to a meeting. Well, it seems Ben is tired of making the infernal things and now wants to dispose of the P. O. Box doors he has left over. If you want one, or more, at \$5.00 each, see or call Ben Landrum at 836-4685.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

The symposium at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, TN for October 25, 26, and 27 is filled. Arrowmont's capacity is limited to 250 people, with 100 on the waiting list. I feel the AAW did a bad job of planning for this, but after talking to several board members it's apparent that Arrowmont is the big problem. After suggestions from renting hotel space to putting up a big tent they have refused to help in accommodating more people. After promoting this for several months I apologize to those who joined for the sole purpose of going to Gatlinburg. Next year it will be in Dallas, Texas with promises of room for everyone.

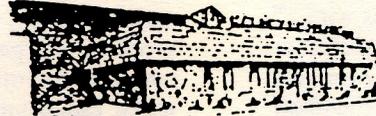
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# FINISHING

## SEMINAR

There were between 45 and 50 members who attended our annual fall seminar on September 22 at Acton's. Our speaker was Henry F. Barrow, a professional furniture maker and woodworker from Glen Echo, Maryland. We are indebted to Bill Purson for arranging for Mr. Barrow to travel this far to try and educate us on the science of finishing. Henry has been in the business of making commission works for about twenty years and has developed some fantastic finishes during that time. He has participated in some 25 exhibits from 1979 to 1989; had six articles published; won two awards during 1988-1989, and has served as a consultant to several organizations.

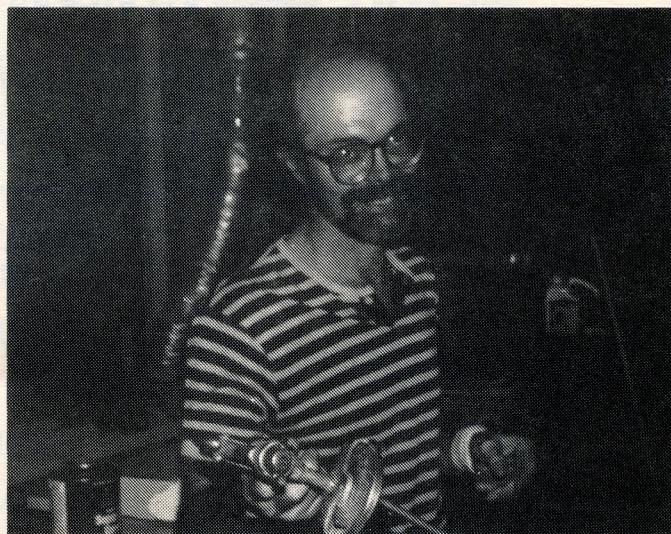
There are dozens of tidbits he passed along to us, and we will attempt to summarize as many as we can. One very important suggestion concerns lighting. Most of us have fluorescent lighting in our shops, but he recommends the use of an incandescent light when applying finish to a project. One should place the light opposite the piece so when the finish is applied it will shine in the reflection of the light. Mr. Barrow says there are literally thousands of finishes available, but he has used only some 25 or 30 in his work, and has actually narrowed down to 6 the number he now uses. The following are some tips in finishing: apply the thinnest coat possible but apply as many coats as are needed (he has put as many as 50 coats on some projects); French Polishing has about gone out of style; when mixing shellac, put one pound of flakes to a gal. of alcohol; there are three main types of wax: carnuba, bees wax, and paraffin wax — recommends using the one with highest percent of carnuba (TREWAX is good); a good finish, one he uses a lot, is what he calls his ONE, TWO, THREE finish. So named — ONE = one part boiled linseed oil, TWO = two parts gloss varnish, AND THREE = three parts turpentine. The finish is wiped on with a cloth, as thinly as

possible, but with as many coats as desirable. The mixture should be allowed to stand for a week before using, in a dark glass jar, with daily stirring to keep it stirred. The first five coats should be allowed to dry overnight, and each coat thereafter should be applied every other day, and he recommends wet sanding with 400 grit paper after the first two coats. We will throw in a little tip here — Mr. Barrow uses a hypodermic needle to pick off brush bristles that come out of the brush and stick to the work. For finish rubbing, use sweatshirt or diaper material.

Some products he recommends: FINE LINE tape (a super masking tape) by 3-M; VALSPAR varnish; WATERLOX with tung oil; TREWAX for waxing; WATCO Danish Oil; oxide type sandpaper; FAMO putty; and DUCO Cement mixed with sawdust for filling.

Much time was spent on lacquer which is his favorite finish. There are difficulties to overcome when working with lacquer and it is recommended you have a spray room, free from dust, if you want to get into spraying. He advises that lacquer will be 90% dry overnight, the next 5% in a week, and the remaining 5% over several weeks including the last 1/2% taking six months to completely dry. Lacquer cannot be dry sanded, but can be sanded with water and silicon paper. The proper sequence for lacquering is to put a coat of shellac or sanding sealer on first, then apply lacquer mixed equally with lacquer thinner. A point to remember, shellac can only be dissolved in alcohol.

Mr. Barrow demonstrated the mixing of the ONE, TWO, THREE mixture previously mentioned, but then added, if you want a really pretty sheen to the finish, dissolve some beeswax in turpentine and add to the 1, 2, 3, mixture when applying the last two coats. Lacquer can be brushed



on only if cut with lacquer retarder, and the mixture should be on a ratio of one to one. When applying, use even flowing strokes in one direction (only) — no back and forth brushing as in applying varnish. A tip for testing the dryness of a coat of lacquer is with the flat part of the fingernail touching the edge corner of the work, and of course getting the incandescent light on it so as to reveal any wet spots.

You can make your own tack cloths by putting a mixture of turpentine and varnish on a cheese cloth. It can be used for years just by storing it in a lidded jar when not in use, and by adding additional turpentine and varnish as it is used up. As for SANDING, he recommends using 80 grit for about 80% of your sanding, then finish with 120 and 220, and use Oxide sandpaper, if possible. If the project is large, he recommends vacuuming between the various grit papers.

Fillers for nail holes or cracks etc. can be filled with FAMO fillers which come in colors; or you may retrieve some sawdust from the project and mix with DUCO cement.

Staining came in for some discussion. He does not put any stain on Cherry, Walnut, Mahogany or Maple. Cherry will get "muddy" looking if stained and is best left to the elements which will darken it in time. Maple should be washed down with vinegar before staining, that is if you feel you must stain it.

We can only add we are sorry more of you did not attend. Mr. Barrow lived up to his reputation and except for some hard seats, that got harder as the day wore on, was a thoroughly fascinating and informative program.

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