

GuildNews

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APRIL 2000

President's Message

I'm really excited about the Windsor Chair Seminar scheduled for June 24th. This should be a great weekend for all who plan to attend. (There is more detailed information about the seminar elsewhere in the newsletter.) In addition to the seminar we have some other great things planned for the year. For example, the demonstration at the Whistle Stop Craft Show, a continuation of our members' shop tours (this always is a favorite), toys workshops for those of you wanting to learn toy making or to simply step up your activity, and a silent auction (May). All of this activity takes time and effort on someone's part—so, if you want to help let one of the board members know.

Our shop co-chairmen are continuing to search for a location suitable for this year's show. The Hoover Library construction project is simply not going to be finished in time for our show. The library folks as well as the Guild are disappointed about this but such is progress. We certainly plan to return to the library next year.

See you April 13th!

Dan

*Next Program—
April 13, 2000 • 6:30 PM*

The name Kerry McCalla will ring a bell with those of you who have been members since 1991, the year Kerry was transferred to

Nashville by BellSouth. He not only is a skilled wood craftsman who won ribbons at our show every year, but he is a collector of tools, principally antique tools. He always brought at least one of his collection to our meetings and challenged us to identify the tool and its use. There is a rumor that his collection had grown to such proportions he would have to add a room or dig a deeper basement to house them all. He had shallow boxes slid under their beds and his closets were bulging. A thoroughly likeable fellow, he will absolutely fascinate you with his knowledge of tools and their uses. All of this thanks to Charley Ard.

Last Program—March 2000

The GUILD was treated to an absolutely thrilling and intriguing and fascinating program. All of this was possible only because the speaker was our own extremely talented Leonard Sanders. His subject was spiral candlesticks, that, if done right bring forth some lovely cork screw spindles in the candlesticks. The method used to accomplish the swirling body is with the use of masking tape stretched in a spiral up the body of the candlestick in rows about one-half inch apart. Thus the spiral is formed, and there only remains the task of carving the spirals. Using a dovetail saw, a groove is cut to the depth desired between the spirals of masking tape, after which the masking tape is removed and the

carving begins. The use of chisels and files hog out the worst of the waste, and the filing is followed by a generous amount of sanding. Starting with 80 grit, then 100, then 240, then 400 and finished off with steel wool. Your favorite finish can then be applied. We used gel stain and it worked fine—Bartley's Pennsylvania Cherry on mahogany. Hope you enjoyed it.

Kudos

It was very much appreciated that Les Wilson brought to the March meeting a case of scratch pads and pencils, both carpenter's and regular. Thanks, Les. Then we are indebted to those members who build the desks that fit on the arm rests of wheel chairs at Children's Hospital. These desks make it possible for those children bound to a wheel chair to be able to paint things, play games and anything the other children can do except walk and run. You members involved in this endeavor are appreciated by the GUILD and the Hospital.

Woodworking Class

Mike Key and Fred Baker undertook to be instructors back in January, and the class has been going ever since. An inquiry was made of the instructors as to when the class would end. The answer came back that it would

end when and if the table is ever completed. We are betting it will be soon.

Toy Workshops and Open Houses

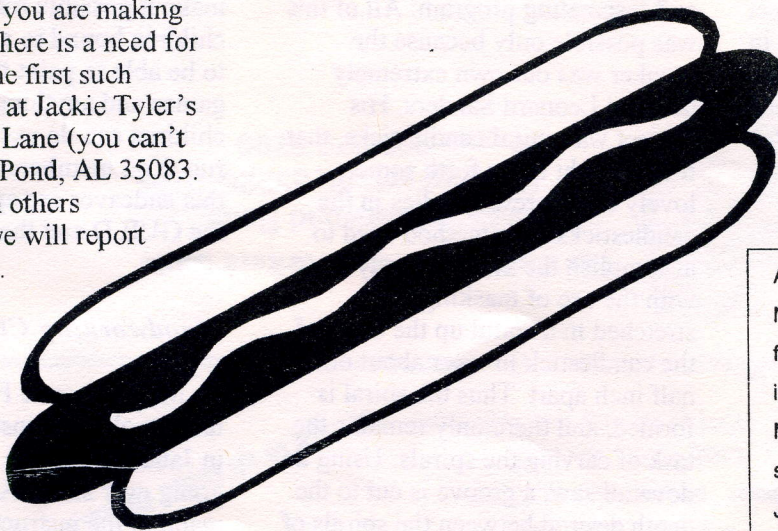
It has been decided to combine these two endeavors and save a little wear and tear on the membership. There was enthusiastic response to continuing our open houses. (What is it? The goodies or just something to do?) Seriously, the open houses have proved to be an interesting time spent on a Saturday morning when you can see what kind of tools the person has, how he has arranged them and generally what he makes with them. Last year all the open houses were well attended, and the comradeship together with the refreshments brought out the citizens. Now add to that the making of toys for the Children's Hospital, and you have a worthwhile program going on a Saturday morning. We continually remind you that there is a need for toys all year long, and while lots of you are making the interim toys there is a need for more of them. The first such gathering will be at Jackie Tyler's house, 132 Love Lane (you can't beat that), Holly Pond, AL 35083. There are several others scheduled, and we will report them in due time.

Hot Dogs and a Silent Auction

Both these undertakings are a lot of fun. Who doesn't like hot dogs? Hardly anyone. After supper of the 'dogs, then the silent auction will be conducted. Now all of these two functions will be in M A Y, 2000, not April. Start looking around your home, garage and basement, wherever your supplies, timber and tools are located, and determine which of these could be disposed of without crippling your operation. Maybe you have a tool you haven't used in a year or more—well put it in the silent auction, the money therefrom and buy another tool you really want or need. Everyone benefits from the sale of a tool, or whatever—the buyer and the seller. There will be more about this in the May GUILD NEWS.

Windsor Chair Making Seminar

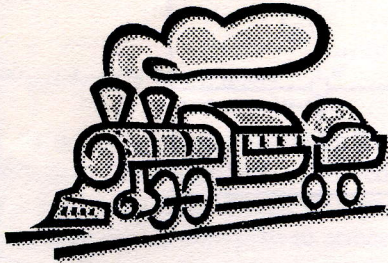
We have contracted with David Wright of Berea, Kentucky, to conduct a one-day seminar on Windsor Chair making. The date for the seminar is June 24, 2000. David has a degree from Berea College and Eastern Kentucky University, but is mostly self-taught when it comes to Windsor Chair making. David has been building Windsor chairs for 14 years. He has been featured in *Home Furniture*, *Woodwork*, *American Woodworkers*, and *American Woodturners* magazines. We are really fortunate to have a nationally acclaimed chair-maker coming to Birmingham. This should be a very interesting seminar. The cost will be \$50.00 per person with a limit of 30 participants. If you are interested in attending . . . we'll begin preparing a list of those who wish to attend and will collect the fee at the April 13 Guild Meeting.



Alabama Woodworkers Guild
Newsletter is published monthly
for its members and other
interested parties. Guild
Meetings are held monthly on the
second Thursday at 6:30 PM at
Jos. Thuston & Sons Saw Works.
INformation concerning the Guild
may be secured by calling.

Whistlestop Arts and Crafts—Irondale

This has been mentioned a couple of times recently, and now



the time has come to fish or cut bait. If you are interested in doing a demonstration at the fair, and quite a few of you indicated you are, you need to call Harold Phillips at 424-0819 and get the details of the procedures to be followed. You need to make your willingness to volunteer known by at least the April meeting.

The Show

Jack Perry, who has been our guru on this project for several years, reported we are in a heap of trouble with respect to having our show at the Hoover Library. They are remodeling the Library, and it doesn't look like it will be completed until late in the year, and late in the year is too late for us. If anyone knows of a suitable place, please let Dan know. We are almost desperate for a place. This is the first time in a few years we didn't have a place sown up by this time of year. Don't worry, there will be a SHOW.

*Ben Erickson—
Eutaw, Alabama*

It was certainly a surprise to receive a letter from Ben in which he says he has found few things in life that can compare with the satisfaction of putting the final coat of finish on a piece of handcrafted furniture, then standing back to admire a job well done. He goes on, that is one reason he has enjoyed judging the GUILD's annual show over the years, which he did in 1992 and 1997. He says that in one afternoon he could vicariously (his word) enjoy that same feeling through each member's unique creation. Now he has written a novel entitled "A Parting Gift." If his book is as well done as his window shutters (which he demonstrated at a seminar for us), it will be a good book. He is



scheduled for book signings in the Birmingham area: The Little Professor Book Center, Homewood, May 23 from 12 - 2 PM; and Barnes & Noble (Summit) Sunday, June 4 at 2 PM. Those of you who know or remember Ben will surely want to get one of his books.

Show and Tell

This is always an interesting part of our meetings. Our members have made something and are willing to show us and they are always received with enthusiasm. With thanks, last month we had the following:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Earl Mann | A carved cross |
| Ben Landrum | Two fish in intarsia
(look it up) |
| Buddy Finch | Scroll saw cutout
(circular) |
| Mel Brown | Two barrister file
cabinets |



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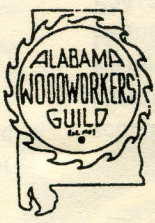
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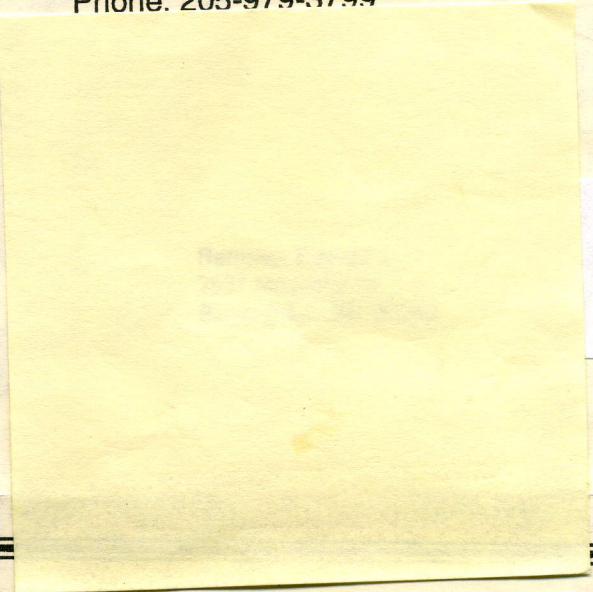


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