



# GuildNews

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## *President's Message*

It certainly seems that I've missed something in my walk through the year 2000 . . . several months! It's hard to believe that school has started, football season has begun, hunting season is just around the corner and it's about time for our annual show. Speaking of the show, I certainly hope you folks are busy getting that project complete. If you're a "first timer," be nervous! That's a natural reaction. Everyone who has ever entered our show has been apprehensive about the entire ordeal (I certainly was my first show.) This feeling quickly reduces itself to pride when you look at the show and say "I'm a part of this!" If you want some help with your project or need some advice ask any of us "old timers" (we're all full of advice, and other stuff).

I had a good visit with Jack Perry last week. He's doing great and we look forward to seeing him back at our meetings.

See you September 7th.

*Dan*

*Next Program—  
September 14, 2000 • 6:30 PM*

Another fine program is in store for us. Charley Ard has invited Mr. Martin Owen, a professional woodworker, as our

program. As we all know, there is a lot of work that can be done around the interior of our homes. In addition to being a professional woodworker, Mr. Owen is also an interior decorator. Think of how much fun you can have making new moulding or doors and installing them in your house. You could get a few points from the "better half" if you did some of that at your house.

## *Last Program—August 2000*

How, you may ask, does Leonard know about Ira Chaffin appearing as our program? Easy. You see, Ben Neighbors was kind enough to take notes and pass them on to me. Thanks, Ben. Mr. Chaffin is a sculptor by training having majored in sculpturing at the University of California at L. A. His main work is in bronze. He makes the pattern (you know, like in pattern shops at foundries) and has them cast in bronze. That is one sure way to find out if you made a boo boo while making the pattern. Then he does considerable work in making carousel horses. What magnificent things they are. He brought one in progress, which is made from basswood. As you know, basswood is great for carving, for it is soft enough to be easily carvable and firm enough to hold its shape. It takes about \$200 for materials and about 100

hours to carve the horse (that's about 12 days at 8 hours a day). These horses are for display at home, mostly, unless you can sell them to a carousel manufacturer. Antique horses can sell for up to \$100,000, so maybe we should all be on the lookout for antique carousel horses. He teaches carving at WOODCRAFT in Pelham so you may see him there. He says he uses all kinds of tools, anything that will speed the work.

## *Jack Perry Is Home*

Having had a rough time of it, it is doubly inspiring to learn Jack has returned to his home in Tuscaloosa. That's right. Jack lives in Tuscaloosa and drives back and forth to tend to GUILD business and to attend our meetings. Wonderful to know you are back, Jack.

## *Early Intervention*

There is an organization in Homewood that deals with little children from birth to three. Mrs. Betty Bell, director of the organization, asked our GUILD to make them 20 little chairs for the children. The seat of the smallest was only 6" off the floor for the youngest and going up to about eight, ten and twelve inches off the floor.

They had to have absolutely straight backs, in other words 90° to the seat. This was to enable the workers to teach them to sit up straight. Our GUILD was pleased to participate in a program such as this.

## Show and Tell

We had a couple of the members to show something. Mike Key showed a pot turned from eucalyptus, and he did a great job. Then our multitalented Ben Landrum had one of his carvings of an eagle, made from walnut and maple. Thanks, guys.

## For Sale

Ordinarily we do not use GUILD NEWS space for tool and material advertisements, but once in a while there comes along an opportunity for our members and such is the case with the following:

Rockwell-Delta, 6" x 48" combination sander	\$500
Rockwell-Delta, 3/4" spindle shaper	500
Grizzly, 6" Cast Iron Jointer	250
DeWalt, 10" Radial Arm Saw	325
Grizzly, Portable Dust Collector	175
Craftsman, 10" Table Saw	150
Campbell-Hausfield, 3 H.P. Air compressor	150

If you have any interest in

these machines, you may call Jeff Caple (rhymes with maple) at 982-9622 or 612-5668 (cell).

## Shop Tip

This tip appears in the August 2000 issue of *Wood Magazine* and applies to most of us. You know how our paints and varnishes occasionally skim over in the closed can, and we have to skim it off before we can use it again. There is a way to beat this problem. You need to create some kind of barrier between the oxygen in the can, and the finish. You can buy inert gas products to form an invisible barrier, but what if you don't have any on hand? There is a quick and

inexpensive solution. In the bottom of a clean half gallon container, put a teaspoon of baking soda, then pour in a quarter cup of vinegar and swirl the mixture. The bubbling mixture creates carbon dioxide—an inert gas about 1-1/2 times as heavy as air. (Those measurements yield about two quarts of carbon dioxide.) As the reaction slows, quickly pour the gaseous contents of the container (NOT the sludgy remnants) into your can of finish, and reseal the can. The carbon dioxide replaces the air in the can, providing a protective barrier over the finish.

## Ivan Kronberg

Some of you know Ivan suddenly had to have brain tumor surgery and his wife,

Barbara, gives us such news as she has from time to time. This was a serious operation, and we hope and pray he recovers well.

## Open House at Paul Mancill's

These shop visits have proved to be attractive to our members and Paul tells us he had some 15 to 20 of you come to his home last month. He said the "goodies" he served went quickly, and everyone seemed to have a good time. And why wouldn't they? Paul is a master craftsman from whom much can be learned, as his shop reveals as well as the many projects he has completed.

## The Show

What does that mean? If you

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. Take I-65 to Malfunction Junction and get on I-59/20. Go past the Civic Center until you can take exit 126B where you turn right on 31st Street for one block; turn right on 10th Ave., North, and go 3 blocks. Bo Thuston's is on your left.

Information concerning the Guild may be secured by calling Charles R. Yerby at 205-426-4320.

have to ask, you haven't been reading this newsletter. We are scheduled to bring our show entries to the North Shelby Library on Saturday, October 7th after 9:00. This is a beautiful new library (worthy of our show pieces) on Highway 119 between Hwy. 31 and Hwy. 280. We are fortunate to have them accept us for our SHOW since the Hoover Library couldn't do so this year due to renovation. If you haven't made anything yet, there is still time. It doesn't have to be a gigantic piece—sometimes the smallest object will win a blue ribbon just because it was made carefully and finished nicely. We hope having to move our show place won't deter you from making something and entering it. There is considerable traffic in libraries, and you never know when some visitor will pull you aside and offer to buy your piece when the show closes. This has happened, even though we do not advertise the SHOW as a craft show. Our rule on this is our members may sell their things only after the SHOW closes, which will be the Sunday following the opening, October 15th. We implore you to help make this year better than any previous year for the SHOW.

*Jesse Whitfield*

We all fondly remember our old friend who passed away a few months ago. His family has donated his books and magazines to the Guild Library.

Jesse had a pretty good inventory of wood on hand, and Fred Baker has this wood at his home and wants us to relieve him of it ASAP. Call him at 854-4647 for directions to his house and what kinds of wood he has available. Jesse's tools are at Bo's and you may see and purchase them there. The proceeds all go to the family.

*WorkBench Class*

A workbench building class is slated to start on Saturdays beginning September 16, 2000 and run until November 18, 2000. Meeting dates are as follows:

September 16, 2000,  
September 23, September 30,  
October 7, October 21, October 28,  
November 4, November 18.

The classes will be conducted at Thuston and Sons Saw Works and run from 8:00 am through noon each meeting. Fred Baker and Mike Key will instruct. Cost for the course is \$75.00. The objective of the course is to construct a workbench like the one that we use as a podium at each meeting.

If you plan to attend, contact Bo Thuston and get your name on the list. Space is limited to 12 students.

As in the past when we have had similar classes, Bo has been very generous to the Guild by purchasing the materials for the project and by providing a very good workshop in which to work. All proceeds from tuition are given to the Alabama Woodworkers Guild.

Plans for the project will be

distributed on the first day of class. If you plan to try to build a workbench in your shop along with the class, approximately 125 bd ft of hardwood is required. In addition to the wood you need to have a shoulder and tail vice screw on hand as well.

Since the class is scheduled to run for only 8 meetings, we will have to proceed at a brisk pace. Come prepared to start work at the first meeting!

*Be Careful When Disposing of Oily Rags*

I recently heard of a wood shop in my area that burned down. The cause was oily rags that spontaneously combusted. How does this happen, and how do I keep it from happening in my shop?—Joe Freeman, Portland, Ore.

Joe, some organic substances, such as linseed oil, heat up when exposed to oxygen. This reaction can take several hours to occur, and is what causes the liquid to become solid. Most of the time the heat dissipates slowly and harmlessly into the air. However, if you ball up an oily rag, and throw it in the trash can, the heat produced within the rag ball feeds on itself, increasing in intensity until the rag reaches its ignition temperature and spontaneously combusts.

To properly handle oily rags, spread them out on a concrete floor, clothes line, or in an airtight metal container. Once dry, you can put them in the trash.

—Wood Magazine



