



Woodworking Education Center
10544 Hwy 17, Maylene, AL 35114

Alabama Woodworkers Guild

Guild News



www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org

Volume XXXVI Number 11

November 2017

Next Meeting

**The next
scheduled
meeting is
NOVEMBER 18**

In This Issue

Meeting
Program p. 4

Shop Calendar

November p. 3

WEC Directions p. 11.

President's Message

We had a fantastic Annual Show with over 90 exhibits and a member reception where over 100 members and guests participated and already 3 new members who joined by coming to the Show. This was twice the number of art and members than we had in 2016 and I want to thank all that helped to make it so successful!

Speaking of new members, the Guild started the year with 140 members and now we have 257 members. This proves the Guild is doing a wonderful job in promoting the art of woodworking throughout the community.

This year is almost ended. The Guild's grand finale is our Annual Christmas Party. It will be at Riverchase United Methodist Church in Hoover on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 6-9 p.m. The Guild provides the meat and non-alcoholic drinks. All who come need to bring a vegetable or dessert. We do not do dirty Santa but we do have door prizes which are very popular. These door prizes come from us that attend as we ask those that come to bring a piece of their hand made art work to give away such as writing pens, bowls, bandsaw boxes, etc. If you can't make an item, gift certificates or wood crafting tools or related items are welcomed. Anyone who brings a door prize will receive a door prize. If you choose not to bring one or forget, don't worry about it as you are not obligated. Your attendance and fellowship is the most important.

I hope to see you there!

Don



President: Don Wilson
Vice Pres: Patrick Murphy
Treasurer: David Erikson
Secretary: Steve Stutts
Webmaster:

Board of Directors: Joe Beck
 Don Blackburn
 John Dorough
 Frank Higgins
 Sandra McMillan
 John Wilkes
Toy Co-Chairs: Sandra McMillan
 Bob Watson

Education:
Shop Managers: Pat Bush
 Frank Higgins
 Kenneth Graham

Librarian: RayDunn

On the lighter Side :



Two of the greatest qualities in life are:

PATIENCE

and

WISDOM !

Annual Christmas Party-December 7

Again we encourage you to attend the annual Christmas party at

Riverchase Church...bring your favorite shareable recipe.....

New Members

Here are our most recent new members:

JAMES DAVIS
MARQUISE WHEELER

JIM WALIGORA
JUSTIN BAILEY

WELCOME!

WEC NOVEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

November 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Brian Staus 205-335-7241	9a-2p Toy Group	4:30p - 8:00p Hand Tool Workshop	AWG Board Meeting	4:30p - 8:00p Hand Tool Workshop	9a-1p Ron Powell, Supervisor Ron Powell, Supervisor 5p-9p John Dorrough 352-572-7537 9a-1p Mike Key is Scheduled 1p-5p Randall Baylis 901-376-4	8a-5p H4H Cabinet Build: Spray Finishing, Walter Barnett, Brian Staus 9a-1p H4H Cabinet Build: Cabinet Build: Attach Doors, Drawers & Pulls Instructors: Hager/Mainconico 8a-5p Shop Closed: H4H Cabinet Build: Attach Doors, Drawers & Pulls Instructors: Hager/Mainconico
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Brian Staus 205-335-7241	9a-2p Toy Group	4:30p - 8:00p Hand Tool Workshop		4:30p - 8:00p Hand Tool Workshop	9a-1p Patrick Murphy, Shop Supervisor. Contact: 205.585.5677 1p-5p Patrick Murphy, Shop Supervisor. Contact: 205.585.5677 5p-9p Eddie Heerten	8a-9a SketchUp with Jeff Branch 9a-10a Mentoring Series Program 10a-12p Guild Membership Meeting, Guests Welcome 1p-5p Paul Shank Scheduled
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1p-5p David Holcomb, Supervisor	9a-2p Toy Group	Thanksgiving Day			R Hardwick, Supervisor R Hardwick, Supervisor 5p-9p Eddie Heerten	9a-1p No Supervisor Scheduled 1p-5p No Supervisor Scheduled
26	27	28	29	30		
1-5pm Randall Baylis 901-376-4		4:30p - 8:00p Hand Tool Workshop				

The most current WEC calendar is always available on-line at: <http://wp.wwg.info/calendar/>

NOVEMBER GUILD MEETING SATURDAY NOVEMBER ,18 2017 8:00-NOON
8:00 SKETCHUP TOPIC: HOW TO USE WOOD AND SHADOW



This month in the Alabama Woodworker’s Guild SketchUp Workshop we’ll cover how to use shadows and how to add realistic wood materials to your SketchUp model. The SketchUp Workshop begins at 8:00 am on 11/18/17. Come join us; we are glad to cover any question you may have concerning SketchUp.



9:00 am November Mentoring Series:
Sharpening Carving Gouges

This month's Mentoring Series will be presented by Ray Ziegler. Ray will demonstrate sharpening carving gouges on hi homemade sharpening station using buffing wheels and sharpening stones. This is a must see demonstration.....



10:00am November Program: 2017 Toy Group in Review

Toy Chairmen Sandra McMillan and Bob Watkins will provide an annual review of our Tuesday, Toy Group. There are some new partners, some new designs. It's been a Great Year and we have had miles of smiles!



Members are encouraged to bring your own projects to share with the membership during the *Show and Tell* portion of the meeting! The Guild Meetings are open to the Public and Guests are always welcomed to come out and see what the Alabama Woodworkers Guild is all about!

Notice: If you do not have a current name badge please see a member of the management team this month. We want to be sure we all have badges for the new year.....

Scroll Saw Group News :

The scroll saw group will restart in January. We plan to meet on a selected Saturday four four hours in the classroom work area. Our plan is to ask group membrs to loan or donate their scroll saws so that we may facilitate the group. We will find a place to store these on meeting days or when not used.

SIG: Special Interest Group News Bulletins

Meet A.R. BRAY....woodworker extraordinaire....

A.R. Bray by Bill Newman (reprint from June 2010)

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 (old wood) 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.

Volume XXIX Number 6 AWG Newsletter June 2010 Page 4:

A.R.'s long association with the Guild prompted Steve Stutts to interview him on the way to the shop from Danberry...

AR Bray: My last job was with the Champion Paper Mill in Courtland, Al. I remember that we would go down to the drug store downtown and get Steve: Well, well that was my home town. I graduated from Courtland High School in 1970. That paper mill is closed now. Many people lost their jobs. They came from all over. We had some problems there that only an engineer could fix. There were some stops in the process. We worked with it until we got the paper machines up and running.

Steve: So when did that happen.

AR: I don't remember. It was right after they got the machines in.

Steve: was it right after the mill opened? Was it 74 or maybe 73. (Google: The mill actually started in 1971 and ended in early 2014). Hawks. They consolidated the two High Schools and the School became the Courtland Chiefs and both high schools were put into one and they were still only 1A they were so small.

AR: Yep, I remember when the schools were integrated. I remember going to a high school basketball game. The black kids were so much more athletic.

Steve: It was a hard time to live through. It kind of reminds me of the movie "Remember the Titans." I was from that generation. The Civil Rights Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1963. We have had problems all this time. Do you think that it will take another 50 years to reconcile our racial problems in this country?

AR: (laughing) It'll take a while.

Steve: We still need to reconcile that problem today.

AR: I Want to talk a little bit about Bill Newman, too. One time he rewired my shop.

(Bill says: "He is one of my favorite people. I came to know him better when I undertook a project to re-wire his home and shop a few years ago. I also got to know his sons and wife during that project".

AR: He (Bill) wired the shop. It took him 6 whole days. He also wired some children's homes in Mississippi.

Steve: Well good, What did you do as far as fixing the building up in those early days?

AR: We had a lot of work days on that old building. It was totally full of construction stuff.

Steve: I remember hearing about that.

AR: I remember that Emerson Selmon on the first day took a whole pick-up bed load of calking Compound in the tubes to the dump. We couldn't save it all. We must have had 50 ceiling fans that went to the dump.

Steve: Were you able to reuse any of those fans? (AR shook his head No)

AR: We had to throw them all away, nobody wanted them.

Steve: Where did the ceiling fans in the building now come from?

AR: They came with the building.

Steve: All these years and those fans are still running in the ceiling of the Shop. We had to take out all of the widows and rebuild them and put them back in. All of the original windows.

Steve: When did you graduate from Auburn?

AR: 1960

Steve: Do you remember Bobby Hunt ?

AR indicated no.

Steve: Well maybe I have the name wrong. Someone told me that he went to Auburn at the same time that you were there. I can't remember who that was now.

We arrived at the Hoover public library and AR's son, Richard, was there to meet us. We loaded him into his wheelchair and entered the building.

We sat at the entry table while he showed me his photograph book that his family had bound for him. It was rich with furniture and projects that he built and most all of them won ribbons in the Annual Show.

NOTE: We don't have the space for me to describe the book. All of pieces were very special and as they say, "a picture is worth a thousand words." There were tool boxes, chairs, dressers, animals and step stools.

There was a three legged table that had white sapwood down the center, a live edge and a peculiar three legged support where there was a typical joining of two legs on one end. It had a classic look to it. AR said that it was a "Nakashemee" table. He made the table from sight and it was valued at \$4000. He gave it to his daughter.

Once, when a film crew visited AR to film "exercising for Parkinson's patients" the director started shouting "Nakashemee, Nakashemee!!" The whole van of people piled out of the van to set up the equipment and started filming. The director had everyone to know that this table was very special.

(I found a table that looked very close to replica in AR's book that was done by the famous woodworker, "Nakashema." He had a very distinctive style which AR copied from sight.)

I saw the xylophone that AR made for the 2014 show.

Steve: I SURE remember THAT piece. It was really popular. You made a xylophone out of wood and it had a really great tone to it.

AR: yeah it was a good project. I made it out of "unable to name" wood My son brought it from Belize. He bought a few different boards at the market for me. When I dropped the board it had a real nice sound to it That was where I got the idea to make a xylophone by the sound.

Steve: Yes, I remember that it won a blue ribbon and that each key had a different tone on a musical scale when it was struck with a small striker. A very musical piece.

AR: yeah, I had fun making it. Steve: nice work Sir.

There will be many more stories and interviews by members. We will post many photographs. AR was a very giving, creative member. His body is ravaged by Parkinson disease and long term scoliosis. I jokingly tell people that his mind is good but his body is 'shoddy' and he agrees. We had a lively, busy evening that all enjoyed. It was the reunion of all the old members.

SHOP NOTES

A member recently asked me "why so much new equipment" and "why did we get rid of the the Bosch 12" Compound Slider Saw"...good (and fair) questions. Some reasonable responses:

Safety, Safety, Safety!!! Keeping members safe and doing our best to eliminate potential for injuries is our #1 role as a shop team. Some examples include removing the Bosch Slider...because it tended to kick back when used improperly. Kick back was both VERY dangerous...and expensive (kept breaking the blade guard and mechanism). A great saw when used properly...but for so many beginners and mass shop usage - not so much. Safety...again, plus savings with New LED Lighting. As we look to replace the current lighting with LED's, we get better visual acuity (we can see better). And the cost for replacing ballast and bulbs virtually disappears (can last up to 20 years) - and they use FAR LESS ENERGY.

Economy and Productivity: The new sanders...we really needed sanders. No explanation needed there I know, but the money we kept having to put in sander repairs was getting out of hand. And we all know how often the bed sanders were broken.

Economy: New Planer head for the Grizzly Planer (and maybe an additional planer). New Head with Helical Cutters means we can nick the same four-sided blade-head 4x times without having to replace. And if we have to replace, we can replace singular 4-sided heads VERSUS the current requirement to replace the entire 20" blade (there are three of these, often the nick gets every one). This creates savings, decreased downtime and increased productivity.

Productivity: New workbenches and casters will allow us to use the benches in the classroom for hand tool group and other less dusty tasks/learning opportunities. Currently 1/4 of our shop is classroom that gets used once per month. Now we can utilize it more. And let's be honest, you can rarely have too many work spaces.

Comfort...yeah I said it. I recently replaced the old outdated window AC unit in the kitchen with a more efficient unit PLUS it has HEAT (YEAH!!!). And a timer...eliminates the chances it is left on after hours.

And also of great importance...**good stewardship**. Of our funds, our volunteers, our time and talents. We take great measure in budgets, purchases and expenditures - researching each one to assure we are being frugal, wise and wary.

A big shout out to member Randy Hjetland for donating SEVERAL very nice 10" saw blades (including thin kerf and laminate blades) to the guild. Much appreciated Randy.

The new Dewalt 12" Chop Saw is installed, aligned and dust collection plumbed in the shop. A great new addition to the shop. If you need to cut wider boards...the table saw slider beds and the handheld circular saw are options.

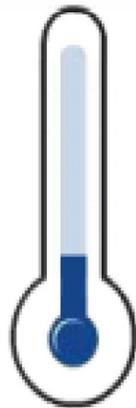
Lastly (and regrettably), there will be a new policy for using the Planer and Joiner...supervisors must inspect ALL wood before it is run through the planer and joiner. We are simply seeing too much (unreported) damage to blades. Most recently, the planer was subjected to wood that had to be covered in concrete or full of nails or dirt...something! It was extensive the damage. And this has become all too common. A small inconvenience...but for sound reasoning.

Okay...one more. I had a member sheepishly tell me he 'always wondered what those rubber blocks were used for' (referring to the rubber sandpaper cleaning blocks highlighted in last months Shop Notes). I had to tell him that he was not alone...that I had observed a member using it to 'ground out the sander' because 'it was for discharging the static shock'. We both got a good laugh.

Opportunities

FOR SALE !!!!!!!..to the highest bidder is the Bosch 12" Compound Slider Saw. GREAT saw, I personally love it. It is in fantastic shape with a new blade guard and mechanism. I have never experienced an issue and I have used it quite often. New one sells for 650.00 new without a blade. We will take bids through the Christmas Party date, (auction will be held online at <http://wp.awwg.info/auctions>) winner to be announced at the party.

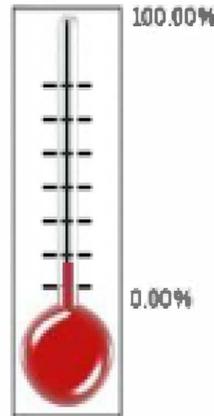




Raised so far: \$3,670

**Are you doing
your part to help
us reach our goal
of 100% Annual
Campaign
participation?**

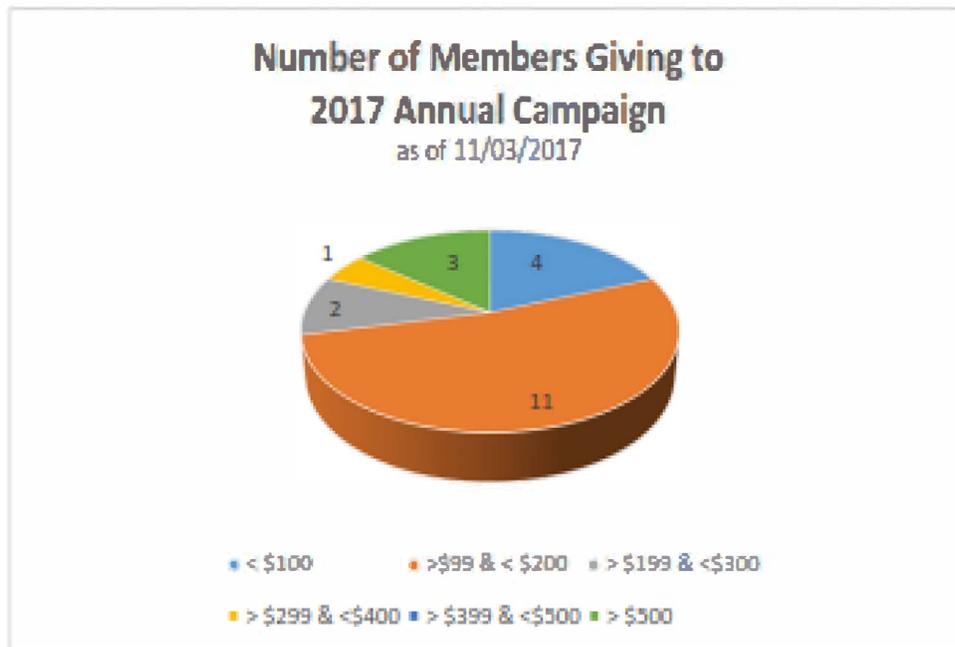
If not, give now!



Membership Participation so far: 8.05%

2017 Annual Membership Giving Campaign

As of November 3, 2017, twenty one members or 8.05% of our membership has given to the 2017 Annual Campaign. We have raised \$3,670. Gifts range from \$25 to \$500 with over 53% of gifts ranging between \$100 and \$200.

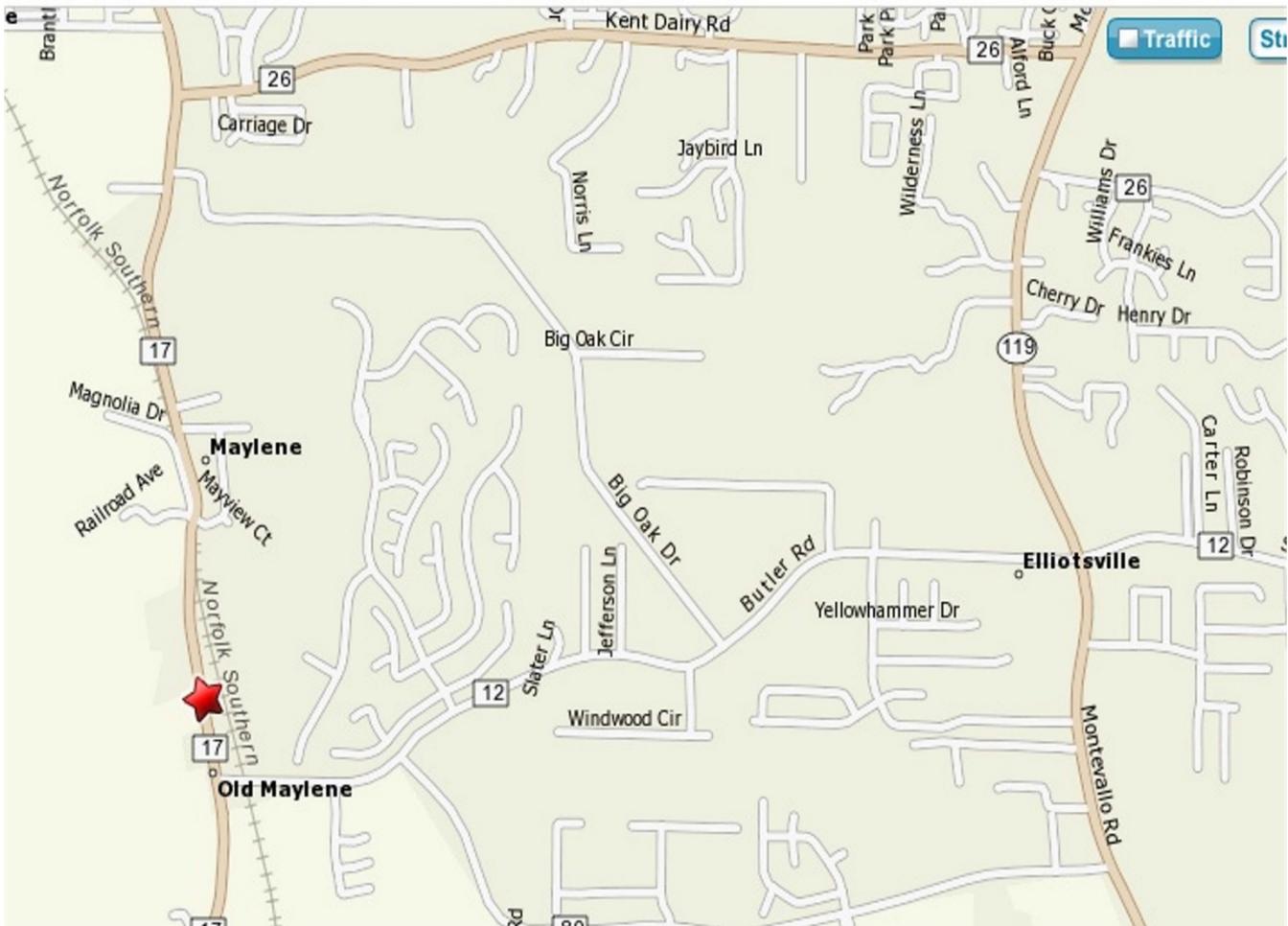


You can make your contribution in a number of ways:

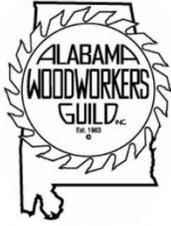
- Write a check to AWG and drop it off at the WEC or send by U.S. Mail (P.O. Box 36804 Birmingham, AL 35236)
- Donate online at <https://wp.awwg.info> (look for the blue donate button).
 - Make your contribution using a credit or debit cards
 - Establish a recurring gift is possible through PayPal. You will find instruction on the donate page.

Your gift is fully tax deductible.

Directions to the Woodworkers Education Center (WEC)



From I-65, take Exit 238 (Highway 31). Turn north on U.S. Highway 31, go 0.6 miles and turn left on State Highway 119 South. Go 3.0 miles south on Highway 119 and turn right on County Highway 12. Go 2.1 miles on Highway 12 until it ends at County Highway 17. Turn right on Highway 17 and the WEC is 0.3 miles on your left. There is a large WEC sign at the entrance.



www.
alabamawoodworkersguild
.org

About Us

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



WOODCRAFT[®]

Helping You Make Wood Work[®]

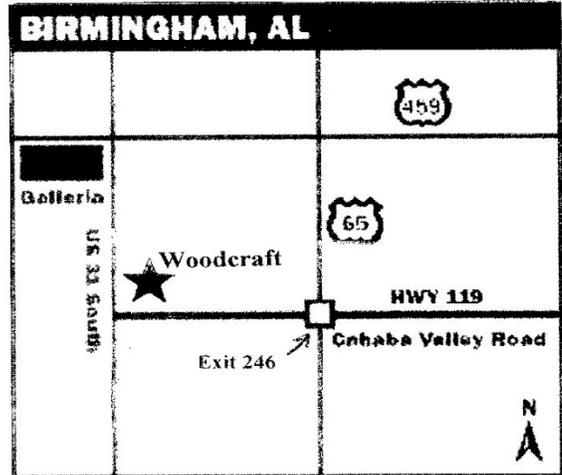
Phone 205-988-3600
Fax 205-988-3612
Website: www.woodcraft.com
e-mail: WC511@aol.com

Store Hours

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

Our address is:

2215B Pelham Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124



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.



P.O. Box 36804
Birmingham, AL 35236

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild,