

## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Kentuck Announces January Exhibit**

Kentuck Gallery presents **a group show with the Woodworkers Association of West Alabama. The opening reception will take place in conjunction with Art Night January 7, 2010 from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. The exhibit will be on display until January 30, 2010.**

**The group show will feature several items by several local woodworkers. Among them are Maurice Clabaugh, George Shelton, Bill Hubbard and Dan Browning.**

Maurice Clabaugh began turning in 1991. A self-taught artist, Clabaugh has no formal training. He attributes his talent to his ability to focus on nature's extraordinary handiwork (inclusions, wood grain/figure, knotholes and wood colorations). He specializes in creating his pieces in harmony with, bringing attention to, the unique variations nature places in each piece of wood. He refers to his art form as "Contemplative Wood Art." Maurice specializes in revitalizing discarded wood—wood destined for a fireplace or discarded as unusable become his most stimulating challenges. He also specializes in "spalted" wood—a stage in the decaying process that creates a delicate, lace-like network of lines in the figure of the wood. "I believe wood is a living element and possesses a spirit. I bring into harmony the personality and spirit of the wood and use my skills to expose this accord, so it may be seen and appreciated."

George is a largely self taught woodworker, however he has studied at the John C. Campbell Folk School and at Arrowmont. Currently most of his wood working time is devoted to functional and artistic wood turnings with some time devoted to small furniture. In his shop/studio located near the Sipsey Wilderness of West Alabama he works alone to create bowls, vases, platters and other "one of a kind" pieces. He uses a variety of native southern woods and some imported species. His work is a balance between simple functional and non-functional pieces, often influenced by blown glass or hand thrown pottery. George's work is hand turned with an eye toward grain pattern and the orientation of natural shapes and defects. His work has a hand rubbed finish followed by carnauba

wax. Each piece can be handled without damage and simple buffing will maintain the luster. Producing woodwork that has beauty and durability has been a life long passion. Turning wood has provided an unlimited dimension to use his creativity to pursue that passion.

Bill Hubbard graduated from The University of Alabama in 1965 with a degree in geology. Hubbard became interested in woodturning after seeing a craftsman-made pen at a large flea market. "I bought a lathe and was 'hooked.'" Although mainly a woodturner, Hubbard learned to power carve to embellish his turning. He usually buys wood in Pelham, Alabama or gets it "off the curb after a storm." He has served as director of the Alabama Woodturners Association and as program director of the Black Warrior Woodturners.

Dan Browning has been an active woodworker for over twenty years. He is the former President of the Alabama Worker's Guild and an active member of the West Alabama Woodworker's Association. He has won numerous awards for his woodworking skills and creativity. Dan is recognized by his peers as a master a craftsman in the area of box making and design. He is especially known for the art of blending various exotic woods to create a true piece of wood art. He uses woods such as bubinga, ebony, zebrawood, lacewood, cocobola, olive wood, rosewood, and wenge, as well as many others. Dan has represented dewalt and fein tools throughout the southeastern United States, doing live demonstrations and teaching safety and tool operations techniques. He continues to share his love and knowledge of woodworking by teaching classes for woodcraft at the Alabama Woodworking Guild.

Art Night is the first Thursday of each month and celebrates the opening of all exhibits in downtown Northport galleries. Kentuck studio artists will host their monthly Open Studios for visitors to see works in progress. Meet the artists and see the actual workspaces where the artists apply materials, design, technique and equipment to the creative process.

**In addition to the opening reception, the Kentuck Courtyard will feature music by the Vogt Family Contra Band. Art Night participants will enjoy homemade hot cocoa.**

**Art Night is funded in part by a grant from The Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa.**

For additional information call (205) 758-1257.

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