

Woodworkers Club of Houston

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Mike Turner delivers his annual shop safety pep-talk and demonstration.

Shop teacher Mike Turner is a long-time WWCH member and past president of the Club. Safety is a big part of the instruction in his school classes, and he practices what he preaches. We have been fortunate to hear Mike's safety message as our program presenter the past couple of years.

Drawing upon his own experiences, student mishaps and safety films, Mike's presentation is a



reminder of what can go wrong in the shop. The safety films that were shown concentrated on eye and hand injuries. Graphic photos of these injuries were a dramatic reminder that if you work in a

wood shop safety should be you first and most important concern.

Mike made several good points during his presentation including "your body follows your mind—pay attention to what you're doing." Always check your hand positions and visualize the movement of your body and your workpiece before engaging the tool.

His presentation also included specific pointers on using common tools found in the shop—table saws, drill presses, nail guns, and circular saws among others. In each case there are specific safety issues that a user must understand before using the tool. Learning to use a tool safely should be a woodworker's first responsibility. This includes wearing proper clothing (no ties, please), use a

shop apron if possible, don't work if you are tired and, of course, don't drink alcohol before working in the shop. Also, wear protective equipment—safety glasses with side eyeshields and hearing protection—on a regular basis.

To make his points, Mike's favorite saying is "Remorse always lasts longer than the pain of an accident." Fingers, hands and eyes will usually heal but the scars will last the rest of your life. We've all experienced misses, near misses and sometimes, minor accidents. After Mike's presentation those of us in attendance are more likely to pay attention to shop safety than ever before.

April Presentation: Is CAD for you?

Design. It's a recurring topic in every woodworking magazine, television show, and Internet forum. There are rules and tools; sketching, scaling, and drafting practices; mockup and layout techniques. And now there's Computer Aided Design (CAD). What used to be high budget and high tech is now home budget and home tech. CAD has been the subject of a number of woodworking magazine articles over the past few months, but does it fit your needs and wallet?

WWCH member **Rich Thomas** has obtained, experimented with, and actually used several CAD tools in designing woodworking projects. At our April meeting he'll discuss sources and costs, give a general presentation on what these tools require of us and what kind of results to expect. And will provide some illustrative examples using specific programs. Rich's presentation should help of us decide whether there is a CAD tool out there whose time has come in our shop.

HVLP and the small wood shop

High Volume, low-pressure spray units are not new to woodworkers. They've been around for awhile and have considerable advantages over traditional high pressure spray. Let's look at some of the benefits. The transfer efficiency of HVLP systems can be as high as 75% more than high pressure systems. That means a lot less over-spray in your shop. This is good news because you spend less money on finishing materials. And there is less mess to clean up.

A complete turbine system can cost from \$500.00 to \$1500.00 or more. The high-end equipment is generally for production shops but can the low-end equipment function in a small shop? The answer is a qualified yes. The lower cost units are made primarily of plastic but will usually work fine with most finishes. This means if you don't use it a lot, the low end systems should work just fine.

Interestingly, there are now laser guides that boost the efficiency of an already efficient system. The laser guides should help produce fewer emissions, increase first pass consistency and a reduction in runs and sags.

Most home shop owners have resisted any kind of spray system because of the need for spray booths and other specialized equipment. Most of us just don't have enough room in our shop to have one. But the primary advantage of the HVLP system is reduced overspray and that suggests a solution to the space conundrum. A couple of saw horses in the driveway can serve as a spray environment with a little added caution and a couple of cautions. First, be sure your car is well out of the way along with other valuable items. Second, spray on a day that's not too windy. The wind will bring in dust, leaves and other things your finish won't like. Third, you won't be spraying in the rain. Of course, applying a finish when it's raining is usually avoided anyway.

If lacquer is your finish of choice you are particularly fortunate. You can apply 3 or 4 coats of lacquer in a morning or an afternoon without much problem because it dries so fast. If a little dust or imperfections wind up on your surface a quick sand and you can resume spraying. So time-saving is also a benefit.

Another reason we hesitate to employ a spray system is that it can be difficult to master. Again, there is a benefit to HVLP because of its low-pressure application. It's much easier to get the hang of spraying with these systems. Lay out some newsprint fill the gun with water and use it until you are spraying even strokes without runs. You'll be surprised at how quickly you learn the technique.

Of course there's a bit more to it than I have space

for here but an HVLP system can be fun and productive in a small shop environment.

The second-largest tree in the world, a giant sequoia loses half its height.

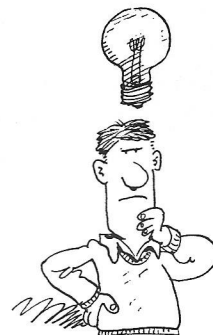
In the Giant Forest area of Sequoia National Park in California the Washington Tree was the second largest tree in the world. The largest tree, also a sequoia and in the same area is the General Sherman tree. The Washington Tree, named after George Washington, was more than 254 feet high.

Natural disasters have trimmed the tree back to about half of its original size. A series of fires and storms coupled with age has taken its toll on the tree. The tree is conservatively estimated to be about 2000 years old. Over the centuries fires had left the tree mostly hollow in its top half. In 2003 a lightning-caused fire provided the final cause for the tree's damage. It now stands at 115 feet high. No one can say how much longer the tree will live. "These trees are on such a different time scale than humans," says Jody Lyle, spokeswoman for the Sequoia National Forest. "While the tree is dramatically different in appearance right now, we could all be surprised and it could go on living for another 300 years."

Check out Heat Lock. A new veneer adhesive that promises faster and better results.

Heat Lock is a new iron-on veneer adhesive that can make veneering fast, easy and affordable. Made by JWW Services, Heat Lock can also be used without a vacuum press.

Heat Lock will bond both raw and paper-backed veneers to wood plywood, MDS and particle board. And because of the fast cure time projects can be stained the same day. Unlike other veneer adhesives Heat Lock can be cleaned up with water. It's environmentally safe, according to the company. See www.betterbond.com for more information.



Milwaukee introduces new line of 28 volt power tools

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp. unveils its line of 28 volt cordless power tools. The V28 lithium-ion battery line includes a band saw, hammer drill, circular saw, Sawzall reciprocating saw, impact wrench, work light and battery charger. The same battery fits all the power tools in the line.

"It's the first high-output lithium-ion battery cell for high-current draw applications," said John Sara, cordless product manager for Milwaukee. The V28 battery provides tools with up to twice the run time of an 18-volt Ni-Cad battery and is lighter in weight.

The battery has a fuel gauge that indicates the charge level on the pack. Four lights indicate whether the battery is fully charged or partly charged. "The fuel gauge provides someone quick feedback if they have enough power to



finish a job," says Sara.

The V28 tools have new motors, switches and different gearing to take advantage of the V28 power format. The V28 tools offer the following features:

- the band saw has 4 3/4" X 4 3/4" cutting capacity
- the hammer drill provides 600-in. lbs. of maximum torque and up to 27,000 blows per minute
- the impact wrench has more than 300-ft. lbs. of torque
- the Sawzall operates at 3,000 strokes per minute

The V28 line will be shipped to distributors in April. Products in the V28 line will be available individually or in a combo kit.



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Circle Saw Shop of Houston, Inc.

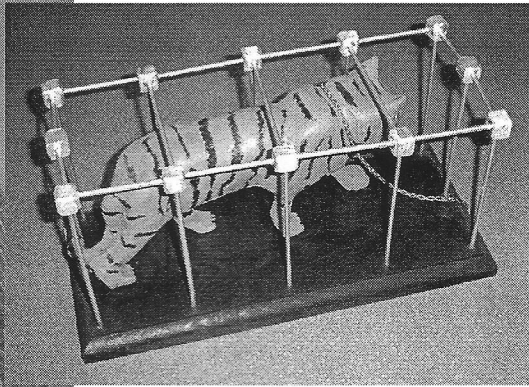
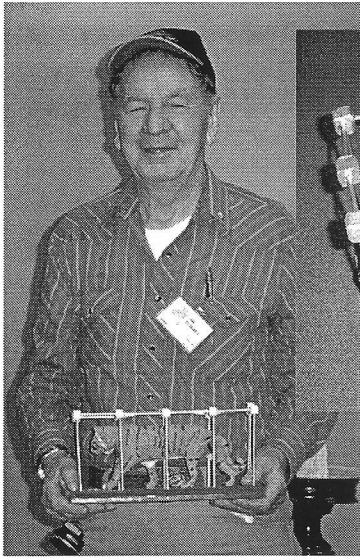
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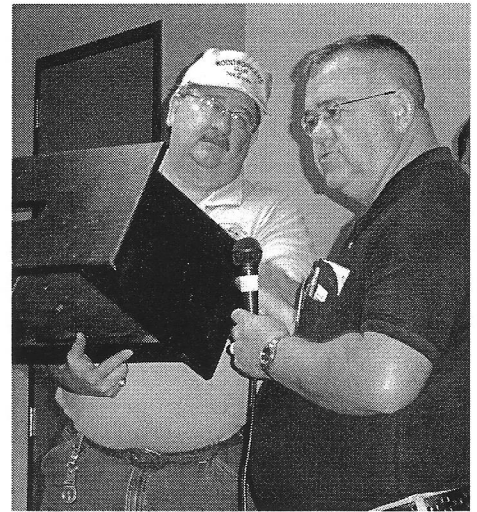
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March projects

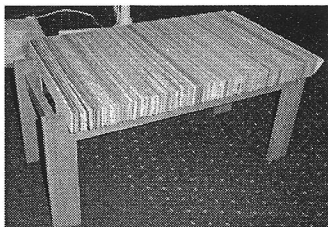
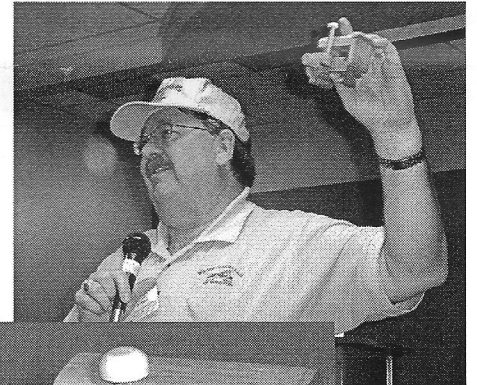
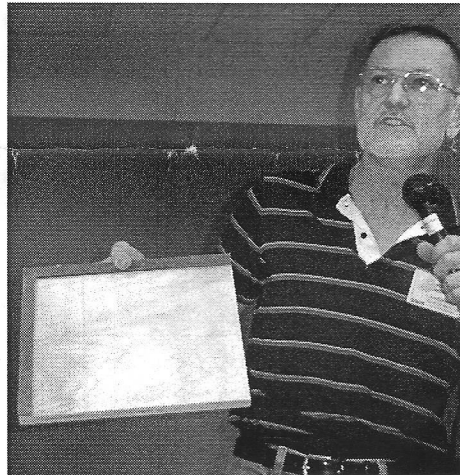


Jim Howard shows club members his balsa wood menagerie. Mr. Howard is one of the club's founding members.

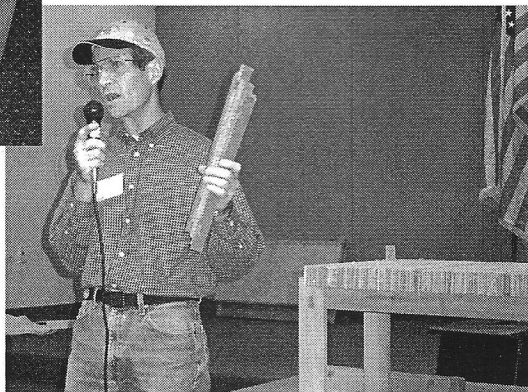


Mike Turner shows off a footstool that one of his students made in his high school shop class. The plans were made available to club members.

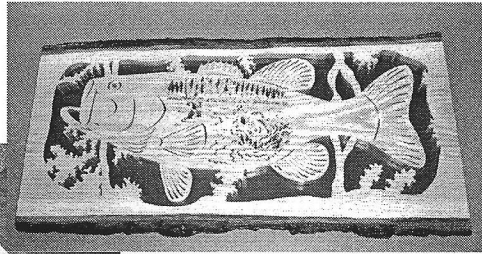
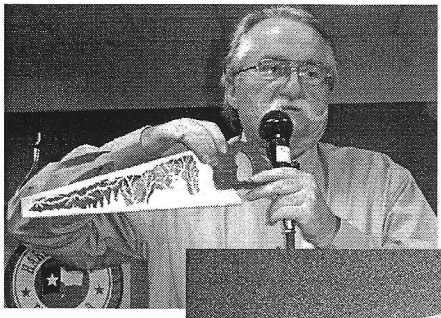
Brian Honey demonstrated how he uses his sandpaper jig to cut sheets of sandpaper to the size desired.



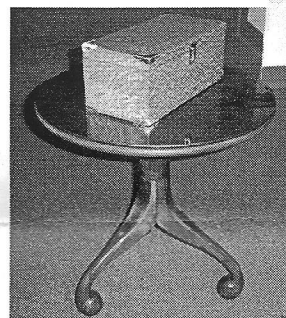
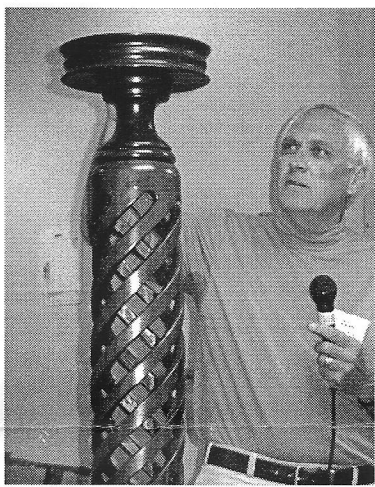
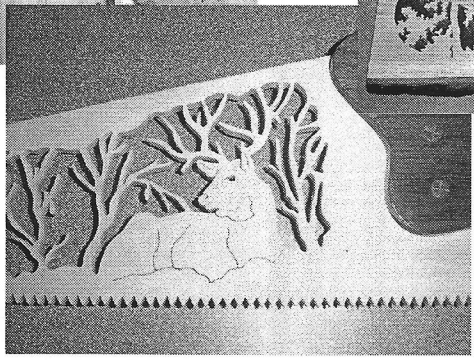
Dennis Serig describes how he made this cat scratch table of strips of cardboard that will be glued together.



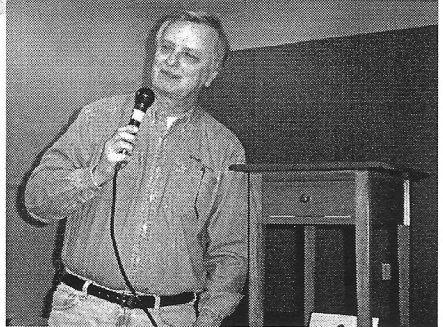
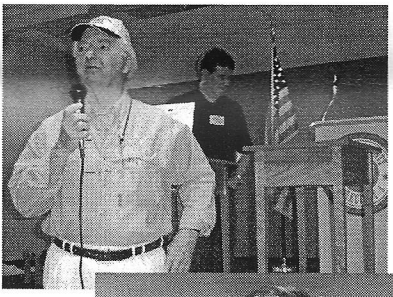
Dennis Muras holds up a John Deere engine block replica that he made.



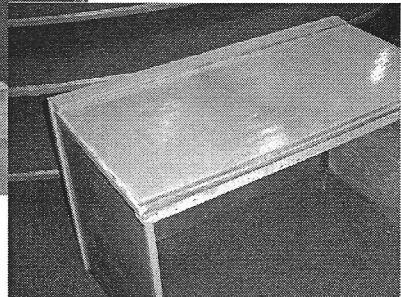
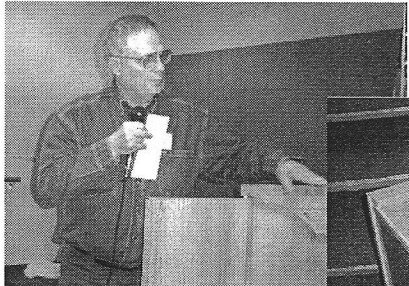
Norm Nichols pointed out the details in these scrollwork items of walnut and aspen. He will soon enter these into competition at the woodworker's show in Branson, Missouri.



Rudy Lippert explains how he crafted the walnut table and the mahogany pedestal on what he claims is the world's oldest Shopsmith, a machine built in the 1940s. Rudy explained how he turned the Shopsmith motor around and cemented a tool rest stand in a cinder block.



Jack Hutchison talks about the 18th century Shaker cherry tables that were made by his students, **Ridg Gilmer** and **Tom Bouquest** during his class at *The Cutting Edge*. The tops are 7/8 inches thick but are tapered creating a thinner look.



Michael Whelton talks about his foldable and collapsible piece that can be a desk, a chair or a table. Piano hinges hold together the pieces of salvaged oak.



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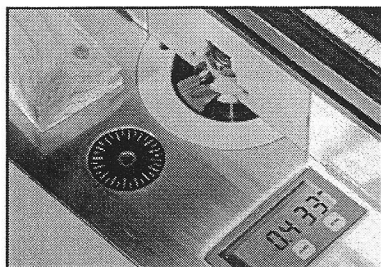
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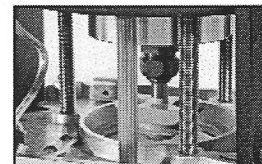
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WWCH Monthly Meeting

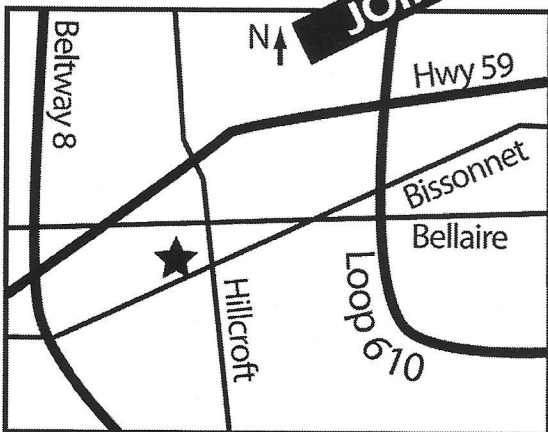
Second Saturday of every month

We open the doors at 8:30am, program starts at 9:00 and winds up by 11:30am.

Bayland Community Center

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Woodworkers Club of Houston Membership Application



A WWCH Membership is a chance to learn about woodworking, visit with other woodworkers and see some fabulous projects. Your membership includes a monthly newsletter, access to our video and book library, invitation to field trips and occasionally we collectively buy tools at discounted prices. Considering the cost it's a genuine bargain. So, cut out this application, include a check for \$24.00 yearly membership and mail it to the address below. And join us once a month for a good time.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



Monthly Meeting:
April 9

Program:
Is CAD for You?
Rich Thomas

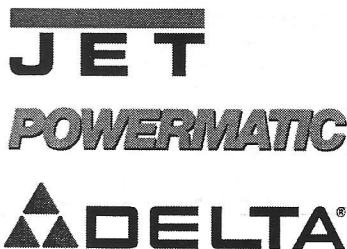
Next Monthly Meeting:
May 14

[Redacted address: 140 Cranbourne Houston, TX 77008]

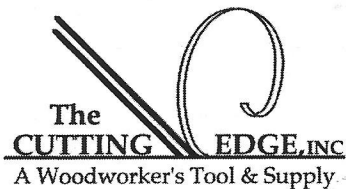
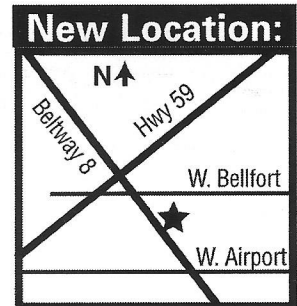
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