

THE WOODWORKERS CLUB OF HOUSTON

Volume 19, Number 11 November, 2003

www.wwch.org

SPIRIT OF WWCH

By Ridg Gilmer

The plan was simple. My wife brought home a green sticky note with “30 H, 28W, 36L” as dimensions for a table to go beside her desk. “No problem”, said her neophyte woodworker husband. “I can do that.”

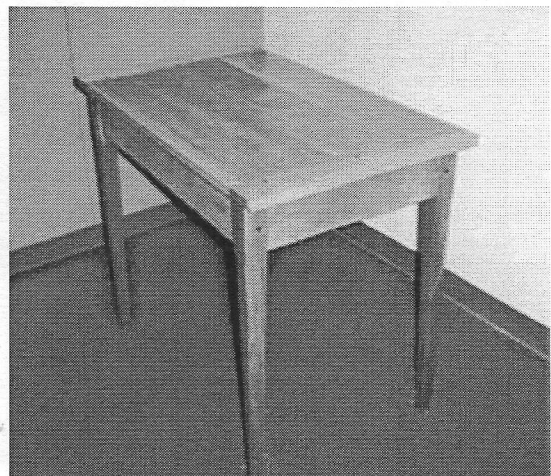
Soon, a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ ” birch plywood was cut to 24” x 36” for the top, accepting 24” wide as one half the full sheet. Then I assembled a plywood apron, proudly anchoring the mitered corners with biscuits, having recently observed Norm doing same. For the legs, I went to the lumber yard and came back with a large hunk of solid birch, which I proceeded to rip, taper and chamfer the edges – pretty good stuff for a beginner.

About that time (probably weeks later), we had a club meeting and I was among many members gathered around Jack Hutchison and his gorgeous sofa table. I kind of stuck around for a while and then asked Jack if he would suggest how I should attach the legs to my apron and top. To my great pleasure and surprise, he replied, “Why don’t you bring it all out to my shop and we’ll have a look?” Offer gratefully accepted!

To shorten this piece a bit, we immediately abandoned the plywood apron and Jack showed me how to make a proper mortise and tenon joint from additional birch. I botched the tenons on my home shop saw, so he showed me how to fix that problem. By this time, we decided that a plywood top would not be acceptable, so I went back for more birch. But then I made a big boo-boo. Through combined ignorance and misunderstanding, I stained the birch apron pieces that we had just mortised to the legs. The dark walnut blotched badly and I was left with days and days of sanding it out. Ah, well... a lesson well learned. (continued on page 5)

Ridg Gilmer credited **Jack Hutchison** for his gracious help in making this fine breadboard top table of birch. The breadboard plugs are of walnut. Only the center pegs of the breadboard edges are glued.

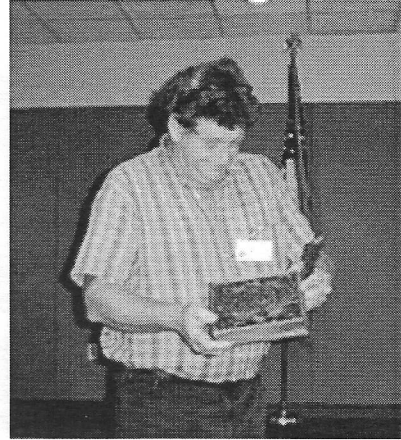
The finish is natural Danish oil. Ridg has some advice for the staining; dark walnut stain and birch are incompatible; you will get blotches.



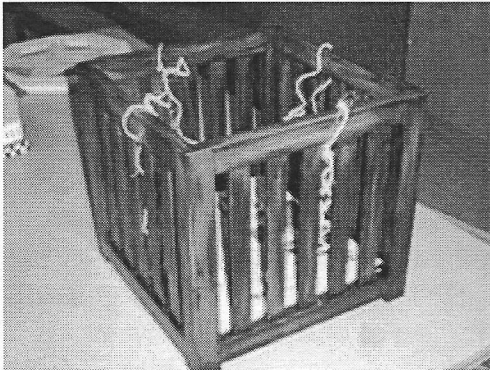
OCTOBER PROGRAM

JOHN GAY

John Gay gave a talk to the club on things to do when you're on the road. John explained how he packed a minimum of items to take on the plane – a roll of carving tools, clamps, small straight saw, coping saw, small drill and bits, table pad and even a dustpan/broom. The maids love him for cleaning up after himself. John also recommends a first aid kit for those annoying nicks and gouges. Be sure to bring gloves and a thumb guard.



Walter Mason built this rack as a way to keep track of his newspapers. He used red and black paint with sanding in between coats to give it a worn look.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the December issue will be Monday, November 24, 2003. If you have anything that you would like to submit to the newsletter, please do so by that date. If you have any questions, please call Justin Kelly.

Note: Submission for the newsletter must be in digital format, no hardcopies, please.

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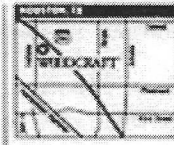
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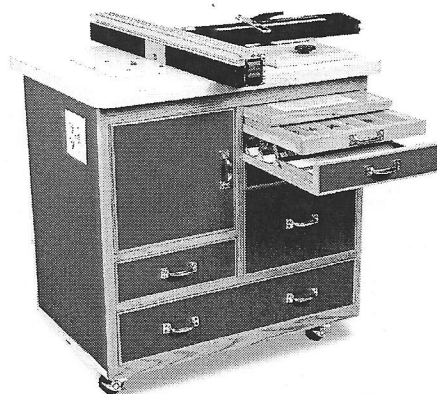
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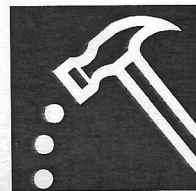
REMINDER!!

Dues are \$24 per year.

Dues are prorated for new members only.

Renewing members in October are \$24.

New members in November are \$4.



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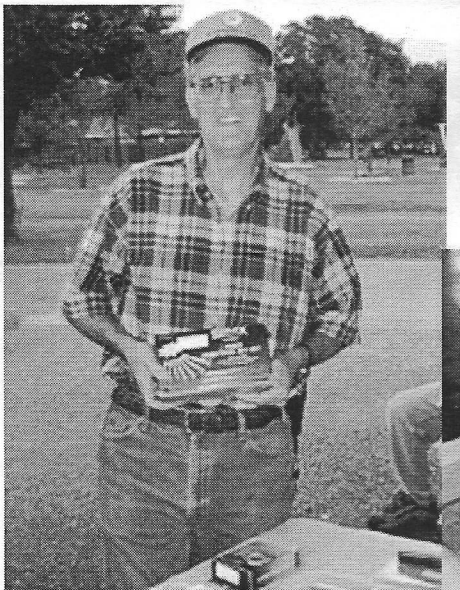
Dick Lewis crafted these two English Arts & Crafts-style red oak end tables with the help of Jack Hutchison. Dick made these for his daughter and son-in-law. A chestnut Minwax stain sits underneath a coating of Formby's Tung Oil topcoat.



PICTURES OF THE MONTH

WWCH BAR-B-Q

This year's Bar-B-Q was a huge hit with everyone getting to do a little bit of everything. From playing in and shoveling sawdust to winning prizes and edging out Ken for an auction item, everyone had a great time!! Check out some of the highlights.



Cedar, Cedar, Cedar – Ken Kooser

My garage smells like a cedar chest. Not everyone can boast of having his or her own cedar lumberyard. I don't like to be boasting about it either. The price (approved by the Board of Directors) is \$1.25 / board foot for regular and \$1.50 for premium. The premium boards are 8 foot by 8 or 10 inches. The retail price of aromatic cedar is \$2.50 / board foot. We may have some trouble filling all of the requests at the October meeting. – Ken K.

Spirit of WWCH (continued from page one)

Meanwhile, Jack had planed the rough birch heartwood I had chosen for the top and he showed me how to cut and lay out the pieces. First, we – mainly he - jointed the edges and glued up the three center pieces. While those set, we started on the breadboard end pieces, which had more sapwood. We used my router and guide to make a long shallow mortise in the end pieces, making sure to leave them longer than final cut length. After the glue set on the center, we smoothed off both flat surfaces with a scraper and trimmed the ends flush. Then we routed three haunched tenons and dry fit those into the end piece mortises. That's where the extra length came into use as a purchase on the tight fit, so we had a way to take them apart. At some point in the process, we drilled three holes for dowels through the center of each haunched tenon and enlarged the two outer holes to allow for wood explanation. We used contrasting walnut dowels to set off the top and later added similar decorative pegs on the legs. We glued up the completed breadboard top and trimmed off the excess lengths. Then it was more sanding and applications of natural Danish oil finish, followed by steel wool polishing and thin coats of tung oil. I brought the base and top back to Jack's shop for final inspection. Previously, he had gifted me a supply of classic wood fasteners to place into biscuit slots to secure the top, which we did to complete the assembly.

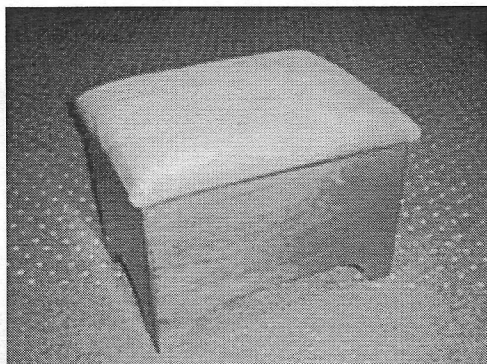
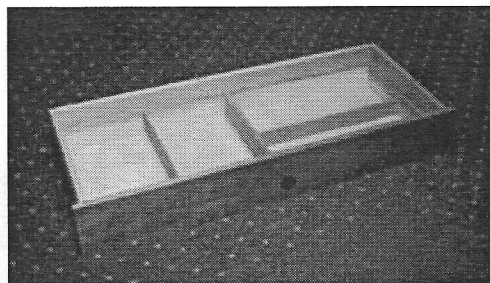
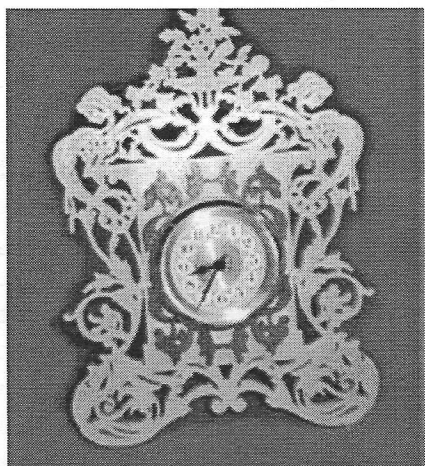
All this time, Jack and I were becoming friends. I met his lovely Kathryn and his two large dogs no longer stirred themselves when I traversed their turf between garage/shop and kitchen. We visited over sandwiches and he gave me a tour of his home, filled with his masterpieces of gorgeous furniture he has built over many years. Later, they joined Kris and me for dinner at our home and a tour of my fledgling shop. Handshake greetings became goodbye hugs and we look forward to a warm continuing relationship.

At my request, Jack made suggestions for upgrading my shop and has encouraged me to continue improving my skills, such as they are. It has been a wonderful experience to observe and to learn from this master craftsman on an individual basis. I want to thank, not only Jack Hutchison, but also the WWCH meetings for providing the venue in which neophyte woodworkers may meet masters of the art and all those in between who enjoy our hobby. I'm getting a late start in my 70's, but it's wonderful to have something new and stimulating to learn at any age.

This cedar star was inset into a decagonal star by **Ken Kooser**.



Lon Kelley made two interchangeable boxes to display at a craft show. They are made of Brazilian Walnut and Maple. Great job, Lon!!



Show and Tell Gallery

(Clockwise from above)

Lee Knekow scrolled this beautiful clock from poplar, red oak, Baltic birch and plywood. It has a polyurethane finish.

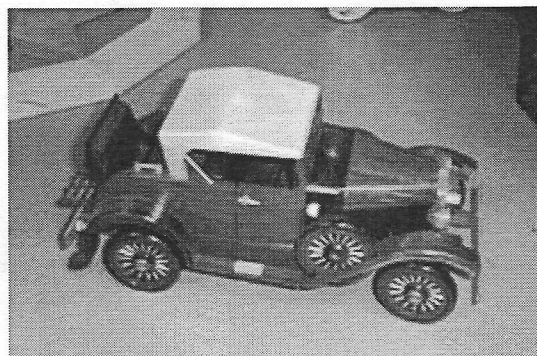
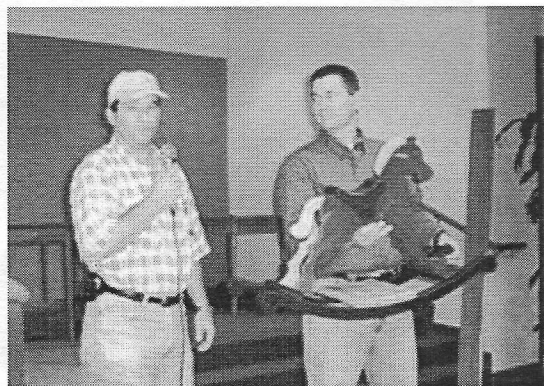
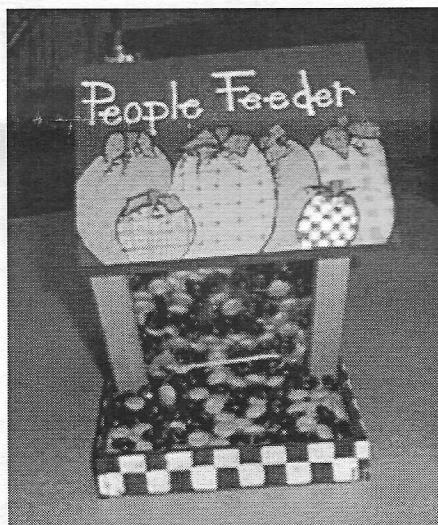
This drawer, made of poplar, Baltic birch and red oak, is from an upcoming project by **Denis Muras**.

Andrew Robinson built this ottoman out of virola wood. He used a Leigh Jig to make the dovetails.

This "People Feeder" was built by **Ken Kooser** and was painted by his wife, Vicky.

This is the finished replica of **Denis Muras'** walnut Model A sedan.

David Vanderwerker talks about his rocking horse. Made of maple and walnut, it is finished with polyurethane.





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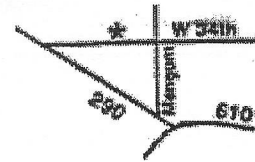
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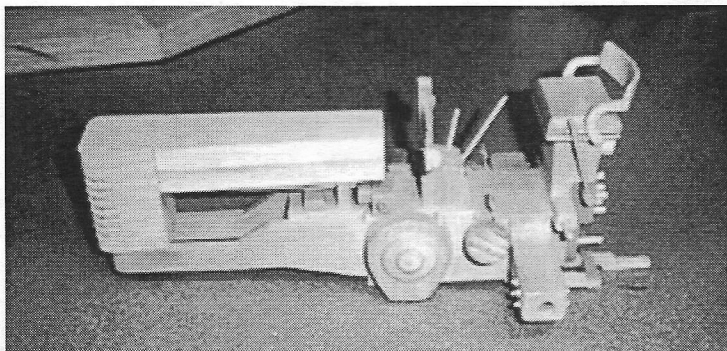


Prez Sez

By Ken Kooser

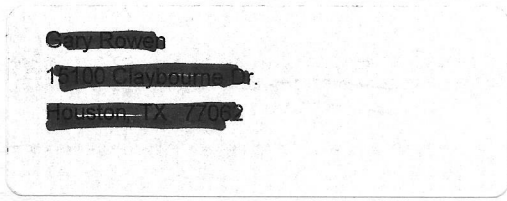
Thanks to Justin for allowing me to get in this month's issue at the last minute. As I wind down my second term of office, I'm reminded exactly why I did not seek a consecutive term. Much has been happening and the year will end with a flurry of activity. The board meeting November 8th will determine several issues that will affect the club in the future. The annual awards will be determined. The process will be the same as last year when the certificates will be presented in January for *Woodworker of the Year* and our annual *Golden Hammer* awards. There have been no nominations for the *Lifetime Achievement Award* this year. We are actively seeking board members and officers. I am extremely gratified that several of the current members serving you will continue to do so next term. I certainly intend to serve the new President and our club throughout 2004. Of course, you know that the actual operations of the club is through the hardworking committee people who bring your books, videos, coffee, badges, arrange the raffle and print the newsletter. I arranged recognition for these fine people as the incoming President for both of my terms and I hope it is a tradition we continue. I presented both the Presidents who preceded me with gavels on an engraved stand. At the November meeting, the formal slate of officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be announced.

Myself, Paul and Gary are automatically carried over as Directors. Since Gary will continue as Secretary, we will need to elect a board member to fill that spot, giving us a full slate of officers. I sincerely want to thank all of you who have supported me as your President. We have grown somewhat and have lost somewhat, but the spirit of the club is strong and we will continue. I'm not done yet; I'll have a farewell message at the end of the year.



This is the beginning of a John Deere tractor that **Denis Muras** is creating. Denis said that he doesn't count hours for his projects and he doesn't plan to start any time soon.

**WOODWORKERS CLUB OF HOUSTON
30630 QUINN ROAD
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, 11/08/03 – Meeting at the Bayland
Park Community Center – 9:00 AM**

Thursday, 11/27/03 – Thanksgiving Day

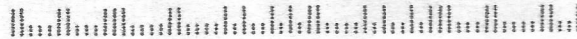
**Sunday, 12/7/03 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance
Day**

**Saturday, 12/13/03 – Meeting at the Bayland
Park Community Center – 9:00 AM**

Friday, 12/19/03 – First night of Hanukkah

Thursday, 12/25/03 – Christmas Day

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