

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

Reminder:
This month's meeting is
at Cross Point Church
4601 Bellaire Blvd

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WWCH Calendar

Jul 5 Furniture Splinter Group
Jul 14 Monthly Meeting
 Jul 22 Hand Tool Splinter Group
 Jul 28 Scroll Saw Splinter Group
 Aug 2 Furniture Splinter Group
 Aug 11 Monthly Meeting

Monthly Raffle



Returns in
August.

New Members

Welcome to WWCH

Dan Schmoker

Bob Soehl

Glad you're with us!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm really looking forward to the July meeting, where Frank Strazza will be our featured speaker. Frank will be making an end table with drawer from start to finish during the meeting. This is our chance to see a master of hand tool techniques in action. It should be a memorable show, and I hope everyone attends.

I've mentioned before that I'm a hybrid woodworker. I like having machines for the heavy lifting, like jointing or planing rough sawn boards. I like ripping boards to width on the table saw. When I use power tools, I'm attentive. I'm very careful and focused. But no matter what, I feel like I'm on the job. For example, to begin stock preparation I face joint all the boards at one time. It's a "step" that I have to get through to move on to the next step. Then I get the planer out and plane the opposite face; again, I do this for all the boards. Eventually, I get to a stack of boards that are ready to be converted into parts for the project at hand. And I breath a sigh of relief that I've finished.

When I'm using hand tools, it feels entirely different. Most of the time, it's quiet and I'm "in the zone." I'm using an exquisitely sharpened cutter in a plough plane to cut a groove. I'm carefully shaving the side of a tenon with a router plane so that it fits perfectly into the designated mortise. When necessary, the lengths of the boards are perfect, because I've used the shooting board to accurately plane the excess length off the ends. And I know it's a point of contention, but I still think the look of a freshly planed surface is superior to the equivalent sanded one.

The point I'm trying to make (somewhat poorly) is that I feel different when I'm using hand tools. I don't know what to call it. Soul? Art? A sense of connection to the (100 yr old) tools and the wood? Whatever it is, I'm hooked on it and it keeps me coming back to the shop for more.

What does this have to do with Frank Strazza? On the surface, one could view the presentation as a series of techniques and procedures to get from point A to point B. No problem, this is a good and necessary thing. However, if this is all that one does, this would miss the half of the benefit of Frank's presentation. I would encourage attendees to step back and focus on the larger picture. Watch how Frank approaches the work. Watch how he handles the tools. Watch the interaction between man and tool and wood. And then think about how you might adopt a similar mindset to use and benefit from hand tools in your own shop.

Mark Bolinger - WWCH President

Splinter Groups

CNC Router Splinter Group: The CNC router group is taking a break for the summer and will reconvene in September.

Contact Mike Turner for further information at 281-633-1807 or mktturner49@gmail.com.

Hand Tool Splinter Group: The Hand Tool Splinter Group meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at Mark Bolinger's garage in Sugar Land near Hwy 6 and 90A. Email is the primary tool for schedule announcements; it will be used to communicate any changes or cancellations.

Email Mark for directions or other details at marksmithb@windstream.net

Scroll Saw Splinter Group: Our discussion group will meet July 28, 2018 at Woodcraft South Beltway 8, 9:30 AM. After the success of Steve Good's program in April we are working on getting another guest speaker for this meeting. More details to follow. Bring your items for Show N Tell and questions for Problems N Solutions.

For more information please contact Norm Nichols at 281-491-3220 or Denis Muris.

Toy Splinter Group: The toy group is currently working independently. For more information contact John Lastrape, jlastrapes@entouch.net.

Furniture Splinter Group: The furniture splinter group meets the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on July 5th. All are welcome. We are currently working on toy box projects.

For more information on the furniture splinter group, Lmcummings@hotmail.com

Sawmill Splinter Group is for those who are cutting and milling their own lumber or are interested in doing so. We discuss sawmills and lumber.

Anyone with logs to mill or an interest in the sawmill can contact Bill Lindsey at bill_lindsey@comcast.net.

Website of the Month



Mike Farrington is a Denver based woodworker/YouTuber. On his website www.mikefarrington.com, he says "I am a custom cabinet maker, furniture maker, and woodworker. I design, build and install cabinetry, furniture and woodwork that cannot be purchased in a store. I pride myself on design that is simple and innovative, yet functional for the intended purpose. I deeply enjoy the collaborative relationship that develops between me - the maker, and you - the end user. The input I receive from you and the subtle details I add as the maker result in a unique and special creation."

June Program Recap



Curt Cobler of 6 x 13 Woodworking spoke to club members about techniques and ways they apply Ecopoxy products to craft their "river" wood design products and other woodworking projects. Curt showed examples of their work as well as projects done by others. 6 X 13 Woodworking is a father & son business that was established in October of 2014 and focuses on custom wood designs, including home decor, accessories, cabinets, live-edge slab tables and elevated feeding stations for dogs. Located in Rosenberg, Texas, they have a private shop and take pride in the craftsmanship involved in their pieces as well as the unique designs that bring a sense of both style and function to a customer's home. 6x13 Woodworking is also a distributor for Ecopoxy products. You can find more information at his website: <https://www.6x13woodworking.com/>

Show and Tell

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bill Grimes | Salt & Pepper Shakers |
| Dave VanDewerker | Toys |
| Terry Parrish | Bottle Openers |
| Steve Wavro | Train/Whistles |
| Dane Schmitt | Wind Spinner |
| Norm Nichols | Scroll Sawn Plaques |
| Jeff Larsen | Celtic Harp |
| Lynn Cummings | Humming Bird |
| Jim Davis | Candle Box |
| Chuck Meeder | Stairs |
| Bill Hoffmeister | Shelf |
| Rick Spacek | Scroll Sawn Scenes |

Show and Tell photos & write-up submitted by Gary Rowen.



Terry Parrish explained how he crafted these beer bottle

openers from scraps of basic pine. Before carving Terry would spray on clear shellac, carve, then another coat of shellac which helps keeps the paint from bleeding out.



Using various pieces of wood **Bill Grimes** turned a pepper mill and a salt mill then finished with urethane.



Transitioning a little from intarsia to toys, as a proud Grandpa, **Steve Wavro** crafted this train set and shelf based on a pattern from a freebie magazine brought to the meeting a few months ago. One of the whistles is for Steve to toot his own horn.



Dave VanDewerker explained how he made toys and wheels from Wink wood and wood from the scrap pile.

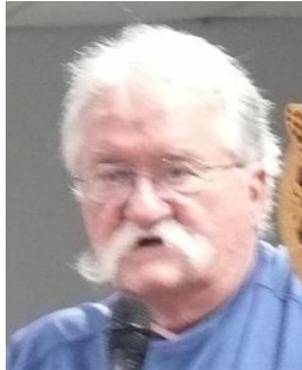


From 2x6s of Jatoba cutoffs, **Dane Schmitt** resawed and so forth made pieces for wind turners to use as gifts. Isn't this what Bob Dylan was singing about?

Show and Tell



From [Sue Mey](#) and [Charles Hand](#) patterns, **Norm Nichols** scroll sawed a raccoon and butterfly, respectively, from red oak. Norm also explained how he scroll sawed graduation cards from paper sandwiched between two pieces of Baltic birch. Norm used a Number 2/0 Flying Dutchman Polar scroll saw blade. Will he name the raccoon "Rocky"?



About 300 pieces of CNC carved Baltic birch and various mechanical items were brought together by **Lynn Cummings** to make this articulated hummingbird for his daughter and her new husband. A lot of sanding and polishing was involved as well as numerous assembling and re-assembling to get it to work right. Lynn purchased plans which can be uploaded to a CNC machine. Lynn also said that the designer, Derek Hugger, and his website were very helpful in helping to work out the bugs.



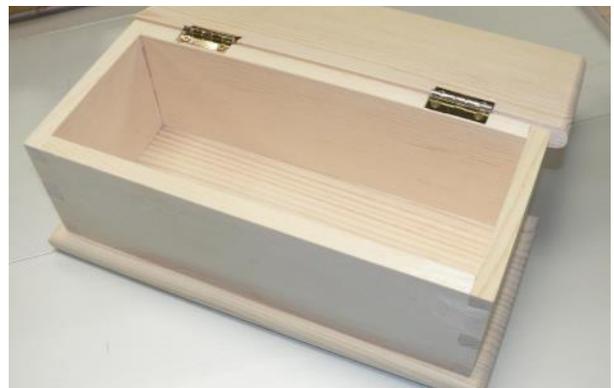
The Celtic harp was a favorite instrument of the Irish and Scots for a thousand years. It is unique in that it was strung with metal wires and

played with the fingernails. There are only three true ancient harps in museums – and they aren't playable.

Jeff Larsen crafted his harp loosely based on the Celtic design. The sound box is made of maple and quartersawn sycamore (which he obtained from a saw mill in De Kalb, Texas), the rest of solid maple (originals were made from willow). Jeff carved the double headed salmon of wisdom from the same piece of maple. For joinery Jeff used dowels instead of the traditional mortise and tenons. Jeff strummed a tune for us - sounds nice, Jeff.



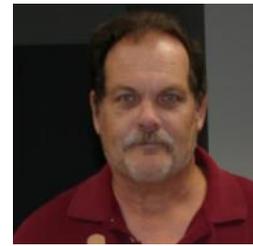
From some classes in woodworking at the Heritage School of Woodworking in Waco, Texas, **Jim Davis** crafted this pine candle box using hand tools. The class was taught by Frank Strazza. Can the box hold LED bulbs?



Show and Tell



After returning to his home after a wet visit by Harvey, and waiting for a contractor to do the stairs, **Chuck Meeder** decided to make his own stair treads which he stained to match other woodwork in his house. Chuck made the risers of poplar. Each tread was custom cut to fit thus avoiding the generic cut board and tons of caulk which he said a contractor would do. Certainly a step in the right direction.

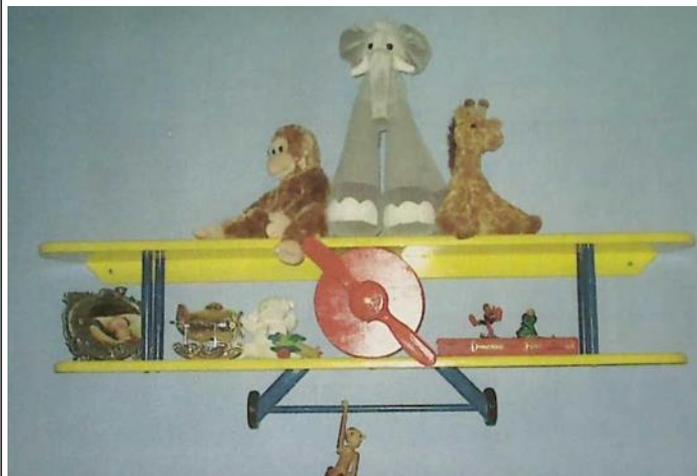


The waterfall with live edge pecan was crafted from a photo by **Rick Spacek** and then a judicious use of acrylic paint. The beehive was scroll sawed from a section of pecan cut through the middle of the tree.

July Program



Bill Hoffmeister showed club members a biplane themed shelf that he made for his daughter from 1x6s and 1x8s then painted. It is designed not to "fly" off the wall.



Award Winning Woodworker

Frank Strazza

Maker of Fine Furniture

During this all-day seminar Frank will build an end table with a drawer, utilizing both hand and power tools. He will demonstrate mortise and tenon joinery, creating tapered legs, solid drawer construction, and half blind dovetails. Frank will also talk about his approach to finishing and will discuss ways to fix mistakes.



Visit the Houston locations at:

60 FM 1960

Houston, TX 77090

281-880-0045

&

11707 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S.

Houston, TX 77031

281-988-9449

WWCH General Information

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NEXT MEETING

Saturday July 14th, 2018

9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

Crosspoint Church, 4601 Bellaire Blvd

Presentation: Frank Strazza

Newsletter Publication: Do you have an announcement or item for the newsletter? Send it to Ron Kirchoff, WWCH Newsletter Editor, at kirchko@gmail.com.

**Guests are always welcome at
WWCH meetings!**

We're on the web!

www.wwch.org

**Join our FacebookGroup!
Woodworkers Club of Houston**

WWCH PURPOSE: The Woodworkers Club of Houston is a group of men and women of all ages and skill levels who promote, educate, and share the craft of woodworking. The club meets the second Saturday of every month from 9-11:30 at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet at Hillcroft. Guests are always welcome at no charge. Membership dues are \$36 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!