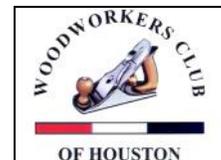


The Sawdust Sentinel

Monthly newsletter of Woodworkers Club of Houston



Volume 39 Issue 10

November 2022

Inside this Issue

WWCH Calendar	p. 1
President's Message.....	p. 1-2
Show and Tell	p. 3-4
WWCH General Information	p. 5

WWCH Calendar

Monthly Meeting	12 Nov
Scroll saw Meeting	TBD
Hand tool Meeting	27 Nov
Furniture Meeting	TBD

Splinter Groups

Scroll Saw Splinter group: Norm Nichols
(scrollsaw@comcast.net)

Furniture/Finishing Splinter group: Ron Kirchoff
(kirch76@gmail.com)

Handtool Splinter group: Mark Bolinger
(marksmbth@gmail.com)

CNC Splinter group: Bill Teague
(wateague@gmail.com)

2022 WWCH Board

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Vice President	Michael Siegel
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Chris Schwartz, Gael Golden, Tom Paulley, Dorsey Rushing

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The October picnic went off in fine style. Thanks to Denis for all the work on the raffle, to Larry and Patti for arranging the drinks, to Tom for arranging the lunches (and David for keeping count – no mean task), to Gael for organizing the silent auction and to everyone else who pitched in to make it a success (I'm sure I forgot a few names).

December is just around the corner, so don't forget that next month we'll be voting on Woodworker of the Year and electing next year's club officers. We will be conducting an in-person vote at the December meeting. The November meeting is the last chance for all you potential Woodworker of the Year candidates to impress us with your skills. The really hot weather has passed, so hopefully you've all been out in the shop making those Show & Tell items that just might tip the balance in your favor.

And so on to

Journey of a Woodworker – Intentions and Mistakes

Most of my woodworking is making furniture. Any project always starts with a (real or imagined) need for a particular piece. What that piece is going to look like is subject to several constraints, of course – what it is (desk? table?) and how it is going to fit the planned space being the two most obvious. After that, I tend to design pieces around a particular idea or technique I want to try out. Then I start building and – always - something does not come out quite as planned, and adjustments or compromises have to be made.

My first example is from a long time ago (over 30 years). This is a walnut base cabinet with a bookcase on top, intended primarily to be decorative rather than strictly utilitarian. One of the constraints here was that there was not room for hinged doors to swing open, so sliding doors became part of the design. The feature I wanted to try my hand at was adding some curves to the work. Up to that point, everything I'd built was pretty much straight lines. You can see what I did in the picture (A) – I set the sliding doors inside a frame with rounded inside corners.

The 'mistakes' part started when I made the top. This is 8/4 solid walnut (expensive even in 1990). I had a certain amount of wood on hand, and when it was glued up and flattened, the finished top was a bit narrower than my original plans. This meant that the

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont.)



overhang at the front was less than intended. That was not so bad – it still looks OK. The real problem was at the corners (B and C), where the corner post comes almost to the rounded corner of the top. That does not look as originally intended, but without starting over with more wood, there was nothing I could do. Compromise in action, I suppose.



My other little mistake came when joining the top to the base. The sides of the base cabinet are walnut plywood, glued into grooves cut into the corner posts and the top. I cut the grooves using a newly acquired router (non plunge), and it got

away from me near the end of one of the grooves. I was lucky – it did not exit the edge of the top, so I was able to fill the gouge-out, and it's invisible unless you go looking. When you do go looking, though, it's pretty ugly (D)

My second example is from a few years ago. This is a short bookcase with doors (E), and the design feature I built this around is the veneered picture that makes up the front. That took quite a bit of work, but I have always been pleased with the way it turned out. The 'mistakes' part came in once I had built the base cabinet and was getting ready to fit the doors. The veneered panel had to be cut in half – that worked OK, but then I discovered that the two halves didn't quite fit the size of the opening in the case.

That's why (F) there is a wider strip of maple on the outside edge of the two doors. This is not a design feature – it's a fix for a measuring mistake. The other edges are just covered with maple veneer strips, which was the original plan for all edges.



But there's more. The doors overlay the cabinet bottom and 'false' top (meaning the one that gives it structural integrity, not the one you see), and they are flush to the cabinet sides. Turns out I made the top and bottom about 1/4 inch too wide, which prevented the doors from sitting flush to the sides. To fix this, I had to cut rabbets on the inside top and bottom of the doors to let them sit far enough back. I also had to cover the exposed plywood laminations with more maple veneer to make it look decent. You can see the result in G. It made for a lot more work at that stage that I had planned.



More next time.

Peter Doe

WWCH President

Toy of the Month

A link to the Toy of the Month file can be found on the WWCH Web Site

<http://www.wwch.org>

Show and Tell



Rolling pin, table legs, bowl, and cutting boards. — **David Janowitz**



Dinosaur carving and bowls. — **Dave VanDewerker**



Coopered kitchen utensil basket and squirrel carving . — **Chuck Meeder**



Show and Tell

CNC Plaque. — **Bill Teague**



Tapestry hanger. — **Jack Bailie**



Carvings. — **Rick Spacek**



Beehive. — **Tom Blanco**



WWCH General Information

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Refreshments Steve Wavro
Technology Denis Muras
Web Master Gary Rowen

NEXT MEETING

**Saturday November 12th (9am—
12pm)**

**Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77074**

Newsletter Publication: Do you have an announcement or item for the newsletter? Send it to Sankar Padhmanabhan, WWCH Newsletter Editor, at sankarnkp@live.com. Please submit the item before 1st of each month to be included in the newsletter

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. Guests are always welcome at no charge. Membership dues are \$36 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!