

# Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

Volume 35 Issue 12

December 2019

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## WWCH Calendar

05 Dec..... Furniture Splinter Group  
 14 Dec..... Monthly Meeting  
 22 Dec... Hand Tool Splinter Group  
 02 Jan .... Furniture Splinter Group  
 11 Jan ..... Monthly Meeting  
 25 Jan .. Scroll Saw Splinter Group

## Picnic Raffle



**Get your tickets  
at the Monthly  
meeting.**

## New Members

**Welcome to WWCH**

Don Magdall Dan Smith

**We are happy to have you**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the risk of being labelled a woodworking heretic, I have to admit that I am not a fan of the current fad for live-edge slab pieces, and river tables just don't turn me on. I had the chance to visit the Texas Furniture Makers Show in Kerrville this year, and there were a number of pieces using the live-edge or river concepts. I appreciate the natural look of these pieces, and some of them show wonderful wood figure and color. I appreciate the skill and labor it takes to flatten a slab and finish it to bring out the best of the wood, but I wouldn't want to own the vast majority of those pieces.



I will admit that a couple of the pieces in this style did catch my eye and my favorite piece, a small low table (see photo), looked like organic sculpture, with the base of a mesquite tree serving as its pedestal. The wood's color and figure are beautiful, and the finish is impressive. No doubt the

maker has done a wonderful job of making a statement piece of furniture. I would love to hear your thoughts on the live-edge style.

It seems that instead of embracing the current interest in the organic nature of live-edge and "river" pieces, I remain hooked on Arts & Crafts and Mission style pieces. Maybe my engineer's mind prefers the honest lines and simple construction of such pieces. And I love the look and feel of quarter-sawn white oak.

I am strictly a self-taught woodworker, and sometimes I am stymied by what I perceive as a construction detail that I'm not sure I can execute to my own satisfaction. As a result, I have been putting off making a simple piece for a long time, because I wanted to execute the table legs with the quarter-sawn appearance on all four sides. The big makers of A&C furniture like Stickley developed a couple of techniques that they used to achieve this effect, including using custom shaper cutters to mill the leg out of four planks that would interlock into a sturdy square leg, or covering the plain faces of a solid leg with relatively thick quarter-sawn veneer. I don't have a shaper or the special cutters that they used, and I wasn't sure I would be able to make the thick veneer look right, so I procrastinated and the project was delayed.

[Continued on Page 2]

## Splinter Groups

**CNC Router Splinter Group:** The group meets at Bill Teague's workshop behind his house in West University Place. For information contact Bill at [wateague@gmail.com](mailto:wateague@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 details at [marksmithb@windstream.net](mailto:marksmithb@windstream.net)

**Toy Splinter Group:** Toy Splinter Group: Currently all toys are constructed by individual members for donation to area children's charities. "Toy of the Month" plans and critical parts can be picked up at the WWCH monthly meetings.

For more information contact John Lastrapes, [jlastrapes@entouch.net](mailto:jlastrapes@entouch.net).

**Scroll Saw Splinter Group:** Scroll Saw Splinter Group will meet for its next discussion Jan 25, 2020 at Woodcraft South (Beltway 8) 9:30 AM. Bring your Show N Tell items and questions for Problems N Solutions.

For questions and more information contact Norm Nichols at 281-491-3220 or Denis Muras at 713-876-0087.

**Furniture and Finishing Splinter Group:** The splinter group will meet on December 5th. Details will be sent to all registered group members soon.

For more information on the furniture splinter group, contact Ron Kirchoff [kirchko@gmail.com](mailto:kirchko@gmail.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](mailto:bill_lindsey@comcast.net).

**Galveston Woodworking Guild:** This group meets at the Dickinson Library, 4411 Highway 3. The next meeting is planned for Jan 25th. For more information contact Walt Hansen at [whansen2@comcast.net](mailto:whansen2@comcast.net).

## President's Message<sub>(Cont)</sub>

But thanks to a 2001 book from Taunton Press, I have now discovered how other woodworkers use tools that I already have to achieve the look I am seeking. The author of one article used the ubiquitous lock-miter router bit and a couple of jigs to machine the table legs and have the quarter-sawn grain show on all faces. And another article showed a superior method of locating and assembling the slats that are common between the end stretchers on A&C tables. With guidance on these aspects of the design, I am now looking forward to building the piece after the holidays are done (and gifts are finished).

To paraphrase an oft-repeated TV commercial – "What's in your woodworking plans?"

**Ben Tillison**

**WWCH President**

## Toy Donation Packing



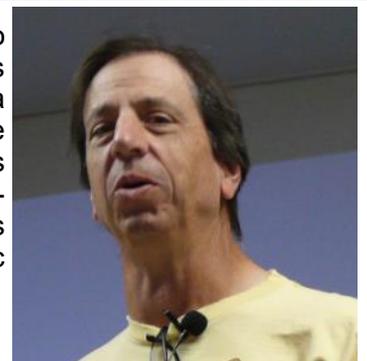
A message from Toy Chairman John Lastrapes:

"Many thanks to all who helped with packing of the toys on Monday, not to mention construction of toys throughout the year. Also plenty of thanks for all who will be dropping off of toys in the coming weeks.

By my very rough accounting, we've contributed 2500-3000 toys this past year! The toy program would not be successful without all of your participation."

## November Program Recap

Our own Tom Blanco took us through the steps to sharpen and use a cabinet scraper. He used various visual aids to show what was happening to the scraper's edge at the microscopic level.



# Show and Tell

## PRESENTERS

- Rick Spacek ..... 3D Cubes/Platter
- Jack Bailie ..... Cutting Board
- Tom Pauley ..... Moxon Vise
- David Janowitz ..... Lazy Susans, Cutting Boards
- Ron Matherly ..... Hat Rack
- Lon Kelley ..... Cutting Boards
- Jim Hiles ..... Christmas Ornaments
- George Graves ..... Turnings
- Bob Wink ..... Hat Hangers
- Steve Wavro ..... Intarsia
- Denis Muras ..... Jeeps
- Gary Rowen ..... Dragon Cradle
- Mike Hardy ..... Podiums
- Earl Touchstone ..... Rocking Horse

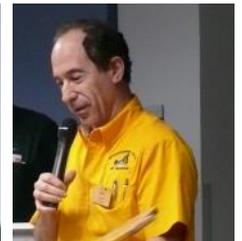
Photos and commentary by Gary Rowen



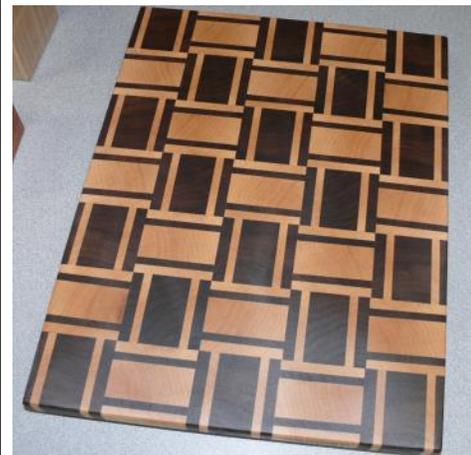
**Tom Pauley** described the usefulness of a Moxon vise that he made from ash, particularly getting your work higher off the bench.



**Rick Spacek** described how he used a number two-ought spiral blade to craft his Veteran's day cubes in 3D. The fancy pattern, mounted on a plexiglass backer, took a long time to create but turned out very nice.



**David Janowitz** explained how he "accidentally" made a fish then glued up more scraps to make a bird. David used Osage orange, water oak, and cedar elm for his cutting boards and other items. He used mineral oil on cutting boards and water borne finish for others.



**Jack Bailie** made several different cutting boards to give away to family and friends. The one in the photo

was made from three glue ups then finished with mineral oil. The legs came from Home depot.



# Show and Tell

**Ron Matherly**, continuing with his 3D CNC work, found that it was challenging to get all the pieces to fit without seeing gaps in his hat rack of bird's eye maple, lacewood, and walnut.



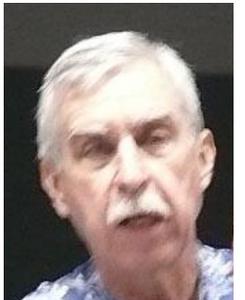
**George Graves** showed club members turnings in mahogany and maple woods.



Using mostly scraps of Wink wood, **Lon Kelley** made a lazy Susan for his daughter and one for him and his wife. Lon described how he had to insert a wedge to close a gap.



Hat racks in the Greene and Greene style were crafted by **Bob Wink** from quarter sawn red oak. If you ever visit Pasadena, CA, Bob recommended that you visit the Gamble House, an example of American Arts and Craft style architecture.



**Jim Hiles** described how he made his Christmas ornaments mostly from cedar and walnut.



## Show and Tell



From a Judy Gale Roberts pattern and 110 pieces of 12 different woods, **Steve Wavro** crafted this exquisite



cornucopia. Steve explained how he judiciously used a propane torch to return the purpleheart to its natural color.



**Denis Muras** showed one of 24 jeeps that he crafted from black walnut, cherry, and maple. Wheels are next. Denis also said he would take scrap wood for his toys projects.



When **Gary Rowen** learned that he and wife were to be Great Grandparents, Gary set out to craft a dragon-themed cradle because his granddaughter loves dragons and is a Game of Thrones fan. The wood is red oak and the panels, made with Gary's new CNC2 router, are created from Wink wood plywood. Gary said that he "fell off" the CNC learning curve many times during the process.



**Mike Hardy**, showing several photos, described how he designed and crafted different style podiums for churches, universities and other performance venues.



Based on a Woodcraft pattern, **Earl Touchstone** crafted a rocking horse of red oak for his grandchild which was "tested" by his adult children. Bannisters form the horse's handles. Earl also spoke about how he made the played legs .





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Web Master	Gary Rowen

**NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday December 14th**

9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonet

*Guests are always welcome at WWCH meetings!*

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

***We're on the web!***

[www.wwch.org](http://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!