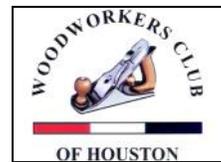


The Sawdust Sentinel

Monthly newsletter of Woodworkers Club of Houston



Volume 39 Issue 2

February 2022

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WWCH Calendar

Monthly Meeting	12 Feb
Scroll saw Meeting	23 Apr
Hand tool Meeting	26 Feb
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

President	Peter Doe
Vice President	Michael Siegel
Secretary	Chris Farquhar
Treasurer	David Janowitz
Publications Director	Sankar P

DIRECTORS

Chris Schwartz, Gael Golden, Tom Paulley, Dorsey Rushing

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Journey of a woodworker, Chapter 1.

Do you remember your first woodworking project? Strictly speaking, my first project (we're talking 1978 here) was a pine bookcase I made back in our apartment living days. My tool collection at the time consisted of a refurbished Sears circular saw and a refurbished Sears electric drill. I should point out I still used that saw up until 2012, so I guess I got my money's worth.

That's not the piece I really remember as my first project, though. That dates from about a year and a half later, by which time we had bought our first house and had been given a Sear's radial arm saw as a housewarming gift from Susie's parents. Armed with this, I was ready for some serious woodworking. We needed a coffee table and an end table, so that became my first 'real' project. It was off to Tulsa (50 miles away and the nearest source for a decent choice of hardwood lumber). After looking at wood (and prices of woods), I settled on white oak. We strapped it to the top of the old VW Rabbit and hauled it back to Bartlesville. Believe it or not, in all the ten years or so we lived there, we never lost a piece of wood on the highway. I do have a story about strapping wood to the top of the VW, but that's for a later chapter.

The top of the coffee table was 3/4 inch oak plywood. The top of the end table was 4/4 oak glued to 3/4 inch plywood. Yes, I know - you're not supposed to so that because it is likely to warp, but it actually never did and the table is still used by our younger son. The main reason I did it that way was that I had no really good way to plane or joint lumber, and the plywood at least gave me a flat surface to start from. I also bought a rotary planer head for the radial saw and used that to flatten stock. It sort of worked, as long as you didn't mind a good deal of final sanding. This might be where my "avoid sanding if at all possible" attitude comes from.

Legs of the coffee table were made from 8/4 oak, and those on the end table were glued up from 4/4 to make stock about 3" square. The tops were edged with 8/4 oak to hide the plywood, rounded over with a router bit chucked in the radial saw because I did not own a router. Go slow and it works - again there's a lot of sanding involved to finish it off. I had sketched out what I planned to build but had not really drawn it to scale. In the sketch of the coffee table, the legs were joined across the short side by two stretchers and the stretchers were joined under the table by a central 'shelf'.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont.)

This all to be made from 8/4 oak because that's what I had bought and I had no way to resaw it.

Once I got the coffee table dry assembled with the legs and just one stretcher in place, I realized that it looked a lot clunkier and more 'robust' than my approximate sketch had intended it to be. So I stopped there and did not use the extra wood, which eventually ended up in Houston and made drawers for another project about 25 years later. The joinery on both tables was somewhat approximate, with gaps everywhere, and a certain amount of woof filler was required to hide some of the deficiencies. I then stained the pieces, because natural oak was a little on the light side to match our other furniture. The wood and the filler took the stain differently, which tended to display rather than hide my mistakes. Here, probably, is where another of my aversions comes from. I dislike staining wood, and since that time have only used stain on built-ins where I have no choice but to match existing installations.

So, how did this influence my woodworking journey for the next 40+ years? Lesson 1: make a proper scale drawing- if it looks well-proportioned on a scale drawing, it will probably be OK in the real world. Lesson 2: whenever possible, avoid staining projects. Lesson 3: Sanding is really boring. Lesson 4: I rather enjoy this woodworking stuff. Lesson 5: I need more tools.

More next time

Be aware that Harris County still has the COVID threat level at red, based on the number of hospitalizations and ICU capacity. New case levels, however, are lower than at the time of our January meeting. If you are in a high risk group, please take appropriate precautions.

Steve Wavro has a conflict and will be out of town this weekend, so there won't be coffee at the meeting. Coffee will return in March.

Peter Doe

WWCH President

Monthly Toy Challenge

In 2021 the Club membership made nearly 2,000 toys donated to 20 organizations for distribution to underprivileged or challenged children and adults. This number seems to corollate with the past few years with the exception of 2020 when the members made almost 4,500 toys in the spare time that was likely driven by the outbreak of Covid-19.

All of the Toymakers deserve a well-deserved Thank You.

For 2022 I'd like for the Club Members to "Step Up" our game by creating a Toy Challenge.

Monthly Toy Challenge – You could win \$500 worth of stuff!

February Challenge - Any "new" type of toy that is not a car, truck or puzzle that has not appeared in in the past several years. Be creative, but read below to see what you may want to reserve for later months.

To be clear, for this month's challenge, a puzzle is defined as a traditional scroll saw flat puzzle. For example, the February project could be a puzzle box, or one of those 3D brain teasers.

Monthly Toy Challenge (Cont..)

Monthly Challenges for next 3 months:

March - A toy with moving parts (Example would be Charles Volek's pull toy Ducks or Grasshoppers).

April – An item specifically for girls (historically they are "underserved" by our huge supply of cars)

May – A toothbrush holder. This should be painted or finished to withstand water. (New toothbrushes and a small tube of toothpaste will be provided for each copy at the Toy Sorting event in November).

A document covering how the Toy Challenge works and guidelines for the challenge is posted in the WWCH website ([WWCH Toy Challenge](#)). Stay tuned for updates and keep checking the website for updates and changes to the toy challenge.

Members suggestions for Monthly Challenges to fill in the blanks are welcome. Send your ideas to Andy Tofuri (andy.tofuri@comcast.net).

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>

Program of the Month

Program Name: *A Flip-Top Tool Cart for a Small Shop*

Tom Paulley will share his recent adventure in selecting, modifying, and building a flip-top tool cart for his belt/spindle sander, disc sander and scroll saw. Using a problem/solution approach, Tom takes us through the entire process. If you've ever considered building such a cart, you won't want to miss this!

Club Announcements

We will be offering discounted prices on past style shirts. These shirts are new and wear well. All available shirts are of size large, but they make great shop shirts. There are several colors to choose from. Sale price at the February meeting will be \$10 or 3 for \$25. Get them while you can. We will also have club caps. They are \$15 each. Cash, check, or credit card payments accepted.

Please renew your membership for 2022 by paying dues during the monthly meeting. Yearly dues is \$36 and can be paid via cash, check or credit card.

If you want your contact information updated or included (new members), please contact Patti Page before Monday Feb 22nd 2022.

Show and Tell

Sofa Tables. — **Mike Turner**



Candle stick and Bowl. — **George Graves**



My project is call "Bread and Cheese", not sure why it's called that, except that it rhymes with two birds in a tree. The design came from the Scrollsaw Woodworking & Crafts magazine; Winter 2020 - issue 81; by: Fiona Kingdon. I made it out of Pine, using a 0/2 spiral blade, painted with Acrylic paints by my wife Linda. — **Chris Farquhar**



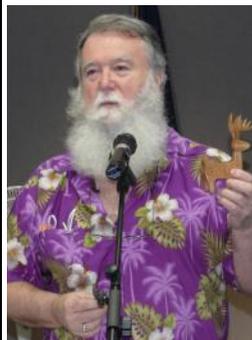
The box is made from offcuts from a 3-D cutting board. The wood species are cherry, maple, walnut and purpleheart. I used a forstner bit to hog out most of the material, then used a chisel and router template bit to clean up the inside of the box. The lid is held in place by 3 pairs of rare earth magnets. The finish is Total Boat Halcyon, a water-based marine varnish that comes in a bag, not a can! Used two coats of Gloss, followed by one coat of Satin. — **Tom Pauley**



Cedar Creche and Chess Pieces. — **Denis Muras**



Puzzle Fish and Deer. — **Roy Quast**



Show and Tell

Intarsia Moose, which was based on a design by Bruce Worthington. It is comprised of 50 individual pieces of Ebony, Maple, Poplar, Walnut, and Western Red Cedar and finished with 1 coat of Danish Oil and 4 coats of polycrylic. — **Steve Wavro**



Wolf and Butterflies. — **Dave VanDewerker**



Two music stands. The first one is a commission in mahogany. The engraving is the first two measures of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto and was cut with a trim router. The second stand is cherry. The cutout is done with a scroll saw, a modelers' rasp, and files. Both are finished with Waterlox. — **Mike Hardy**



Mesquite table and Bowl. — **Lon Kelley**





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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Donuts	Roslyn Hager
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Membership Book	Patti Page
Newsletter	Sankar Padhmanabhan
Raffle	Andy Tofuri
Refreshments	Steve Wavro
Technology	Denis Muras
Web Master	Gary Rowen

NEXT MEETING

Saturday 12th February (9am—12pm)

Bayland Community Center

6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77074

<http://www.wwch.org>

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!