

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

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May 2018

Inside this Issue

WWCH Calendar	p. 1
New Members	p. 1
President's Message	p. 1
Splinter Groups	p. 2
April Program Recap	p. 2
Report from the Woodworking Show ..	p. 3
Website of the Month.....	p. 3
WWCH Booth at the Show	p. 3
Odds & Ends	p. 4
Pope-Leighey House	p. 4-5
July Seminar Plans.....	p. 5
Vendor Ad	p. 6
WWCH General Information	p. 6

WWCH Calendar

May 3.....	Furniture Splinter Group
May 12.....	Monthly Meeting
May 17.....	CNC Splinter Group
May 27.....	Hand Tool Splinter Group
Jun 7.....	Furniture Splinter Group
Jun 9.....	Monthly Meeting
Jul 28.....	Scroll Saw Splinter Group

Monthly Raffle



Get your ticket at the meeting!

New Members

Welcome to WWCH

Aaron Wersing

Guy McDonald

We are happy to have you

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To specialize or not, that is the question. At least it is the question that I've been asking myself, and I'll wager that other WWCH members have also asked it of themselves.

Clearly there are club members who are specialists. The majority of their woodworking is devoted to one single subset of woodworking, ie intarsia, scrollsawing, turning, luthiery, etc. It seems clear to me that they love this aspect of woodworking, and are happy to continue practicing it more or less exclusively. There are advantages to be gained by specialization. The tool set is smaller and more specifically applicable to the specialty. The wood requirements are likewise more finite in nature; a scrollsawer seems unlikely to need a stash of several hundred board-feet of rough-sawn lumber. Most important, a specialist spends all of his time improving his skills in his chosen specialty, and so reaps a benefit of becoming very proficient at that one area of woodworking. And it shows every time they bring an item in for show and tell.

A generalist gets to dabble in many areas. One project can be flat-work (furniture), and the next can be bowl turning. The problem to confront is skill erosion. I personally have experienced this; after a recent twin bed project, I practically had to relearn turning because it had been several months since I last picked up a lathe chisel. To be sure, a generalist's life is easier these days, thanks to Youtube. I watched a few key videos, did a bit of practice, and more or less was back in the turning saddle. But if I'm honest with myself, I doubt I'll ever be gracing the pages of Woodturning Magazine, unless I really ramp up the practice hours.

At the moment, I'm committed to being a generalist. I have lots of potential projects on the hook (although those dining room chairs have been languishing on the list for years or even decades). I enjoy flat work still, and I'm resisting the addictive nature of woodturning. For me, the big question is: can I remain a generalist but still take it to the next level? If I figure out an answer to this, I'll let you know.

Calling all specialists. I think it would be interesting to hear how you got started with the specialty, why you decided to specialize, and what is it about the specialty that keeps it fun and exciting for you.

Mark Bolinger

WWCH President

Splinter Groups

CNC Router Splinter Group: The CNC router group will be meeting at Lynn Cummings house on Thursday, May 17th at 7:00pm. 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 details at marksmithb@windstream.net

Toy Splinter Group: The toy group has a new coordinator, thanks John Lestrapes, Watch this column for more news soon.

Scroll Saw Splinter Group: The next meeting is Sat 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.

Furniture Splinter Group: The furniture splinter group meets the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on May 3rd. All are welcome. We are starting work on a new project; come check it out. 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.

Short May Newsletter

Due to the short April meeting at the Texas Woodworking Show with no Show-n-tell session, this month's newsletter is somewhat abbreviated

April Program Recap

Mac Sheldon, representing PantoRouter, spoke about the history of the PantoRouter and explained and demonstrated the machine to club members at the April club meeting.



After retiring from his process engineering job, Inventor Matthias Wandell developed a working mortise and tenon machine using the principle of the pantograph to reduce a large scale template to a smaller size desired for a mortise and tenon joint. The machine, using a typical router, takes mortise and tenon making to the next level – a crafter can choose a design for the tenon, or custom make one – a useful tool when designing through tenons where the end of the tenon is exposed.

A practical engineer from India, Kuldeep Singh, was enamored by Mr. Wandell's invention, which was made of wood, and further developed the machine from steel and then aluminum which was then sold online.

In addition to making basic and custom mortise and tenon joinery, PantoRouter can create box joints and dovetail joints.

An additional nice feature of this PantoRouter is the dust collection capability – as woodworkers know, routing kicks up a lot of dust.

Mr. Sheldon finished up his presentation by showing numerous examples of joinery that can be accomplished by the PantoRouter.

<https://hybridpantorouter.com>



REPORT FROM THE WOODWORKING SHOW

I don't know how I have become the local woodworking show promoter but I wanted to give the members a report on the show and express my appreciation for your support. I first and foremost would like to thank the officers and Board of the Club for agreeing to move the April location to the show site. I know this might cause concern from some who are not deeply involved in club activities but I think the move allowed for the show to be successful. And successful it was - my definition of success is that I did not lose any money. Next, I'd like to thank Bob Wink and Norm Nichols who acted as floor managers during the show. Unless you try this once, you cannot believe the number of issues that must be addressed and Bob and Norm really stepped up to help me (I think they might feel I helped them). I'd also like to single out Patti and Larry Page and George Alderete for their efforts in the ticket sales and admission process. Mark Womack was invaluable in getting word out on social media and Lynn Cummings proved very helpful in recruiting vendors for the show. Of course, I want to thank the Club membership for participating in the show. I had many vendors say that while our crowd (719 attendees) was not the largest at shows they are involved with, the percentage of buyers far exceeded their expectations. It was really interesting to hear the vendors talk about the Houston woodworkers and how pleased they were with the show. All made the commitment to come back if we do another show. At this time, I'm looking at a show in 2019 in either the Dallas-Ft. Worth area or the Austin-San Antonio area. As I look at the purchases made (and I bought over \$2,900) I think we need to have a chance to replenish our finances before having another show, resulting in my decision to not have a show in 2019 in Houston. I notice that The Woodworking Shows, the traveling show, has Houston as an alternative in 2019 so there might be a show here next year.

Again, Thanks to everyone for the support, Tim Shaunty

Website of the Month

James Hamilton is the mastermind behind the popular [Stumpy Nubs](#) web site, which offers a range of online videos dedicated to spending some quality time in the shop, with a particular emphasis on creating homemade woodworking machines, tools and jigs. Hamilton is constantly looking for ways to streamline, organize and improve workshops – and makes it his mission to help others do the same. His [YouTube Channel](#) contains many informative and humorous videos on a wide range of woodworking topics. He has also published a book, "The Homemade Workshop," containing descriptions and plans for a number of woodworking machines and jigs.



WWCH Booth at Woodworking Show



WWCH members staff the booth at the Houston Woodworking Show talking to members of the public while Denis Muras demos scroll saw techniques.

Odds and Ends

Save The Date: A club field trip to the Berdoll Sawmill is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, at 9:00 am. The mill is located in Cedar Creek, TX; about a 2 hour drive from Houston. We have also found a great barbeque joint in Bastrop for lunch. Please plan on enjoying the day with your fellow club members. Details to follow.

A Visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House



On a recent trip to visit family in Washington D.C., I had an opportunity to tour the Pope-Leighey House. This house was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright as a commission for newspaperman Loren Pope. Pope commissioned the design of the house in 1939, and it was built in Falls Church, Virginia, in 1941. It follows Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian model, which is a term created by Wright to encompass his vision for well-designed, affordable housing for middle income families.

The 1200 square foot house is built with curtain wall design, where the load of the roof is carried by brick structures and the walls themselves are not load bearing. This type of construction was new in the 1940s, and many builders

refused to build this house because they thought it would fall down.

Even though the home is small, it is divided into specific sections for use with the living area in one wing and the bedrooms in another. One of the most eye-catching design elements of the house is the windows. Every wall has lots of windows, including small windows with glass sandwiched between wooden cutouts. Wright walked the home site and specified the orientation that the house was to be built so that it would catch

morning, day, and evening sunlight to his design. It was not actually installed in that orientation, nor was this orientation maintained when the house was later moved to preserve it from demolition when Route 66 was built. And yet if you peruse pictures online you can see some stunning photos of how the house lights up during the evening. The pictures I took don't do the beauty of the home justice because all of the light made taking a good, color balanced photo with my phone impossible!



Main entry into the home



Exterior of home showing small windows with cutouts. The exterior was recently cleaned and treated with a protective coating (not stained).



Living room. Note the reflection of the cutouts on the ceiling.

Continued on page 5

Pope-Leighey House

(Continued from pg 4)

The walls are built out of long, wide horizontal planks of tidewater red cypress. Tidewater cypress was readily available at the time due to clearing of sections of the Florida everglades. Wright chose this wood because it is very resistant to rot and insects don't like it. Approximate sizes of the boards are about $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick, around 8 to 10 inches wide, and varying lengths with some over 12 feet. The walls are constructed with plywood sandwiched between the boards in sort of a tongue and groove type construction. This "sandwich" is screwed together with flat head screws. The beauty of the wood is hard to capture in the tight spaces of the house.



Frank Lloyd Wright's attention to detail is incredible. To emphasize the horizontal lines of the home, he had brick masons fill the mortar in the vertical lines flush with the bricks and wipe back the horizontal mortar lines. Also, all of the screws in the boards had to be installed with the slot of the screw head following the direction of the board. Thus horizontal boards have the slot running horizontally and vertical boards vertically. Pretty impressive considering there are thousands of screws in the walls!

There are many more interesting details about the house; too much to write about in this newsletter format! If you would like to learn more about the Pope-Leighy house and also see professional photographs of all of the rooms and exterior, check out the virtual tour offered by National Trust for Historic Preservation:

<https://storymaps.esri.com/stories/2017/flw/pope-leighey/>

Story submitted by Lisa Sessions

Frank Strazza and our Seminar in July

Planning for the July Seminar is underway and our guest speaker this year will be Frank Strazza. Frank's interests in woodworking are many and varied. His passion covers several aspects of furniture making including, carving, inlaying, marquetry, tool making, Windsor chair making as well as violin making.

Frank apprenticed with the Heritage Craftsman, first in Austin, Texas and then later in Waco, Texas. He has been building furniture for over 25 years and his work has been featured in both local and national publications, including Woodworker West, Woodwork Magazine and Fine Woodworking. Frank has won multiple awards, including, Best of Show, Peoples Choice, First and Second Place, Best Traditional Furniture and much more for many of his pieces, including several awards both at the Texas Furniture Makers Show and at the International Design in Wood Exhibition in California. His most recent win was at the 2012 Texas Furniture Makers Show where he won, both Best of Show and People's Choice for his "Roses Table". He has also participated in building furniture for the permanent collection at the White House in Washington D.C.

Frank has taught at many different venues including the [Heritage School of Woodworking](#) in Waco Texas as well as [Lie-Nielsen Toolworks](#) in Maine and the [Alaska Creative Woodworkers Assc.](#) He has also demonstrated woodworking at many different events across the country including Lie-Nielsen's Handtool events, [The Woodworking Shows](#) and [Handworks](#). [Source: <http://www.strazzafurniture.com/bio.html>]



Visit the Houston locations at:

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281-880-0045

&

11707 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S.

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WWCH General Information

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NEXT MEETING

Saturday May 12th, 2018

9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonet

Presentation by Caroline Kostak, discussing "deconstructing" homes.

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.

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!