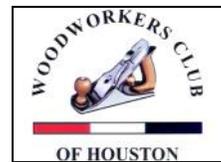


# The Sawdust Sentinel

Monthly newsletter of Woodworkers Club of Houston



Volume 39 Issue 8

September 2022

## Inside this Issue

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| WWCH Calendar .....            | p. 1   |
| President's Message.....       | p. 1-2 |
| Program of Month.....          | p. 3   |
| Show and Tell .....            | p. 4-5 |
| Vendor Ad .....                | p. 6   |
| WWCH General Information ..... | p. 6   |

## WWCH Calendar

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Monthly Meeting .....    | 10 Sep |
| Scroll saw Meeting ..... | TBD    |
| Hand tool Meeting .....  | 25 Sep |
| Furniture Meeting .....  | TBD    |

## Splinter Groups

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

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

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

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

## 2022 WWCH Board

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>President</b>             | Peter Doe      |
| <b>Vice President</b>        | Michael Siegel |
| <b>Secretary</b>             | Chris Farquhar |
| <b>Treasurer</b>             | David Janowitz |
| <b>Publications Director</b> | Sankar P       |

### DIRECTORS

Chris Schwartz, Gael Golden, Tom Paulley, Dorsey Rushing

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone who attended the all-day July member demo/workshop had a good time. In my years with the club, I do not recall doing anything quite like this, and I thought it went off very well. Thanks to all those club members who helped with the planning and arrangements, or who ran one of the workshop sessions. Currently, the plan is to repeat a club workshop like this every two years, alternating with a workshop from a nationally known woodworker.

September is a regular club meeting, and then it will be picnic time. Don't forget that we're running the silent auction again at this year's picnic. We will publish an updated set of rules for the auction shortly, and will be collecting lunch money at the September meeting. Watch out for club emails.

Journey of a Woodworker, part 7

Most furniture stands on legs. The shape and size of the leg is a key aspect of how the final piece will look. My earliest pieces had straight legs, because they're relatively easy to get right. I tend to think of them as functional rather than attractive. In recent years, I have only used straight legs on tables that were intended to take a lot of daily use (A). By chamfering or otherwise shaping the corners, the stark, straight line look can be somewhat moderated.

The next most complicated is a tapered leg, which substantially improves the elegance of the design by producing a less bulky overall appearance. I have used tapered legs a lot. My oldest piece with tapered legs that is still in use is the desk at which I am typing this message (B). If only I kept the top of the desk clean, elegance would, I am sure, be even more improved.

I used to taper legs by hand using smoothing and /or block planes. My arthritic hands don't like that anymore, so I have switched to using the jointer. I tape a small offcut to one end of the leg to set the taper, and then take an equal number of passes off each side. My jointer has a helical cutterhead, and I leave it permanently set to take light passes, so the surface quality using this method is generally excellent.

And that brings us to what I call 'modified cabriole legs'. I do not personally care for the shape of traditional cabriole legs, which are not suited to the kind of furniture I build, but the principle by which they are made can be adapted to just about any shape you want.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont.)



For those who have not made a leg this way, you start with a template that is made to the shape and size of the final leg. You then prepare your stock and use the template to draw the outline of the final leg on the wood. Cut the first side roughly to the lines on the band saw, tape

the cut off pieces back in place, rotate 90 degrees and cut the perpendicular direction. The resulting shapes you can get are limited only by your imagination in making the template.

I always do all of the joinery on the leg before the shaping. That way you have straight reference surfaces to index to. Be prepared for quite a bit of handwork to smooth the final shape. How much depends on how accurately you band saw to the lines – in my case, not very accurately, it seems. I always end up with more spokeshaving, rasping and sanding that I thought I would. Spokeshaves and I do not seem to agree very well, so I do not truly enjoy this phase of a project.

I show four examples from old projects. The coffee table (C) is English brown oak and imbuya, and was my first venture into this style of leg. I have always liked this piece. The decorative sunburst table (D) is of maple and imbuya. This one sent me back to lumber yard twice – once because I underestimated how much wood was needed for the legs (they had to start from 3 inch square blanks), and once because I messed up trying to shop saw veneers for the top. This has always been one of my favorite pieces.

The third example (E) is more recent, and was motivated by the hexagon pattern for the top (zebrawood and ziricote, edged with imbuya). The legs are mahogany. This, I consider less successful. I have always felt that the legs look too long and skinny compared to the rest of the design.

The last example (F) is another decorative piece and has the most complicated leg shape I have attempted so far. I designed it with a straight section in the middle to facilitate the attachment of the shelf, In addition to the more usual straight section at the top. Walnut with a padauk top.



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>

## Toy Competition



Cylinder Puzzle—Dan Schmoker



Circular Alphabet Puzzle—Dave Vandewerker



Montessori Color Puzzle—Andy Tofuri

## Program of the Month

### "An Adventure in Chair building"

Chairs look difficult to build. To sit comfortably, they need all sorts of curves, angles and shaping. I finally decided to take the plunge and have just finished building a set of breakfast room chairs for my son. There were problems of construction and geometry that I decided were too difficult to solve up front, so I proceeded in stages - making a few parts, then pausing to plan where to go next. I had a more-or-less detailed sequence of planned operations when I started, but probably ended up using it less than on any project I have ever built.

The result isn't perfect, but I am not disappointed. Come hear the story - and try out one of the chairs. And, by the way: yes - they are difficult to build.

# Show and Tell

Intarsia wine scene of poplar, birch, and corks. — **Steve Wavro**



Stegasarus of cherry and honey wood. — **Tom Paulley**



Sixteen inch platter. — **Dan Schmoker**



Coffee table of oak and beech and dividers. — **Andy Tofuri**



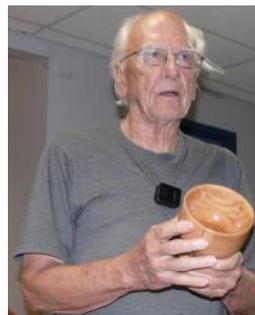
Making rosettes for guitars. — **Fred Sandoval**



CNC machined USAF coasters. — **Bill Teague**



Bowls of red maple finished with polyurethane. — **Lon Kelley**



# Show and Tell

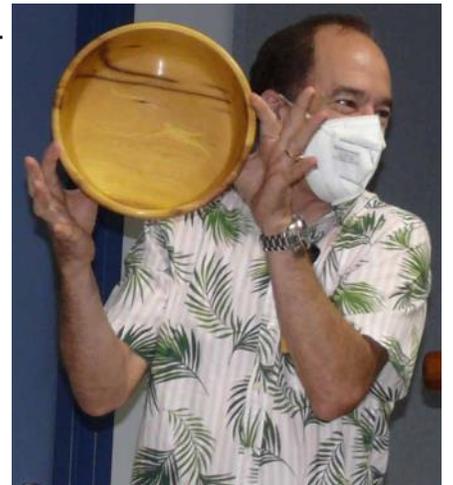
Tool bench and tray light. — **Mike Turner**



Intarsia pieces. — **Dave VanDewerker**



Bowls, pins, bottle stoppers, pizza cutters, and, ice cream scoops of African blackwood, Osage orange, persimmon, canarywood, and, lemonwood. — **David Janowitz**



Tables of Red oak. — **David Janowitz**



Club members demonstrate the quick and easy assembly process of club workbench - Bench top is next phase



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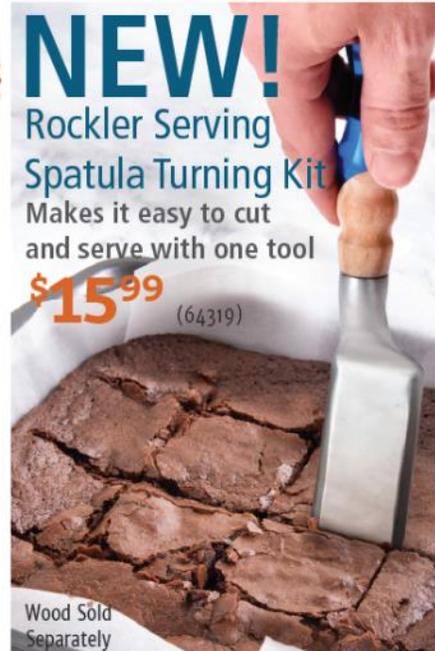
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## WWCH General Information

### WWCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

#### DIRECTORS

Chris Schwartz, Gael Golden, Tom Paulley, Dorsey Rushing

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CLUB SERVICE PROVIDERS

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Book Library    | John Gay            |
| Donuts          | Roslyn Hager        |
| Club Logo Items | Norm Nichols        |
| Membership Book | Patti Page          |
| Newsletter      | Sankar Padhmanabhan |
| Raffle          | Andy Tofuri         |
| Refreshments    | Steve Wavro         |
| Technology      | Denis Muras         |
| Web Master      | Gary Rowen          |

### NEXT MEETING

**Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto: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](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. Guests are always welcome at no charge. Membership dues are \$36 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!