

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

Volume 34 Issue 12

December 2018

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WWCH Calendar

Dec 6	Furniture Splinter Group
Dec 8	Monthly Meeting
Dec	CNC Splinter Group
Dec 23	Hand Tool Splinter Group
Jan 3.....	Furniture Splinter Group
Jan 12.....	Monthly Meeting
Jan 26.....	Scroll Saw Splinter Group

Monthly Raffle



**Get your tickets
at the meeting!**

New Members

Welcome to WWCH

*All new members who joined us
in 2018*

We are happy to have you

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

— Tis the Season —

Many woodworkers experience a range of highly conflicting emotions at this time of year. I thought it might be useful to analyze these emotions so that we can each better cope with them during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Please note that I am restricting this conversation to the topic of woodworking. The entire topic of holiday angst would fill a book.

Joy. This is the time of year when we get to show off our woodworking chops. I'll bet every one of us has anticipated the giving of a wooden gift that is custom made for its intended recipient. Jewelry boxes. Cutting boards. Turned objects such as bowls, pens, bottle stoppers, salt and pepper shakers. For the more ambitious, actual furniture. Basically, we all get a twofer; besides the inherent satisfaction of making yet another finely crafted wooden object, we get to be generous in giving said object to a recipient who is near and dear to us. It's the very definition of a warm and fuzzy feeling.

Fear. Unlike every other thing we make, this one has a deadline. A very hard, concrete, unforgiving deadline. We have all had these thoughts: "Dang, this is taking a lot longer than I thought it would." "Crap, I should have starting in February. Well, February of last year." Frankly, by the time you read this, it's already too late. About 10% of the woodworkers that I know are so organized that they started in June. The rest of us are screwed.

Exhaustion. This isn't technically an emotion, but it belongs here anyway. We try to compensate for a late start by pulling all-nighters. My only comment is this: don't do it. This is when accidents happen, when we're tired and trying to push too hard.

Remorse. That finely crafted object has an oops. Tearout. Cutting on the wrong side of the line. A finish job that isn't perfectly smooth to the touch. At times like these, I like to remind everyone of the woodworker's primary psychological defect, the urge to point out mistakes in their work. Take this advice to heart; no one will notice that oops. Just shut up and let them enjoy their gift.

What can we do to deal with these emotions? Here are a few ideas.

(Continued page 2)

Splinter Groups

CNC Router Splinter Group: The CNC group will have our next meeting on December 20th, 7 pm, at Lynn Cummings shop.

Contact Mike Turner for further info 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: Currently all toys are constructed by individual members for donation to area childrens' charities. Thus far in 2018 we have constructed and collected over 2500 toys!! See a special message on page 5.

For more information contact John Lastrapes, jlastrapes@entouch.net.

Scroll Saw Splinter Group: We will hold our next discussion meeting Saturday **Jan 26th**, 2019, 9:30 AM, at Woodcraft South (Beltway 8). Stay tuned to this column for the discussion topic. Bring your Show N Tell items 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 Dec 6th. All are welcome. We will be discussing a new furniture project.

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.

September Program Recap



Our guest speaker for the November meeting was Lynn Cummings who also sponsors our Furniture Making Splinter Group. Lynn, with the assistance of Mike

Turner, former President of WWCH, spoke about and demonstrated CNC routing techniques.

Lynn provided numerous tips such as using a water cooled router to keep your router running essentially for an unlimited time compared to air cooled routers – very handy if you have a project that requires a lot of time to complete.

Lynn demonstrated how to enter starting data into the software, set up your design, zero the router bit on your board and how to set up tabs for ease of removing a piece from the board.

Lynn answered many questions from members - thanks Lynn. To learn more about CNC all are welcome to any of the CNC splinter group meetings.

President's Message (Cont.)

At the risk of repeating myself, you can start in June. Yes, I know, it's very hot and unChristmas-like in June, but you'll be happier in the long run.

Start a gift bank. We all have good intentions. However, on December 22, the harsh reality will become clear – there is no way we will finish by Christmas. This is when that secret cache of about a dozen random completed wooden projects becomes worth it's weight in gold. Pick one of them, dust off the thin layer of sawdust that accumulated while sitting on the shelf in your shop, wrap it, and give it to the above mentioned near and dear recipient. Trust me, said recipient will still be be overjoyed. And remember: shut up, they don't need to know it wasn't the first gift choice.

Remove the element of surprise. This is especially good for more major projects. Let the recipient participate in the planning of the project (this is probably a good idea regardless). Keep the recipient in the loop on the execution of the project. If it's not done by Christmas, they will understand that it was a lot of work to complete and will still be overjoyed to receive it in February next year. Just try to avoid a delay to February the year after.

Mark Bolinger—WWCH President

Show and Tell

PRESENTERS

- David Janowitz**.....Rolling Pins/Cutting Boards
- Charlie Bennett** Bowl
- George Graves** Bowls
- Rick Spacek** Scroll Saw Jaguar
- Denis Muras**Caboose
- Matt Phillips**Lichtenberg Plaques
- Mark Womak** Cutting Board
- Gary Rowen** Night Stands
- Bob Wink**.....Folk Art

Show and Tell photos & write-up submitted by Gary Rowen.



George Graves, explaining how he worked the turnings, crafted one bowl from an oak burl and another from maple with mahogany strips.



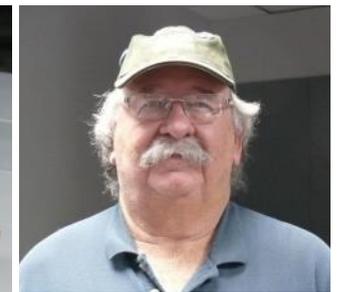
With a craft show coming up **David Janowitz** made plain and zig zag (3d) cutting boards, bottle stoppers, and “sticks” for rolling tortillas or wontons (heavy noodles).



From a Charles Hand pattern and ¼ inch Wink wood, **Rick Spacek** scroll sawed the face of a jaguar.



An experiment with a 12x12 poplar is what **Charlie Bennett** called his turned bowl. The two halves are joined by using a dove tail bit in a router.



Denis Muris crafted this caboose for his Mother-in-Law’s Great Grandson who lives in an apartment in NYC—hence the smaller size. Denis explained how he made the wheels.

Show and Tell



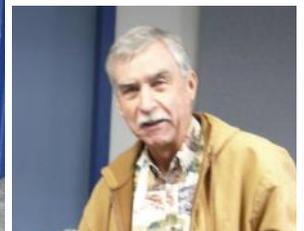
The Lichtenberg process of using electricity to etch patterns in veneer wood was explained by **Matt Phillips**. Matt used a transformer from a microwave oven with voltage stepped down about 40 percent with a Variac. A mix of baking soda (an electrolyte) is placed on the wood thus providing a path for the electricity. Matt warned that you must treat electricity with respect and provided tips on how to safely use electricity for the Lichtenberg process.



Gary Rowen crafted two night stands of red oak and some Home Depot plywood. The two tone effect of the stains are from quartersawn oak and flat sawn oak purchased at different times from different vendors. The back was painted white to help “see” things that are dropped into the “black hole” behind a cabinet that is against a wall. The insides of the drawer were also painted white to facilitate “finding” things in low level light conditions.



A block of mahogany was used by **Mark Womack** for his cutting board that was then etched with a laser tool. Mark commented that mahogany was a pleasure to work with and easier on his tools. He finished with butcher block varnish thinned with 50 percent mineral spirits.



Claiming that no antique toys were destroyed, **Bob Wink** explained how he made his “objet d’folkart” come to life - “Oversized load”, “Don’t leave your stove running”, and “Him and his brother on a bike”.



Toy Program



Special thanks go out to all who supported the Toy Program in 2018. This year we built and will distribute over 2500 toys to childrens' charities in the Metropolitan Houston area. We could not have been nearly as successful without all of your time and talent.

Agencies to receive toy donations in 2018 are: Blue Santa, Cultural Bridges, Cypress Assistance Ministries, Blessings in a Backpack, Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, Houston Area Women's Center, Count Me In, Casa de Esperanza, House of AMOS, Shriners' Hospitals in Galveston and Houston, First United Methodist/Harleys Helpers Angel Ministry of Katy, Friends of Down Syndrome, LINC Houston, DePelchin, GiGi's Playhouse SugarLand, St. Vincent Depaul/St. Angela Merici Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church/Armstrong Elementary School, Missouri City; First United Methodist Church /The Rainbow Room, Richmond

Also thanks go out to Chris Schwartz for coming up with new designs and leading the "Toy of the Month" program. If you don't have any toy plans, try our Toy of the Month plans!

More special thanks go out to the Board of Directors and the general membership for supporting all of our efforts to provide toys for the many needy children in the Greater Houston area.

John Lastrapes —Toy Coordinator

Odds and Ends

Membership and Dues: 2019 **Club** dues need to be paid before the end of January. Beat the rush and pay yours at the December meeting or contact Henry Majoue @ 832-606-1372. Annual dues remain at the bargain price of \$36. Membership applications are on the website, download and mail to address on application. [\[Link to Application\]](#)

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WWCH General Information

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Vice President	Ben Tillison
Secretary	Mark Womack
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Past-President	Mike Turner

DIRECTORS

George Alderete, Norm Nichols,
Charles Volek

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Refreshments	S. Wavro & R. Kirchoff
Technology	Denis Muras
Video Library	Lisa Sessions
Web Master	Gary Rowen

NEXT MEETING

Saturday Decemer 8th, 2018

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.

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!