

# THE WOODWORKERS CLUB OF HOUSTON

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2003

WWW.WWCH.ORG

## WWCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Want/For Sale

1. For Sale: Ryobi BT 3000 table saw - Asking \$225. Contact Ken Kooser for details
2. For sale: Welding setup - completely portable with 2-wheel cart - Asking \$100 - Contact Guy Meaders for details
3. For Sale: Jet 1200DC Dust Collector - Asking \$275. Contact Alan Bachrach for more information
4. For sale: 10" table saw - Craftsman belt drive - Asking \$175. Also selling routers and 7 & 1/4 circular saws - price varies. \$60 and up. Contact Mike Turner for more details
5. Wanted: A lathe - contact Rob Brayton
6. For sale: 4/4 quartered hardwoods \$3 per board foot. Contact Jack Hutchison for details
7. For sale: Powermatic 10" table saw - Asking \$500 - Includes 3 blades and a dado set - in excellent condition with very little use. Contact Jim Douglas for more information

### New members:

The following people joined our club in December. Please extend a warm welcome to:

Sally White

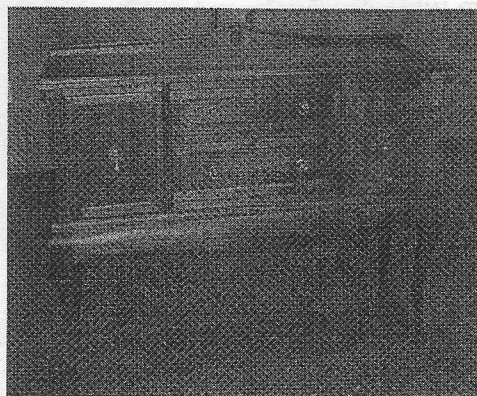
John L. Jackson

## 2003 Award Winners

Congratulations to Lon Kelley, winner of this year's Woodworker of the Year award! Also, the 2003 Golden Hammer Award had two recipients - Art Chester and Alan Bachrach - Way to go guys!! Finally, Chuck Maxwell was presented with a Woodworkers Club Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations, Chuck!!



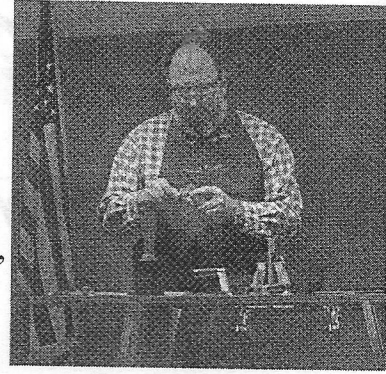
In order to clear the stage for the presenter, the show & tell items will be moved to the side of the room following that segment of the meeting. The individuals will then be able to inspect and ask questions about the pieces!!!



Above: This beautiful entryway sideboard piece was constructed by Gene Valentine. The beauty of the piece can't be expressed enough through this picture!

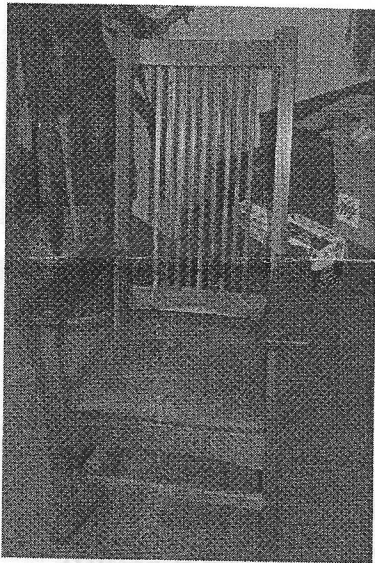
## JANUARY PROGRAM ---

# STEVE LEGRUE



To kick off 2003, Steve LeGrue, owner of The Cutting Edge, demonstrated the skill of hand-making dovetail joints. He cuts the pins first but you can also cut the tails first. When cutting tails he tilts the wood so he can cut straight down. He uses a paring chisel to remove waste. Instead of using a pencil he uses a special marking tool that "cuts" a thin but more accurate line than a pencil. All members who attended definitely left the meeting more informed than when they arrived.

**THANKS, STEVE!!!!**



**Left: Lowell Holmes built this walnut rocking chair at a 6-day woodworking class. The chair took 48 hours to build. It was finished with a mixture of tung oil, varnish, turpentine, and topped off with wax. Excellent job!!**

**(cont. from page 7)**

With much sadness I report the passing of our Treasurer and faithful member Jim Clark. In case you didn't know him, he was the big guy who assisted Joe Edelen with our badges. Jim was one of our most positive members, who never failed to greet me with a good word. He was a devoted family man who leaves a wife of 40 years, two daughters and three grandchildren. An Air Force veteran he completed 27 years with a career in railroad sales. The club sent flowers to the service and several members attended. I have assumed the duties of Club Treasurer until we can elect a replacement.

**Ken Kooser**

This chest has a solid  $\frac{3}{4}$ " aromatic cedar bottom, and a sliding 4" deep tray made of cedar that is supported by internal rails. Traditional frame and panel construction was used to build the carcass of the chest using 1-1/2" deep tenons that were pegged with walnut dowels to securely mate the top and bottom rails to the vertical stiles, and to encase the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick floating panels. Biscuit joinery was used to mate the side panels to the front and back panels. Dimensions of the carcass are 24" high x 19" wide x 45" long.

The finish consists of six coats of hand-rubbed low luster tung oil finish, with a final coat of carnauba wax. The hardware consists of a high quality brass-plated, full-mortise chest lock, and friction scissor chest hinges that conveniently hold the top open.

This chest is certain to become a future antique, due to its traditional construction techniques, use of high quality materials, and timeless beauty.

## AT YOUR SERVICE

President:

Ken Kooser - 936-890-4090

Vice-President:

Paul Koury - 281-347-6309

Secretary:

Gary Rowen - 281-436-2033

Treasurer:

Position Vacant

Communications Director:

Justin Kelly - 281-357-0127

Director:

Art Chester - 281-379-1783

Director:

Al Morrow - 413-767-7740

Book Librarian:

Andrew Robinson - 281-266-5644

Video Librarian:

Blaine Stokes - 281-495-2920

Software & Literature Search:

Jack Hutchison - 281-493-2633

Saul Harris - 281-341-5373

Name Tags:

Joe Edelen - 281-437-5937

Coffee:

Loretta Buckley &

Bill Hochmuth

Web Master:

Gary Rowen - 281-436-2033

growen@pdq.net

Newsletter Editor:

Justin Kelly - 281-357-0127

justinkelly@swbell.net

### REMINDER!!

Dues are \$24 per year.

Dues are prorated for  
new members ONLY.

Renewing members in  
February: \$24.

New members in  
February: \$22.



### Upcoming Program...

Our program in February will be a large overview of the seminars that the club members will be undertaking. This program should get everyone's questions answered and also give people another chance to sign up. Don't miss it!

## BRANDLE'S SAWMILL

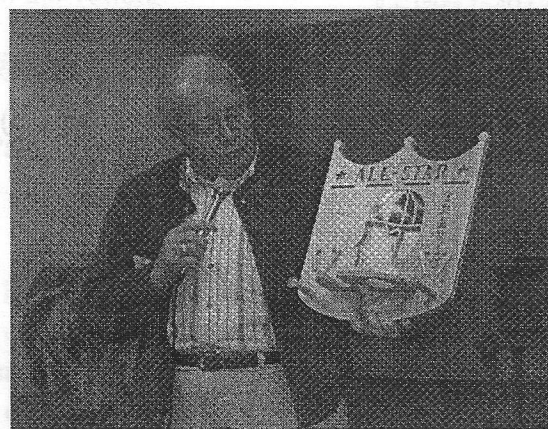
ROUGH SAWN  
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Above: This T-ball plaque was built by Glen Edwards for his neighbor's son. The slots are for the bat, ball, glove, and cap. It's sure to be a home run!!

## PROJECT OF THE MONTH -- RIP-FENCE SADDLE

An inexpensive, shop-built jig for top-notch machining and joinery.

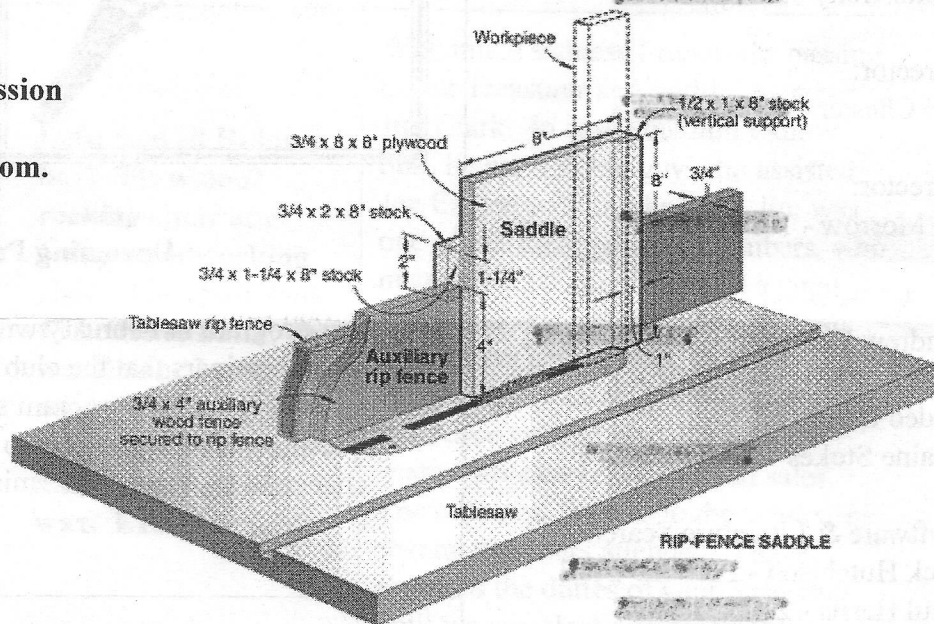
Build this auxiliary wood fence and mating saddle to bevel-cut the post caps for the pergola on page 61 of the April 2002 issue of WOOD® magazine, or build it for supporting stiles and other workpieces, as shown in the photo at **right**. Use one hand to push the saddle and workpiece across the blade, and your other hand to keep the saddle riding firmly on the auxiliary fence. Wax the mating pieces if necessary for easy sliding.

**Note:** Our auxiliary fence is screwed securely to our metal tablesaw rip fence, with the top edge of the fence sitting 1" above the top edge of the metal fence. The auxiliary fence must be 90° to the saw table. Size your wood fence so the saddle rides smoothly, without free play, along the top edge of the auxiliary fence.

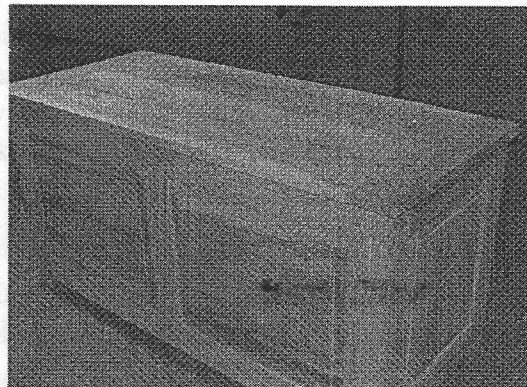
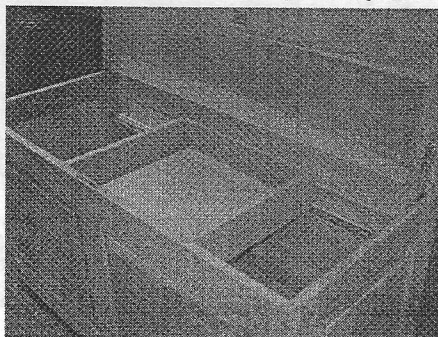
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### ANNOUNCEMENT

From now on, the Problems & Solutions segment will also include reviews of what members have read on machines, tools, etc.



**Right & Below:** These are pictures of Jack Hutchison's blanket chest (actually, it's for his niece) It is made of solid pecan, with the exception of the cedar drawer. Jack used mortise and tenon joinery for the rails and stiles, as well as biscuit joinery on the solid pieces. The top piece has both sapwood and heartwood. For more information, look at the history on page 7.



## Woodworker's Club of Houston

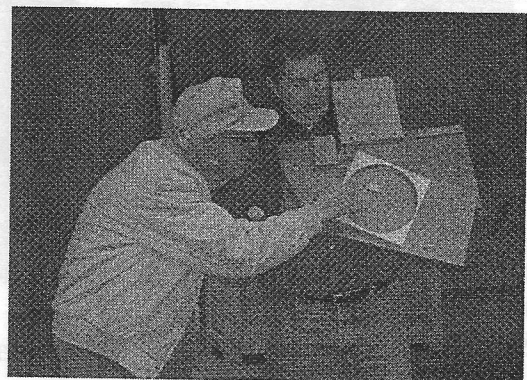
### Woodworking Seminars

We've started off an exciting new year with a number of Club members who have offered to share their experience, knowledge, and expertise with fellow woodworkers by offering hands-on seminars at little or no cost. Over sixty members have signed up for some of the seminars listed below. Some of these are already in progress, or scheduled. If you want to advance your woodworking skills, now is the time, and a perfect opportunity. Call the instructor offering the seminar of interest, or sign up at the monthly meetings.

We are also looking for additional skilled woodworker's to offer a seminars on the topics listed below with no instructor. If you wish to participate please call Jack Hutchison.

<u>Woodworking Seminar</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Routing Dovetails	Jack Hutchison	281-493-2633
Milling Mortise & Tenon Joints	Jack Hutchison	281-493-2633
Veneering	Jack Hutchison	281-493-2633
Fine Hand Finishing Techniques	Jack Hutchison	281-493-2633
Hand Cut Dovetails	Todd Burch	281-828-5506
Box Finger Joints	Todd Burch	281-828-5506
Setting up Shop	Todd Burch	281-828-5506
Drawer Design & Joinery	Saul Harris	281-341-5373
Segmented Bowls	Louis Vallette	713-643-2014
Intarsia	Rob Thompson	
Scroll-saw Fretwork	Paul Koury	281-347-6315
Wood Turning		
Band Saw Basics		
Spray Finish Application		
Wood Carving		

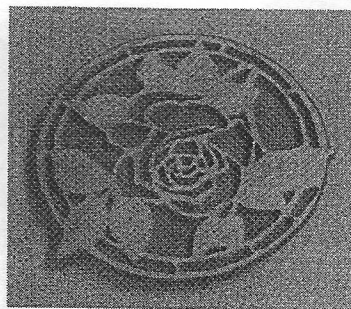
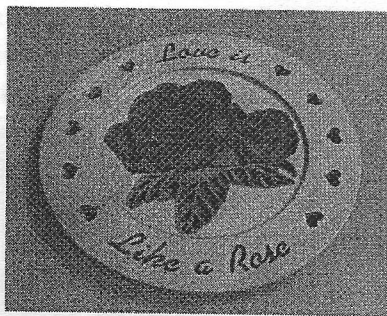
**Right: Dan Shaklovitz shows members tips on circle cutting with a bandsaw.**



## **PREZ SEZ**

**BY KEN KOOSER**

Thanks to all for your support at the Annual Meeting (January). We had an exciting meeting with awards presented for the previous year. As I said from the lectern, this is your club and we want it to go the direction you want. To that end all board meetings are always open to all; I encourage your input. To that end a couple of ideas have been put forward. I attempt to involve as many club members as I can at every opportunity. It has been suggested that members give a mini book report/ review of interesting articles they read in the (publications) wood magazines that all members might not receive. The best place and time for this would be during "Problems & Solutions". This would enable members to talk with the person who offered the report during the break. Additionally, I always attempt to have a segment "for the good of the organization" at the close of each meeting. This is your time to sound off. Next item: I have been tracking attendance each month from the sign up sheet. In February we will have a printed name list developed from January's attendance; just check your name as being present. If you missed the January meeting, there will be a blank line to write your name. This will help me two ways; 1<sup>st</sup> I can recognize perfect attendance and second it gives us the count we need to keep meeting in the carpeted auditorium. Al Morrow and Gary Rowen are taking over the attendance tracking. Our Vice President, Paul Koury wants and needs you're input about programs. Previous club management was opposed to vendors, and manufacturers representatives, certainly a steady diet of sales related programs is not good, but occasionally it works. Also we have a vast talent in the club that could give programs. If you have signed up as a seminar leader, you might want to give a sampler program. I was delighted to have Rob Thompson kick off the first of our seminar programs. I'd sure like to see a boom in our splinter group activity. My shop is always open and available if you want to try one of the machines I have. I know that I live a ways from Houston but I'm willing to share my good fortune. They say that confession is good for the soul; so here goes: When I made up the list of board members and officers, I used the new By Laws. Since it doesn't list any specific duties or responsibilities for the Sr. Board Members (last years Vice President & Secretary) I left these positions off of the ballot. Our new Constitution calls for three "Ex Officio" positions on our board of directors. This makes for 9 total board members. Joan Loggins would be one of the clubs Sr. Directors as would be Art Chester. So that's the mess I've got us into. I'd like to clear this up by having Joan serve (if she wishes) and electing a replacement for Art, (who is now serving on the board). It's a voluntary position that has full voting privileges. Your club needs you.



**Above: These decorative plates were scroll-sawn by Robert Sandlin. The plates can be bought at Garden Ridge Pottery.**

# **THE HISTORY OF THE 18TH CENTURY BLANKET CHEST**

**BY JACK HUTCHISON**

Blanket chests were very popular during the 17<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Over the years, drawers were added to the basic form, increasing the height, and gradually a different piece of furniture evolved called the mule chest. The drawers in a mule chest were used to store slippers called “mules” by the colonists.

The first colonists had no closets in which to store their clothing, blankets, and household linens. Attics were not readily accessible, and cellars were apt to be damp. Thus, the chest came into use.

In its simplest form, the chest was a large wooden box with a hinged lid. Although it functioned primarily as a receptacle for clothes and valuables, it also served as an additional seating place, for chairs were a luxury in most homes. Frequently chests were used for the storage of linens and things, especially those a bride brought to her husband. This is known as the dowry. From this evolved the name “hope” chest, now commonly used.

Early ships' records show the chests to have been the sole items of furniture accompanying many settlers. It is not surprising, therefore, that the chests built by seventeenth-century joiners in this country were copied from English pieces designed in the prevailing Jacobean style popular in London at that time. As early as 1660, craftsmen in Massachusetts and Connecticut were fashioning paneled and carved oak chests, constructed of wide stiles and rails. These had floating panels with elaborately carved intaglio decorations. Instead of a paneled top in the English fashion, the Colonial chest had a plain pine board top. This unadorned top surface was ideal for seating and did not need cushions thereby making it more functional.

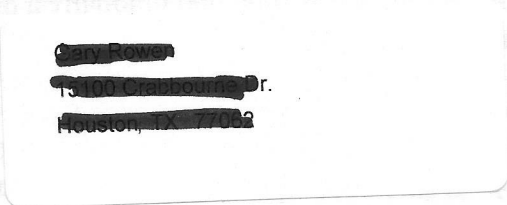
In their crude fashion, these chests were the counterpart of the elaborate coffers, and caskets owned throughout Europe by wealthy families. Many households would not do without one of these blanket chests as few homes had a source of heat within the bedroom. On chilly nights it was convenient to merely go to the end of the bed and extract more bed covers to keep warm on those chilly nights. During warm seasons the blanket chest stored bed covers in a convenient location.

In colonial America blanket chests were constructed of various species of lumber ranging from inexpensive pines used for “country” type furniture to more expensive hardwoods such as walnut, cherry, and imported mahogany. The latter were used for more formal pieces of furniture that only the very wealthy could afford. Some of these chests were lined or constructed of pleasant smelling aromatic red cedar that repels insects. Pennsylvania Dutch chests were often hand painted with traditional decorative motifs.

This blanket chest is constructed of solid pecan that was harvested in Houston, Texas, by J. G. Hutchison, and with solid aromatic cedar. Pecan is a member of the hickory family and is one of North America's hardest of hardwoods. Pecan trees thrive in the hot, humid climate found in the southern part of the United States. Pecans often grow to massive size with trunks as large as five feet in diameter. The tasty pecan nuts are an important cash crop. Pecan is a close relative of black walnut, but unlike the elegant look of walnut lumber, pecan lumber is characterized by streaks of dark sap pockets, small knots, wormholes, and variegated coloring of sapwood and heartwood. Pecan is a fine furniture grade hardwood that finds its way into less formal looking pieces. This chest is a perfect example of a piece designed for use in a log cabin in the woods to be placed within the master bedroom.

(continued on page 2) 7

**WOODWORKERS CLUB OF HOUSTON  
30630 QUINN ROAD  
TOMBALL, TEXAS 77375**



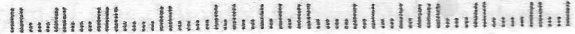
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY:**

**2/8/03 - Meeting at the Bayland  
Community Center - 9:00 A.M.**

**WARNING! IMPORTANT!**

This is the February issue of 2003. Dues for 2003 should be paid for immediately or at the next meeting. If you have not paid by this month's meeting, your membership will be cancelled. **THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!!!** Unless you pay your dues. Please pay your dues for 2003 as soon as possible!

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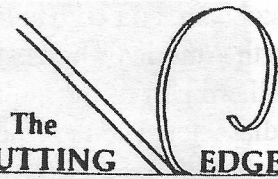


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