

# Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

**Note:**  
New Location for Jan/Feb Meetings  
United Way Community  
Resource Center  
50 Waugh Drive, Houston 77007

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year, and welcome to a new decade! The coming year offers us some new challenges and some significant opportunities to grow our club.

One of the challenges we face is finding a permanent meeting location for the year. As you are likely already aware, we were unable to secure our normal meeting room at the Bayland Center for our monthly meeting.

However, thanks to input from many of our members and yeoman work by Chuck Meeder and Denis Muras, we have arranged to use the facilities at the United Way building for our January and February meetings. But we are still searching for a "permanent" home, so your help and suggestions are still actively solicited.

I don't know about you, but I just barely finished the minimum of Christmas presents I had planned for this year in time for the gifts to be distributed. And there were more gifts that I had planned but simply didn't get done (mostly because of a lingering case of Galloping Nontogerosis). I think I may use January to make some of the gifts that I already have the materials for and had hoped to give this year. The only challenge then might be finding them to distribute next December!

Following the general election at the December meeting, I am excited to report that we will have several new faces on the Board of Directors in 2020. Bernard Bynum, Earl Touchstone, and David VanDewerker are all joining the Board as Directors. Additionally, Chris Schwartz will be Vice President (and program director) and Chris Farquhar will be our Secretary. David Janowitz returns to the Board as Treasurer, Ron Kirchoff continues in his able role as our Publications Director (who patiently accepts my late submissions of this column) and I am honored to serve as President again in 2020.

The Board of Directors voted at the December Board meeting to award our Golden Hammer award for 2019 to someone who has made great contributions to the club in 2019 and before. But you  
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## WWCH Calendar

- 09 Jan ..... Furniture Splinter Group
- 11 Jan ..... Monthly Meeting
- 25 Jan .. Scroll Saw Splinter Group
- 25 Jan ..... Galveston Guild
- 26 Jan ...Hand Tool Splinter Group
- 05 Feb ..... Furniture Splinter Group
- 14 Feb ..... Monthly Meeting

## Monthly Raffle



**Get your  
ticket at the  
meeting!**

## New Members

### Welcome to WWCH

**Nate Broussard Wilson Carneiro**

**Kevin Shaw**

**We are happy to have you**

## Splinter Groups

**CNC Router Splinter Group:** The group meets at Bill Teague's workshop behind his house in West University Place. For information contact Bill at [wateague@gmail.com](mailto:wateague@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](mailto:marksmithb@windstream.net)

**Toy Splinter Group:** Toy Splinter Group: Currently all toys are constructed by individual members for donation to area children's charities. "Toy of the Month" plans and critical parts can be picked up at the WWCH monthly meetings.

For more information contact John Lastrapes, [jlastrapes@entouch.net](mailto:jlastrapes@entouch.net).

**Scroll Saw Splinter Group:** Scroll Saw Splinter Group will meet for its next discussion Jan 25, 2020 at Woodcraft South (Beltway 8) 9:30 AM. Bring your Show N Tell items and questions for Problems N Solutions.

For questions and more information contact Norm Nichols at 281-491-3220 or Denis Muras at 713-876-0087.

**Furniture and Finishing Splinter Group:** The splinter group will meet Thursday, Jan 9, 2020. The meeting will be held in George Alderete's shop. Details will be sent to all registered group members soon.

For more information on the furniture splinter group, contact Ron Kirchoff [kirchko@gmail.com](mailto:kirchko@gmail.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](mailto:bill_lindsey@comcast.net).

**Galveston County Woodworkers Guild:** The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 10:30 AM at the Dickinson Public Library on Route 3 in Dickinson. For more information contact Walt Hanson at [whansen2@comcast.net](mailto:whansen2@comcast.net).

## President Message<sub>(cont)</sub>

will need to be at the January meeting to learn who the recipient is!

Finally, the nominating committee has presented a list of three nominees for our Woodworker of the Year award for 2019. These nominees are: David Janowitz, George Graves, and Steve Wavro (who has won this award once before). At the January meeting, you will have the opportunity to nominate additional persons from the floor and to vote for one of these nominees, who will receive their award at the February meeting.

I think that 2020 will be a year of Challenges and Opportunities for our club, and I eagerly anticipate seeing how the year develops.

**Ben Tillison**  
**WWCH President**

## Odds & Ends

**Dues Renewal**—It is a new year and that means new dues for 2020. Dues remain at the incredible low price of \$36 for the year. See WWCH Treasurer, David Janowitz, at any meeting. Dues must be received by David no later than Feb 29, 2020 to have your name and contact info included in the 2020 WWCH Directory).

**Gulfcoast Woodturners**—March 14-15, Gulf Coast Woodturners 25th Annual Hands-On Retreat, at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center 500 W 13th St, Deer Park, Texas. This Saturday and Sunday event attracts 90 turners and 90 lathes to participate in 27 hands-on woodturning classes. Novice through advanced turners are welcome. The weekend includes catered lunches, instant gallery, raffle, and great fellowship. For more information visit [gulfcoast-woodturners.org](http://gulfcoast-woodturners.org).

**Woodworking Videos**—All members in good standing have free access to an extensive collection of woodworking DVDs on various topics. You can see the complete list of available DVDs on the club's website at <http://wwch.org/Library/DVDs.htm>. You can request a DVD by emailing the club's DVD librarian, Steve Brackney, at [steve.brackney@gmail.com](mailto:steve.brackney@gmail.com). Steve will then bring the DVD to the next meeting.

# Show and Tell

## PRESENTERS

- Steve Wavro** ..... Intarsia/Puzzle
- Denis Muras** ..... Jeeps/Toilet Paper Holder
- Norm Nichols** ..... Cross
- Ron Kirchoff** ..... Mancala Board
- Mark Bolinger** ..... Drum Sander
- Chuck Meeder** ..... Shoe Bench
- Dave VanDewerker** ..... Trays
- Rick Spacek** ..... Christmas Items
- Richard Hash** ..... Goblet
- George Graves** ..... Bowls
- Kevin Shaw** ..... Rosary Box

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



From a larger Shane Dennehey design, **Norm Nichols** crafted this smaller version of his cross from

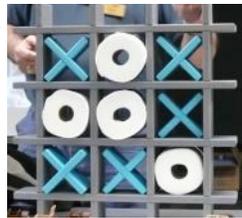
mesquite, black walnut, and pecan on a red oak base. Norm sprayed finished with Varathane.



A country barn in intarsia is a gift for **Steve Wavro's** daughter and son-in-law who live in Kansas. The barn was created from about 200 pieces of eight different types of wood in various thicknesses. From a Steve Good pattern the puzzle of Steve and his wife was scroll sawed with several 2-aught Flying Dutchman blades.



**Denis Muras** showed more Jeeps of various woods some of which are Christmas tree ornaments. The rack of letter "X"s is a toilet paper holder with the rolls of toilet paper serving as letter "O"s. Something else to do while holding court from the porcelain throne.



**Ron Kirchoff's** cousin asked him to craft a mancala board for his daughter so Ron did so from basswood and some walnut veneer. The challenging part was getting the board to align properly for routing the bowl holes. Ron sprayed with canned lacquer.



**Mark Bolinger** explained how he built his drum sander that uses a lathe to hold the drum. A wood "log" is first fine "tuned" by passing a board underneath with flat sandpaper glued to the board. Once tuned a roll of sandpaper can then be glued to the drum. Mark's drum sander works great for sanding veneers. See videos and additional info on our website.

## Show and Tell



Designed with a senior citizen in mind, **Chuck**

**Meeder** crafted a shoe bench using simple dado joints reinforced with dowels. Chuck finished with two coats of traditional milk paint topped with two coats of Danish oil (milk paint without a top coat will spot if water gets on it).



**Richard Hash's** son got married and wanted a Celtic pattern goblet so Richard turned this goblet from cherry wood taken from the family farm, circa 1840, in Virginia. Richard had great

success turning and cutting the captured rings using the Robert Sorby #805H Captive Ring Tool.



With old growth pine and some bird's eye maple veneer, **Dave VanDewerker** crafted these two service trays. Dave said he got good results making splines and cutting grooves from his table saw. He finished with two coats shellac topped with polychrome spray.



**George Graves** turned three bowls of Color Ply, spalted maple, and mahogany. George says turning Color Ply creates lots of sawdust and recommended wearing a dust mask. On his bowls George finished with his own blend of 1/3 denatured alcohol, 1/3 boiled linseed oil and 1/3 shellac.



**Rick Spacek** scroll sawed a four-wheeler, fireplace, and sleigh and then hand painted them. Rick used a #2-aught spiral blade, which cut through very easily, to create the four-wheeler from machine grade plastic.



**Kevin Shaw's** wife wanted a rosary box so Kevin hand carved all but the rough work for this rosary puzzle box. Kevin crafted other rosary boxes for church auctions.

## The True Heart in Woodworking

Norman F. Nichols is a Freemason. He's a Woodworker too. Norm, as we will call him, belongs to the Woodworkers Club of Houston. He is also a 44-year, 32° member of the Valley of Houston Scottish Rite, a member of Sugarland Lodge #1141. Along with wife Linda, Norm is a member of Sugarland Order of Easter Star #1107. Combine these aspects, an Eblast from the Valley, and warm hearts and hands from the Woodworkers Club of Houston, and you have a resounding response to our 2019 Operation Stocking Stuffer campaign, sponsored by the Houston Fire Department and KPRC Channel 2.

Norm and Woodworkers Club of Houston Toy Coordinator John LaStrape delivered 200 hand-made wooden toys to the Temple last week for distribution to underprivileged children in the Houston area. The Valley of Houston forwarded the toys to the Houston Fire Department Wednesday, December 18, 2019.

John and Norm are members of a thriving group of men and women who enjoy the art of woodworking. Art? Yes! Woodworking is little different than stonemasonry. Both require that the individual have advanced skills in materials and sculpting; something we well know from our study, as Scottish Rite Masons, of those artisans of the Renaissance. Any learned freemason understands the fine line between the arts of operative and speculative. The operative (one who works with his or her hands) and speculative (he or she who uses those operative techniques as symbols to build esoteric knowledge.) Artisans, one and all.



The Woodworkers Club of Houston is an active group from Houston and the surrounding area who enjoy the wood-working craft. Among their members are 125-plus individuals between the ages of 25 and 85 who meet the second Saturday of each month. They get together and share ideas, designs, and problem-solving techniques. They are currently involved in a book-writing project on toys which will show patterns and a how-to list for the making of toys.

This, their twelfth year making toys, the club turned out between 2500 and 3000 toys for girls and boys on a budget of \$1200. Among their other charities are Masonic Hospitals in Galveston and Houston where both finished and unfinished toys are distributed to children. Unfinished toys are considered good therapy by hospital personnel. "It gives the children the feeling that they are involved in making the toys. And, a warm and confident

feeling that they are contributing," said Norm.

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Visit the Houston locations at:  
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 Houston, TX 77090  
 281-880-0045  
 &  
 11707 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S.  
 Houston, TX 77031  
 281-988-9449

## WWCH General Information

### WWCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President Ben Tillison  
 Vice President Chris Schwartz  
 Secretary Chris Farquhar  
 Treasurer David Janowitz  
 Publications Director Ron Kirchoff  
 Past-President Mark Bolinger

### DIRECTORS

Bernard Bynum, Earl Touchstone,  
 David VanDewerker

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CLUB SERVICE PROVIDERS

Book Library John Gay  
 Donuts Roslyn Hager  
 Club Logo Items Norm Nichols  
 Social Media Mark Womack  
 Membership Book Patti Page  
 Newsletter Ron Kirchoff  
 Raffle David Janowitz  
 Refreshments Steve Wavro  
 Technology Denis Muras  
 Video Library Steve Brackney  
 Web Master Gary Rowen

### NEXT MEETING

**Saturday Jan 11th**

9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

United Way Community Resource Center  
 50 Waugh Drive, Houston 77007

*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](mailto:kirchko@gmail.com).

*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!