

# Woodworkers Club of Houston

**DON'T MISS THE  
DECEMBER 13 MEETING—  
CAST YOUR VOTE FOR  
WWCH OFFICERS!**

Volume 24 Issue 12

www.wwch.org

December 2008

## IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Gregory Owens

John S. "Scotty"  
Woods

WWCH has begun receiving dues for 2009. Dues are \$24 for the year—see Bill Cole to take care of yours today!

It's been many years since any of the members of WWCH were kids, slowly counting down the days with great anticipation until Christmas. But for some WWCH folks, they relive their dreams of Christmas every year, through the annual Build-A-Thon.

"It was a great day," said incoming WWCH President Denis Muras. On Nov. 8, Gifts with Heart, in partnership with Lowe's, held the third annual Build-A-Thon. Susan Mullins, President of Gifts With Heart, is especially thankful for the WWCH "elves" that assisted volunteers in making over 5,000 toys. The

toys will be donated to the children of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority.

"We had the chance to help so many kids build bird houses that we never got to look into their eyes very often to see their excitement," said Muras. "I helped a girl that I did not notice as we started. This girl was serious about working on the house. When she completed the birdhouse and I gave it to her to have her picture taken. At that moment I noticed that she had Down's. This did not prevent her from  
(cont'd. on p. 8)

# AN OPEN LETTER TO WWCH MEMBERS

**Steve LeGrue**

As you are all aware by now, economic realities have forced me to close my store, The Cutting Edge. During the 15 years of our existence the Houston Area Woodworker's Club has always been very supportive, particularly of my family.

I will never forget the kindness that you showed Teri when she was so sick, and how you helped us out. If there is ever anything that I can do for you or the club, do not hesitate to ask. In the coming years I hope to continue to participate in WWCH and visit with my many friends, but whatever life chooses for us, you will know that you have a friend in me.

Steve LeGrue  
The Cutting Edge, Inc  
[www.cuttingedgetools.com](http://www.cuttingedgetools.com)  
713/981-9228



## THANKS, STEVE, FOR THE MEMORIES . . .

**RIDG GILMER**

We are losing one of our most valuable resources. Steve LeGrue is closing his business, The Cutting Edge, later this year. He is confronted by the economic realities facing everyone and of the "Wal-Martization" of the woodworking tool industry, mainly the local openings of several large woodworker chain stores. Also, he has had competition from online sources, such as Amazon and EBay.

Steve and I share a past of employment at the UT Houston Medical School, where he was a professor of immunology. He left this profession to open The Cutting Edge in 1993. His first store, along the Southwest Freeway @ Bellaire Exit thrived and later, after a long struggle for building permits, he opened his present store just off the 59 and Beltway 8 junction in 2003.

Steve has always been about woodworking first and business a close second. He offered free instruction in a variety of helpful subjects each Saturday and also sponsored longer work project sessions in his store's well equipped shop. His main interest is

wood turning, but he is also an authoritative resource on hand tools, planes, sharpening and tuning. He always makes certain that we, his customer, know how to use the tool we purchase and he is always there for us to ask advice on our projects. His experience as an educator drove his business to success. He continues to sponsor our patron saint of woodworking, Norm Abram's "New Yankee Workshop".

Steve, we wish we could keep you and The Cutting Edge open just for our WWCH members, but that's not likely. We thank you for your dedication to our hobby and to our club. You have enriched our lives, our meetings and our skills. We do hope you will continue to attend and remain an involved and active member of the WWCH.

# 2009 WOODWORKER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

It's already time to vote again! No, you won't have to listen to long-winded speeches or empty promises from candidates on TV. There won't even be any debates, and you don't have to stand in line to vote.

At the November meeting, John Gay, Mark Bolinger, Glenn Edwards, Norm Nichols, and Hugh Parker were announced as the nominees for the 2008 Woodworker of the Year Award. All five are very talented and creative craftsmen who were particularly active in 2008. Voting will take



place at the December 13th meeting, but if you are unable to attend, you will still have an opportunity to vote. This year we will again accept votes by email. Simply send an email to [txwave1@msn.com](mailto:txwave1@msn.com) on December 13th, stating: I, (your name) vote for (your selection) as Woodworker of the Year.

*Please note that emails that do not include your name or that are submitted before or after December 13th will not be tallied.*

## THE BEST-KEPT SECRET IN WWCH

**Mark Bolinger**

Let's face it. We like to keep the monthly club meeting jam-packed with features that we know the membership wants to have. This invariably makes for a full agenda, and normally it is difficult to complete everything in the allotted time. I know, from personal experience, that the board of directors are highly committed to giving the members the absolute most bang for the buck.

There is one unfortunate by-product of this approach. Normally the mid-meeting break is the only time for members to socialize, have one-on-one discussions with fellow woodworkers, buy raffle tickets, do necessary business, and review the show and tell items. At 15 minutes, the break is over before it even began.

This leaves us with a conundrum. How do we reconcile the need of all of us, new members and old, to socialize and talk about woodworking, with the need to conduct the club's business? I'd like to propose that more members form and become involved in splinter groups.

I have a feeling that the existing splinter groups, by now, appear a bit "institutionalized". I have a concern, for example, that two of them may be perceived by the members as the "toy group" and the "hand plane group", and if an individual isn't interested in these two topics, they don't get a second thought. Thus, I think that splinter groups don't get the consideration that they

deserve. So I thought it would be a good idea to publicize splinter groups and broaden their definition.

Splinter groups don't have to be permanent. They can be temporary. For example, if a group of members have a common interest to construct a pair of bookshelves, they can form a splinter group. This might help them develop a shopping list, to buy and transport lumber, and to leverage the collective arsenal of machinery (one member with a power planer, another with the right router bits, etc.). When the bookshelves get finished, the group might decide to disband. Splinter groups don't have to have one meeting place, and it doesn't have to be a deluxe shop. The group can rotate from one member to the next.

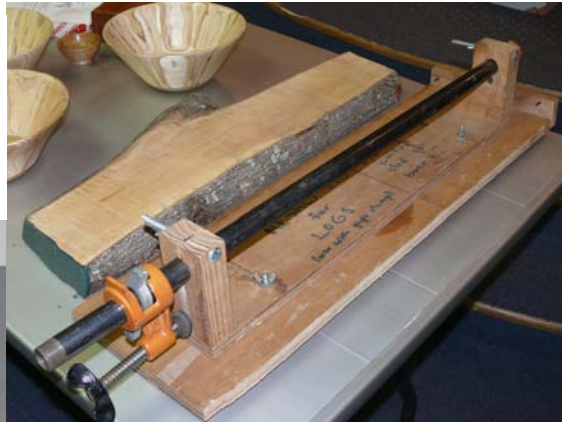
Splinter groups are easy to start. Again, speaking from personal experience, it can be as easy as standing up during a meeting and asking if other members would be interested in your proposal.

Best of all, the splinter group can be as social and informal as the members want to make it. My recommendation is to keep it laid back. Use it as an opportunity to share woodworking war stories. Socialize to your heart's content. It's fun.

I could go on, but I think you get the idea. Bottom line: think outside the box.

# NOVEMBER SHOW 'N TELL

Mark Bolinger shared a jig for resawing lumber and a V-shelf Bookcase that is a mix of cherry & veneered MDF.



Some fortunate child will literally have a Merry Christmas with this truck lovingly handcrafted by Hank Merry. (below)



(lower right side of page) Fred Kunzler turned these bowls and saucers out of pear wood. Way to go, Fred!

Lon Kelley was our presenter for November, and he demonstrated with his typical humility how to turn plywood bowls.



# NOVEMBER SHOW 'N TELL



No jokes about the Adams family please—let's take a serious moment. Matt made a wonderful example of a cherry & walnut cutting board, but mom Susan shows off an oak display case filled with medals Matt was awarded during his days in the Gulf War. It's people like Matt that keep our country strong and great. Thanks Matt!



Ridg Gilmer wanted to experiment with a breadboard look, so he made this cutting board out of mahogany and oak. In addition, he made the excellent cherry bandsaw box that will make somebody very happy this Christmas.



# CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

## 2009 DUES

We will begin collecting dues for 2009 at the November meeting. Dues will remain at \$24 a year, and you can either pay Bill Cole in person, or mail your check to

Bill Cole  
8906 Pontiac Drive  
Houston, TX 77096

## VOTE ON 2009 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS AT DEC. MEETING

Denis Muras—President  
Doc Cotton—Vice-President  
Steve Wavro—Secretary  
Rosalyne Hager—Treasurer  
Roy Gilbert/Norm Nichols/Tom Matkin/Ken Robbins—board members @ large  
Refreshments—Who will serve?  
Badges/visitor registration—Who will serve?

*We're on the web!*  
[www.wwch.org](http://www.wwch.org)

## WWCH SHIRTS

Long or short sleeve shirts with the WWCH logo on them are available for \$19 ea. See Bill Cole at the next meeting to order yours.

# Trading Post

## FOR SALE

Jet 10" Left Title 1.5 HP Table Saw With rolling base.  
Jet 12" Bandsaw  
They are in good condition, but have not been used in a few years. \$500 total. Contact Burke Nail at 713-498-4087

Two Jet mini-lathes in very good condition. They have been in AC for all the time that they have been used. I am asking \$175 for each one. They are selling for about \$350-\$375 new. These are the type that you can change the speed manually, not electronically with the speed control.  
Feel free to call me at 361.526.4458 or email me at [bment@prodigy.net](mailto:bment@prodigy.net) if you have any questions.

## WANTED

Help to build a custom computer desk for me. See sketch at <http://colorblindpicaso.squarespace.com/photoblog/2008/11/17/desk-design.html>  
Contact Christopher Butler at 979-777-7794.

Help to build two retaining walls around a pond in a terraced area at my home. Contact John Smithson at [smithson3@earthlink.net](mailto:smithson3@earthlink.net), or call 281-498-4820.

Trading Post ads are always free, but subject to available space. To place or remove an ad in the newsletter, contact Hugh Poland at 281-360-0673 or email [hpoland@earthlink.net](mailto:hpoland@earthlink.net).

Ads will run one month at a time. If your item hasn't sold, contact Hugh to let him know you want the ad to run again the following month.

All ads must be placed 14 days before the 2nd Saturday monthly meeting. Of course, we invite you to post your WTB or FOR SALE items on the board in the meeting room.

## HELP! MY WOOD IS SHRINKING... Pt 3

(This is the last of a three-part series on wood shrinkage. We hope this has helped you in harvesting your "Ike" wood.)

Crook, or side bend, is warp along the length of the edge of lumber. It occurs as one edge shrinks more in length than the other. As lumber does not normally shrink along the grain, crook, like bow,



is an abnormal event caused by shrinkage of 'abnormal' wood in the lumber.

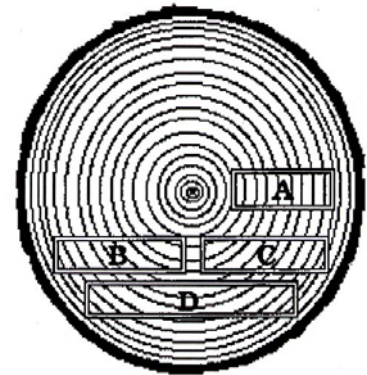
The biggest factor influencing the degree of crook in a piece of lumber is its original location within the log. Perfectly flatsawn lumber is unlikely

to experience crook because both edges were equidistant from the tree's core, and thus should experience the same magnitude of longitudinal shrinkage.

On the other hand, quartersawn lumber is the most susceptible to crook, as one edge is closer to the center of the tree, and this edge is more likely to consist of wood from the juvenile core, than the other edge. When two boards (such as pieces B and C) are ripped from a wide, flatsawn board (such as Piece D), they become susceptible to crook during drying even though the original wide board (D) was not susceptible. The rings of the smaller boards are "off-center," indicating that one edge is closer to the tree's juvenile core.

How can you cure crook?

First and foremost, use a sawing pattern, which keeps the rings centered,



from edge-to-edge, within the lumber. Usually this means that after sawing one face of the log, the opposite face should be sawn next (that is, the log should be turned 180°). Because the rings are centered, any longitudinal shrinkage on one edge will be balanced by the same shrinkage on the other edge.

## THE LAST LAUGH

Remember Great-Grandpa Joe? The family all knew the story of Grandpa's ne'er-do-well father, the one who was hung as a horse thief after escaping from prison, where he wound up after robbing a bank and a train. They couldn't leave him out of the family history, but they could and did put some spin on the story.

The "official" family version of his demise went something like this:

"Joseph James was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. He spent a period of time on the fast track with Wells Fargo. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets. He devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with other equestrian entrepreneurs. Joe James passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

Saw such that the grain of the wood is parallel to the edges of the lumber. Sawyers should avoid purposely orienting the log such that the lumber is sawn at an angle to the grain. Although this practice may produce more aesthetically pleasing lumber, the loss to crook may be substantial.

Crook, unlike cup and bow, is not usually affected by drying procedures. Boards A, B and C are susceptible to crook, or side bend; board D is not as both edges are equidistant from the core, and the rings are centered, edge-to-edge.

## 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 \$24 a year, or about the price you'd pay for one good clamp!

## WWCH Contacts

President	Saul Harris	713-299-3785
Vice President	Mike Turner	281-346-1544
Secretary	Ed Zinni	832-778-7830
Treasurer	Bill Cole	713-772-6697
Publications	Bill White	713-524-8768
Mentor	Rich Thomas	713-666-9073
Mentor	Lon Kelley	713-467-9011
Mentor	Mark Bollinger	281-544-6867
Newsletter	Hugh Poland	281-360-0673

# Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

PO Box 815  
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0815

## Coming Events

Saturday, December 13  
Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30

Fourth Thursday of Every Month  
Hand Tool Splinter Group in Sugar Land

To be sure your woodworking-related event is listed in this space, please contact Hugh Poland at 832-244-1782 or [hpoland@earthlink.net](mailto:hpoland@earthlink.net).

## WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR . . .

(CONT'D. FROM P. 1)

completing the birdhouse and understanding the feeling of accomplishment. Her smile said it all.”

It’s been said, to whom much has been given, much is required. The picture to the right says it all. A WWCH member is stooping to help a small child with her project. And isn’t that the true message and spirit of Christmas—that One greater than us stooped low to help us in our time of need?

Merry Christmas, WWCH members, and congrats on jobs well done this year. You gave, you served, you *stooped*—and our families, our community, and our world are just a little bit better because of you.

