

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

Volume 31 Issue 12

December 2015

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December Meeting

The Program for the December meeting will be the Norm and Denis Show. Norm and Denis will host a Question and Answer session on Scrollsawing. They will do demonstrations as well, but will focus on answering your burning questions about scrollsawing.

With access to the internet during the meeting, they should be able to look up information such as blade types, saw types, cutting styles, and patterns. So, please come up with questions for Norm and Denis and see if they can be stumped.

Time to Renew!



WWCH 2016 Dues

\$36

Cash or Check

Checks made payable

to: **WWCH**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has slipped past. Some noteworthy events and activities have included the 'Gathering of the Guilds' on Museum day at Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts, two shop crawls in May and October, the special program with Jim Heavey of Wood magazine, demonstrations at the Monarch School, the special meeting and tour at TXRX to learn about 'maker spaces', a very successful Craft Sale at the First United Methodist Church, the November 'wood' event at HCCC, the great annual picnic, the Veteran's Ornament project, the Lie-Nielson tool event, and of course the ongoing activities of our splinter groups with a special note to honor the Toy Group for the contributions of toys in support of our local communities. Our regular meeting presentations focused this year on the skills and knowledge of our members like Fred Sandoval, Steve Wavro, Lon Kelley, John Gay, and Steve Proctor. And we cannot forget all those who contributed to the club and shared their projects and experiences through Show and Tell.

I have enjoyed the year of WWCH activities, learning, and relationships, and look forward to another one in 2016.

In case you'd like to be part of making next year even better, it's not too late to volunteer to help your WWCH operate for another year. Nominations to date for officers and board members were announced at the November meeting with elections to be held at the December meeting.

A candidate for President is needed as well as Secretary and maybe a couple of board members.

Please consider volunteering and contact Roslyn Hager, Nominating Committee Chair, at the December meeting or at rghager@texaschildrens.org or (713) 721-1613. Thank you.

Chuck Meeder, President

Splinter Groups

The CNC Router Splinter Group will meet Thursday, December 10th, at 7:00pm at Patrick's place, 20734 Settlers Lake Circle North, Katy, TX, 77449. For further assistance contact Mike Turner at 281-633-1807.

Hand Tool Splinter Group: Per group member requests, the meetings will be moved to Sunday evenings until further notice. The December meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 27th, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Mark Bolinger's garage in Sugar Land near Hwy 6 and 90A. Please watch your email for any changes or cancellations. Email Mark for directions or details at marksmithb@windstream.net.

The Scroll Saw Splinter Group: The Scroll Saw Splinter Group has had a very successful year. We will keep the pace going on January 23, 2016 at Woodcraft South on Beltway 8 at 9:30 AM. The topic of discussion will be Questions and Answers. You provide the questions, and hopefully we will provide the answers. We call it Stump the Chumps! Get your questions ready and lets have some fun. Don't forget your latest items for Show N Tell. Also share with the group those nice new toys that Santa Claus brought you this year. Let's see what you got! Group contacts: Norm at scrollsaw@comcast.net or Denis at denis_muras@yahoo.com.

The Toy Splinter Group The Group met on Wednesday, November 11th, to begin the process of distributing toys that were made during the year. This is always an exciting time because we see how many toys were actually made and then send them out to the folks who will get them to the children in time for the holidays.

This year we will give away slightly more than 3,000 toys to needy children in our area. A special THANK YOU to everyone who either worked at our Wednesday evenings or made toys at their home shops and included them in our distribution. It is always foolish to identify any individuals because of those that are overlooked, but I'd like to recognize the efforts of Lon and Pam Kelly, Chuck Lickwar, and Bill Harris for the number of toys they made at home and included in our count. There are many others who worked with Bill Hoffmeister and brought Toys of the

Month to the group, allowing us to have the 3,000+ toys to distribute.

If you have not gotten involved, please consider doing so in 2016 either by attending our scheduled work sessions or by turning some of your scrap wood into toys and bringing them to the Splinter Group.

A year's worth of coffee, cookies, fellowship and work comes to an end but the enjoyment of the results of these efforts is just beginning for the recipients. The Toy Splinter group would like to thank WWCH for the continued support of this project and we are looking forward to starting back in March of 2016.

The Sawmill Splinter Group is for those who are cutting and milling their own lumber or are interested in doing so. We discuss sawmills and the projects possible with the lumber. Anyone with logs to mill or an interest in the sawmill can contact Bill Lindsey at bill_lindsey@comcast.net.

WWCH Calendar

December 10.....CNC Router Splinter Group
December 12..... Monthly Meeting
December 27.....Hand Tool Splinter Group
January 12 Monthly Meeting

WWCH Collecting Toys

WWCH is collecting **STUFFED ANIMALS** to distribute to the police. They carry these stuffed animals in their squad cars to give to children when they answer domestic disturbance calls. These soft and cuddly toys are so helpful to a traumatized and tearful child when their world is turned upside down.

If you have access to stuffed animals that could comfort a child, bring them to a meeting and we'll take it from there.

Thank you, from the children!



Golden Hammer Award Nominees

Presented to one Club member for recognition of his or her service to the Club in the previous 12 months. Nominations are made by the Board of Directors at the November Board of directors meeting. The outgoing Board votes by secret ballot in a closed meeting separate from the regular Board meeting. Candidates who are members of the outgoing Board are not present during the discussion and balloting. The Past President announces and presents the award to the recipient at the January general membership meeting.

Nominees for 2015 are: Chuck Lickwar, Bob Wink, and Bill Harris. Recent recipients have been; Norm Nichols 2014, Tim Shaunty 2013, Patti Page 2012, Denis Muras 2011 and 2010, and Andy Anderson 2009.

Woodworker of the Year Nominees

It's time for you to vote for the Woodworker of the Year award. The three member committee (John Gay, Steve Wavro, and Chick Lickwar) researched the Show & Tell submissions for the last 12 months and have come up with 5 deserving nominees for this year. These are not in any order because all are outstanding in their own way. Click on the name of each nominee to see a picture of him presenting one of his show and tell projects.

NORM NICHOLS: Norm is a master with the scroll saw and specializes in fretwork pieces. This year he showed us several examples including a variety of crosses and scenes featuring a jaguar, dragon, hummingbird, and swans. He also made a nativity scene, a golf ball stuck in a wood box, and a "Music Is My Life" plaque made in walnut. Norm is also a regular participant at the Toy Splinter Group.

LON KELLEY: Lon has amazed us with his beautiful bowls and boxes for years, and he was very busy again this year showing us segmented bowls of mahogany and walnut, boxes made of maple and sapele, and bowls made from a laminated beam. He also made a folding computer table, wood lamp, an assortment of Christmas ornaments, and made repairs to a quilt rack and folding top desk. In his spare time, he also managed to make 500 toys for the Toy Program.

DAVID JANOWITZ (a.k.a. Mr. Osage Orange): David was up to his eyeballs in Osage Orange shavings and sawdust this year and showed us a wide variety of projects. David made several tables, a variety of turned bowls, and a collection of Christmas ornaments. He also made a cutting board, a turned mallet, several turned tool handles, and a breakfast tray. He also showed us a sled type jointer/planer that he made.

LYNN CUMMINGS: Lynn has a flair for furniture making, and this year he showed us several beautiful tables that he has made. He also made a jewelry box and a cutting board from maple and walnut that is designed to sit slightly above the countertop and has a dedicated (color coded) sides for meats and vegetables.

CHARLES VOLEK: Charles is best known for his incredible Intarsia skills, and this year he showed us two beautiful examples with his Intarsia Lighthouse and Barn Own pieces. Charles branched out this year into other areas and made a beautiful scroll sawn cross in cherry wood and a scroll sawn napkin holder. He also made a porch bench from sipo mahogany and a batch of walnut/maple toy helicopters for the Toy Splinter Group.

BILL HOFFMEISTER: Bill is best known for his heirloom quality toys as the person behind our "Toy of the Month" Program. Bill made all the prototypes for each of the toys this year, discussed them at our meetings, and handed out patterns and parts kits to other members so they could also make them. This led to hundreds of toys being donated to the Toy Splinter Group. This year, Bill also made a set of 6 cutting boards from maple and purple heart.

Those are the six woodworkers that were nominated for this year's award. You can see their work on the club's web site [here](#) as well as many of our members that showed their work during Show and Tell. Please come to the December 13th meeting to cast your vote for one of these deserving woodworkers.

WWCH at HCCC's Celebration of Wood Festival



On November 7, we were part of Houston Center of Contemporary Craft's Celebration of Wood Festival. There was to be a parking lot full of tents with all sorts of things going on. The weather had different plans, however.

While it was forecasted to rain Friday evening, ending early Saturday morning, it actually started raining about 6 that morning and lasted all day. Due to the rain, the tents and outdoor activities were cancelled. The CNC demonstrations, Hands on Houston, laser work demonstrations, and band saw demonstrations were all cancelled. The wood turners and the wood carvers did not show up. But WWCH was still ready to go. We are woodworkers, and every one of us has had a project that took a wrong turn and we just changed the project to something else, often with better results.

We moved the hand tool group and the scroll demonstration inside. The reason why is because hand tools do not make dust; a lot of shavings but no dust. Scroll saws are not very noisy, and there is very little dust. We had the other tables set up to show off the skills of our members with their completed projects. Now the question was if any visitors would show up. On a normal Saturday there are about 20 to 50 guests that come to the museum.

One thing that was not cancelled were the food trucks. Food trucks are a different breed. They are a big hit on the Food Network because they serve something different, sometimes very different. There was a truck that had a different twist on the hotdog. I had their Avo Dog. It's a dog with avocado, feta cheese, red onion and their own sauce. It was good. The other truck had their award-winning deep fried mac and cheese balls. It was interesting. These trucks have items that only they make. If you see one, try it. It is almost always very good. They were worried that their sales were going to suffer because of the weather.



The event started at 11 that rainy Saturday morning and ended a short 4 hours later. Within that time, there were 520 visitors! We gave out over 400 cards to folks who did not know that there is a woodworking club in Houston. The guests were surprised at the kinds of woodworking there is to do.

Bob showed them how to do an American classic Tramp Art. Steve explained about Intarsia. Our club table had a binder full of the thank you letters that we have received from our Toy Group donation recipients. Also we had tables setup to show our members work.

Submitted by John Gay

WWCH Video Library

Would you like to expand your woodworking knowledge? If so, check out one of the DVDs from the WWCH library. We have a great DVD library, and DVDs can be checked out by WWCH members for one month. You can see list of our DVD library on the WWCH website here: <http://wwch.org/Library/Videos.htm>.

If you would like to check one out, please email the video librarian Lisa Sessions at lasessions@earthlink.net. Requested DVDs will be brought the to the next WWCH meeting.

Woodworking Show Date Change

It has come to our attention that The Woodworking Show for the Houston area has been rescheduled to February 26-28, 2016. The show will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center, and show details can be found [here](#).

WWCH has applied for a booth so that we as a club can support and promote our club. We will staff the booth with members on shifts, show off our craftsmanship with actual projects as well as photographs, and encourage and invite visitors to join our club.

Denis Muras has volunteered to conduct scroll saw demos and we will be encouraging other members to conduct demos in their specialty as well. Gary the Web Wookiee will be coordinating our WWCH support. Be sure and mark your calendars.

WWCH Participates in Craft Show

On behalf of the Club, I want to thank everyone who helped with the craft show. It was a huge success! We had our best year ever, raising \$682.50 for WWCH. If I try to list everyone who donated items for the show and/or worked the booth, I will leave someone out and hurt someone's feelings. As I don't want to do that, I want to say the entire Club appreciates each and every one of you who assisted. We had a wonderful selection of items for sale. There was real good coverage at the show all day long. Again, a big thanks to all who pinched in. Hopefully we will do even better next year.

Submitted by Norm Nichols

Show and Tell

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

PRESENTERS

Lee Knekow.....Bowls
Denis Muras.....Train Cars
Steve Wavro.....Ornaments
Lisa Sessions.....Airplane
Rick Space.....Ferris Wheel
Chuck Meeder.....Carved House
David Janowitz.....Ornaments & Magic Wands
Gary Rowen.....Display Case
Larry Wenner.....Table
Niklas Oberfeld.....Boxes



From walnut and maple, **Denis Muras** crafted these railroad passenger cars for his Mother-in-Law's great grandsons. Other parts of the train were completed in years past. Denis says the construction is simple...yeah...right...

Steve Wavro used various woods to craft these intarsia Christmas ornaments. Steve finished them in poly acrylic. A friend of his wife provided a pattern for the dreidel and found Hebrew letter stencils online.



From Carole Rothman patterns, **Lee Knekow** explained how he scroll sawed from plywood the different layers at an angle and then stacked and glued them together to form bowls. Using a ball sander, Lee sanded the inside. The bowls are finished in polyurethane. Lee stated that plywood is not a junk wood and can be made to work well.



Show and Tell, continued



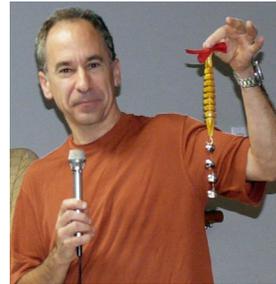
Congratulations to **Lisa Sessions'** first Show n Tell. Her airplane is made of pine and Winkwood finished with beeswax and mineral oil. Lisa found it challenging to make the propeller which she also modified so it would spin.

From a cottonwood bark, purchased on the Internet, **Chuck Meeder** carved a Halloween house then painted with acrylics followed by clear acrylic and then topped off with Watco liquid wax. Spooky, eh?



Not quite a wheel of fortune but none the less an impressive ferris wheel crafted from quarter inch plywood by **Rick Spacek** using a scroll saw. A

Using his lathe, **David Janowitz** made some magic wands, bottle stoppers, and Christmas ornaments from Osage orange. Some of the pieces use both sapwood combined with heartwood. And I thought Osage orange was only good for bows and fence posts



friend contributed some items made from a 3D printer and Rick used a torch to heat figurines so they could be formed to fit in the seats.



Gary Rowen crafted this display of walnut and red maple for his Brother-in-Law who asked him to make one to display his 3D printed objects. Gary finished with Watco Danish Oil but learned that any excess not wiped off takes months to cure.

From a design in Fine Woodworking, **Larry Wenner** crafted this 1850s style Martha Washington table, also called a piece crust table and even a tea table. The top tilts back for ease of storage. Larry used spray polyurethane then topped with five or six coats of Johnson Paste Wax. Larry did not offer any pies or tea.



Niklas Oberfeld explained how strings hold together these boxes made of spalted pecan, cherry, and other woods. The boxes are large enough to stash your tax refunds.

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DEMO**

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12th at 11AM

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WWCH General Information

WWCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Chuck Meeder
Vice President	Mike Turner
Secretary	Steve Wavro
Treasurer	David Janowitz
Publications Director	Vacant

DIRECTORS

Bill Harris, Chuck Lickwar, Joe Cook,
Lynn Cummings

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CLUB SERVICE PROVIDERS

Book Library	John Gay
Donuts	Roslyn Hager
Club Logo Items	Norm Nichols
Membership Book	Patti Page
Members/Name Tags	Roslyn Hager
Newsletter	Lisa Sessions
Raffle	Lynn Cummings
Refreshments	Chuck Horton
Technology	Denis Muras
Video Library	Lisa Sessions
Web Master	Gary Rowen

NEXT MEETING

December 12, 2015

9:00AM TO 11:30AM

BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER, 6400 Bissonnet

Norm and Denis: Scrollsawing

Guests are always welcome at WWCH meetings!

Newsletter Publication: Do you have an announcement or item for the newsletter? Send it to Lisa Sessions, WWCH Newsletter Editor, at lasessions@earthlink.net.

We're on the web!

www.wwch.org

**Like us on Facebook!
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!*