

Woodworkers Club of Houston

Volume 31 Issue 5

May 2015

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Stuffed Animals for the Kids

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 kids

May Program

Bandsaw Boxes with Lon Kelley

Lon Kelley will present information about band saw box construction and how he designs and contrasts wood with different patterns and shapes.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WWCH is busy this spring. Toy making is back in full swing. Norm Nichols and Chuck Lickwar represented WWCH at the Monarch School's eSTEAM day April 9 by performing scrollsaw and wood turning demos for the students. Thank you Norm and Chuck. The club participated in the annual Zone 2 Museum Experience Day on Saturday April 25 along with numerous other Houston area guilds at the Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts. This activity is also known as 'Gathering of the Guilds'. Thanks to John Gay and David Garcia for coordinating this event and all those who manned the club table. David Garcia kindly made the club plaque for us seen on the display table.



The Lie-Nielson hand-tool event took place at Kellogg Furniture on April 24-25. This was a fun event with very knowledgeable representatives from the factory to discuss details of the tools, provide demos, and guide you through hands-on tool tests. This event provided WWCH an opportunity to talk to potential new members to the club. I discovered that a number of woodworkers visit our website but have not yet attended meetings. Clark Kellogg's shop (Kellogg Furniture) was also very interesting. Everyone was impressed with his hand tool storage systems, one of which is pictured here. The 25th was also a Scroll saw Splinter group workshop at Woodcraft.

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Splinter Groups

The CNC Router Group is going to meet Thursday, May 14th at 7:00pm at the Katy Makerspace shop at 2900 Katy/Hockley cut off road, #A104, Katy, TX. You can go to www.katymakerspace.com for more directions. Or contact Mike Turner at 281-633-1807.

The Scroll Saw Splinter Group: The scroll saw splinter group meets quarterly. The last meeting was April 25. Stay tuned for information about the next quarterly meeting. Group contacts: Norm at scrollsaw@comcast.net or Denis at denis.muras@yahoo.com.

The Toy Splinter Group: The toy makers continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Tim Shaunty's shop - 3614 Thistle St., Houston - from 7 - 9pm. We are in full swing for the 2015 year and welcome "new" participants. One of the things that we do is to take a break from the toy making and share with others what we each are working on. Our SHOW AND TELL is a great way to have a break and enjoy cookies and coffee and also gives each of us some new ideas. Much of the time this evolves into a How Did You Do It and we get some inside information on new projects and procedures.

If you cannot join us for the Wednesday night events, please consider making some toys in your shop and then contact Tim or Andy for pick up. These will be included in our distribution efforts in December. An easy way of doing that is taking advantage of the work Bill Hoffmeister does with the TOY OF THE MONTH at our meetings.

Again, consider joining us as we continue to provide toys to needy children. For more information or direction to the meetings, contact our Toy Coordinator Andy Anderson - 713-409-7030 or Tim Shaunty 713-503-2284.

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.

Hand Tool Splinter Group: Our May meeting will be on the 28th at 7:00 PM. See you at 7pm—9pm at Mark Bolinger's garage in Sugar Land near Hwy 6 and 90A. Email Mark for directions or details at marksmithb@windstream.net.

President's Column

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In May after the regular meeting is the first shop crawl of the year to visit the shops of Steve Procter, Sid Hockens, and Lynn Cummings. This should be a fun and interesting field trip. The second shop crawl is planned for September. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend either the May club meeting or the shop crawl, as I will be occupied with Mother's Day activities and judging at the high school International Science and Engineering Fair.

Planning is also underway for a special WWCH meeting presentation and event in a couple of months. Mike Turner will give us all the details as the event plan gels.

Chuck Meeder, President

May Shop Crawl

WWCH will hold a SHOP CRAWL Saturday after the May meeting from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M at the shops of Steve Proctor, Sid Hockens, and Lynn Cummings. Maps will be available at the meeting.

Mark your calendars and hope to see you at the shops for interesting tips and tidbits.

WWCH Calendar

May 9	Monthly Meeting
May 9	Spring Shop Crawl
June 13	Monthly Meeting
July 11	Monthly Meeting

Veterans Day Ornaments Reminder

Just a reminder that the scroll saw splinter group has an ongoing project of making ornaments for veterans. Rick Spacek is in charge of this project and is asking that as many people as possible make a few of these ornaments and bring them to him at the May meeting. Rick will distribute them to local veterans for Veterans Day. He is asking that you do the "Thank you for your service" ornament, but any of the three patterns would be great. Anything will be greatly appreciated by our veterans. See www.wwch.org/vets.pdf for the patterns for these ornaments.

April Meeting Wrap-Up

Fred Sandoval, a long-time member of WWCH, gave a talk to club members about the precision craft of violin making. He addressed sources of wood, plans, instructional books, and tools and went into detail on many of the techniques involved in hand-crafting a violin. Fred was also recently featured on Channel 11 10 pm news. Follow this link to view his TV interview: <http://tinyurl.com/Freds-Interview>

The first item Fred talked about is the wood. Where do you get it? Fred named several reputable sources, but he said that the best and most honest place is Orcas Island Tonewoods, situated in Olga, Washington. The owner, Bruce Harvie (who has a PhD in wood), has wood that has been air dried for many years, is really good and is, although still not cheap, less expensive than other places. Ideally you want tight rings, not for your fingers, but in the wood itself.



Fred talked about making the F-holes, the opening in the top of the violin, and how it influences the tone of the violin. Fred said that the details of how the F-hole is made speaks to the maker of the violin and professionals can recognize who made the violin by the uniqueness of the F-holes.

The top of the violin affects the tone as well. Thinner tops project more sound whereas thicker tops are for more intimate surroundings such as a parlor.



Fred showed numerous molds that he uses to craft the violins and explained how he uses them. Fred demonstrated a hot iron (vertical and clamped down) that he uses to soften the thin side woods for bending. Using a damp piece of denim jean fabric and the strip of wood, Fred demonstrated how the iron would create steam from the fabric which helps to soften the wood for bending.

Fred went into some detail with the peg holes and how to properly drill them. Although Ebony looks good, the best pegs are made of Boxwood. Fred showed the tools he uses to straighten out holes that have loosened over time.

Fred explained how he uses the myriad collection of tools and planes of various sizes, from hand size down to finger. Precise gauges help Fred determine the progress of thicknesses on the neck as well as the top. An interesting tool is one that Fred uses to measure the precise length required for the sound post, a small piece of dowel inside the violin spanning the space between the back piece and the top and held in place by friction. It is referred to as the "soul" of the violin.

Animal hide glue is the only glue used for assembly because it can be heated to allow the parts to be disassembled for repair. Fred will finish with an oil-based finished as was done 400 years ago. Fred noted that it

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April Meeting Wrap-Up. continued

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takes 75 years for a violin to "settle" down and bear its real sound. With today's modern medicine, maybe Fred will be around to hear some of his work.

If you are interested in learning more about violin making, Fred recommends the following books:

- Useful Measurements for Violin Makers by Henry A Strobel
- The Art and Method of the Violin Maker by Henry A. Strobel
- Violin Making: A Practical Guide by Juliet Barker

Submitted by Gary Rowen

April Show and Tell

PRESENTERS

Bill Hoffmeister	Cutting Board
Chuck Meeder	Carved Spoons
David Janowitz.....	Turned Bowls and Table
Denis Muras	Toy Cars
Rick Spacek	Crosses and Rider
Tim Shaunty	Cutting Boards
Sean O'Connor	Rosette
Charles Volek.....	Bench
Peter Doe.....	Corner Desk
Lon Kelley	Furniture Repairs
Paul Carr	"Jeep" Truck

Bill Hoffmeister took plans from the Wood Whisperer for his cutting boards made of hard maple and purple heart, one of six, he showed to club members. He topped it with a salad bowl finish – hmmm was that ranch or Italian?



Chuck Meeder decided to fool around with carving so he tackled some spoon projects – perhaps to eventually carve a "silver" spoon? He found patterns online as well as from books. The woods are cherry, alder, cedar, and mahogany. Chuck says these aren't major projects and only take a couple of hours but they are fun little projects. Watco was the finish Chuck used.



Dave Janowitz says he is getting better at wood turning, and his results speak to that. He explained that he is still finds turning the insides of the bowls to be a challenge. The table, which his wife calls an ironing board, is made of Osage orange and walnut; the bowls are of Osage orange. Dave finished bowls and table with water borne urethane.

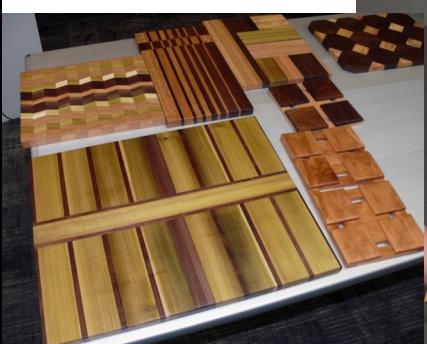
April Show and Tell. continued



Rolling right along, **Denis Muras** showed club members some designs for toy cars that Denis plans to donate for the WWCH toy drive. Denis used maple, walnut and cherry. Denis explained how he would stack pieces together and cut them all at the same time on the scroll saw followed by the band saw to separate the pieces. The wheels are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch dowels.



Rick Spacek described how he made the two crosses from plywood and onyx. The rider was made from spalted pecan. Congrats to Rick for his attention to detail.

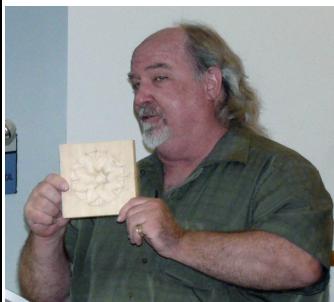


Tim Shaunty says he doesn't pay attention to size but it did say that he screwed up three before getting it right. Tim explained how he oriented and cut the boards to get unusual shapes. Because the grain went in every direction, Tim used only his table saw and not the jointer to prepare the pieces for gluing. If there was a crack he filled it with CA glue. Tim lives in a retirement community where the women have a fashion show so he donated the boards to be used a door prizes – a nice variety. Those women certainly won't get bored with his boards, will they?



Charles Volek crafted this porch bench of Sipo Mahogany. The design is based on a wood working magazine photo but Charles modified it some what. After he cut legs to size he discovered that the bench was too low to the ground from tall people so he added and inch and a half. He received some good natured ribbing for his "custom" design work. Charles said that this project required accurate joints so he measured three times (not the proverbial measure twice adage). Charles used epoxy for the main joints and Titebond II for the smaller ones

Sean O'Connor explained that his hand carved rosette is his fourth try. Sean is working on upper parts of a Gypsy wagon so this rosette will probably go on the door.



Peter Doe constructed this corner desk for his wife. This was Peter's first foray into vacuum veneering and his first attempt at curved lamination. It took Peter six months. The desk is of mahogany and sapele veneer.



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April Show and Tell, continued

Peter Doe's Corner Desk (*continued from page 5*)



Lon Kelley repaired a pretty little solid oak desk for a client. Lon was able to disassemble the desk because all joints were screwed together, not glued. He went over the pieces with his orbital sander and finished with some coats of varnish. For another client the quilt holder was missing some dowels and the mortise and tenon joints were of different sizes so Lon re-drilled them. For this case Lon did not want to accept money for his work but the client insisted so he donated the money to the club's toy program.



Paul Carr trailered his monster "Jeep" truck to show to club members which will be situated at 4th and Heights and painted in school colors – a wonderful thing for kids to play on (and maybe a few adults too). While visiting his wife's family in Iowa he was able to acquire some used tires from farm implements. He joked about the smell of the tires but to those in Iowa it is the smell of money -- ahhh --- the "attar" of corn and soy beans.



A big "Thank you!" to Gary Rowen for providing the write-ups for the April Meeting Wrap-Up and Show and Tell.

Check your June newsletter for the March meeting show and tell catch-up!



Visit the Houston locations at:

60 FM 1960
Houston, TX 77090
281-880-0045
&
11707 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S.
Houston, TX 77031
281-988-9449

WWCH General Information

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NEXT MEETING

May 9, 2015

9:00AM TO 11:30AM
BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
6400 Bissonnet

Bandsaw Boxes: Lon Kelley

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

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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!