

Woodworkers Club of Houston

**SPECIAL PRESENTER
SATURDAY NOV. 14—
LON KELLEY ON
WOODTURNING**

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A BIG WOODWORKING MYTH

Inside this Issue:

<i>Myth of Perfection</i>	1
<i>Dancin' a jig</i>	2
<i>Show 'n Tell</i>	3
<i>WWCH BBQ PICS</i>	4-5
<i>Club News & Views/ Trading Post</i>	6
<i>Wood Shrinkage Pt. 2</i>	7
<i>The Last Laugh</i>	7

So you're enjoying the weather lately and looking at that lumber in your shop, and thinking about a project or two. After all, the air temp and drier climate makes it a real joy to be a woodworker in Houston this time of the year.

You've got the tools and the plans, and a rare free weekend. So what keeps you from going for it?

Unfortunately, for some of us, it's the myth of perfection.

It's too easy to look at Norm Abram or Scott Phillips, or even some of your buddies here in WWCH, and think, "Man, I'll never be that good. I don't have the right kind of tools. My skills are not that great. I don't have experience with that kind of joint. My finishes never look pro." And so you opt to attend the next WWCH meeting, sit back and admire the work of those who brave the "Show 'n Tell," or stay at home on the sofa, watch another episode of "New Yankee Workshop," and bemoan your lack of a shop like Norm's.

Maybe you need to rethink why you're in woodworking to begin with. Is perfection really possible? Have any of us ever created anything that was so complete, so perfect, that nothing could've improved it at all?

I seriously doubt it.

Maybe instead of perfection, we need to shoot for excellence.

Excellence isn't doing it perfectly. Excellence is simply doing the best you can with the skills and resources you have. If you don't have a shop like the guys on TV, and you don't have 30 years of being a Master Carpenter, chances are your work won't turn out like theirs. But by this definition, EVERYONE can create something in an excellent way.

On the other hand, everyone has to start somewhere. And if you wait

until you can do it perfectly, you'll never get started. Half the fun in woodworking is learning a new skill to compensate for a mistake you made. Besides, woodworking isn't all pragmatic and perfunctory. It's art—and who's to say one art form is better than another? Beauty is still in the eyes of the beholder, and whether you have created a Queen Anne Highboy with handcut joinery, or a simple box to put your stuff in, wasn't it fun? And isn't that why you got into woodworking in the first place, because it was fun?



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Julian Barr

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

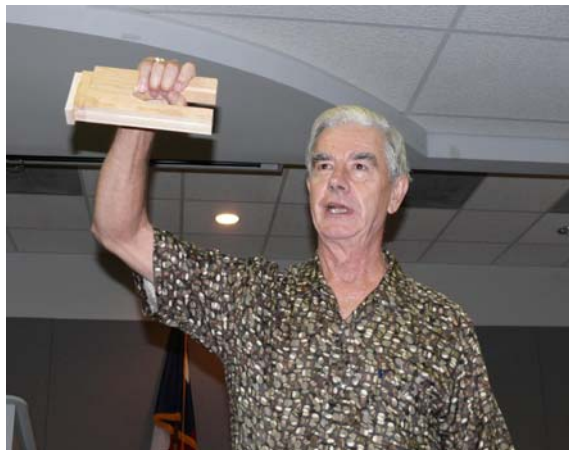
DANCIN' A JIG



The "Straight Cut Express" from Andy Anderson.



It's all fun 'n games to Marcus Brun when he uses this jig to align holes for the games he creates.



Notice that Monte Richard holds up his push stick with ALL of his fingers!



It won't ruffle Mark Bollinger's feathers if you ask him about his featherboard. Really.

No need to cuss because of all the dust, Norm Nichols is able with his downdraft table!



OCTOBER SHOW 'N TELL



The cross will always be affectionately recreated by many. To the left is Norm Nichols' prize-winning effort, scroll-sawed from box elder. To the right is Monte Richard's carved piece out of mahogany.



Is it ironic that Rick "Storm" turned these platters from wood downed by Hurricane Ike? He makes it look like a breeze, doesn't he? Way to go, Rick!



Mike's mallets may motivate maturity 'mong th'man's muckle-heads & mates@ th' means to his mission. Magnificent, Mike! (Just don't make anything that begins with Q or Z!)



Steve Driver turned this stunning vessel and keep-sake box out of cranberry.

Jack Hutchison's Heppelwhite-style Blanket Chest is made from Cherry with a Cedar bottom. The joinery features wide tails and narrow pins on the dovetails, and butt-mortised hinges.



WE CAME, WE ATE, WE SAW ...



Some hovered at the “tool ‘n drool” all day!



If you went away hungry, it was your own fault!



Those who regularly use hearing-protection when operating a router actually enjoyed the band.



Oh, you thought the drill came with batteries?



Jed’s younger brother, Matt Clamp-it



Steve “Sandman” Wavro

WE WON, WE LOST, AND ATE MORE!



The “Callers” —Andy Anderson, John Gay, and Jim Robertson, who had a little help on the side.



C’mon down, you’re the next contestant on “Win that Raffle!”



No tickee, no winnee, says Mike Turner.



Better than winning Survivor any day of the week!



We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Matt Adams. Matt isn't even on the WWCH board, but he volunteered to track down the sponsors and get them to donate all the great prizes to the club. Matt spent untold hours on the phone and in person getting the great stuff, just so we could have a great day. So here's to you . . . Matt Adams . . . you real man of genius . . . When other men are sitting around wishing they had the money for a new tool . . . You're out securing it for them for free!

Let's give it up for Matt!

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

2009 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Outgoing leadership includes

Jim Robertson—Raffles

Charlotte Robertson—
Refreshments

Lorraine Lewis—Badges/visitor
registration

New Officers & Board Mbrs will be needed as well. If you are interested, contact VP Mike Turner.

We're on the web!
www.wwch.org

Happy Birthday to Chuck Maxwell, who turns 90 years young in a few weeks. His family wants to invite WWCH mbrs to a 3-day Open House over the weekend of Dec. 5-7.

10614 Windfern Rd.
Houston, TX 77064
Or give Chuck a call at 281-469-0588.

Trading Post

FOR SALE

Delta 12" Portable Planer. Includes owner's manual and a new set of knives. \$100. Contact Tom Matkin at 281-492-6053.

Shop Fox 10" Contractor Saw
2HP, 230V, 12A
2 sets of rails 30 and 50 in.
Long and short router, table top link belt, mobile base,
cast iron wings, 4 blade inserts,
Shop Fox alumina-classic fence
4 Years old, excellent condition
\$600.00
Joe Colvin
kajrcolvin@sbcglobal.net

WANTED

Looking for someone to build a custom desk. Contact Michael Yosowitz @ Goldman, Sachs & Co. 713-276-3518
Michael.yosowitz@gs.com

Looking for woodworker to cut notches in a wooden toy part, initial order will be for 1,000 pcs. with a larger volume to follow. Contact Bob Huggins at rhuggins@sbcglobal.net

Looking to purchase a copy of the special Wood Magazine Publication, "America's Best Home Workshops 2007." Contact George Kabacinski at gkabacinski@gmail.com, or 281-460-0571.

FREE WOOD

Persimmon wood is free to anyone who will cut it down. Its circumference is approx 16 in at 12 in from soil level. Contact AG Unterharnscheidt at agunter2@sbcglobal.net

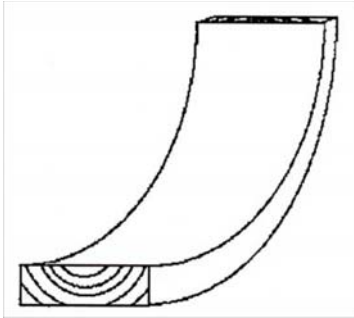
Trading Post ads are always free, but subject to available space. To place or remove an ad in the newsletter, contact Hugh Poland at 281-360-0673 or email hpoland@earthlink.net.

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 2

When you begin to dry wood salvaged after Ike, you may run into problems with shrinkage. This is the second in a three-part series on wood shrinkage, and how to deal with it.



Bow is warp along the length of the face of lumber. It occurs when one face of lumber shrinks more in

length than the other.

The board will bow towards the center of the tree. Wood does not normally shrink along the grain by any appreciable amount. However, wood close to the center of a tree (within 20 years of the center) does shrink more along the grain than more mature wood. So, it is possible to have either a flatsawn or a quartersawn piece of lumber that has mostly wood from the juvenile core on the heart side and mostly mature wood on the bark side. The juvenile side will exhibit longitudinal shrinkage, causing the lumber to try to bow excessively during drying. Most pieces that show this characteristic would be No. 2 Com-

mon or below in grade, as they are typically close to the center of the tree.

Cures for Bow

Consistency in sawmilling can alleviate some bow problems. Lumber should be of uniform thickness. Improper saw feed speeds or lapses in saw maintenance can result in lumber that is thinner on the ends than in the middle. This leads to a type of bow, called "pile bend," which appears in the upper layers of a pack.

Proper and timely handling and drying of lumber will also help to reduce or eliminate bow. Wood that is wet and warm can bend quite easily.

THE LAST LAUGH

Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources person asked a young engineer fresh out of MIT, "And what starting salary were you looking for?"

The young man said, "In the neighborhood of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer said, "Well,

what would you say to a package of 5-weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years - say, a red Corvette?"

The engineer sat up straight and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

The interviewer replied, "Yeah, but you started it."

Make sure the stacking procedure itself is not contributing to bow. The 4x4s and stickers must be of uniform thickness. Careful stickering practices, such as maintaining good vertical alignment and assuring no stickers are up on edge, are a "must" for flat lumber. Foundations for green lumber piles, whether in the kiln, predryer or air-drying yard, must be flat.

For more information on dealing with wood shrinkage, go to <http://forest.wisc.edu/extension/Publications/68.pdf>

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, November 14
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 281-360-0673 or hpoland@earthlink.net.