

# Woodworkers Club of Houston

## Quotable quotes...

Woodworkers are TREE-Mendous!

... Kevin Gerstenecker

If sawdust were gold, I'd be rich!

... Byron Trantham

If nail'en it won't work, then screw it. ...Anonymous

REAL\* men measure once, cut once. Then they head back to the lumberyard. ... John Miliunas

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November 2011

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those who didn't get to attend, you missed a great picnic on October 22. Where else could you buy a \$5 raffle ticket and win a \$300 dust collector, a \$250 WorkSharp system, a workbench, router bit set, dovetailing jig, or trip router set. Pat and Paul Bynum were lucky enough to win 2 of the three big prizes.

We had \$2 and \$3 raffles as well, and many people went home with arms full of good equipment, books, videos and more. We had lots of great food, including home-made desserts (thank you to everyone who brought), good company and great weather.

Lots of people helped, but an especially big thanks to Bill Cole, Denis Muras and Andy Anderson who shouldered the bulk of the responsibility. Thanks to Lorraine Lewis who taught wood burning techniques. I'm especially impressed with high quality projects that don't require expensive tools or large shops. And thank you to Cliff and Monica Ober who were kind enough to stick around afterwards to help clean up.

Of course a big thank you to our local suppliers, Rockler and Woodcraft, for their donations. Please be sure to shop their stores and support them the way they support us!

Next fall we'll remind you to mark your calendar once the picnic date is announced because you won't want to miss it. And be sure to leave time Saturday after the regular meeting to join us for the shop crawl. Good chance to check out other people's setups.

...Roslyn Hager, President

## Welcome New Members

Stephen Higginbotham  
James Waters

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

### Keep your newsletter and member benefits coming!

WWCH is now accepting dues payments for 2012. Still only \$24, it's one of the best deals in town.

You can pay your dues at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting or mail your check to Norm Nichols at 10426 Overview Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77478. You can make checks out to WWCH rather than writing out the full club name.

## IN MEMORIAM

Jim Howard, a founding member of WWCH and a Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient passed away October 27, 2011. A self-made man, he started several successful businesses and was a master of many trades: plumbing, air-conditioning, heating, electrician and carpentry. He was a lifetime member of the Woodworkers Club of Houston, The National Rifle Association, The Texas State Rifle Association, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and also was a member of The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, The Loyal Order of Moose and Sons of Hermann. He was an avid traveler both in the US and abroad. He will be missed.



## NOVEMBER SPEAKERS ANDY ANDERSON AND DENIS MURAS

Denis Muras and Andy Anderson will be discussing their recent trip to the Woodworking Convention in Las Vegas. This is a huge event that alternates between Atlanta and Las Vegas each year. They planned their trip in a way that allowed for some sightseeing and they have lots of pictures.

## OPPORTUNITY

### The Art League of Baytown Presents “FACE OFF” The Essence of Mask

The Art Center of Baytown  
110. W. Texas Avenue, Baytown, Texas

A 3D competition of various media in the challenge of original expressive design within the realm of implied or actual masks whether realistic, fantastic, surreal, grotesque, serene, human or otherwise.

Entries in any medium are allowed.

**Deadline for entries: April 21, 2012**

**Delivery of entries – May 8 and 9, 2012**

**Presentation of Awards – May 19, 2012**

1<sup>st</sup> prize - \$300      2<sup>nd</sup> prize - \$200      3<sup>rd</sup> prize - \$100

Richard Williams, Juror

Please call for more information as some restrictions apply  
281-427-2222

Business Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 – 4 p.m.  
Marsha L. Landers, Chair; Billie Brinkley, Co-chair  
Priscilla Hopkins, President, Art League of Baytown

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### **November 12 – Monthly Meeting**

**Speakers: Denis Muras and Andy Anderson**

### **November 12 (after the meeting) – Shop Crawl**

See below for information on shops to be visited

### **December 10 – Monthly Meeting**

**Speakers: Representatives from Rockler and Woodcraft** New products and Christmas gift ideas for woodworkers.

### **January 21 – NEW DATE – Monthly Meeting**

**Speaker: Patrick Hood-Daniel** Building your own CNC machine.

## NOVEMBER SHOP CRAWL

**Mark Sweigart:** My shop is probably a bit different than the shops that most of our club members have. I do most of my work with hand tools. My shop is indoors in a room that can also double as a spare bedroom when necessary. I do have a couple power tools in the garage, but they get used infrequently. The heavy use of hand tools allows my shop to be rather small, and storage is key, but it is also air - conditioned during our brutal summers. This also means that all of my lumber is already acclimated to the house when I want to start a new project.



Third is **Hugh Parker's**, fourth is **Bill Cole's**, and Steve Proctor, a last-minute tour add-on. All addresses and directions will be provided at the meeting.

## WWCH BROCHURES NOW AVAILABLE

WWCH has printed a good number of tri-fold brochures in color to use as hand-outs to showcase our club, its benefits, its fun and learning opportunities, examples of our member's works, and a partial list of our community service involvement. When you showcase your work, showcase your club too. Pick up a few at the membership table and spread the word.

**Ridg Gilmore:** Below are two photos of his shop. One is an overall view and the other is a close-up of his router extension set up to use as a jointer. Ridg says to “see it now because you’ll never see it this clean again.” It’s his first time to see it this clean too! He’s celebrating and offering touring members burger sliders, served right off the table saw extension, and soft drinks. *Thanks, Ridge!*



## NOW, THAT'S A GOLDFISH BOWL



# OCTOBER SPEAKER RECAP – JOE POLICHINO

Joe Polichino presented a lot of great information on what to do, what not to do, and what you have to do when you begin to offer your works for sale. Are you a business? Are you a hobbyist? Is it income? Is it incidental income? Do you owe taxes? Do you have to register, fill out forms, and pay taxes or estimated taxes? Joe kept the members intrigued with the details and every member had a different set of circumstances to try to determine what was necessary to stay in compliance with the laws, rules and regulations.

Joe offers his services as a Volunteer Business Counselor free of charge through The SCORE Association, located at 8701 S. Gessner, Suite 1200, or you can see the website at [www.scorehouston.org](http://www.scorehouston.org).

SCORE is a resource partner with the Small Business Administration (SBA) mentoring small business owners which offers small business entrepreneurs confidential business counseling services at no charge (even though the IRS offices are on the ground floor). Score offers workshops, online workshops, and other events to help small business owners start, grow, and maintain their businesses.



**BEFORE YOU START YOUR BUSINESS**

**...KNOW THE SCORE!**

Call Joe Polichino!

Contact information: 713-773-6500 or email [score37@scorehouston.org](mailto:score37@scorehouston.org)

# WWCH PICNIC – A BEAUTIFUL AND BOUNTIFUL DAY



The day couldn't have been better, nice and cool after all the summer heat. Members arrived for a great barbeque lunch and desserts that were "sampled" before the barbeque was even unloaded! Everyone just relaxed, networked, and enjoyed the camaraderie, until the auctions! Then it was like a Roman Coliseum: tickets held tight in hands, ears straining to hear the numbers called, and groans when it was someone else's number. Denis had a lot of help pulling the winning tickets from the barrel.

It was a good day. Many members had to get a U-Haul to cart their winnings home.

There were three tables full of items that were raffled off and boxes of donated painted cars were ready for pickup.

Can't wait till next year.

... see more on page 7



# OCTOBER SHOW AND TELL

## PRESENTERS

1. **Dennis April**—Rifle Holder
2. **Jerry Hamsen**—Toy Cars
3. **Clark Kellogg**—Stool in white oak
4. **Lance Miles**—Pumpkin carving
5. **John Murray**—Rustic Table
6. **Denis Muras**—Toy Cars
7. **Larry Wenner**—Upholstered Child's Glider in Oak
9. **Bob Wink**—Art Car awards



**Clark Kellogg** shows a simple stool with turned and tapered legs in white oak with a not so simple finish of fumed ammonia. Clark explained that the stool isn't dipped in ammonia, it's exposed to the fumes of ammonia that interact with the oil turning the finish brown and deeper than stain.



Now just how do you hang on to a rifle stock when you need to clean it, Well, **Dennis April** solved that dilemma by creating a rifle stand of poplar with bolt swivels. It's still waiting for leather-threaded inserts. Made from Bob Wink's scrap materials!

**Larry Wenner** constructed this child-sized rocking chair glider of oak. The upholstered seat and back gives a nice, "homey" touch. Larry flew to Michigan to learn from the designer, just how to put this chair together and get the "toes" in the right place. Took three tries!



**Lance Miles** holds his pumpkin hand-carved in basswood and finished in milk paint. After he saw the prices for pumpkins at Hobby Lobby, he said "I can do that"! So he

**Everett Woolum** presented a slide show of a counter that he made for a friend's business. You sure can't miss this cabinet when you enter the shop. In these photos he showed how he made a simple jig to cut the mortises in the 2 x 4s that were used in the making of the above cabinet. **Thank you for the photos, Everett.**



**Warning.** If your computer starts acting crazy, gives you warning boxes saying your hard drive has no memory, and all your files are unrecoverable—unless you sent them \$75 asap! It's a virus scam! Turn off your pc and RUN to repair. And pray/pay!



# OPPORTUNITIES AND NEWS

## TEXAS RAMP PROJECT RAMPS UP IN HOUSTON

John Laine of the [Texas Ramp Project](#) spoke to our group earlier this year about his organization which constructs wheel chair ramps for people in need. He is now in the process of establishing a Houston Ramp Project Team similar to the ones that he has organized for other cities in Texas. He has a lead person, but is looking for a few others who are willing to help with either construction and/or oversight. Several WWCH members helped build a wheel chair ramp in Houston earlier this summer. If you are interested in joining the new group or would like more information, please contact John Laine at [jlaine@texasramps.org](mailto:jlaine@texasramps.org).

## NEWS ON TABLESAW LEGISLATION

Here is the latest from the CPSC on tablesaws. You can follow the link for more information, but I'm sure all the magazines and their E-zines will carry this and provide info how we can comment. Excerpts from the text indicates which way the CPSC is leaning unless they get an overwhelming number of comments. I don't know what it will take to dissuade them.

### STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT S. ADLER REGARDING THE ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (ANPR) FOR TABLE SAWS

October 5, 2011

**Today, I joined my fellow Commissioners in unanimously approving the Commission staff's recommendation to publish an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for table saws. This is the first step on the road to a possible mandatory performance standard.** I did so with a sense that we have reached a critical point with this issue.

Shortly after I joined the Commission in 2009, I saw a demonstration of a braking mechanism for table saws, called SawStop, which would stop a saw blade instantaneously upon encountering someone's finger or hand. This led me to take a look at the injury data for table saws. The injuries associated with this product are horrific – deep lacerations to the arms and hands, broken bones and, worst of all, amputations to fingers and thumbs. Injuries like these often leave victims facing long, painful recoveries as well as significant financial hardship and employment challenges. I have met a number of these individuals, and, as far as I could tell, every one of them was an experienced woodworker who made a single small misstep or had a momentary lapse in attention – with ghastly consequences. To my mind, small errors like these should not produce tragic results on such a grand scale. In the case of table saws, roughly 36,000 blade contact injuries occur annually, with about 10 percent of them resulting in amputations.<sup>1</sup>

Since 2003, the federal government has known that SawStop's flesh-sensing technology seems to virtually eliminate the amputations and severe lacerations that result from contact with a blade saw. Over the years, no one has stepped forward to challenge the efficacy of this technology. I realize that serious policy issues remain regarding how best to address table saw injuries, but I think that if someone had evidence that this new technology didn't work, we would have heard from that person.

<sup>1</sup> I note that a disproportionate number of the injured appear to be Americans 65 and older – a matter of great concern to me. I welcome any comments on specific steps that the agency might take to address safety issues with table saws for this increasingly vulnerable group of consumers

*I am also aware there are other competing technologies to SawStop that have yet to be brought to market. I know, for example, that the Power Tool Institute has developed flesh-sensing technology. Further, I have met with a gentleman named Dave Butler whose company, Whirlwind Tool Company, is seeking to patent a similar technology. I hope efforts on these and other fronts will continue. Although I find myself extremely impressed by the SawStop technology, I am not in favor of writing a standard that would result in mandating a patented technology if such a result is avoidable.*

*On this point, I note that when CPSC writes product safety standards, we do not mandate a particular technology. We write performance standards and leave it to manufacturers to decide how to meet them. Of course, simply writing a performance standard doesn't automatically guarantee that other technologies will find their way to the market, but I remain hopeful that they will.*

*My personal preference is that the table saw industry finds a way to adopt a voluntary standard that would substantially reduce or eliminate these 36,000 annual injuries. Flesh-sensing technology is definitely one solution that they should consider. Whether there are other approaches that are equally effective, I leave to them at the moment.*

*Our job is to work on behalf of consumers, keeping in mind that the cost of the safety must be reasonable. In making this point, I note that CPSC staff estimates the annual cost of table saw injuries in the billions of dollars. I also note the serious concerns in the industry about new technology adding considerably to the price of this product. This, of course, explains why the Commission wants to publish an ANPR: we need to gather more data on costs and benefits.*

**Our comment period closes in 60 days.** *I cannot stress how important it is for all interested parties to weigh in on the ANPR. Comments from the public inform and enlighten us as to whether moving forward with this mandatory rulemaking is necessary and, if so, exactly what direction it should take. I know the Commission stands ready to work collaboratively with all parties on important safety improvements. Now that we have reached this critical moment it is in the interests of all stakeholders, especially consumers, that the table saw industry, including Mr. Gass and other inventors, and the Commission continue to work together to improve table saw safety.*

<http://www.cpsc.gov/PR/adler10052011.pdf>

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 4330 East West Highway Bethesda, MD 20814**

## MORE PICNIC PICTURES

Food, glorious food!! And how sweet it is to have home baked desserts!



Some tools are a pleasure to have, but then again, some just look like work!



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### Woodcraft Is Located...

**Cypress Station Square**  
60FM 1960 West  
Houston, TX 77090  
281-880-0045

**11707 W Sam Houston Parkway S**  
Houston, TX 77031  
281-988-9449



**QUALITY WOODWORKING TOOLS • SUPPLIES • ADVICE™**

# Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

782 Maler Rd.  
Sealy, TX 77474

**NOTE:**  
January's meeting will be moved to January 21<sup>st</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. Bayland will be closed on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

## NEXT MEETING

**NOVEMBER 12, 2011**

9AM TO 11:30AM

BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER  
6400 Bissonnet

## NOVEMBER SPEAKERS

**Denis Muras and  
Andy Anderson**

Will discuss their recent trip to the Woodworking Convention in Las Vegas

## CONTACT US

***We're on the web!***

[wwch@wwch.org](mailto:wwch@wwch.org)

## WWCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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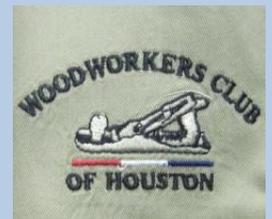
The Club now has a **binder** containing a copy of each of last year's newsletters. If you have **any back issues to add** to the binder, please bring them to the meeting.

**SHIRTS! CAPS!**

**Get yours today!**

**Join the members who already have purchased an official WWCH shirt or cap.**

Bill Cole will take your order for a shirt or a cap. Caps are available at the meetings. Shirts with your name custom embroidered must be pre-ordered from Bill Cole.



**SHIRTS: \$22.00    PRIDE: Priceless**  
**CAPS: \$6.00**

***Guests are always welcome at WWCH***

### 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 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!*

**Newsletter Publication** --This newsletter is edited and distributed by Joyce Saylan. Send content or questions by email at [sayjoyce@hotmail.com](mailto:sayjoyce@hotmail.com).