

Woodworkers Club of Houston

February, 2008
Volume 24, #2
www.wwch.org



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS

One of the first orders of business on Saturday was the announcement of the Golden Hammer and Woodworker of the Year awards. The competition was tough and many are thankful they were not part of the awards committee. Dennis Serig presented the *Golden Hammer Award* and Steve Wavro presented the *Woodworker of the Year Award*.



The **2007 Woodworker of the Year Award** went to **Lon Kelley**. Lon has been a member of the club for many years and has volunteered for a number of positions to serve his fellow members. Obviously, he is also one heck of a woodworker.

The **2007 Golden Hammer Award** goes to **Bill White**. Bill has served the club for many years as Publications Director, turning out a fantastic newsletter every month for more than 3 years.



Congratulations to both Bill and Lon on their well-deserved awards.

FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

This month's presentation will be by long-time member and supporter, Steve LeGrue. Steve is the owner of the Cutting Edge, Inc. The Cutting Edge is a premier supplier of tools and supplies for the woodworker and wood turner.

Steve's presentation will be on Basic Joinery. Steve has made numerous presentations in past years and they have been great so fully expect an outstanding program from him once again.

One programming note... We will be having the presentation in the beginning of the meeting this month instead of the later half. We are doing this to accommodate Steve's schedule and out of consideration for our presenter, I would like to see as many members present for this program as possible.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN... TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Our goal is to publish and distribute the 2008 Woodworker's Club of Houston Membership Book at the March meeting. Therefore, the deadline to have your name published in the book is the end of February so please renew your membership immediately, if you have not already done so. It is very important that you check with our Treasurer, Bill Cole, to verify the information that will be in the book. We will be printing the book from the information Bill has.

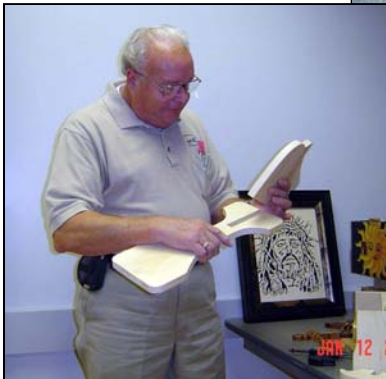
Gary Rowen will be creating the membership book and is willing to customize your information a little, if you request that he do so. Simply give Gary a note at the meeting or send him an email at row1@sbcglobal.net with your requested changes. Some of the possible changes you may want to make are using a post office box instead of your street address or including or not including a business or cell phone number.

We have received several email messages back, rejected by the mail server, for those of you who used to have a "houston.rr.com" email address. If you now have a new email address, please get that information to Gary Rowen as soon as possible. If you have not received emails from Gary lately, that could be the problem.

Current Work



Glenn Edwards holds his scroll-sawn picture of Jesus. Crafted of $\frac{1}{8}$ " birch plywood with a #5 blade, this 16 to 18 hour labor of love will be a gift to his pastor. Notice how well proportioned the words "amazing grace" are in one of Glen's -awn crosses. Glen also brought another of his projects he is working on – a child's horse. Outstanding work, Glen!



Mike Turner brought in some projects from his high school students. One design feature of the bird's eye pine tool caddy is skids. The skids keep the bottom of the caddy off the ground and help to reinforce the bottom when it is laden with tools. Another project is the stool, also built by a student. It is made of oak-veneer lumber-core plywood that was headed for the dumpster. Nice save, Mike! That could have been such a waste.



Current Work



No, this is not a filter for an industrial-sized ShopVac. This is... OK, we don't know what it is but what we do know is it is made of African imbulia and maple with accents made of dowels. It was created by **Lon Kelley**, who wants to get it entered into a juried show in north Texas later this year. To even stand a chance of getting in, it had to be weird and named. So "Piercings Galore" will be submitted. Good luck, Lon.



Richard Storm needed to build something flat to play with his new toy – a wide-belt sander. So he made some cutting boards. He says he doesn't quite have the technique nailed down but judging by these samples, he is well on his way. Nice work, Richard!

We were treated to a short video of **Ted Ojevich's** new powered router lift. Built from an inexpensive battery-powered drill he found at Harbor Freight, he moves his router up and down quickly and easily.



Current Work

There isn't enough space in this newsletter to showcase all of **Mike Breland's** recent work. Mike brought in a photo spread (digital, of course) showing the pieces he has built recently. From the mantels for the fake fireplaces at Chic-Fil-A to the Adirondack chair to the rack for military coins, Mike has been a busy boy. Here is some of his work; the rest is on the web at <http://wwch.org/MonProj/YR08/Jan08/Jan08BrelandProj.htm>



After seeing **Rich Thomas's** shop-built CNC router, I am convinced the guy was on the original engineering team for the Six Million Dollar Man. Everyone was quite impressed to see what he was able to get it to do. His control over the router bit is quite spectacular. Not bad for under \$1000! Rich also showed, via digital photos, a granite-topped kitchen island he built. One of his neighbors liked it so much, she wants one too. Great work, Rich!



Cut-Offs

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO A GREAT FRIEND!



It's not every day one of our members turns 71. On January 18th, I ventured out on a mission to help celebrate a birthday. On January 19th and 20th, there was a gathering in far north Texas to celebrate the 71st birthday of long-standing member and former board member, Ken Kooser. Ken, and 14 of his closest friends and relatives gathered in the thriving metropolis of Graham, Texas, population around 900 (thereabouts). Graham, for those of you unfamiliar with the place, is about 350 miles northwest of Houston and north of Mineral Wells.

The pretty-fair barbecue dinner we all enjoyed Saturday night filled us up, making breakfast Sunday morning somewhat unnecessary for some of us. Ken's cake was a tasty vanilla-chocolate model complete with *Lightning McQueen* (from the Disney-Pixar movie *Cars*). (As you can see in the picture to the right, Ken cleaned all the frosting off ole *Lightning* in a most-efficient manner.) We wrapped the night up with a fiery-hot game of charades with Ken's brother, daughter and 8 other family members in the lobby of the hotel, most of us in our pajamas. We even got the front desk clerk sucked into the game at one point.



For those who do not know, Ken is working as an electrical systems manager building a wind-generated power generation plant... a wind farm. I learned a lot about these giants while I was up there. I was surprised how little there is to those behemoths. When complete, the farm Ken is helping to build will have in excess of 120 megawatts of power generating capacity from more than 40 wind turbines. Phase one of the project is nearly complete. One tidbit of information... for a mere \$6 million, you can own your very own wind-powered turbine generator. That is, of course, without installation.

From the woodworking side of things, the area is nothing but scrub mesquite and cedar trees, rocks, brush and rattlesnakes. There is a sawmill south of Graham and north of Mineral Wells but he was closed both times I passed by. Ken said he has never seen it open and, judging by the size of the cedar and mesquite trees I saw growing in the area, he doesn't have much to cut that is even 6 inches wide.

AS THE GLUE DRIES

Gary Rowen

Periodically, someone writes to the club email address requesting some sort of service be performed or asking technical questions. You have probably seen those emails and many of you have responded to those requests. I do not always receive feedback regarding the results of the request but I would to share a few of them with you.

"You guys are my hero!!!! I received a call from a sweetheart who is going to help me. I cannot tell you how grateful I am. It is so frustrating when you cannot proceed with a project because you don't have the tools. By the end of the weekend I will have a beautiful banister. Yipppeeeeeeeeeee and thanks!"

and...

"And the calls keep coming. I wish everyone I dealt with on a day-to-day basis was a nice as the people in your club. Again, thanks from the bottom of my heart."

and here is a small piece of a third message from someone who visited our website and found it helpful...

"I found your website on the net and followed Ray Lancon's instruction on tung oil finish. In the past, I have finished several gun stocks and the results were so so. After following Ray's instructions as to applying Watco Tung Oil, I and several of my friends are now in the process of using his method for a tung oil finish. Just wanted to say thanks much for your instructions."

SIGNING YOUR WORK – PART 1

Kathryn Hampton

When the finish is done, you want to sign and date your handiwork... or do you? Many examples I found of pieces that were signed were given as gifts, or of art gallery quality. I think it is a nice touch in this age of mass production to have your individual creation labeled with your own signature and date in some manner.

At the Fredericksburg Fall Art Show all the different ways craftsmen provide creator information came to my attention. Being the analytical person that I am, I started thinking about all the different methods and wondering what the best way might be. I soon discovered the truism I have heard before at Texas Mesquite Association Spring Seminars ringing in my ears – There is no "right" way in woodworking; this is "my" way. In my research, it became apparent that whatever works best for you is what you should use. Here I have summarized some things you will want to consider.

What information do you want to include on your piece? Do you want to include a logo, an introductory phrase such as "Handcrafted by" or Produced with Pride by", a signature, a date-of-completion reference (year only or month and year), the type of wood, limited quantity markings, the name of the project (if it has one), a phone number or a location? What size area do you typically have for the information you want to include? Is the surface of the piece curved or flat? What type of finish will you be using?

When things are made on commission, you may want to include the customer's name "Custom Made for John Doe by Art Smith, San Antonio Texas, 2007" Think of grandkids and great-grandkids looking at that makers mark and asking about the old relative that made this piece. Customers view marked pieces as you are standing by your quality work. They can show their friends and they know where it came from! My opinion, hand signing adds more of a personal touch than other methods. It means something to some customers to have a real signature. Size matters. You may have different marks for small projects using something like a woodburning pen or a Sharpie marker. For larger pieces like furniture and cabinetry, you may use a branding iron. Wood burning logos is tough enough on flat work let alone curved objects that are turned. The easiest is permanent ink or using an engraving pencil if you have good penmanship. The use of either a stamp or an iron may not be possible if your turnings have rolled and curved areas where the mark would be placed. A stamp wouldn't be considered a signature on the art or antiques market. Of course when it's an antique I'll be past caring.

Inlay an etched brass medallion (using a photo process) set in the wood. Scroll your initials into the piece somewhere inconspicuous. Attach one of the blades that you used in the project below your mark. People will then have a greater interest and appreciation for the work done. On quality paper provide information about the project (wood species, finish, any special meaning). Then hand sign and date it, putting the information inside the piece or packaging for the new owner to find. If something is REALLY special, have a bronze or silver plate professionally engraved. Attach it using the small mounting screws. I like this method for items made for charity – include the year and event name.

Next month... More Methods and Tools for Marking Your Pieces

New Members

Mike Owens of Cypress

Announcements

It's back!! Last year's box-making contest was such a success, we are doing it again. The rules are the same as last year and will be available on the Woodworker's Club website (www.wwch.org). There will be the same three classifications of woodworkers: Advanced (limited to Woodworker of the Year award winners), Master and Novice. Master and Novice are open to all other woodworkers. Classification will be determined when the boxes are submitted for judging.

The judging will be held at the March meeting so you only have one month to get them done. Winning submissions will be retained by the club to be shown at the woodworking show in April and then returned to the owner. So get into the shop and start building those beautiful, unique boxes.

Woodworking Events

February

- 1 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 9 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 28 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

March

- 7 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 8 13th Annual Texas Mesquite Association Spring Seminar (Kendall Co. Fairgrounds / Boerne, TX)
 8 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 27 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

April

- 4 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 4 – 6 The Woodworking Show (Reliant Park)
 12 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 18 – 20 Texas Mesquite Association Art Festival-San Angelo (Fort Concho)
 24 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

May

- 2 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 2 – 4 2008 Texas Scroll Saw Picnic (Grapevine Convention Center / Grapevine, Texas)
 10 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 22 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

June

- 6
 14 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 26 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

July

- 12 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 24 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

August

- 1 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 9 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 28 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

September

- 5 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 13 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 25 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

October

- 3 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 11 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
 18 Annual WWCH Barbeque
 30 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

November

- 7 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 8 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting

December

- 5 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
 13 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting

Join the Woodworkers Club!

The Woodworkers Club of Houston is a group of about 200 men and women who truly enjoy the craft of woodworking. Our members are comprised of both professional and hobbyist woodworkers. All skill levels are represented. Our goal is to promote, educate and share the craft of woodworking.

We meet once a month on the second Saturday at the Bayland Community Center at 6400 Bissonnet, just a block west of Hillcroft. The meetings begin at 9:00 am and usually last approximately 2½ hours. During the meetings, our members are encouraged to participate and exchange ideas and experiences in woodworking through our “*show and tell*” and “*problems and solutions*” sessions. The meetings conclude with a program put on by club members, local professionals or other people involved in the craft of woodworking. Some past programs have been “router techniques”, “jig making”, “finishing”, “wood identification”, “joinery” and equipment demonstrations by manufacturers.

In addition to the monthly meeting, we also have an extensive book and video library that is free to members. That’s right, books, how-to videos and CDs are available for club members to check out at no cost for one month. We also have field trips, bulk tool and wood purchases, and are involved in several community activities during the year. So, if you love making sawdust and you want to improve your woodworking skills, this is the place for you.

Summary of Benefits

Membership has its privileges. Here are a few:

- Monthly meetings that address a variety of woodworking issues and interests
- Monthly newsletter
- Monthly tool raffle
- Hundreds of books and videos free for members to borrow
- Field trips to woodworking resources in east Texas
- Membership book
- Barbeque or picnic each year
- Splinter groups
- Bulk tool buys for members
- Club website: www.wwch.org

The Woodworkers Club of Houston is a great woodworking value. Dues are only \$24.00 per year. Join us! You’ll be glad you did.

WWCH Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are held the second Saturday of every month. We open the doors at 8:30am, program starts at 9:00am and winds up by 11:30am. Guests are always welcome at no charge.



Bayland
 Community Center
 6400 Bissonnet at Hillcroft
 Houston, TX 77074

Woodworkers Club of Houston, Texas, Inc.

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 Dir.	Bill White	(713)524-8768

Mentors	Rich Thomas	(713)666-9073
	Lon Kelley	(713)467-9011
	Mark Bolinger	(281)544-6867

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

PO Box 815
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0815



Coming Events

Saturday, February 2

Girl Scouts' *Wild About Wood* Course

Saturday, February 9

Monthly Meeting

Saturday, March 8

13th Annual Texas Mesquite Assn.
Spring Seminar, Kendall County
Fairgrounds

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The Cutting Edge offers only the finest woodworking tools and supplies.

Come visit and see our new and expanded store. We've kept all the best lines of supplies and equipment and added lumber and a few other surprises. We're still committed to providing the best sales and service in the Houston area. You won't be disappointed.

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- **Lumber from around the world**
- **Monthly Woodworking Classes**

JET

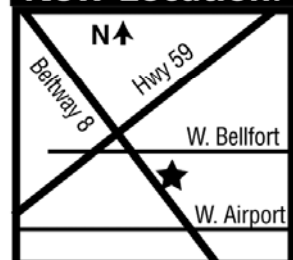
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