

Woodworkers Club of Houston

**DON'T MISS THE
SATURDAY MEETING
JAN. 10 WHEN THE
2008 WOODWORKER OF
THE YEAR IS REVEALED!**

Volume 25 Issue 1

www.wwch.org

January 2009

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: MAKE SOME SAWDUST!

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While most people enter 2009 with goals of losing weight, increasing sales, or taking more time for loved ones. Why not make 2009 the year you finally make that dream project come true? You know, that stash of lumber that's been sitting in the corner of your garage for who knows how long?

As with most resolutions, without any teeth or accountability, they're usually doomed to fail before they start. I once lost 50 lbs through a New Year's Resolution—the same 2 lbs. 25 times!

But when we come together to encourage one another and let the iron sharpen the iron, we learn that we are more than the sum of our parts. We grow and stretch as we apprentice under each other, and we accomplish more than we ever dreamed possible. That's what a membership in WWCH is all about. It's not really about the monthly meetings, though those are filled with laughter & inspiration. It's the relationships that are formed, the

Q&A that happens outside the meeting, the "Aha!" moments when one member helps another.

It's usually when we realize that our resolutions take some effort that we lay them down only to look back in



July and ask, "Where did the year go?" And it's easy to procrastinate and say "When I get that great XJ-49 Miracle Cutting Tool, THEN I'll get my project going."

At WWCH, we all know what it's like to experience frustration over a Ww'ing project that isn't going right. But we've got some able veterans who can kindly come alongside of you to assist and mentor, to help your skills go to the next level. All it takes is getting involved. What would keep you from plugging in this year? Here's hoping that 2009 is an awesome year for you, and that it forces you on many occasions to sweep up sawdust with a smile that can't be swept off your face!

2009 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

WWCH has begun receiving dues for 2009. Membership is \$24 for the year—see our new treasurer Rosalyn Hager to take care of yours today!

2009 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS INSTALLED

At the December meeting, WWCH entered into their annual business meeting to elect officers & board members for 2009. Some are new to WWCH, and some are long-time veterans, but all these men and women are here to support your work.

If you have any questions or suggestions about WWCH, please feel free to contact them from the numbers posted in this newsletter, or email through the WWCH directory.



Denis Muras, President



William "Doc" Cotton, Vice-Pres.



Steve Wavro, Secretary



Rosalyn Hager, Treasurer



Saul Harris, Director & Past President



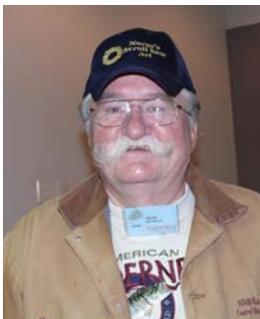
Hugh Poland, Publications Director



Andy Anderson, Director



Roy Gilbert, Director



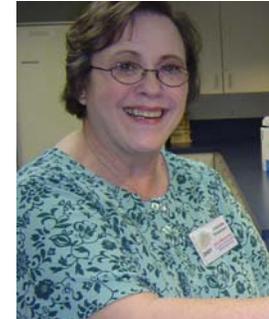
Norm Nichols, Director



John Gay, Library



Blaine Stokes, Video Library



Charlotte Robertson, Refreshments



Jeff Marks, Historian



Lorraine Lewis, Membership &



Jim Robertson, Rafflemeister



Gary Rowen, Webmeister

LOOKING FORWARD

It seems that the incoming presidents have been writing a message to the membership. Well, here is my attempt.

First, I want to thank the club for electing me to this position. This is my second time to hold this office; I was elected vice-president in 1991 and then president in 1992.

In the directory for 2008, Saul Harris listed some of the changes over the past 25 years. Where will the club go in 2009? I do

not know but I am asking the membership to become involved in their club. Changes can be brought about by even one member getting involved. As an officer of this club, I need your ideas for what you want to see in your club. We, as officers will take your ideas and determine if and how they can be implemented.

Meeting programs are another place where the membership can become involved. We have had great presentations from the

membership and I would like to ask other members that have a specialty to come forward and offer to present so we can learn from your experience. If you have a contact for someone who might be willing and able to make a presentation, let us know. If you have an interest and think the club might be interested as well, point us in that direction and we will see if it can be made to work.

Denís Muras

TEXAS SCROLL SAW PICNIC

Norm Nichols

Last year's Texas Scroll Saw Picnic was such a success that the DFW Scrollers and Lyndal's Backyard Workshop are going to co-sponsor the picnic again this year. So mark your calendar for Friday April 17, 2009, and Saturday April 18, 2009. This year's event will ALL be held at the Denton Civic Center in Denton, Texas. That means not going to different facilities for different activities. Won't that be nice? Even the BBQ will be at the Civic Center.



The registration fee is \$8 for pre-registration or \$10 at the door. At the time of this writing the pre-registration is not available,

but it is due to be online this month. Keep checking this website for updates: www.dfwscrollers.com

There will be a contest and bragging tables. Plan

on bringing your items to put into the competition and a few more to put on the bragging tables. The competition is really a lot of fun. If you have never done it before, you really should give it a try. You never know what the judges are looking for, so you might just come back with a ribbon, or two. And then there are the bragging tables. A great place to show off your stuff and meet and talk to other scrollers.

The best part of this picnic will be the grand door prize – an Excalibur EX-21. I did not win the one last year so I had to buy my own. Hopefully you will have better luck than me and bring home a new saw.

That's all for now. Go mark April 17th and 18th on your calendar right now. I will have more later, but in the meantime go check out the website above.

(Editor's note: Norm's modesty prevented him from mentioning that he won several awards at last year's picnic, including "Best of Open." We're proud of you, Norm—now get out there and win some more this year!)



DECEMBER SHOW 'N TELL



Bob Wink is helping some see the light after crafting these fine lamps out of oak in the Arts and Crafts tradition. The table lamp features an opalescent stained glass, the unfinished wall lamp is inspired by the Greene brothers, and the outdoor lamp tower owes its inspiration to none other than the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright.



Glen Edwards is a giving individual—he made these scrollwork crosses for everyone who works at his church—and it's a big church, so that's a lot of people! Of course, look no further than the subject matter of Glen's work to see where his giving spirit comes from!

No, this is not your friendly neighborhood dentist endorsing another dental hygiene product, it's Norm Nichols with a toothpick holder! He also scrollsawed some beautiful earrings for Christmas gifts, but declined to model them for us, for which all at the meeting were grateful!



DECEMBER SHOW 'N TELL



Santa Saul was our presenter for December, and he shared about several stocking stuffer tools.



Ridg Gilmer read the article "Better Way to Build a Box" from Fine Woodworking Magazine, and decided he could do that! Ridg's box is oak with a birch top & walnut splines.



Steve LeGrue enjoys taking wood no one else wants and making something beautiful from it. Among his offerings are several "copperized" vessels from maple, pecan, & oak burl, some with corian tops. He also brought a "dead flat" cutting board. Steve Driver presented LeGrue with a truck featuring the "Cutting Edge" logo on the side as a small token of thanks for Steve's support of woodworkers in Houston.



Our new President shows off some impressive scroll sawing with University Plaques for Auburn and University of Texas. Hmm . . . Look at Denis' hat, and look at the plaque on the right . . . Looks like we have a Presidential scandal already, and he's barely in office!



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

Longtime Houston-area woodworker Roy Barnes recently passed away and left his wood-working library to WWCH. The Barnes family is in our thoughts and prayers, but we also say "Thank You" for passing along a legacy of your father and husband.

Former WWCH member Charles Parrot passed away recently. We will miss his humor and knowledge at our meetings.

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

WWCH SHIRTS

Long or short sleeve shirts with the WWCH logo on them are available for \$19 ea. See Bill Cole at the next meeting to order yours.

Thank You notes have been received from Texas Children's Hospital, HPD of the City of Houston, and The House of Amos. All were recipients of toys for children during the Christmas season.

Trading Post

FOR SALE

New Porter-Cable Router—\$80
Contact Mike Turner at 281-634-2340

Shelving Components
Upright 12"x18" \$10 ea.
Shelves 35" x 18" x 3/4" ply \$5
Contact Andy Anderson at 713-723-1030 or email
Anmderson@hal-pc.org

MDF for cheap! Saul Harris reports he can get us 1/2" and 3/4" MDF sheets for \$6 ea. Contact sharris@sawdustcreek.com and he can place the order for us.

WANTED

Help to build a custom computer desk for me. See sketch at <http://colorblindpicaso.squarespace.com/photoblog/2008/11/17/desk-design.html>
Contact Christopher Butler at 979-777-7794.

I need to clean out my garage. I have a stack of rough cut quarter sawn "white" oak (*quercus virginiana*). I cut it myself and kiln dried it about 10 years ago. It has been "air stacked" and in storage since that time. Each board is 1-2" X 8-16" x 8-10 feet long. One board is a 3"x4"x 8 foot beam. I am considering selling it. I would rather trade it to somebody who will make a blanket chest for my wife. If you are interested please send me an email. Thank you very much. Contact bell914@alltel.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.

HUH?

Most of us readily see the danger in listening to loud music for extended periods of time. Rock concerts, Ipods, and car stereos all seem to be louder than ever before.

But those same woodworkers who would never think of listening to loud music walk right into the shop and fail to use hearing protection, justifying it by saying "It's only a cut or two—I won't be in there long."



As a piano player turned woodworker—I'm pretty much a stickler with regard to safety. I need all 10, and I need my hearing—without one or the other, I'm in trouble as a musician.

I've even heard woodworkers laugh about this, saying "I'm already deaf—what does it matter?"

It matters a lot. Think of what you miss when your hearing is impacted—the singing of a bird, the sound of a granddaughter's voice, the whistle of a teakettle. Not to mention it's frustrating for your friends and family to have to repeat everything to you. Here are different kinds of hearing protection:

Expandable foam plugs

Inexpensive and readily available at many local retailers, these are made of an elastic material that easily conforms to the shape of the ear canal. They can be reused, but it is not recommend to reuse someone else's ear plugs.

Canal Caps

These are ear plugs on a flexible plastic or metal band. The tips are either pre-molded or expandable foam. The band allows you to hang the ear plugs around your neck when it is quiet. When you are about to fire up a power tool you can quickly insert them into your ears.

Earmuffs

Earmuffs come in a variety of styles and sizes. They work by completely covering the ear with a clam shell. The shell is made out of hard plastic and has soft foam covered in vinyl pad around the outer rim. The inside of the clam shell is lined with sound absorbing material usually foam.

People who wear eye glasses and men with heavy beards may have a hard time getting a good seal. The temple arm of they eye glasses creates a gap that allows sound to enter into the earmuff. For men with heavy side burns and bears the hair may prevent a solid seal and will render earmuffs fairly unusable.

It's never too late to retain what hearing you do have left. It only takes a few seconds to put your ear plugs back in or your ear muffs back on, but they make a difference for a lifetime. Maybe you won't say "Huh?" as much!

THE LAST LAUGH

He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She kept her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his feet.

No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, 'They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear 'em.'

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But, she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Where are your Mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots."

The teacher will be eligible for parole in three years.

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	Denis Muras	9779-885-7071
Vice President	"Doc" Cotton	832-379-0549
Secretary	Steve Wavro	281-424-5471
Treasurer	Rosalyn Hager	
Publications	Hugh Poland	832-244-1782
Webmaster	Gary Rowen	281-728-8471
Mentor	Lon Kelley	713-467-9011
Mentor	Mark Bollinger	281-544-6867

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

782 Maler Rd.
Sealy, TX 77474

Coming Events

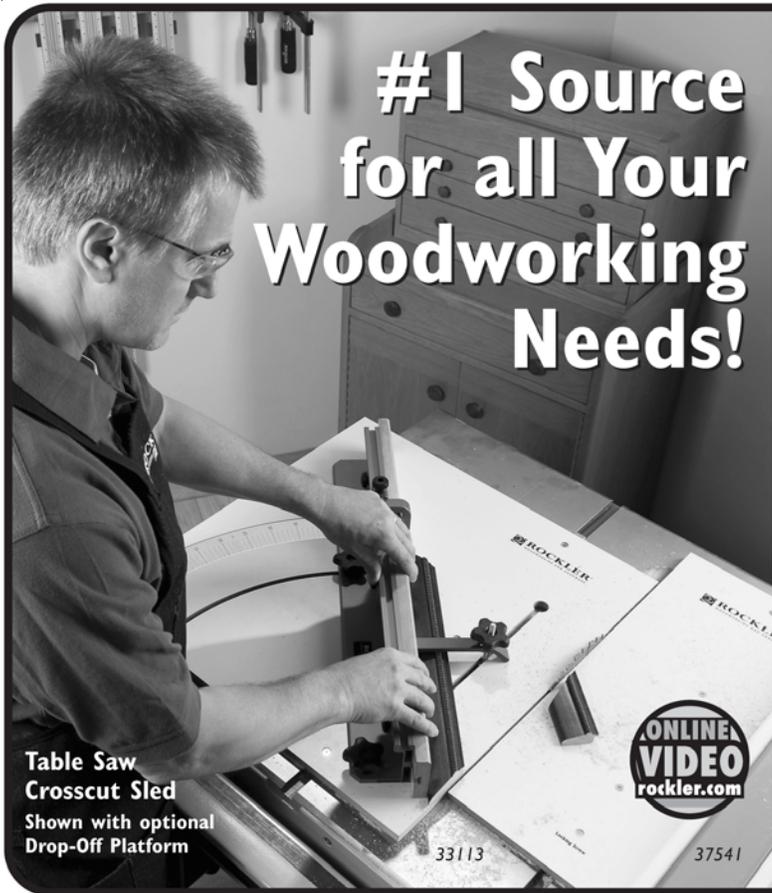
Saturday, January 10
Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30

Fourth Thursday of Every Month
Hand Tool Splinter Group in Sugar Land

March 31-April 2
National Woodworking Show in Katy

April 17-18, 2009, Denton, TX
Texas Scroll Saw Picnic

To be sure your woodworking-related event is listed in this space, please contact Hugh Poland at 832-244-1782 or hpoland@earthlink.net.



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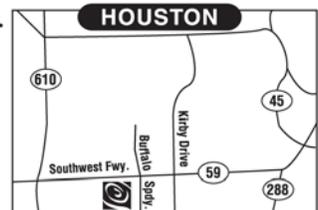
15% Off any one item*

Woodworkers Club of Houston members only. Excludes sale items, power tools, Leigh jigs, Porter-Cable dovetail jigs Shark CNC, Omni jigs, Festool, Fein, and Rockler Gift Cards. Not valid with any other coupon or offer. Valid at the Houston Rockler retail store only. One-time use only. Offer valid thru 2/15/09

3265 Southwest Fwy.
(713) 622-6567

Rockler.com

Store Hours:
M-F 9 am-7 pm
Sat 9 am-6 pm
Sun 10 am-5 pm



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