

# Woodworkers Club of Houston

**SEE YOU AT THE NEXT  
MEETING ON JULY 12!**

Volume 24 Issue 7

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## SHOP CRAWL A GREAT SUCCESS

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On June 14, WWCH members and guests alike braved the heat and dodged raindrops to enjoy a wonderful shop crawl experience .

All four shop hosts were extremely hospitable, and very patient as they answered questions. We salute Monte Richard, Sid Hockens, Norm Nichols, and Jeff Marks for allowing us to traipse through their shops and try out their equipment.

One thing we were all reminded of: There is no right or wrong way to set up a shop. Whether it's a dedicated building with it's own AC or a simple corner of the garage, the

“right way” is simply the way that allows you the freedom to create what you want when you want.

*There is more  
than one  
right way  
to set up shop*

You can spend a lot, or you can spend a little, but the right shop is the one that puts a smile on your face when you walk inside it.

For those of us who aren't yet empty nesters and still have children in

our homes, our garages are liable to be part woodshop/part bicycle tire fixing station/part wounded bird hospital/part softball equipment storage.

I know my shop is not the well-ordered “studio” that I envision having someday. But any time I grow discouraged when I catch my shirt on bicycle handlebars or have to set aside skateboards every time I begin to work in the shop, I grow extremely thankful and remember one thing: I enjoy shaping wood, but my greater calling right now is to shape kids who will grow up into responsible adults.

## THE PASSING OF A FRIEND

A revered WWCH member has laid aside his saw and gone home to meet The Master Carpenter. Art Chester passed away on June 25, 2008.

Arthur Chester was an extremely dedicated member of WWCH, having served three terms as a Vice-President of our club, and three terms as a

Board member. He received the Golden Hammer Award in 2002, and was also presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Arthur was also part of the “Greatest Generation,” having served honorably in WWII, where he was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Arthur leaves behind his loving wife Gail and many friends and family. Those who miss Arthur and wish to contribute in his memory may do so through the Arbor Day Foundation, the National Flag Foundation, or Prince of Peace Catholic Church Building Fund.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ken Hall  
Neil Dougharty  
Bob Wink  
Lee Bedford

# WILD ABOUT WOOD

(Reprinted from May/June 2008  
Golden Link Magazine)

GSSJC hosted 30 girl/adult teams for a special woodworking workshop at Program Place on February 2 of this year. The objective of the workshop was to empower and educate girls and their



adult partners about the craft of woodworking and to teach conservation of natural resources, basics of woodworking and preservation of resources. Each team was challenged to return to their troops and share the new information to help them earn the new Wild About wood Council Program Patch. This patch was created by our friends at Gifts with Heart, Susan Mullins and Rosalind Rolls.

The session introduced girls to woodworking by professional woodworkers, a discussion on conservation, and an overview of various hand tools. They completed the workshop with a hands-on Build and Grow project made by the teams. Girls in the morning sessions made a boat and had the option to donate it to the Gifts with Heart Project.

“We do this to empower and educate women about the craft of woodworking,” said Susan Mullins, president of Design 1-2-3. She gave an overview of the Wild about Wood and Gifts with Heart Council patches and general resources available to girls and adults.

Rosalind Rolls, program coordinator with Gifts with Heart, focused on some

of the conservation related requirements from the Tree Hugger, Endangered Species and Protecting Woods in Texas, Mother Nature and Think Green sections.

Woodworkers Club Members spoke on the various tools available to girls to learn, allowing girls to complete sections of the Wood so Wonderful and Let’s Talk Tools sections.

Members of the Woodworkers Club of Houston and Gulf Coast Woodturners Association assisted the teams as they completed their hands-on project during the last session for the workshop.



Each team left with a mini tool kit filled with resources, including a tape measure, instructional CD with project ideas, pencil, miter saw, miter box and safety goggles.

Partnerships with the Woodworkers Club of Houston, Gulf Coast Woodturners Association, Lowe’s Jet Tools and Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council made this a day to remember. Troop Leader Jennifer Williamson said “This workshop was long overdue.” Thank you, woodworkers Andy, Jerry, Norm and woodturner Dave for helping us share the joy of woodworking!



Women and woodworking is a natural connection! Woodworking used to ONLY be a male hobby... that’s changing! Susan Mullins, Gifts with Heart Founder, and a professional designer who has designed for companies such as Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdales and Walt Disney, is here to help you learn, and have fun along the way!

**Who:** Girl Scout adults (female or male)

**Bonus:** Each adult may bring ONE (1) registered Girl Scout, age 5 - 17

**Why:** *Wild About Wood* is a new Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council Patch, developed in partnership with Jet Tools and Design 1-2-3, GSSJC form F-768.

**What:** The patch introduces Girl Scouts to the magic of working with wood. The objective of the course is to empower leaders in understanding and working with wood and to help their troop with earning the requirements for the patch. *This training is not meant to be a troop workshop.* Included in the course are:

(Continued on page 5)

# JUNE SHOW 'N TELL

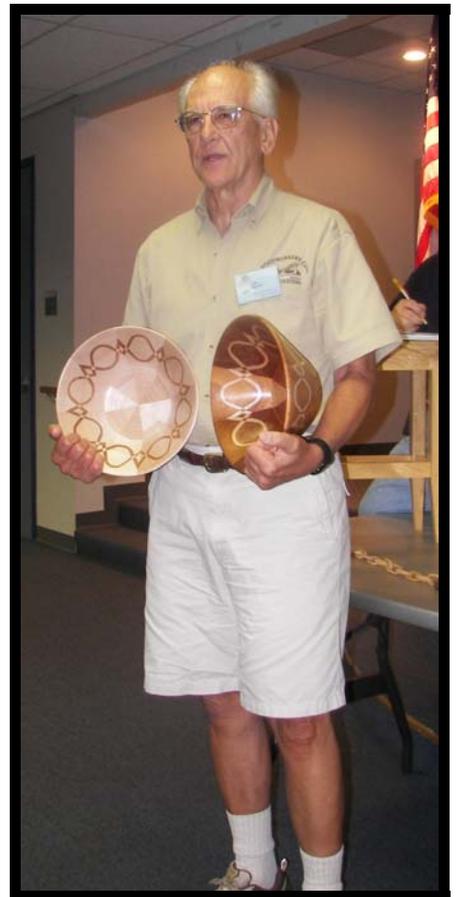


Rich Thomas has always brought a great mix of humor and craftsmanship to all the WWCH meetings. This final offering from Rich was his first effort at mortise & tenon joinery, and it was made from oak firewood and a piece of walnut. We will miss you, Rich, as you move on to South Carolina. Members can still contact Rich at [rich.thomas@pdq.net](mailto:rich.thomas@pdq.net)



We know a proud grandfather when we see one—Glenn Edwards modified some plans to build this rocking chair for his granddaughter Paige out of white oak. (See more about Glenn on p. 4).

**WHAT PROJECT HAVE YOU BEEN CLAMPING UP LATELY?**



What would a WWCH meeting be without some original Lon Kelley works? These segmented 8-part bowls are made from mahogany and maple. Lon, you bowl us over with your work—thanks for being such an inspiration to us all.



Glenn's scroll-sawed dove is titled "The Fruits of the Spirit." Looks like some fruit we all could use in our lives.

**GIVE US  
A CHANCE  
TO SEE  
YOUR LATEST  
HANDIWORK!**

## WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?

You see the pictures of Glenn Edwards from the June Show 'n Tell, but there's more to Glenn than a well-crafted rocking chair or a scrollsaw sign.

Glenn has been in the printing business for years, and currently serves at a local church in their printshop department.

But as Glenn watched the older men around him, he found a lack of suitable mentors. Over and over he found himself attending the funerals of men who had thrown themselves into their vocations, but when they retired, they seemingly had nothing to live for.

"I vowed that would never happen to me," says the energetic man with a smile as wide as the Grand Canyon. So he got the fever for woodworking as a young man, and has kept at his craft all these years.

Glenn has an RBI scroll saw, and enjoys crafting a variety of items, some of which he sells, some of which he gives away as gifts.

Nothing to live for? If that describes you, come join us at our next WWCH meeting. You'll find plenty of friendly folks and helpful guys that can help you see that there's life beyond the salt mine!

## THE MOST UNDERRATED TOOL

Have you had a brush with greatness lately? No, we're not asking if you've run into Brad Pitt at the mall, or had tea with the Queen of England. Have you had to use a brush in finishing a project lately?

This may come as a surprise to some of you, but not all brushes are created equal. It's easy to run into your local hardware store and grab the cheapest stick with attached bristles that you can find. But if you take a little more time, and are willing to not be quite as cheap, you may find a greatly underrated tool that will make all the difference in how your project looks when you are finished.

Brushes have been made for thousands of years, but a smart woodworker doesn't use a "one size fits all" approach to choosing a brush. The tried and true shape of a finishing brush features bristles that are cut into a chisel shape. Tapered bristles also help flow the finish on smoothly.

When applying varnish or brushing lacquer, reach for a "China

Bristle Brush" made from hog hairs from China. These bristles have a natural taper that provides strength while putting more bristles in contact with the surface.

Synthetic bristles, such as nylon or polyester, work well with water-based finishes, and brushes made from golden nylon give great results when working with shellac.



Yes, cleanup of a brush is probably the least favorite job of a woodworker. Don't just dump your brush into a jar of solvent and leave it there until the next time you need it. Work

the solvent into the brush with your fingers. If you used the brush with varnish, clean it with mineral spirits, then lacquer thinner. If you used shellac, bathe it in ammonia and hot water. After rinsing with the solvent, re-rinse the brush with soap and water, then spin it to get rid of as much water as possible. Finally, put the brush back in its original cardboard jacket, or wrap it in a paper sack. You'll be glad you took the extra time to clean your brush, because next time you're ready to use it, it will be as good as new.

## TAKING IT FOR GRANITE...

Make no bones about it—some guys are so proud of their table saw they swear you could eat off of it. And if Steel City Toolworks has anything to say about it, you might be able to do just that very soon.

Steel City has launched a line of tools in which they use granite, not steel or cast iron, as the table top for their table saw, band saw, and jointer.

Granite is heavy enough to absorb vibration. And it won't rust, so you won't be afraid to put your coffee cup on it. Another plus is that it is dead flat, and early reviews say it is easier to mount to the table saw than a cast iron top. But there are drawbacks. While granite is super tough, there is still the chance that it could chip on the edges, particularly if a heavy tool was dropped



on it. In addition, you'd have to throw away your magnetized featherboards, because obviously they wouldn't work.

Finally, there is the danger that if your wife saw your new table saw with a countertop better than she has in her kitchen, you might be in for a long haul of giving her a kitchen makeover. At the very least, she would probably ask you to cook dinner in your shop, since you would have such a beautiful table saw that even Emeril

Lagasse would covet!

Steve LeGrue at The Cutting Edge now carries Steel City Tools. Give him a call at 713-981-9228.

## WILD ABOUT WOOD CONT'D.—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SEPT. 27

- an introduction to woodworking by professional woodworkers
- instructional materials, project ideas, hand tools
- hands-on activities linked to the program patch
- a project to make

### Three different dates and sites:

**When:** Tuesday, September 23, 6-8 pm

**Where:** Lowe's of Meyerland, 4645 Beechnut St., Houston, TX, 77096

**When:** Thursday, September 25, 6-8 pm

**Where:** Lowe's of Spring, 1609 Spring Cypress Rd, Spring, TX 77388

We really need volunteers for the 27th to take visitors through the tool corral and show off the basic tools, then help with a build and grow project.

**When:** Saturday, September 27, 9-11 am

**Where:** Lowe's of E. Houston, 6161 E. Sam Houston Pkwy. N., Houston, TX, 77049

**Cost:** \$15/adult if bringing a registered Girl Scout, please note the name of the girl in the comments area

**Due Date:** Two weeks prior to the event

**Register:** Complete a Program Registration Form  
**Contact:** Melinda Gaskill, 713-292-0232, 800-392-4340, ext. 1232 or mgaskill@sjgs.org

Theresa Hunter, Registrar, 713-292-0318, thunter@sjgs.org

## CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

Business cards with the WWCH contact info are now available. They feature the logo and the website, and are a great way to invite others to come to the meetings. Pick some up this next Saturday.

As WWCH nears its 25th anniversary, we would like to honor the memory of deceased members. If you have any names & info for any of our late members, please contact President Saul Harris.

Save the date for the annual WWCH picnic October 18. We'll feature great food, some fun and challenging contests, and a great way to build relationships. If you can help with the picnic, contact one of the members of the board.

*We're on the web!*  
[www.wwch.org](http://www.wwch.org)

Try these sites for videos:

<http://www.popularwoodworking.com/video/>  
[www.finewoodworking.com](http://www.finewoodworking.com), click on any "Glue Tube" link on the front page  
<http://thewoodwhisperer.com>  
<http://www.diynetwork.com/diy/woodworking/>  
<http://www.woodcraft.com/Videos.aspx>  
 Don't forget YouTube.com!

## Trading Post

### FOR SALE

Routers, table saws, drill presses, and grinders. Contact Saul Harris—713-299-3785

Hinge Boring Machine with 35mm cup for Euro Cabinets. Contact Saul Harris or any member of the WWCH board for details.

Mahogany and Birch for sale, 1"-2" thickness, varying lengths. Contact Gerald at 713-244-4519.

Bamboo, approximately 1-2.5 inches in diameter 4 to 6 feet long. Contact Tom Cunningham @ 713-894-2610

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](mailto: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.



Brace yourself for more ads in our August edition of the newsletter. If we had more ads, the editor wouldn't have to resort to corny puns to fill space.

## WOODWORKING ON THE TUBE

Time was when we waited for Saturday morning, knowing that we'd get to watch an episode of Norm Abrams "New Yankee Workshop" or Scott Phillips "American Woodshop" on TV. Then came the VCR, and we found we could record these shows and watch them at our leisure.

Of course, when you become a member of WWCH, you have at your disposal a vast video library of shows and training videos from many different woodworkers. Blaine and Esther Stokes do a fantastic job as our video librarians.

But the internet has made woodworking videos available to us on



demand. Most of the major woodworking magazines have their own section of videos that you can watch online. They vary from project plans to tips and techniques. Some, such as Fine Woodworking Magazine, require you to be a sub-

scriber to the magazine in order to see all of the videos. But even they feature some "freebies" on their "Glue Tube" channel. (Check out the one where tablesaw kickback is demonstrated.)

[www.thewoodwhisperer.com](http://www.thewoodwhisperer.com) is the website of Marc Spagnuolo, and Marc has a fresh approach. While I love Norm Abrams, he goes pretty fast for me, and often my head is spinning as he talks about various angles and techniques. Marc describes techniques in a simpler fashion, and he adds a splash of humor in every video, unlike the loveable but rather wooden Norm.

Another basic place to look for various woodworking videos is [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). But beware, there are some less-than-qualified people out there showing you different techniques, and many of them don't use many safety precautions. While you can learn something from watching video, perhaps the best tried and true method is to seek out one of the mentors of WWCH, and invite them to your shop. They'll answer your questions patiently and help you grow to the next level as a woodworker.

## THE LAST LAUGH

### The Woodworker's Prayer

Oh Lord,

So far today I've not cut myself nor anyone else. I've not coveted my neighbor's tools and I've not damaged any of my own. For I've not been tempted to buy one of those fancy laser guided

clamps that Norm uses on the New Yankee Workshop. I've not messed up any of my projects, nor had any cause to take thy name in vain.

For this I give thanks.

But Lord... I'm going to get out of bed soon and then I'll need all the help that You can offer.

## 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, July 12  
Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30

First Friday of Every Month  
Hand Tool Splinter Group in Sugar Land

Saturday Sept. 27  
Wild About Wood Girl Scout Woodworking Event

Saturday, October 18  
Annual WWCH Picnic

To be sure your woodworking-related event is listed in this space, please contact Hugh Poland at 281-360-0673 or hpoland@earthlink.net.

## 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.

- Woodworking Machinery
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- Carving Tools
- English Hand Tools
- Japanese Hand Tools
- Lumber from around the world
- Monthly Woodworking Classes

  
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