

CAN YOU SPARE SOME CHANGE?

Inside this Issue:

<i>Change</i>	1
<i>WWCH Library</i>	2
<i>Handsaws</i>	3
<i>June Show n Tell</i>	4-5, 7
<i>Club News & Views</i>	6
<i>The Last Laugh</i>	7

How much change have you seen in your lifetime? My grandfather marveled at the sight of his first airplane, probably in some of the same ways I marveled at my first glimpse of the internet. And as the analog to digital conversion has shaped transportation, communication, and entertainment, so it is shaping woodworking.

Our grandfathers, if they were woodworkers, only dreamed about the tools that we have access to in this day and age. Of course, electricity brought us the power tools, but the digital age of measurement has brought us tools that are more accurate than those of yesteryear.

A CNC router would have seemed like something from a Tom Swift novel years ago, mere science fiction. But its use is commonplace in industry, and as prices come down, it is showing up in more home workshops as well.

But is all change good? In this age of information overload, every time I get a new phone I have to take it to one of my daughters to get her to program it for me. Is there some point where “newer & better, faster & more powerful” needs to

take a backseat to what is practical and utilitarian?

Woodworkers are just like anyone else. We go to the local tool n drool and fantasize about buying the latest. But if we don't have a real good plan for how we will use our new tool, it gets a little dust sitting in the shop, and ultimately gets moved to a cabinet to make way for yet another tool.



An antique Adze, probably one of the first woodworking tools in North America.

And that's what separates woodworking from any other hobby.

While we can shell out the bucks on the latest high-tech tool, we can also use a simple spokeshave or hand saw to make some of the most beautiful projects that can be found.

Don't get me wrong—I don't want to go back to the age of the Adze. I like my power tools just fine. But even an Adze has its uses. Hold onto your heritage as a woodworker. Don't be afraid to try something new. But don't be so overcome by the new that you forget what worked well in the first place.

WELCOME NEW WWCH MEMBERS!

Mark Behring
Jason Calley
Ted Clements
Scarlett Cooley
Joe Hall
Everett Woolum
Chuck Yates

SSH... WE'RE IN THE LIBRARY

John Gay

How many librarians does it take to change a light bulb? “Well, I don’t know off-hand, but we can look it up!” John Gay has forgotten more about wood-working than a lot of guys will ever remember, and John serves as our WWCH librarian. Like most librarians, John is a storehouse of knowledge, and if he doesn’t know the answer, he can probably put his hands on a book that will help you. Here’s a few words from John:

It has been a while since I let you guys know about what is going with our grand library. Well to begin with, I have some free time now so the first thing to do was to improve the traveling bookcase to version 2.0. There were some minor structural problems with the frame so that has been reinforced, the slides have been improved, the locks are better now and the casters are larger. These are some much needed improvements.

Now it’s time to fill it up! That’s not as easy of a task as you may think! We’ve got a lot of books on a lot of subjects. The best way to fill it back up is to find out what publications are wanted. I’ve been taking notes during the ‘question and answer’ part of the meeting and looking at what has been in the ‘show and tell’. This was a good way to restock the shelves with books that would be of greater interest to our members. I’m making a list of what books will be at the meetings.

Should you want something from the main branch, just check our library on the web site and give

me an e-mail at JohnLGay@earthlink.net (preferred method) or call me at 713-557-3926 and leave a message if I don’t answer.

The other good news is that the library is going to grow a lot very soon. Andy and Sal

both informed that they have a lot of good books coming my way. I’m looking forward to that. It will take a few days to sort it all out but well worth the effort.

The library has hundreds of volumes in its collection, but John can’t bring them all each time. Books on everything from tools to methods to finishing to wood species. If it’s too hot in your shop to work, why not check out a book and enjoy reading it in the AC? You’ll learn something for your next foray into the shop.



John Gay with the old library cart

Don’t forget our Video library as well! Blaine Stokes does a great job of bringing the tapes and DVDs each month, and has a great memory of what is in what tape. Take advantage of these WWCH opportunities—membership DOES have its privileges!

I SAW WHAT YOU DID LAST NIGHT!

Why are there so many different types of hand saws out there? “Because,” says Christopher Schwarz, editor of Popular Woodworking Magazine, “There are so many different kinds of people out there.”

For the handsaw novice, Schwarz recommends purchasing two saws initially: One with small teeth and one with little teeth.

Schwarz writes in his July blog that when he bought a cheap dozuki saw it changed his life. He could cut dovetails or other joints in thin stock with the dozuki. He later upgraded to a Multiwindow 240 mm saw that served him well for cutting all joints bigger than a drawer dovetail.



Dozuki Saws

While Schwarz enjoys cutting dovetails with a dozuki instead of a traditional dovetail saw, he says they are slow in cuts that are deep and wide, especially in dense woods. A dozuki would be the wrong saw to use for cutting a tenon, for example. In that case a bigger saw is needed.

A saw with bigger teeth and a deeper gullet will cut tenons well. Lie-Nielsen makes a great 16” tenon saw.



Lie-Nielsen 16” Tenon Saw

Ideally, Schwarz says, you would get both a dovetail saw and a tenon saw. Get the dovetail saw filed for 15 ppi rip. Get the big saw (14” long or longer) filed for 10 or 11 ppi rip.

But again—so many saws and so little time. How will you know which one is right for you? A good option, says Schwarz, is to go to a woodworking show and try all the saws

you can get your mitts on. Try the saws one at a time making different cuts on different woods. Make notes on the saw, it’s heft, the feel of the handle, the kerf, and the price. Consider how you would be using the saw. Is this just another toy for the toybox that will get used once and be put in a drawer somewhere? Or will it be an everyday staple of your shop?



Lie-Nielsen Dovetail Saw

After trying all the forms side-by-side, Schwarz decided that he preferred Western saws with a coarse tooth and a long (but thin) sawplate.

Of course, everyone needs a basic hand saw for construction purposes. Just don’t expect it to produce tight-fitting joints. If you have a chance to try out the saws in someone else’s collection, do not pass up the opportunity. The right saw in the right hands can do incredible work. It’s just a matter of matching the right saw with the right woodworker.

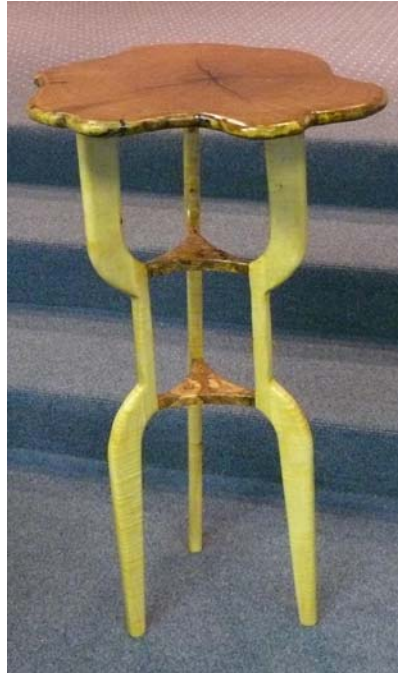


“Yeah, this baby’s the only saw I’ll ever need!”

JUNE SHOW 'N TELL



Randy Abramson shows that mesquite is not just for grilling



Longtime WWCH member Steve LeGrue loves to turn objects with wet wood, and the vase below and the bowl above are shaped from Pear wood.



Matt Adams used cocobolo to craft these beautiful planes (below) with the help of fellow WWCH member Jeremy Grubb.



Clark Kellogg (right) recycled some water-logged Cypress to build this beautiful bench. The plane above the bench is Clark's own hand-made coopering tool.



JUNE SHOW 'N TELL



Norm Nichols continues to scrollsaw, and recent examples from his shop are this cross and the rose made from Bodark. The inset shows trivets made from wine bottle corks. Did Norm drink all of that by himself?



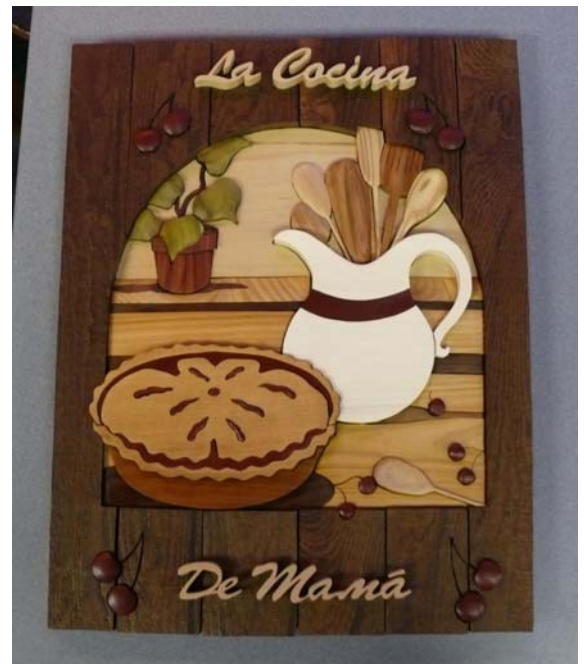
When you don't have the right tools, just make them yourself! That's the resourcefulness of Lowell Holmes, who made a couple of marking tools and cutting tools that can be seen on his Stickley White Oak table.



Steve Wavro continues to amaze us with his intarsia. The pie looks good enough to eat!



Chuck Graham made an heirloom for a grandchild out of maple and padauk.



CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

Show n Tell Change

If you bring an item for Show n Tell to a monthly meeting, please sign in on the new sign-in sheet to let us know you have brought your project. This will help us run that part of the meeting more efficiently. Thanks!

Special New Member

The board has decided to honor famed woodworker Sam Maloof posthumously with a lifetime membership to WWCH. Maloof, famed for his smooth lines and exemplary skills, passed away earlier this year.

Trading Post

Lee Valley round spokeshave, like new IOB, \$90. Lee Valley flat spokeshave, like new, \$90. Record 778 rebate plane, like new IOB w owner's manual, \$85. Stanley 81 scraper plane, repaired handle, no blade, \$5 obo. Delta drill press mortising attachment, 3 bits, \$25. Brace drill, unknown make, \$5. Contact: Mark Bollinger at 281-242-4712, leave message. Or email to marksmithb@windstream.net.

I am looking for someone who can make a box or humidior from some very old Rosewood from an old piano. I would also like to incorporate some of the ebony and ivory keys into an inlaid design. Contact John Cannon at 713-653-5735 or email jcannon@coatsrose.com

FREE SHOPSMITH. Usual accessories included. Disposing of it for a neighbor. I need to get out out of my carport. Unit runs. Head will have to be rebuilt. I have rebuilt two so rebuilding isn't rocket science. Contact: Bob Black, 713 668 1983 or email: bob_black@sil.org

I am looking to have some custom made shelves for our play room. Contact Geoff Kaplan, Head Athletic Trainer Houston Texans office 832-667-2214 cell 281-635-6263 gkaplan@houstontexans.com

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, July 18, for an upcoming sale at the Woodcraft Store on Beltway 8. Contact Denis Muras at 713-876-0087 or email denis_muras@yahoo.com

Trading Post ads are always free, but subject to available space. To place or remove an ad in the newsletter, contact Hugh Poland at 832-244-1782 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.

BOX-MAKING CONTEST



How's that box coming? You haven't started yet? October will be here before you know it, and wouldn't it be a shame if you'd had all year to build one and never got around to it?

This year's contest will be part of the October Picnic meeting. Boxes will be judged in two categories: Beginner & Expert. Build your box out of any material (but remember, this is a WOODworkers club!) and it will be judged by two standards:

1. Heirloom—judged on finish, joinery, practicality
2. Art—anything goes!

JUNE SHOW 'N' TELL CONT'D.



Lon Kelley can take our “trash” and turn it into treasure, as he took ordinary plywood and crafted a bowl and two cutting boards.

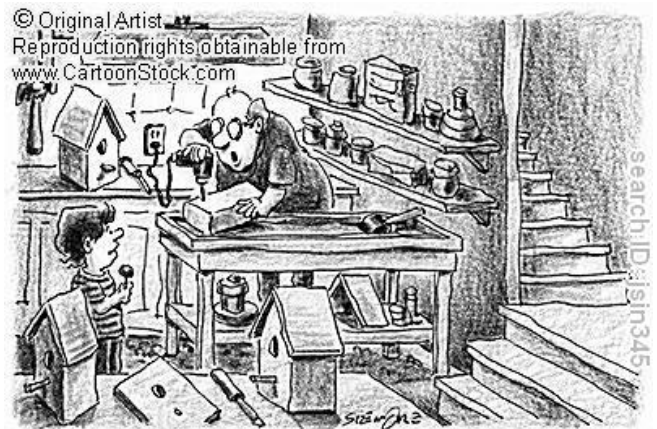


THE LAST LAUGH

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees.

"Yes, sir," the new employee replied. "My whole family are devout believers."

"Well, that explains it," the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!"



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"Here's how it works, Freddie. Men never do figure out what women want, so eventually we all sign up for woodworking."

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 Officers

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Denis Muras |
| Vice President | "Doc" Cotton |
| Secretary | Steve Wavro |
| Treasurer | Roslyn Hager |
| Publications | Hugh Poland |
| Webmaster | Gary Rowen |
| Mentor | Lon Kelley |
| Mentor | Mark Bollinger |

Contact

To contact a WWCH officer, email wwch@wwch.org

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

P.O. Box 815
Sugarland, TX 77487-0815

Coming Events

Saturday, July 11

Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30

Fourth Thursday of Every Month

Hand Tool Splinter Group in Sugar Land

AWFS Fair, July 15-18, Las Vegas, Nevada

Saturday, August 8

Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30

Saturday, Sept. 19 (Note the Date Change)

Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30

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