

# Woodworkers Club of Houston

**Special Presentation  
at June 14 meeting  
by John McInnis  
of Craig Tools**

Volume 24 Issue 6

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June 2008

## SHOP CRAWL THIS SATURDAY

**Marc Bollinger**

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**Date: June 14, 2008  
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 PM**

Plan to visit shops of fellow WWCH members after the monthly meeting on Saturday, June 14. Norm Nichols and Monte Richard have kindly offered to serve hamburgers & fixin's at their shops. Accordingly, they have invited participants to be fashionably early, for those who will be ravenously hungry after a typically intense WWCH meeting.

**Norm Nichols**  
281-491-3220 or  
281-352-3067

Norm's shop is the center of the scrollsaw universe. His shop is a free standing 12 x 20 Tuff Shed building that is devoted to scroll sawing. The inside is completely finished with heat and air conditioning and a refrigerator full of soft drinks and water. The shop is set up so that even in that small space his movements are minimized. He'll have a demonstration of the saw and sample pieces that people can cut on the saw. He hopes to have his new saw by then.

1: Head southwest on US-59 S  
2: Take the exit toward W BELLFORT AVE/ WILCREST DR. 0.3 mi  
3: Stay STRAIGHT to go onto SOUTHWEST FWY. 0.4 mi  
4: Turn RIGHT onto W BELLFORT AVE. 3.5 mi  
5: W BELLFORT AVE becomes BELKNAP RD. 0.2 mi  
6: Turn LEFT onto TOWNWEST BLVD. 0.1 mi  
7: Turn LEFT onto OVERVIEW DR. 0.0 mi  
8: End at **10426 Overview Dr Sugar Land, TX 77478-1623**

*Some of the best  
woodworking  
shops in the state  
are right here in  
our own backyard.*

**Sid Hockens**  
281-265-0884

Sid's shop is in two of the 3 bays in a garage, illustrating the principle that the minimum size for a garage shop is the number of doors minus 1. His

shop includes a bandsaw, combo machine (planer, jointer, saw, shaper, and mortising unit), router table, workbenches, drill press, sharpening station, and assembly table with storage.

1: Head southwest on US-59 S  
2: Take the exit toward FIRST COLONY BLVD/ SWEETWATER BLVD. 0.2 mi  
3: Stay STRAIGHT to go onto US-59 S/ SOUTHWEST FWY. 0.6 mi  
4: Turn LEFT onto SWEETWATER BLVD. 1.3 mi  
5: Turn LEFT onto ALCORN BAYOU DR. 0.1 mi  
6: Turn LEFT onto MISTY MORN LN. 0.0 mi  
7: End at **4003 Misty Morn Ln Sugar Land, TX 77479-3204**

**Jeff Marks** 713-875-1139

Jeff's shop is also in his two car garage/shop. His shop started out with a "workmate" workbench. His first machine was a 10" tablesaw that was used with a Jack plane and a  
*(cont'd. on p. 7)*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Lee A. Bedford, Jr.  
Ken Robbins

## OF STRINGS AND THINGS... LUTHIER FRED SANDOVAL

The highlight of our May meeting was a presentation by WWCH member Fred Sandoval.

Fred has been a violin maker for more than 20 years, but doesn't claim to play, at least not as well as some of his clients.



“One of my violins is played by the principal violinist of the Phoenix Symphony. Another violin is played by a member of the Mexican National Orchestra,” Fred says with humility.

Taking an average of 300 hours to make one violin, Fred starts with a Stradivari pattern, and utilizes many techniques to create an instrument from maple and spruce. A vintage Stradivari violin from the early 18th century could be worth several millions of dollars. The violins are

highly prized for their unique tone.

While Sandoval's violins don't go for quite that much, he still works very hard to reproduce as faithful a tone as possible. Steam-bending, carving, and planing are just some of the techniques used to transform a rough cut piece of maple into a instrument that can make the listener weep with pleasure.

On an interesting note, no sandpaper is used in shaping the wood. Instead, Fred uses a series of progressively smaller planes to carve out the top, knowing his tolerance between having a beautiful instrument and a piece of firewood is down to the millimeter. Fred continually thumps the top until it sounds a particular note.

Fred's work is reminiscent of Myra Welch's classic poem about a violin up for auction. It was destined to sell cheaply until a gray-haired man came forward and played the instrument beautifully. Then the auctioneer quickly stepped up his asking price, and the fickle crowd cried out “We don't quite understand—What changed its worth?”

The auctioneer replied, “It was the touch of the master's hand.”

Thanks, Fred, for letting us see a true master at work!

### BEYOND VIOLINS...

**Stringed instruments**—When it comes to woodworkers and music, we usually think of luthiers and their work on the violin, viola, cello, and string bass; and guitars and banjos. But there are many other instruments you can make out of wood:

**Woodwinds**—Flutes, particularly recorders, native American flutes, and Irish whistles. Don't forget that clarinets, oboes, bassoons, and English Horns are also made out of wood. They don't call this the *woodwind* family for nothing!

**Brass instruments**—Alphorns (think “*Ri-co-la!*”) are carved from spruce or pine. The Australian didgeridoo is made from Eucalyptus, and some trumpet players use turned wooden mouthpieces.

**Percussion instruments**—Drums & mallets are often made of maple or hickory. Keyboard percussion instruments such as Xylophones and Marimbas are made of rosewood, and of course there are an infinite variety of hand percussion instruments made of wood, from tambourines to blocks to castanets.

# MAY SHOW 'N TELL



Cliff Ober is all smiles, and he should be after he took an ordinary mud knife, a scrap of bocote and a file, and made this beautiful tenon saw.



Either Jay Marks has created the perfect pizza peel, or he's going to assist Mike Turner with the discipline of his shop students!



This is just one walnut-veneered drawer from a Chippendale Bachelor's Chest that Jack Hutchinson is building. He will bring the finished project to the June meeting, so don't miss it!



It's not hare-brained to take a team approach to finish a project. These toys were cut out by Bill Cole, sanded by Ramona Darden, and exquisitely painted by Martha Harper.



Everyone wishes they had a buddy like Monte Richard, who crafted this display case out of cherry & mahogany for a good friend.



Mike Turner helps us all see better with his adjustable lamp on a pole.

## What have you been playing with in your toy box lately?



Lon Kelley continues to amaze us with his turning abilities on these ash bowls. Lon also displayed a pecan bowl that featured beautiful spalting that he induced himself.



John Gay is not urging us to paint our faces and dance around the fire in loincloths as we view his art piece "Ooga-Chaka"—but this very cool piece has seven drawers and seven secret compartments made of walnut, mahogany, maple, and more.

## DISCOVERY BOXES NEEDED

Luc Bouffard, a Naturalist with the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, thanks WWCH for undertaking the Discovery Box Refurbishment Project. Luc has a need to produce more boxes, and he will be at the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk further about the project. Luc can also share about the various programs and events the Arboretum has to offer.

Check out the opportunities at [www.houstonarboretum.org](http://www.houstonarboretum.org) To contact Luc about getting involved, call him at 713-366-0377 or email him at [lbouffard@houstonarboretum.org](mailto:lbouffard@houstonarboretum.org).

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Thanks, John Gay, for answering last month's question. Here's another question you can all be chewing on: What's your favorite wood to work with, and why? Call or email Hugh with your answer. You can write one sentence, or you can write a novel—just let us know what species gets your juices flowing, and why. Maybe you can also tell us about some of the things you make with your favorite wood.

Or, you can write us and tell us your least favorite wood to work with. Either way, we want to hear from you, and we'll print up some of the answers in next months' newsletter.

## MY FAVORITE TOOL

**JOHN GAY**

What is my favorite tool? I surprised myself with my answer. Like many of you, I have the basic set of woodworking tools. Some are must-haves, like a basic table saw and drill press. Other important choices would include a band saw, disk sander and a router table. An assortment of power hand tools are also a must have. And a scroll saw is just fun to use!

Actually, they are all fun to use, but about five years ago I purchased a tool that I first thought was going to be a seldom-used luxury. But to my surprise, it is a work horse and ranks as one of the most important tools in my Toy Box (a.k. a. the garage). It's a great tool, and I cannot believe how often I use it. It is by far my favorite. What is it?

My favorite tool is the Performax 16-32 Drum Sander. It is great. This is better than a planer. The cut is smoother, there is more control, less danger and there is the added big benefit of being quiet. Low noise is a big plus. A planer will scream. Planers are very loud, and if there is something like a nail in the board some damage will occur to the blades. I don't want something that is loud at sensitive levels in the Toy Box. With this sander I can sand a lot and not disturb anyone in the neighborhood including family members who are reading or watch-

ing TV. Most of the time, they never know that I'm making another mess.

The other thing is the savings that it offers. I like to use scrap wood on many projects. With this drum sander I can make multi-species boards and that makes the project more interesting. And because it is a drum sander, I don't have to worry about the direction of the grain. If I try my hand at a segmented bowl, the drum sander is really helpful. I can take thick boards and re-saw them to a nice thickness as small as 1/16" thick. I can also save some money and get some real interesting wood by getting some old fence boards and taking the grey off

to get to some clean cedar. You would not believe how nice some re-sawn fire wood can look after it goes through the sander.

What I thought was going to be a luxury and a rarely used tool has turned out to be a work horse and has expanded the type of projects that I can make. Almost every project that I work on involves the use of this wonderful Performax 16-32 Drum Sander. It is just the right size. Not too large and not too small. The large locking casters and the extended feed tables make it portable and user friendly, and you only need one.



# STICKER SHOCK AT THE TOOL 'N DROOL

Bob Hunter is the Tools and Techniques editor at Wood Magazine, and in his latest blog he discusses some of the newer trends in tool development, and why we can expect to pay more for our tools.

Hunter says the talk among execs at various tool companies is that, like everything else in our struggling economy, prices of tools are going up. Way up. This is due to several factors:

\*Weakness of the U.S. dollar

\*The price of steel, iron, copper,



aluminum, & other raw materials has increased dramatically.

\*China's value-added tax used to be subsidized by the government, but now Chinese factories have to pass that cost along to the importer who puts a company name on the product (i.e. Grizzly, etc.)

\*Fuel costs for shipping have risen like never before, and continue to rise.

Hunter's advice: Bite the bullet and buy now rather than later.

## COOL TOOLS

Tired of your Ni-Cad drill/driver sitting on the battery charger when you need it most? Lithium-ion driven tools are all the rage right now, but if GMC (the tool company, not the auto maker) has their way, you might be using a hydrogen-charged drill/driver in a few years.



You don't see any cords attached to this prototype, because there aren't any. "Super capacitors" in the drill are charged by hydrogen. The charger itself builds up power through the reaction of hydrogen and water. Maybe someday charging your drill will be as simple as holding it under the tap!

Many miter saws utilize a laser to help the operator line up the cut, but GMC is taking that one step further, releasing two new models with built-in TV screens.



The screens aid with accuracy and safety, allowing the user to see the cutline and even magnify the image. The 10" and 12" models should sell for \$350-400, but we don't recommend trying to watch ESPN at the same time you are cutting crown molding.

## CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

The annual BBQ PICNIC has been scheduled for Oct. 18. Save the date for this great time of skills contests, raffle, auction, and great food and fellowship. If you can assist with this event, particularly with the raffle or auction, please contact our President, Saul Harris at 713-299-3785.

At a time when the cost of everything is going up, the WWCH board has decided to offer free coffee and donuts to all club members and guests at Saturday

meetings. There is a cup still in the kitchen for donations, should you choose to contribute.

Watch this space for news about a way to help Boy Scouts earn merit badges at the upcoming Buildathon at Lowes in Tomball.

We regret that Steve Driver's name was left off of the list of those who helped with the bird house projects for the Scouts in last month's newsletter. Way to go, Steve!

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

**Here's some more websites devoted to making musical instruments:**

<http://www.luth.org/>—THE website for aspiring stringed instrument makers

<http://www.mcgee-flutes.com/making.html>—more goes into a flute than you know

<http://members.aol.com/benterfa/>—trumpet mouthpieces made of wood

<http://www.buildamarimba.com/>

## Trading Post

### FOR SALE

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

Hardwood—Mahogany, maple, popular, pine, & other. Contact David Langford—832-971-7303

Pecan, 4x4. 8" x 10', \$3/bf. Contact Jack Hutchinson 281-493-2633

Craftsman Thickness Planer—\$75. Contact Monte Richard 281-556-6644..

### HELP WANTED

I need help installing some hinges on some cabinets. Contact Karoline Pershell at 574-520-9433

I am building a chair and need a upper back support approximately 6" wide by 3/4 " thick and total length of around 17" on a 24" inner radius. Contact Lee Emmett at [barlee@consolidated.net](mailto:barlee@consolidated.net) or 936-273-5623.

### OTHER

Lon Kelley would like to giveaway the upper part of an oak roll-top desk, including the drawers, cubbies, and the roll-top itself. Contact Lon at 713-467-9011

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.

## SHOP CRAWL SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY JUNE 14

(Continued from page 1)

mortising chisel to build my first project, a solid Poplar workbench. He will have photocopies of the article describing the construction of my workbench. He then added, in this order, a bandsaw, a lathe, a mortiser, a planer, and a joiner. He uses file cabinets and desks for storage. Visitors will see why he would like to have a dust collector and air conditioning.

- 1: Head north on the W SAM HOUSTON TOLLWAY N.
- 2: Take the exit toward BRIAR FOREST DR. 0.3 mi
- 3: Stay STRAIGHT to go onto W SAM HOUSTON PKWY S/ BELTWAY 8/W BELT DR S. 0.4 mi
- 4: Turn LEFT onto BRIAR FOREST

- DR. 1.2 mi
- 5: Turn RIGHT onto HAYES RD. 0.2 mi
- 6: Turn LEFT onto WOOD LODGE DR. 0.1 mi
- 7: Turn LEFT onto CHERRY RIDGE DR. 0.0 mi
- 8: End at **1623 Cherry Ridge Dr Houston, TX 77077-4203**

**Monte Richard** 281-556-6644

Monte's shop is equal to a two car garage but in an odd shape. He has a Jet cabinet saw, band saw for resawing, etc., router table, miter saw, thickness planer, drum sander, plus assorted other motorized and non-motorized toys. His dust collection is portable and works pretty well for him. He just put an a/c unit in so it

will be tolerable in there for the crawl. For beginners who show up and want to do something, he'll be happy to give some instruction and will welcome a bit of free labor.

1. Head west on I-10 W toward SAN ANTONIO. 4.1 mi
- 2: Take the 753A exit, EXIT 753A. 0.1 mi
- 3: Stay STRAIGHT to go onto KATY FWY. 1.1 mi
- 4: U-turn and head east on I-10. Stay on the feeder road. 0.2 mi
- 5: Turn RIGHT onto S ADDICKS HOWELL RD/ADDICKS-HOWELL RD. Continue to follow ADDICKS-HOWELL RD. 0.3 mi
- 6: Turn LEFT onto S BARKERS LANDING RD. 0.1 mi
- 7: Turn RIGHT onto BARKERS CV. 0.1 mi
- 8: End at **614 Barkers Cove, Houston, TX 77079-2441**

## THE LAST LAUGH...

An elderly man in Phoenix calls his son Bob in New York and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but your mother and I are divorcing. Forty-five years of misery is enough! I'm sick of her, and I'm sick of talking about this, so call your sister in Boston and tell her," and then hangs up.

The son frantically calls his sister, who upon hearing the news calls her father and yells, "You are not getting a divorce! Bob and I will be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a single thing, do you hear me?"

The father hangs up the phone, turns to his wife, and says, "It worked! The kids are coming for a visit, and they're paying their own way!"

### Guidelines

- Rule #1. Have fun  
Rule #2. There aren't any other rules! Feel free to visit from 1 to all 4 of the shops in any order.

Maps will be available at the Saturday June 14 meeting. Don't miss it!

## 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

Friday, June 6

Southwest Houston Splinter Group

Saturday, June 14

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

Saturday, June 14

Shop Crawl after Monthly Meeting

To be sure your woodworking-related event is listed in this space, please contact Hugh Poland at 281-360-0673 or [hpoland@earthlink.net](mailto: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
- Turning Tools and Supplies
- Carving Tools
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- Lumber from around the world
- Monthly Woodworking Classes

  
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monthly list of classes and  
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[www.cuttingedgetools.com](http://www.cuttingedgetools.com)



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