

# Woodworkers Club of Houston

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION  
ON FURNITURE MAKING  
AND FINISHING BY  
JACK HUTCHISON  
AT THE SEPT. 13 MEETING**

Volume 24 Issue 9

www.wwch.org

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## SCOUT OUT THE SEPTEMBER BUILDATHON

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Susan Mullins is the energetic and vivacious woman behind "Gifts With Heart," a community service organization that provides service opportunities and education through interactive, hands-on projects. And truly, Susan is a "gift" when it comes to organizing people to work together to better our communities.

But she can't do it all alone, and needs our help coming up in September's "Wild About Wood" activities for area scouting troops.

Through the Buildathon, kids are introduced 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.

The course includes an introduction to woodworking by professional woodworkers, instructional materials, project ideas, and hand tools. A hands-on activity gives the girls a chance to earn a patch, as well as help produce a gift for a needy child during the holidays.

**There are three different dates and sites you can choose to be a part of:**

1. Tuesday, September 23, 6-8 pm  
At Lowe's of Meyerland, 4645 Beechnut St. in Houston.

2. Thursday, September 25, 6-8 pm at  
Lowe's of Spring, 1609 Spring Cypress Rd. in Spring.

3. Saturday, September 27, 9-11 am  
at  
Lowe's of East Houston, 6161 E. Sam Houston Pkwy. N. in Houston.

For more information, contact Susan Mullins at 832-524-3777 or email her at [susan@giftswithheart.org](mailto:susan@giftswithheart.org).

Thanks, Susan, for inspiring us to better our communities and get involved in the lives of children and families. C'mon, WWCH, let's show Houston that Susan Mullins is not the only one who can give a gift with heart!



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Charles Sembera

Randy Abramson

# INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKING FAIR

The International Woodworking Fair was held in Atlanta, GA Aug. 20-23, and those who were fortunate enough to attend found dueling woodturners, exciting tools, and some straight talk seminars from long-time pros in various realms of woodworking. Here are some of the latest tools for you to drool over, or perhaps you can say, “No thanks, the old one I’ve got will work just fine!”

## Doweling Joiner from Freud



Yes, it looks like a biscuit joiner, but look closely and you’ll see two holes on the faceplate to hold drill bits. Great for installing 1/4” holes for shelf pins, or dowels from 3/16” to 1/2.” Freud is a little proud of this baby, which lists for \$329, but you know the old saying—you get what you pay for!

## Veritas Skew-Rabbet Plane



Traditionally, rabbet planes can’t be used across grain. But these new offerings from Veritas are great for putting a rabbet across grain, or with the grain to make a two-sided cut. It features a two-post fence and a skewed blade,

which reduces chatter, and comes in a left-hand and right-hand model. One will set you back \$249, but buy both before Oct. 15 and you’ll pay only \$399.

## Adjustable-Height Bandsaw



At first glance, it looks like a drill press and a typical 14” bandsaw were involved in a bad accident, or somebody at General was fooling around with a welding torch and way too much time on their hands. But actually, it’s a pretty good idea. This new saw, which will list around \$1400, allows you to make regular cuts with a 93” blade, or crank up the head to increase your ability to resaw with the 102” blade. Cool!

# ANNUAL BARBECUE SCHEDULED

**BILL WHITE**

You have a choice.

You can stay at home on Saturday, Oct. 18, and watch the TVLand Marathon—you know, the show about some shipwrecked guy in a red shirt and white hat on an island who tries to invent some glue for his boat? Wonder how that one turns out.

Or, you can get up off that couch and jump into one of the most fun Saturdays you've had since, oh, the last WWCH BBQ.

Hickory Barn BBQ will be catering a great meal of brisket, sausage, chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, and trimmings. The meal is free for WWCH members and their immediate family members. Guests are an additional \$8 each, but children eat free. Now's the time to capture the fancy of that young budding woodworker with how fast you can drive a nail!

It's also a good time to bring out that secret family recipe for an awesome side dish, a dip, or a dessert. Braggin' rights can be had by all who bring something to share. Build your wife something special and she may even make you a dessert to bring!

Despite the fact that it might be

fun to try to eat all day long, we'll have several other activities between plates of brisket and beans. Contests will include nail

*Meat, sharp tools, and fire—what more could a guy want?*

driving, screw driving, planing and sawing. The object of most of these is to do it the fastest. The planing challenge is to create the longest, thinnest shaving from one swipe of the board. Last year we almost had to call



911 a couple of times. Old guys! This year we'll probably have medics standing by. Bring your own tools—hammer, saw, plane and/or driver. You can enter as

many contests as your heart can take.

Throw in auctions and raffles for door prizes, and you just might want to come to the picnic in something big enough to take home a special prize.

We'll also have a live band. It won't be that famous picnic group "Joe Pot-Luck and the Skillet-Licker Band," but Hugh Poland's jazz combo will feature some smooth jazz and a few "torch songs" from way back when. They can't sound any worse than the whine from your router, and if they do, we should be able to scare up some hearing-protective devices.

But to make sure we've got enough food, we really need you to RSVP. Sign up at the September meeting, or contact President Saul Harris, whose email is on p. 7 of this newsletter.

**When:**

Saturday, Oct. 18  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Where:** Bayland Community Center

**What:** Food, fun, music, fellowship, fantastic prizes, meat, sharp tools—what more could a guy want?

# AUGUST SHOW 'N TELL

YOUR NEXT PROJECT  
NEEDS TO BE  
FEATURED HERE!



Feeling “ripped off” by that crooked piece of lumber you bought at the hardware store? Andy Andersons clever jig allows you to rip a straight line on a board. T-tracks secure the hold-downs. Now that’s the straight truth!



Norm Nichols and Steve Wavro made a super presentation on scrollsawing, complete with many tips from their own experience.



Better than anything you could find at “The Dump” or “Gallery Furniture,” Mark Bollinger created this futon out of red oak. And no, he didn’t pull cash out of his back pocket, jump or shout out “We’ll save you money!”

## MORE AUGUST SHOW 'N TELL



A toast to Richard Storm for sharing his latest turnings with us. The wedding cup is turned from orange osage, and the two outer pens are from a Tennessee White-Tailed Deer. The middle pen is Bethlehem Olive Wood.



**DON'T LET THESE GUYS HAVE ALL THE FUN. NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK IN TOWN FROM THAT LONG VACATION, CLEAN THE PITCH OFF YOUR SAWBLADE AND MAKE SOMETHING TO BRING TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING!**



For those boy scouts who really like to 'rough it' and not even bring their own matches, Steve Dittrich comes to the rescue with one of the oldest tools known to man—a firestarter. It doubles as a drill, and we suspect after you get the fire started, you could even put a hot dog on the end of the screw. Now that's what we call the "Multi-Tool!"

## CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

Steve LeGrue of The Cutting Edge would like to announce that his store is now open on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Drop by and find not only the tools you need, but a friendly expert in Steve.

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.

Did you hear that the BBQ on Oct. 18 will be free to WWCH members and their immediate families? Save the date and invite your mate!

Do you have your own website, or are you on Facebook or My Space? Let us know and we'll post your site here!

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

SOME UNIQUE WW SITES:

[www.weirdwood.com.au](http://www.weirdwood.com.au)

[www.decoustudio.com](http://www.decoustudio.com)

[www.steveweb.net](http://www.steveweb.net)

[www.azwoodman.com](http://www.azwoodman.com)

[www.sawhorseworkshop.com](http://www.sawhorseworkshop.com)

## Trading Post

### FOR SALE

Shop Fox 10" Contractor Saw  
2HP, 230V, 12A  
2 sets of rails 30 and 50 in.  
Long and short router, table top link belt, mobile base,  
cast iron wings, 4 blade inserts,  
Shop Fox alumina-classic fence  
4 Years old, excellent condition  
\$600.00  
Joe Colvin  
[kajrcolvin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kajrcolvin@sbcglobal.net)

### WANTED

Looking for someone to build cabinets and benches (to be upholstered) in a commercial setting. Call Rod at (832) 286-4702.

Looking for woodworker to cut notches in a wooden toy part, initial order will be for 1,000 pcs. with a larger volume to follow. Contact

Bob Hughhins at [rhughhins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhughhins@sbcglobal.net)

Looking to purchase a copy of the special Wood Magazine Publication, "America's Best Home Workshops 2007." Contact George Kabacinski at [gkabacinski@gmail.com](mailto:gkabacinski@gmail.com), or 281-460-0571.

As a doorprize for the BBQ—We can award a free subscription to Woodsmith, ShopNotes, or WorkBench magazine if we furnish August Homes Publishing with the name of a WWCH member who already subscribes to one of these. Contact Matt Adams at [codaman@earthlink.net](mailto:codaman@earthlink.net)

Freelance writer with an assignment for Texas Co-Op Power Magazine seeks interview with woodworker who builds cedar chests made from Texas cedar. Contact MaryOdesaParker@[hotmail.com](mailto:hotmail.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 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.

## DOVETAIL DO'S AND DON'TS

I recently made some dovetailed boxes on both a Leigh dovetail jig and a Rockler dovetail jig. Both were capable of making through dovetails, so the chance to experiment with both before purchase really appealed to me. This isn't an article, though, about the pros and cons of each machine; rather, it's a confessional of what I'd do differently before making my first cuts.

*A dovetail rookie learns some tricks the hard way.*

For starters, I'd make the width of my box sides with an increment of the

finger spacing. For example, a template with 7/8" spacing will work nicely with 3-1/2"-, 4-3/8"-, or 5-1/4"-wide pieces. That way, the box would have equal half dovetails at the top and bottom of each joint.

I'd also mark all the top edges and label all the inside corners, so it would be easier to remember whether I was cutting tails or pins. I'd also put the tails on the long sides and the pins on the ends of the box, which seems more pleasing aesthetically.

My router base wouldn't accept the bushing that came with the Rockler, so I was off to buy another base. The one I purchased came with plastic bushings, and I don't have to tell you that those didn't last for very long! Another trip to the store to return that base plate and purchase a different one with a much better bushing.

## THE LAST LAUGH

I saw my coworker Jim Monday morning. I was about to ask him how his weekend went when I noticed his black eye. It was a real shiner. "What happened to you?" I asked.

"Suzie and I went to up to a bed and breakfast, and we met Liz and Kevin there." he said. "Saturday morning we were seated at the table with Liz and Kevin and a couple on their honeymoon. We were all having breakfast together. That honeymoon couple

looked at each other with love in their eyes, when he turned to his new bride and asks 'Would you please pass the sugar, sugar'.

Then Kevin said to Liz 'please pass the honey, honey.'

My Suzie had that real romantic look in her eyes, but the last thing I remember before waking up in the emergency room was turning to Suzie and saying 'Please pass the tea-bag!'

## HUGH POLAND



Also, I'd use two routers next time, one for pins and one for tails. In my project I cut all the pins first, then the tails, but changing bits and bit heights back and forth was a hassle.

I used a backer board to try to keep the joints from blowing out on each router pass, but there was still some tearout. When I ran a piece of masking tape around the edges of each board, I had virtually no tearout. Again, something simple I wished I had done right the first time.

The box in the picture is made of cherry from a tree my mother used to climb as a little girl, and the top is quilted maple. I fashioned a simple knob for the top to look like a tail, complete with an 8-degree cut on both sides. The box is on display at my church, in a exhibition called "Little Things Make a Big Difference." Dovetail joints are small, but they are by far the strongest and most beautiful joinery around. I can't wait to try again!

## 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, Sept. 13  
Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30

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

Sept. 23, 25, 27  
Wild About Wood Build-a-Thon Girl Scout Wood  
working Events

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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