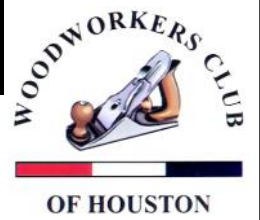


# The Sawdust Sentinel



Monthly newsletter of Woodworkers Club of Houston

December 2024

Volume 41 Issue 12

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Year-end often brings various lists, reflections on the past year and thank yous to notable contributors. This Message will be no different, sorry 'bout that! This is also my last message as President, as I have reached my limit (and possibly yours) to serve as Club President. It has been an exciting and busy two years at the helm, but it is time to turn the reins over to new leadership.

The biggest change has been the move to a new meeting place. After 30 years at Bayland, we had to find a new home in 2024. I think the move to St. Stephen's has been a good one. The staff at St. Stephen's have worked hard to make us feel welcome and valued. The Fellowship Hall is a good fit for our monthly meetings and all-day seminars. Upgrading the projector system was a nice partnership with both parties benefitting from the new gear.

We updated our Club Bylaws to better reflect how the Club operates. It was a significant effort in the background of Club activities, and a big Thank You to Peter Doe for leading that effort. We should not wait so long between updates!

We experimented with new Program pieces, most notably the Hardwood Derby in 2023 and 2024. It was a fun event and one that will be held on a biennial basis. Denis Muras borrowed the track from his Church group.

We continued the public outreach game with booths at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft with two sessions of Hands-on Houston for toymaking and Craft Guild Day for general outreach. We also had a booth at the Texas Woodworkers' Show. Chuck Meeder is our liaison with HCCC, Andy Tofuri led the toymaking effort, and Peter Doe and Jeff Larsen staffed the workbench for truly Hands On activities. Norm Nichols coordinated our efforts at the Woodworking Show.

(cont on page 2)

## WWCH Calendar

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Monthly Meeting.....    | 12/14 |
| CNC Router Meeting..... | 12/17 |
| Scroll Saw Meeting..... | 01/25 |
| Hand Tool Meeting.....  | 02/06 |
| Furniture Meeting.....  | 01/22 |



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (cont. from Page 1)

Our two summer seminars were well-received: Mike Farrington on all things Kumiko, and Tom McLaughlin on how to design and build chairs. Michael Siegel and Rod Griffith led those two activities, respectively.

Jack Bailie kept us financially solvent, and Mike Hardy dutifully recorded the ramblings of our Board Meetings. Denis Muras made sure that the A/V needs of the meetings were taken care of, and Gary Rowen managed our webpage and email blasts. Steve Wavro keeps us caffeinated, and Roslyn Hager brings the donuts. Thank you to these members for their ongoing effort to make the Club run smoothly.

My one disappointment is that I hoped to have a new website up and running by this point, but it has not received the attention that I planned to give it over the past few months. I am hoping that we will get this done early in 2025.

There were lots of great activities over the course of the past two years, and I greatly appreciate the effort from so many people who were willing to step up and present, people who brought in their projects for Show-n-Tell, people who helped set up/take down all the chairs and tables, etc. We have a wonderful Club, and I look forward to more interesting and exciting activities in 2025.

**WWCH President**  
**Tom Paulley**

## Splinter Group Information

**CNC Router Group:** Next meeting is December 17th at 7:00pm. For more information & location, please Contact Bill Teague; [wateague@gmail.com](mailto:wateague@gmail.com)

**Scroll Saw Group:** Next meeting is January 25th; meeting at 9:00am; location is TBD at this time. For more information please contact: Norm Nichols; [scrollsaw@comcast.net](mailto:scrollsaw@comcast.net) or Denis Muras; [denis\\_muras@yahoo.com](mailto:denis_muras@yahoo.com).

**Furniture Group:** Next meeting is January 22nd at Andy Tofuri's shop from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Meeting for dinner at 5:30pm. For more information & location, please Contact: Henry Majoue; [hjmajoue@gmail.com](mailto:hjmajoue@gmail.com) or Andy Tofuri (contact info in directory).

**Hand Tool Group:** Next meeting is February 6th at George Alderete shop from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Meeting for dinner at 5:30pm. For more information & location, please Contact: Henry Majoue; [hjmajoue@gmail.com](mailto:hjmajoue@gmail.com) or George Alderete (contact info in directory).

**Sawmill Group:** For more information please Contact Bill Lindsey: [bill\\_lindsey@comcast.net](mailto:bill_lindsey@comcast.net)

**Toy Group:** Toys are independently produced, if you are interested in building toys for the toy program, please contact: Chris Schwartz; [christopher7schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:christopher7schwartz@gmail.com) or Andy Tofuri (contact info in directory). You can also preview the Toy of the Month on the web site.

# Toy Program 2024

The toymakers of the Woodworkers Club of Houston were busy again in 2024. Approximately 2,100 toys were made during the year for distribution to the local charitable organizations that pass the toys onto children. This is addition to the approximately 500 toys made for the Hands on Houston program offered by the Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts.

The following folks made toys strictly for the annual toy distribution:

- |                  |                    |                     |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| ◇ Tom Boisters   | ◇ Bill Harris      | ◇ Ken Kuntz         |
| ◇ Tom Paulley    | ◇ Dan Schmoker     | ◇ Ron Taylor        |
| ◇ Jim Davis      | ◇ Jim Hiles        | ◇ Denis Muras       |
| ◇ Jan Pearson    | ◇ Gregg Smith      | ◇ Andy Tofuri       |
| ◇ Mike Hardy     | ◇ Bill Hoffmeister | ◇ Norm Nichols      |
| ◇ Dorsey Rushing | ◇ Rick Spacek      | ◇ Dave Vanderwerker |

After the November 9 meeting approximately 20 folks stayed to sort out and pack toys for delivery to the following organizations:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| * Aishel House   | * FUMC Missouri City Kindergarten                | * Jewish Family Services                              |
| * American Legion post 294 Missouri City                       | * FUMC Missouri City Rainbow Room                | * LINC Houston (A Lutheran Christian Mission Program) |
| * Camp Blessing  | * Galveston PD/ Blue Santa                       | * Memorial Assistance Ministries                      |
| * Christ United Methodist Church Sugarland Children's Ministry | * GiGi's Playhouse                               | * Moody United Methodist Church                       |
| * CPS - Harris County Children's Protective Services           | * Holy Spirit Episcopal/ Blessings in a Backpack | * Neighbors In Action                                 |
| * Cypress Assistance Ministries                                | * House of AMOS                                  | * Sleep in Heavenly Peace                             |
| * DePelchin Children Center                                    | * Houston Area Women's Center                    | * St. Stevens UMC                                     |
| * FUMC Missouri City Armstrong Elementary                      | * Houston Center for Cont. Craft                 | * Texas Hope  |
|  | * Houston PD/ Blue Santa                         | * United Methodist Women, Interfaith Ministry         |

A special thanks to all that helped pack up the toys, and a tip of the hat to Patti and Larry Page for organizing a light lunch snack of sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks.

This year WWCH provided approximately 2,000 toys to the organizations, and had about 200 left over for the 2025 campaign. Several of the organizations asked not to receive more toys that they asked for, so given that we typically have a small surplus, if you know of any organizations, please let the Toy Group know and we may be able to add them to our list.

Finally, if you are not making toys but are interested, we can help. There are patterns that can be made on a variety of tools, including simply a table saw. You do not need a band saw or scroll saw, but a sander and router make finishing the toys quick work. Talk with any of the toy makers for ideas for toys you can make with what you have available. The Club provides the wheels and axles, and even scrap wood. Sometime in the spring, we will try to have another toy build at the St. Lukes' United Methodist.

(con't on page 4)



# Toy Program 2024 (con't)



Photo Credit:  
Brian Bailey & Chris Farquhar

## Nominations for 2025 BOD

The proposed slate of officers for 2025 was presented at the November meeting of the club and is as follows:

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>President:</i>      | <b>Jim Price</b>       |
| <i>Vice President:</i> | <b>Rod Griffith</b>    |
| <i>Secretary:</i>      | <b>Mike Hardy</b>      |
| <i>Treasurer:</i>      | <b>Jack Bailie</b>     |
| <i>Directors:</i>      | <b>Bill Harris</b>     |
|                        | <b>Curtis Love</b>     |
|                        | <b>Rich Ostermeier</b> |
|                        | <b>Brian Murrah</b>    |
| <i>Past President:</i> | <b>Tom Paulley</b>     |

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Elections will be held at the December club meeting. As per the bylaws, Tom Paulley will serve as the fifth Director in his role as Past President. This is not an elected position

## Nominations for Woodworker of the Year 2025



Tom Blanko



Peter Doe



Steve Wavro

Woodworker of the Year candidate projects can now be viewed on our website, then clicking on "Candidates". Voting will be during the December meeting.

[Woodworker of the Year Gallery](#)



## Special Club Announcement



Congratulations to Alex Peay on his recent achievements in craftsmanship and woodworking! At the 2024 Texas Furniture Makers Show in Kerrville, Alex was honored with the Austin School of Furniture's Best Emerging Artist award. Additionally, he received international recognition as one of the World's Top 100 Makers of the Year by *Wood Review*, an esteemed Australian woodworking magazine.

We're excited to have Alex presenting at our January 2025 meeting, where he will showcase his expertise by demonstrating the creation of his innovative circular dovetail joint. Don't miss it!



## Toy of the Month

There will not be a “Toy of the Month” until the New Year.

## Club Announcements

- ◇ **“REMINDER”** - December meeting (12/14/2024) will be held at St. Stephen’s United Methodist Church at 2003 W. 43rd Street, 77018
- ◇ WWCH is invited to do a demonstration at the Christmas at Winedale Folklife Event at the Winedale Historical Complex, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top, Texas 78954, on December 14th, from 12-4 pm. This is about a two-hour drive. Winedale is a beautiful country setting, with barns from the 1800s built with hand-hewn beams. We will have the club workbench and be demonstrating using old hand planes and woodworking tools. The Christmas at Winedale website will show other expected exhibitors. It is my understanding that if we want to sell anything there, we would need to request prior permission from The University of Texas. Let Jeff Larsen know soon if you want to try that. There are good restaurants there and on the way. Jeff’s buying. For questions or if interested, let Jeff know: [larsbeck@swbell.net](mailto:larsbeck@swbell.net) or (713) 894-1633.
- ◇ Hand Tool & Furniture Group Splinter Groups will not have meetings in December. Please check out the “Splinter Group Information” section on page 2 for contacts and more information.
- ◇ If you are interested in being high-lighted in “Meet the Member”. Please see Chris Farquhar at a meeting or contact him at: [wwwchnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wwwchnewsletter@gmail.com)

## New Members

We are pleased to have welcomed **1** returning member in November:

Ken Swink

# Show and Tell



**George Graves**  
- Flag Box



**Dan Schmoker**  
- Burl Cherry Bowl



**Paul Foster**  
- Cutting Board





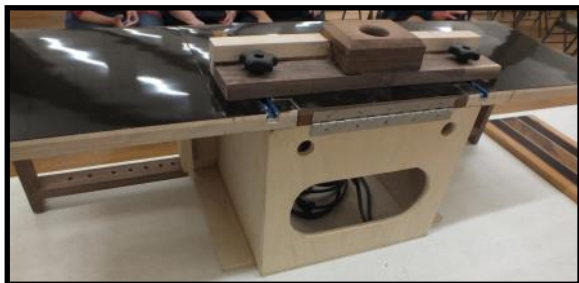
# Show and Tell



**Jack Bailie**  
- Cutting Board

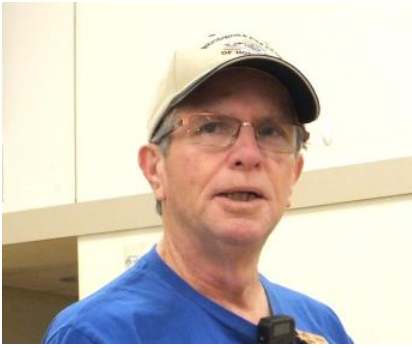


**Andy Tofuri**  
- Phone / Watch Charger  
(work in Progress)



**Frank Fuss**  
- Compact Router Table

# Show and Tell



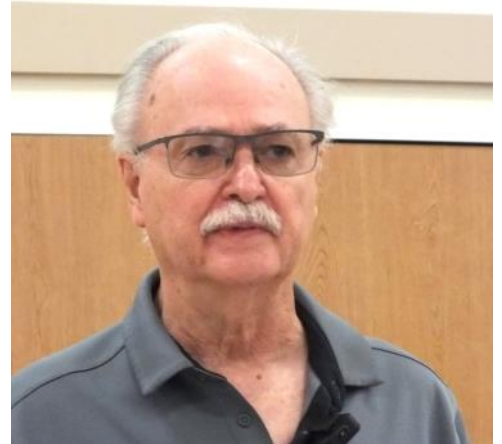
**Steve Wavro**  
- Intarsia Eagle &  
50th Anniversary  
Plaque



**Tom Blanko**  
- Jewelry Box



# Show and Tell



**Bill Teague**  
- CNC Work



**Greg Solberg**  
- Chest with Drawers





# Show and Tell



**David VanDewerker**



- Memory Boxes



# Program of the Month

Join us for our December 2024 meeting, where member and fellow craftsman Tom Blanco will present on the art of lacquer finishing. Tom will explore various types of lacquer, application techniques, and how lacquer compares to other finishes. He will also discuss the unique challenges involved in working with lacquer. We look forward to an informative and engaging presentation by Tom.

## Upcoming Programs in 2024 at a Glance

*Please note that the topics are subject to change and occasionally need to be adjusted.*

### 2024 Meeting Topic Schedule:

| <u>Date</u>   | <u>Speaker</u> | <u>Topic</u>           |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| December 14th | Tom Blanco     | Finishing with Lacquer |

### 2025 Meeting Topic Schedule:

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| January 11th  | Alex Peay                                 | Machining a Circular Dovetail Joint       |
| February 15th | Maria Carlo, Brian Murrah,<br>& Alex Peay | Shop Made Work Benches                    |
| March 15th    | Jeff Larson                               | Spokeshaves                               |
| April 12th    | Peter Doe                                 | Bed Build                                 |
| May 10th      | Furniture Splinter Group                  | Rocking Chair with Slung Tile Seat Reveal |
| June 14th     | Vic Tesolin                               | All-day Seminar                           |
| July 12th     | Bryan Bailey                              | Molding Planes                            |
| October 11th  | No Program                                | BBQ Lunch and Raffle                      |

If you have an idea for a meeting topic or wish to share a project or skill that requires more time than is available during Show and Tell or Favorite Tool, please contact Rod Griffith at one of our meetings or by email at:

[rodneywgriffith@gmail.com](mailto:rodneywgriffith@gmail.com)

## Meetings at a Glance in 2025

In 2025 there will be schedule meeting dates that are changed due to a conflict with St Stevens United Methodist Church. There are only 3 at this time so please be aware of these changes so you do not miss a meeting. This post will stay in the Newsletter every month to keep you updated and informed. Any questions, please bring up your concerns at the next meeting.

- ⇒ January 11th                      2nd Saturday (no change)
- ⇒ **February 15th**                      **3rd Saturday**
- ⇒ **March 15th**                      **3rd Saturday**
- ⇒ April 12th                      2nd Saturday (no change)
- ⇒ May 10th                      2nd Saturday (no change)
- ⇒ June 14th                      2nd Saturday (no change)  
- All Day Seminar
- ⇒ July 12th                      2nd Saturday (no change)
- ⇒ August 9th                      2nd Saturday (no change)
- ⇒ September 13th                      2nd Saturday (no change)
- ⇒ October 11th                      2nd Saturday (no change)  
- BBQ    Lunch & Raffle
- ⇒ **November 15th**                      **3rd Saturday**
- ⇒ December 13th                      2nd Saturday (no change)



## Meet the Member



**Brian Bailey**

Club Member since 2024

Bryan started woodworking as a kid in the early 1980s, by helping and listening to his dad, with some of his projects during the cold winter months in Amarillo Texas. They made many trudging trips through knee deep snow around the outside of the house to the workshop his dad built. It was a fairly small shop, but large enough to be equipped with a good selection of stationary power tools and hand tools.

When the elementary school he attended began to renovate, he started pestering the construction guys about some of the solid wood being removed. His dad was a bit surprised when he told him, they needed to go up there and pick up the salvaged wood that Brian had the guys set aside. They drove up there and was quite shocked at the pile with their name on it. His dad had picked all of the quarter sawn white oak and pine, and it was used in several projects to follow. He also found himself watching all the woodworking shows of the time and buying up some tools at various garage sales and antique stores.

His real interest took off when he acquired a 1952 Mercedes Benz. The car was built the same then as it would have been pre-war era. Lots of wood in the body work, basically it's metal skins over beechwood framing. They had to completely redo the drivers side door after it began to fail, and refinish all of the finer woodwork around the windows and front windshield.

Unfortunately as a middle teen, his interest in the woodworking kind of wavered a bit, and soon found himself in college. That's where he picked up woodworking again. He made some rudimentary furniture, a mobile kitchen island, a sliding "barn door", and a lot of other odds and ends. After college found himself doubting the quality of many furniture pieces being offered through retailers...and that just fueled his desire to make his own pieces.

He mainly does projects of various difficulties for himself, family, and friends. Brian joked a bit with Tom McLaughlin that though he enjoys the idea of making chairs, he waded off too deep in his first chair project as requested by a friend.

Then started only with a rough sketch and no real knowledge of rocking chairs. Still consider this to be one of his finer pieces...and possibly the only rocker he may ever make. Originally came around to a few meetings in early 2014. That summer he was involved in an accident electrocution. That finished off his career in railroad-ing and left him grasping at a great many things that he once did with ease. Today Brian is still working at regaining the abilities he once had, he nearly stopped woodworking all together, but slowly is relearning and just too stubborn to give up.

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 Please check Rockler.com for current store hours.

## WWCH General Information

### WWCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| President      | Tom Paulley  |
| Vice President | Rod Griffith |
| Secretary      | Mike Hardy   |
| Treasurer      | Jack Bailie  |

### DIRECTORS

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Dorsey Rushing  | Bill Harris |
| Curtis Love     | Jim Price   |
| Rich Ostermeier |             |

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CLUB SERVICE PROVIDERS

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Donuts          | Roslyn Hager   |
| Club Logo Items | Norm Nichols   |
| Membership Book | Patti Page     |
| Newsletter      | Chris Farquhar |
| Raffle          | Andy Tofuri    |
| Refreshments    | Steve Wavro    |
| Technology      | Denis Muras    |
| Web Master      | Gary Rowen     |

### NEXT MEETING

**Saturday December 14th**  
**Starting at: 9am**  
 St. Stephen's United Methodist Church,  
 2003 W. 43rd Street, 77018

<http://www.wwch.org>

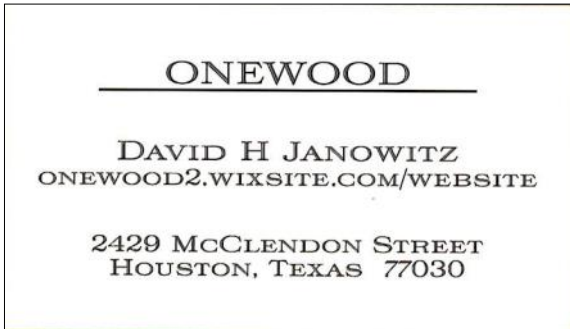
**Newsletter Publication:** Do you have an announcement or item for the newsletter? Send it to Chris Farquhar, WWCH Newsletter Editor, at [wwchnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wwchnewsletter@gmail.com). Please submit the item before January 1st to be included in the next newsletter.

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

**Join our Facebook Group!**  
**Woodworkers Club of Houston**

**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. Guests are always welcome at no charge. Membership dues are \$36 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!

# Members Business Cards



If you would like to have your Business Card shown here  
and you are a member in good standing.

Please see Chris Farquhar