

THE WOODWORKERS CLUB OF HOUSTON

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 6

JUNE 2002

WWW.WWCH.ORG

MAY PROGRAM ---

JOINTECH

Long time WWCH member and current Jointech employee Saul Harris was our presenter at the May meeting. Saul was there to demonstrate the joinery system provided by Jointech. Jointech is a company that rivals Incra as one of the top joinery companies in the nation. Some of Saul's pointers when dealing with Jointech products were:

1. The height of router bit is key for dovetail joinery.
2. Raise the bit higher for a tighter joint.
3. Lower the bit for a looser joint.
4. When using Jointech's template system, use red lines to red and black lines to black.
5. Zero clearance inserts are great safety features as it takes shape of the router bit itself.



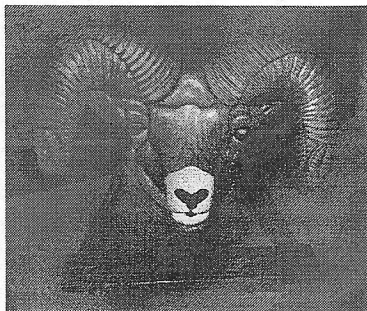
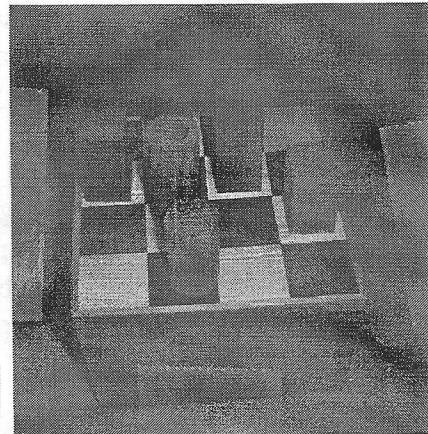
New members:

The following people joined our club at the May meeting. Please extend a warm welcome to:

P.R. Gilmer

Leo Showers

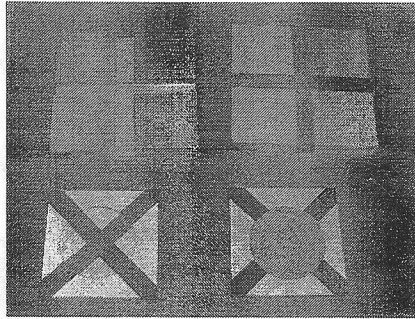
Jesus E. Cantu



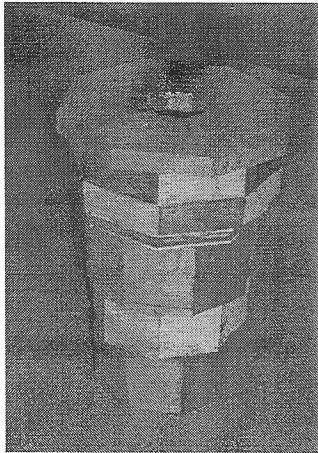
Left: John Hanna crafted this beautiful ram out of western red cedar and some "stud wood".

Above: Rich Thomas made this game of Quatro mostly out of wood that he collected from his grandfather's chicken coop.

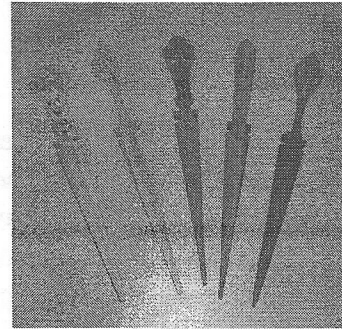
Right: These jigs and coasters were constructed by Blake Present.



Below: Walter Mason made these wooden letter openers out of bubinga and walnut.



Left: This is the beginning of a vase that Lewis Vallette is turning. He promised to bring it back to show and tell when it is finished.



WOODWORKING SEMINAR PROPOSAL

BY JACK HUTCHISON

There is hidden talent within our Club from which we may derive some benefit. We have a number of highly skilled woodworkers whose talents in many cases equal or exceed that of some well-known, professional woodworkers. Some of these folks are more than willing to share their knowledge with others who are anxious to improve their woodworking skills. After all, isn't this what the club is all about? So, why sulk and daydream about improving your skills, or go to a professional seminar and pay the high bucks? Help is right here. All we need to do is to organize the effort. The Club is a perfect medium for that.

What I propose is that individuals who have highly developed skills, even if they don't admit it, sign up to teach a seminar. All you need to do is to provide Brian Honey, the proposed program coordinator, a one-paragraph summary of the seminar objectives, location, schedule, and cost, if any. The Club would merely inform members of the proposed seminars and publish these on our web site, and in our newsletter.

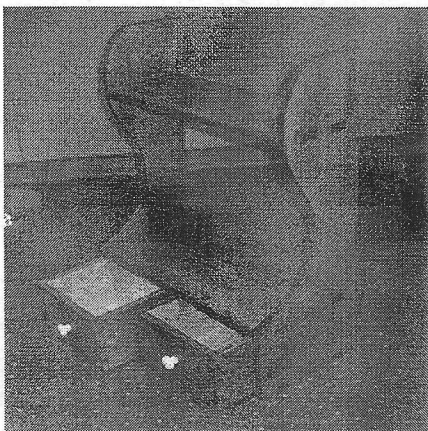
Instructors are to be independent contractors with no formal Club association other than membership, thereby relieving the Club of any liability. Furthermore, all students will be required to execute a hold harmless agreement that will absolve the instructor, and the Club from any liability. Students will attend at their own risk, and are to provide their own materials, tools, safety equipment, etc. unless otherwise noted.

These seminars are for the direct benefit of Club members, but may also be opened to non-members at the discretion of the instructor. Seminars can be scheduled at the discretion of the instructor with no limit on frequency, or number of students.

PREZ SEZ:

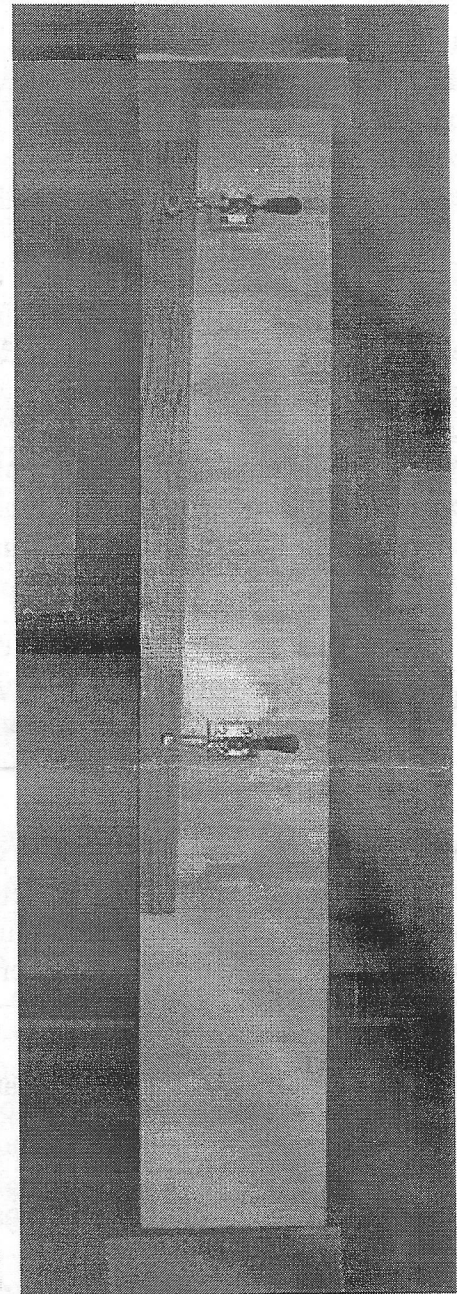
BY KEN KOOSER

Money, money, money - - its claimed to be what makes the world go round. It is said: "it takes money to make money" and "its not the money it's the principle" and many other sayings. Our organization has a little money. Senior board member, Brian Honey, last years Secretary/Treasurer, prepared a spread sheet with the club's finances for the past five years. I think at times when I refer to it, he wishes that he had never shared it. In the past five years the club's finances have been up and down. At times we spent more than we took in. My philosophy is that every club event should be self-supporting. I would like to see the newsletter advertising cover the cost of copying and mailing the newsletter. We have not sold advertising for the Club Membership Book in the past and it costs quite a bit of money. Likewise I want to see the annual outdoor picnic break even. In the past it has cost the club a lot of money, but last year it made the club quite a nice sum. At the May board meeting your officers and the board members that were present unanimously voted to reaffirm our club dues policy. Its simple as can be: Club Dues are set at \$24.00 Per year. That entitles a member to all of the club privileges and benefits. Dues will be "pro-rated" for new members the first year. That means that a new member in June pays 7 times \$2 - or \$14.00 for their first year. On January 1st all of our dues are due. If you have not been paying the full amount - shame on you. If we (the Club management) have not made this plain shame on us. I really like to present awards to our deserving members, and like to buy soft drinks for us attending the Sawmill Picnic, but it takes money.



Left: Fred Sandoval used only hand tools to make all of the joints when he constructed this shelf to sit on top of his commode.

Below: This taper leg jig was constructed by Ted Deen.



COMPETITIVE SHOW & TELL PROGRAM

BY JACK HUTCHISON

In order to stimulate more participation in the Show & Tell program the Board of Directors approved a new competitive Show & Tell program that will supplement the existing non-competitive part of the Show & Tell program. This new program is not intended to replace the existing Show & Tell program, but merely to augment it. It is designed to encourage greater participation from the membership from those who enjoy competition, and further our goals of woodworking education, and entertainment. Competition normally brings out the best. And it should be fun.

This new program evolved from an original proposal presented by Jack Hutchison in March of this year that was presented to the membership for comment. In response to those comments, the Board elected to leave the existing Show & Tell program intact, and implemented this new theme-based competitive program commencing with the June meeting.

As part of the program, a three-member panel of judges will review items presented during the break, and the winner will be announced after the break. A \$25 gift certificate from one of our Club sponsors will be awarded to the winner of the competition. The new program will be theme based, with themes either announced at the monthly meetings, in the newsletter, on our website, or combinations thereof.

The theme for the month of June is "Shop Jigs".

Rules are as follows:

You may bring in as many items as you want for the competition, even if they have previously been presented at the normal Show & Tell. Your offering will be judged based on utility, and craftsmanship, with additional credit for originality. Please provide source references whenever possible. We also encourage you to continue to bring other items to present in the non-competitive segment of the program

Jack Hutchison will be the coordinator of this program, and has elected not to compete, but he does get to select the judges.

If you have suggestions for additional themes, please pass them along to Jack via email or telephone.

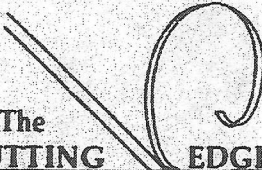
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BOOK LIBRARY UPDATE

BY JOHN GAY

It has been a while since the last library up-date. I think that February was the last time that I made a report. That because my 'Brain-in-a-Box' broke! Naturally to get the darn thing fixed would have cost almost as much a new one and since all information would have been lost, I did get a new one in May and with some help, added the old hard drive to the new box with the hope of keeping the folders that I have. Well this plan worked sort-of. Guess what!!, Windows XP will not read Excel 2000 from Windows 98. This problem also included the intellimouse, the scanner and the printer as well as some programs that were made before Windows XP. I did get a new scanner but the printer has to wait. I don't mean to sound like I'm venting but it is like getting a new table saw and discovering that the arbor and miter slots are different sizes so none of your blades or miters will fit any more as well as any jigs that you have will not work. Then you have to rewire your shop not because the power requirements have changed but the shape of the plug has.

Since I have to do our library list over, I thought that it would be nice to use two lines per entry. Well that seems impossible to do. The setup was going to be; Code-Check out-Title-Author-Price for the first line and under that would be an expanded description for the contents. I'm still working on it so that should be done next month.

Back in March, Steve Dittrich donated Wonders in Wood with 46 puzzles and two books on whittlin'. They are Folk Characters and Carving Clowns & Circus Wagons. These are great additions and add to the diversity of the library. In April the Woodworking Show was in town and the club purchased several books. There are some are for inspiration like Fine Wood Working Design Book #7 and Celebrating the Box. Others have some nice designs and plans for projects. They include; Scroll Saw Patterns, Home Office, Clock Making and Home Storage. Also included is one that we should at least look at is Work Shop Safety. At the May meeting we received some really nice books. Justin Kelly went to a sale by the Houston Public Library and donated Whittling & Wood Carving, English Furniture, Reproduction of Antique Furniture and The Art of Woodworking. We also got a new book from Ernest Johnston it is the Woodworkers Guide to Wood and it has a lot of information about hard and soft wood, plywoods, composites and veneers. Jack Hutchinson donated the latest Guide to Published Woodworking Plans and Techniques Volume 1 & 2. This is a cumulative index to 26 woodworking magazines. We have a complete set of Woodsmith and a good number of Shop Notes and Fine Wood Working. As for as the others; well this is the first step in your research. Be sure to bring a pencil and paper because these are not to be checked out - they will be at the club meetings only. Finally, I was at Half Price Books and saw one about home remodeling House Broken by Richard Karn a.k.a Al Borland from Home Improvement. Is a light comic read about his experience wit buying and remodeling a home. So be on the look out for clearing sales from your local library or even from garage sales. There are treasures out there.

As you can see, the library has expanded. I would like to thank again the people who have donated books to the club. These good folks took their time and money to expand and improve our library, thus benefiting every member of the club.

As you should know, you can check out our books from one meeting to the next at no charge. There is a minimal fine of \$2 should you return the book late no matter how late. This is not \$2 for every month that the book is late, just a flat fine. I need to bring this up because there are several books that should be in the library but are not. Some have been out for a long time and I really do not want to write a library obituaries column. So look around and if you find any please return them. I'm going to try to locate them through the checkout cards and send a friendly email reminder or letter. I will be able to list the over due books after I finish the new library list.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH -- ROTARY TOOL TABLE

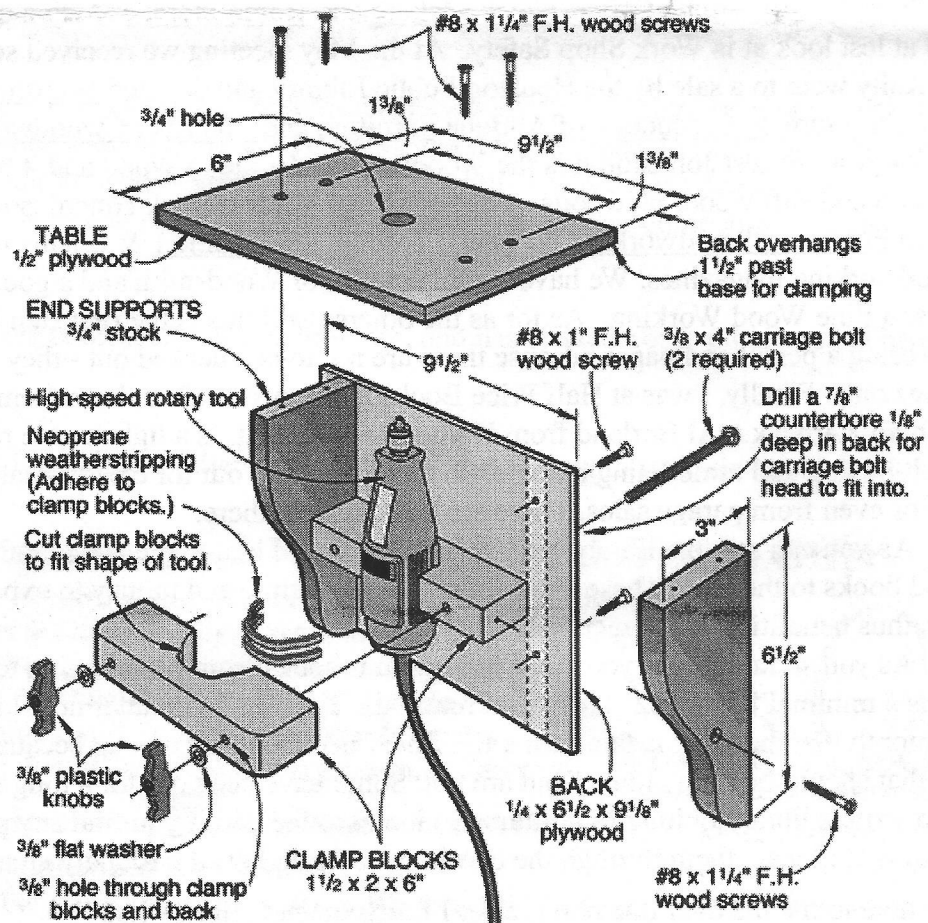
Small pieces often require precise routing that just isn't safe on a full-size router table. And, trying to shape the workpiece in one hand with a rotary tool held in the other isn't any better. To solve the problem, WOOD® magazine reader Chuck Middleton built this scaled-down table to house his high-speed rotary tool.

To make your custom holder, start by cutting clamp blocks to fit the body of your rotary tool. Line the inside curved surface of the blocks with weatherstripping or some type of foam. The foam allows you to secure the rotary tool between the blocks without cracking the tool housing when tightening the blocks around the tool. Now, cut the table, end supports, and back to the sizes shown on the drawing below right. Assemble the table. Secure your rotary tool in place, being careful not to overtighten the knobs. Mark the hole location needed for your largest rotary bit, remove the table, and drill the hole. Screw the table back in place.

Clamp the mini table to your workbench as shown in the photo, or slide one of the protruding ends of the back into a flush-mounted bench vise.

For really small pieces, we prefer to hold the workpiece with a miniature clamp, or even secure the workpiece to the end of another piece of wood with double-faced tape or hot-melt glue. This keeps our fingers safely away from the spinning bit.

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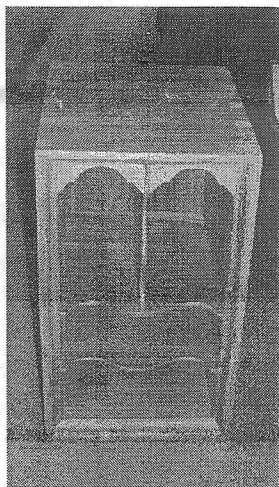
(continued from page 2)

Example Seminar Description Machining Dovetailed Drawers Jack Hutchison/Instructor

Hands-on instructions in the proper set-up and use of dovetail jigs for making perfect blind, half-blind, and thru dovetails, milling the grooves for the drawer bottoms, drawer assembly, and fitting. Advice on drawer suspension provided depending on your application. Experience with router use is required.

Bring your dovetail jig w/manual, and router with a sharp bit installed, along with your rough stock (sides, bottom, etc.) Be sure to provide enough stock for test and setup cuts. You will trim your stock to final size on site prior to milling the dovetails. You will need accurate drawer opening dimensions, and depth if you want a perfect fit.

Registration fee is \$20, non-refundable on cancellation within two weeks of scheduled date. Attendance is limited to four students. Location is near Eldridge and Memorial. Time is Saturday, 2 to 5 pm May 15. All students are to provide their own hearing and eye protection. Soft drinks and music are provided at no extra charge.

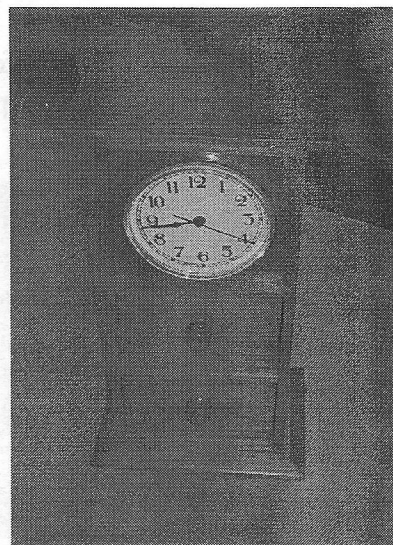


Above: This secret drawer is part of a Governor Winthrop secretary that Jack Hutchison is building out of walnut. The secretary will be equipped with eight hidden compartments when complete.

Right: Sid Newton's first project was this fine walnut clock. Excellent job Sid!

Upcoming Programs

Do you remember Lon Kelley's bandsawn inlay boxes that he displayed in March? Well, Mr. Kelley has agreed to do a program in June demonstrating exactly how he made those fabulous boxes. A program not to be missed!!



NEW CUTTING EDGE STORE TO OPEN LATER THIS YEAR: STAR-STUDED OPENING EXPECTED

BY CHARLES SLYVESTER

The November 3, 1993 opening of the Cutting Edge could not have been mistaken for the Motion Picture Academy Awards ceremony. There were no klieg lights, no loud rock bands, and no limousines in sight. Not even the mayor showed to cut the ribbon.

Despite this notable lack of fanfare however, this date signified a major milestone in the lives of Steve and Teri LeGrue, marking the culmination of a long period of research and planning. Steve was most widely known prior to that time as Dr. Stephen LeGrue, distinguished professor of Biochemistry and Immunology at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, where he was deeply involved with cancer research. Over the years, he had become disenchanted with the laboratory rat race and decided to alter his career path radically.

Since he loved working with wood and was a talented wood turner, carver, and cabinet maker, it was only a logical decision to explore the creation of a business that would keep him at the center of his area of interest. Calling on his considerable strengths in research, logic and analysis, he embarked on a protracted period of study to determine what persons involved in the various wood-working crafts would like and support in a commercial enterprise devoted to these interests.

After countless conversations with craftsmen, market surveys, product and real estate searches, he came up with the answer. He would provide the finest tools and machinery at reasonable prices. He would offer excellent service, advice and assistance to his customers. He wanted his center to become a magnet for craftsmen of all levels of skill; to facilitate that end, he provided a splendidly equipped workshop. Qualified instructors were retained to teach classes at various levels of skill in wood turning, wood carving, decorative box making, and cabinetry. Many world class craftsmen have used these facilities to demonstrate their skills for appreciative Cutting Edge patrons.

Through a comprehensive advertising program that has included sponsorship of television programs, advertisements in top industry publications, participation in national tool shows, and the establishment of a web site, the Cutting Edge has extended its marketing reach worldwide. Customers from South Africa, Israel, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, South and Central America as well as Canada and all across the United States keep Steve and Teri busy with their currency conversion calculations.

As a result of their prodigious efforts and interminably long hours of hard work, the business has enjoyed such success that it has completely outgrown its present location. Ground has been broken in preparation for construction of a new facility that will virtually triple the size of the present location. Not only will there be a greatly expanded showroom to accommodate more equipment, but there will be much more spacious workshop areas

We not only congratulate these good people for their outstanding success, but we want to express our deep appreciation for Steve's generous outpouring of support for our club with his many instructive programs, his contributions of merchandise for club prizes, and for the generous provision of facilities for our use. When the new Cutting Edge opens later this year at 11760 So. Sam Houston Parkway, we may well expect to see Julia Roberts and Norm Abrams waving us through the front door and asking Steve and Teri for autographs.

AT YOUR SERVICE

President:

Ken Kooser - 936-890-4090

Vice-President:

Art Chester - 281-379-1780

Secretary/Treasurer:

Joan Loggins - 713-729-3776

Director:

Brian Honey - 409-529-8405

Director:

Jack Hutchison - 281-493-2633

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Justin Kelly - 281-357-0127

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Bill Hochmuth

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Gary Rowen - 281-486-2013
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Newsletter Editor:

Justin Kelly - 281-357-0127
kelly006@swbell.net

REMINDER!!

1. Dues are \$24 per year.
2. Dues are prorated for new members ONLY.
3. Renewing members in June: \$24.
4. New members in June: \$14.



BRANDLE'S SAWMILL

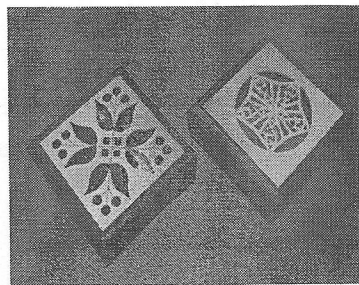
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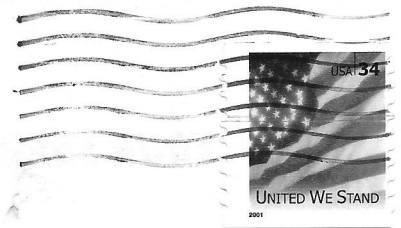


Left: These baltic birch
and walnut potpourri
boxes were crafted by
Walter Mason.

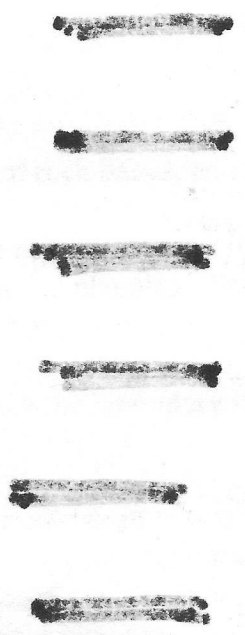
Right: Fred Sandoval
displayed this drop
leaf table, made from
honduran mahogany.
It is a companion
piece to the low boy
that he brought to the
April meeting. Nice
job Fred!



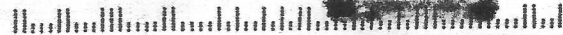
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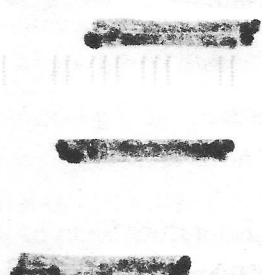
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JUNE:

6/8/02 - Meeting at the Bayland
Community Center - 9:00 A.M.

6/15/02 - Picnic at Brandle's
Sawmill - 9:00 A.M.



THREE HOUSTON LOCATIONS:

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