

Woodworkers Club of Houston

June 2005 • Volume 21, No. 6 • www.wwch.org

June Program: LHR Technologies presents the CarveWright System

by Dennis Serig, Program Chairman

Several meetings ago, Denis Muras displayed a scroll-sawed military plaque at Show-and-Tell. The good news was that somebody was interested in buying them. The bad news was that a "small" order was 10,000. Many of us would be challenged to produce even ten quality products within our limits of time, equipment, space, budget, and experience. LHR Technologies, a group of former NASA robotics engineers and lifelong woodworkers, was formed to bring state-of-the-art technology to bear in the consumer tool market. They have already brought us the QuikRout tool free system for simple, safe, quick-change of router bits (available at Sears), and now they may have an answer that many of us, like Denis, are looking for in the design and repeatable production of high quality products in our small shops.

LHR Technologies will unveil the CarveWright System at our June meeting. The system is a computer controlled 3-D router and all-purpose woodworking tool capable of working in most soft materials. The CarveWright has built-in abilities to recognize and size material, scan 3-D images, cut, rout, contour, joint, drill and carve patterns. Its printer-like configuration allows the CarveWright to perform many different woodworking functions by simply changing bits, and it incorporates a patented quick-change mechanism that makes changing bits fast and easy.

The System's unique, simple, and easy to use

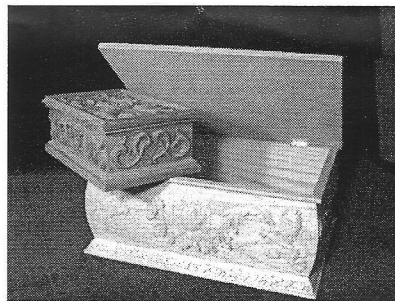
software allows project creation in an intuitive windowed environment with 3-D display of graphics. The software allows use of software libraries of ready-made 3-D carving patterns, scans of pre-existing carvings, and basic 2-D drawing for design of original patterns. Products of the various design methods can be combined, patterned, and resized to produce an infinite

variety of original designs. During design development, users can rotate and zoom-in on their efforts to help them visualize the finished product. Designs are downloaded to the Machine using a supplied memory card, allowing the personal computer to be in a separate location from the Machine.

The CarveWright System will allow experienced craftsmen and novices alike

to make products ranging from picture frames and moldings to signs and carvings. At our meeting, LHR Technologies will demonstrate the operation of the CarveWright System to highlight its flexibility. Computers will be available for members to experiment with the software and, time permitting, we will carve an original design.

The CarveWright System is priced to be the first CNC router available in the mass consumer market. A limited number of systems will be available for sale in the Houston area. The package will include all the hardware and software necessary to start creating masterpiece designs from the very start.



Cutting Into Man's World of Woodworking

By Laurie Arendt

Traditionally, a woman's work has been in the home. In the 21st century, not only have many women turned that cliché upside down, but they've also discovered something else to be true: A woman's work can most certainly be her home. Or her boat. Or a better crafted piece of furniture than she was able to find at a furniture store.

Just ask Jan Aasen, one of many longtime women woodworkers in the Milwaukee area. "I spent a lot of Saturdays in the garage with my dad," she says. "At one point, my dad hired a carpenter to repair the deck of his boat and I knew I could do a better job. Eventually, I literally rebuilt an entire boat and have done a number of projects on other boats."

The same early inspiration influenced Sue Havas, an associate project engineer at Menomonee Falls-based T.J. Hale, a store fixture manufacturer.

"I took my first woodworking class in middle school," she says. "We had a choice of metal shop or wood shop and I took wood shop. As a teenager, I took a summer woodworking class and was the only girl enrolled."

The growing number of women in woodworking is fueled by a number of trends. The traditional view of woodworking as a male hobby is quickly falling by the wayside. Liz Rody, treasurer of the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild, continues to see more women attending meetings and workshops of the Milwaukee-based organization.

The local trend of women gravitating toward woodworking is an echo of a larger national trend. "There are close to 4 million American women woodworkers today," says Lili Rockler Jackson, spokesperson for Rockler Cos. and the granddaughter of the company's founder, Norton Rockler.

Although women often initially approach the hobby a little differently than men, Jackson says that nationally women woodworkers don't want to be treated any differently than their male counterparts, though the company sponsors a popular Web site for women woodworkers at www.womeninwoodworking.com.

Mini Max USA Seminar

First, to clear up any doubts, Walter Mason's brand new Mini Max MM 16 worked just fine when given adequate juice to get it started. The failing at May's meeting was the program chair's. The generator he rented supplied 20 amps, which would have been fine

for running the saw, but didn't provide quite enough oomph to get it started.

That said, *club members are invited to attend a two-day comprehensive seminar put on by Mini Max USA in Austin during the weekend of August 27th and 28th.*

Sam Blasco's presentation will focus on adjusting from the separate machines that we all grew up with to working with full combination machines and bandsaws. The following topics are expected to be addressed.

Day one:

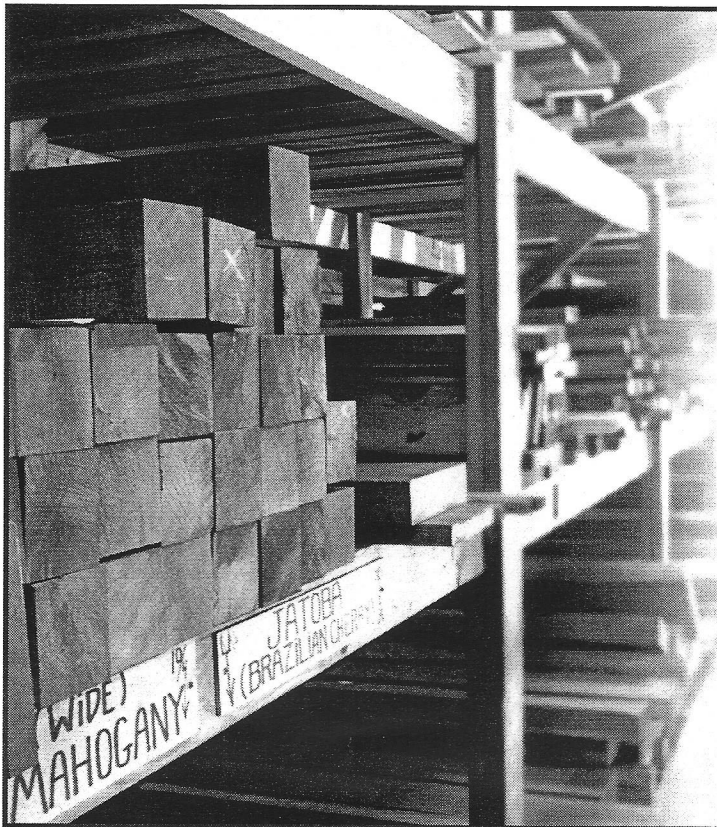
- Basic machine set-up
- Alignment and adjustments
- Maintenance of Mini Max combination units and bandsaws
- Proper and safe use of the combination machine and bandsaw
- Creating an efficient workflow
- Getting the most out of the machine's versatility and conversions

Day two:

- Reading lumber to get the most out of you boards
- Learning where different sections and grain patterns can be used to best advantage
- Areas where different sections and grain patterns could cause problems
- Panel processing
- Lamination
- Carcass construction
- Frame and panel making
- Book-matching and veneering
- Mortising and tenoning
- Making legs, molding and more

Although its dedicated to the combination machine and bandsaw, much of what will be discussed and demonstrated will translate to the separate machines we are used to.

Cost for the seminar is \$100.00 per day with lunches included. Arrangements have been made with "Springhill Suites" for a per day room cost of \$71.00. Contact Sam Blasco at (866) 975-9663 or sblasco@minimax-usa.com.



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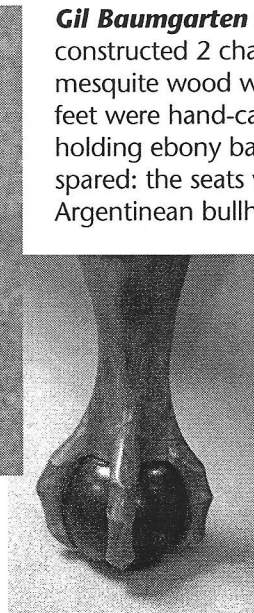
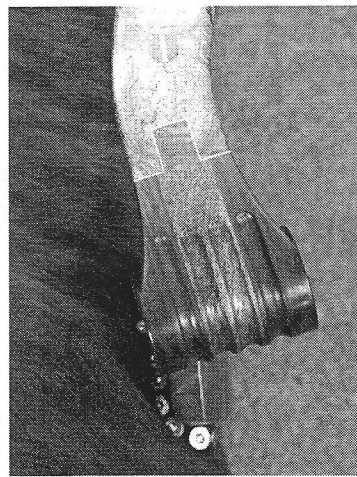
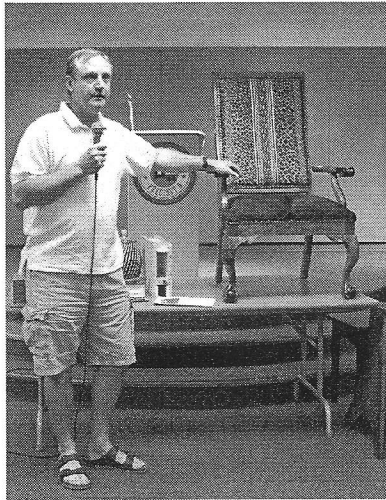
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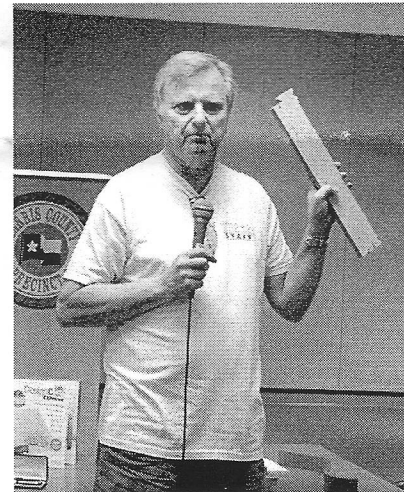
May projects



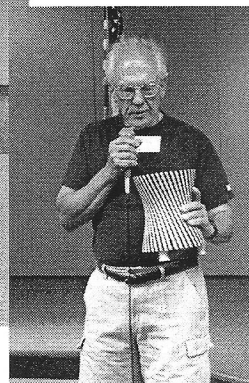
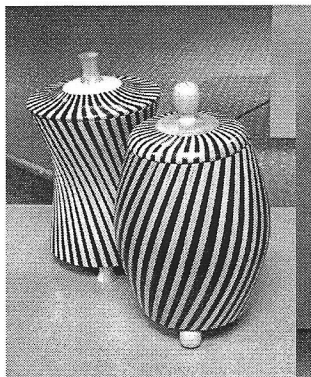
Gil Baumgarten designed and constructed 2 chairs featuring primarily mesquite wood with maple inlays. The feet were hand-carved mesquite talons holding ebony balls. No expense was spared: the seats were upholstered with Argentinean bullhide and the chair backs

were an elaborate tapestry that continued the animal skin theme. Gil estimated he spent roughly \$1300.00 per chair

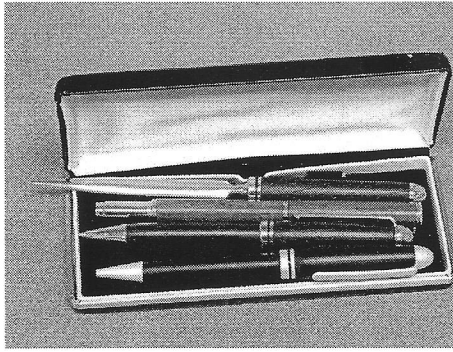
Brian Honey had a small table that he made with hand tools while at the Center For Essential Education in Elm Mott, TX.



Jack Hutchinson brought in some pilaster samples made from mahogany for a Chippendale Corner Cupboard that features an intricate swan-necked rosette pediment. He discussed using various router bits for the profile and shared how he made a router extension



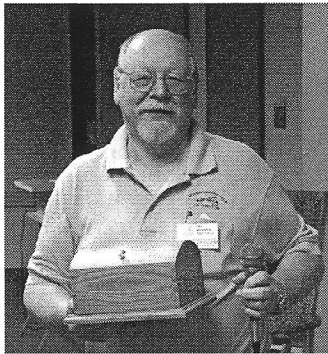
For a Contemporary Craft Center show **Lon Kelley** made two vessels called "Stripes" and "Stripes Inverse" made with maple and epoxy. The epoxy he uses is Bondo Marine from Home Depot.



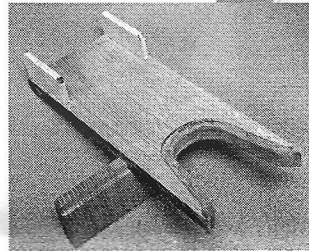
Justin Kelley - With a new Jet mini-lathe purchased on E-bay, he made a paduk letter opener, a cocobolo mechanical pencil, an ebony pen and a fountain pen with granadillo.



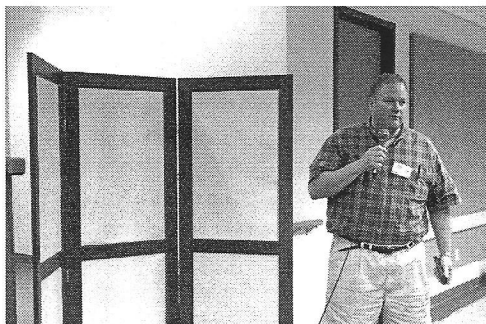
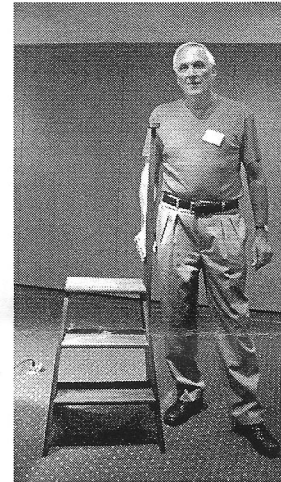
Rudy Lippert made a step stool for his 5' 2" wife. The stepstair walnut and the hand-pole was mahogany. He employed a Danish hand rubbed finish to enhance the wood's natural beauty.



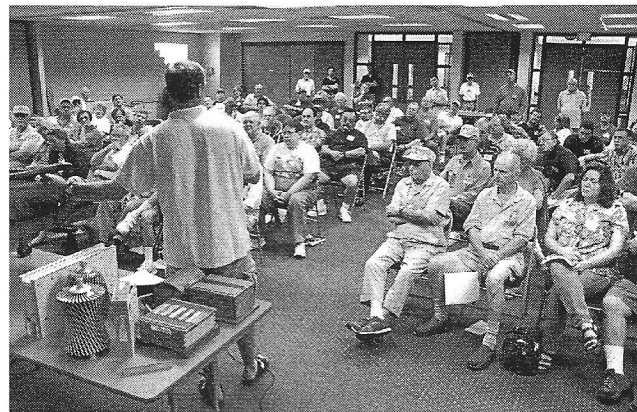
Ken Kooser holds an oak box with a wood hinge he made with a Woodline Jig and finished w/Barklay's. Ken's now teaching a course at HCC. He also showed a knock-off of a "sand flea" that he built from scratch.



Ted Ojevich discussed a wood fence he built and a knock down boot jack for traveling. The boot jack doubles as a sock donning aid. His walking cane is made with a pool cue, poker chips and dice from Las Vegas.



This Brazilian Redwood screen **Brian Littleton** made with rail and stile construction. The inserts were caned panels he bought. He finished the piece with tung oil.



WWCH members pay rapt attention to **Gil Baumgarten's** explanations of how his projects were designed, built and finished. Other members' projects are displayed on the table.

Woodworking Tool & Shop Equipment Product Safety Recalls

Listed on this page are product safety recall announcements from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for tools associated with woodworking and woodworking shops. This is not by any means an exhaustive reference. Some Manufacturers send out their own notices to registered tool owners as a voluntary measure (another good reason to send in that product registration card).

Please note that the dates on each notice are the notice "release dates" and are not necessarily associated with a tool or equipment's manufacture date. Check with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for model numbers and other details (www.cpsc.gov).

Air Compressors

- * Air Compressors Recalled by Northern Tool & Equipment (September 12, 2002)
- * Ingersoll-Rand Co. Recalls Portable Air Compressors (February 26, 2002)

Circular Saws

- * Hitachi Koki U.S.A. Recall to Repair Circular Saws (March 27, 2003)
- * Makita U.S.A. Inc. Recall to Repair Circular Saws (December 19, 2002)
- * DeWALT Industrial Tool Co. Recall to Repair Circular Saws (April 4, 2002)
- * Ryobi Recall to Repair Circular Saws (September 13, 2001)

Drill | Drivers

- * Wagner Spray Tech Corporation Recall of Drill Charger Base (March 2, 2004)
- * 18-volt Cordless Drill/Drivers Recalled by Black & Decker (July 24, 2003)
- * Robert Bosch Tool Corp. Recall of Skil® Warrior Drill Battery Chargers (February 14, 2003)
- * Black & Decker Recalls Cordless Drill/Drivers (August 20, 2002)

Hammer Drills

- * Ryobi Technologies, Inc. Recalls Hammer Drills (May 9, 2002)
- * Electric Drills Recalled by Power Tool Manufacturers (May 10, 2001)
- * Power Tools Recalled by Various Companies (October 17, 2000)

Miter Saws

- * 12-inch Miter Saws Recall/Repair DEWALT® Industrial Tool (January 25, 2001)
- * 12-inch Miter Saws Recall/Repair by Black and

Decker (January 25, 2001)

Radial Arm Saws

- * Craftsman® Radial Arm Saws Recalled by Emerson Tool (November 14, 2000)

Routers

- * OWT Industries and Sears Recall of Electric Routers Used in Woodworking (March 27, 2003)

Sanders | Grinders

- * Electric Sanders Recalled by Makita U.S.A. (March 6, 2003)
- * Power Tools Recalled by Various Companies (October 17, 2000)

Spiral Saws

- * Roto Zip Tool Corporation Recall of Handheld Saws (February 26, 2002)

Thanks for your patience.

This has been a challenging and trying time for your newsletter editor. The past few issues of the newsletter have been a rushed affair and, consequently, not my best effort. Here's why.

A few months ago Sally and I bought an old house knowing that it would be a project to fix up. Those of you who have remodeled or renovated an old house know it's a lot different when you manage it yourself than it looks on TV. I looked at it as a learning experience and, boy howdy, was I right.

From foundation work, to combining rooms, new sheetrock, electrical, plumbing and more the time and attention needed became a daily grind. Supervising, permits, fetching materials and negotiating prices was my main job for about three months. Those WWCH members who do this professionally have my highest respect. Many thanks to those members who gave valuable advice: particularly to Eddie Arnold.

We're in our new home now and are very pleased with the results. The paint is dry, the window treatments are in place and not a day goes by without adding to my list of projects. Unfortunately, the shop has been the last area to come together. No electricity or lights tends to reduce one's efficiency in that area. By the end of June I hope to have a fully functioning shop again.

It was an expensive education even though I squeezed every nickel. I'd give myself a low "B" grade as a contractor but I made some good decisions and I'm proud of the results.

Bill White, Newsletter Editor

Everyone needs reminding, sometime.

Video Library Chairman, **Blain Stokes**, made a direct plea to members to return videos that are due back to the Club's library. There are 52 videos that are missing from the library and should be returned as soon as possible. Look through your videos at home and if you have one of the Club's bring it in the next meeting you attend. All will be forgiven. Thanks.



Call for entries to the Sixth Annual Texas Furniture Makers Show.

A letter from the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center states, "You are invited to exhibit at the Sixth Annual Texas Furniture Show being staged at Kerr Arts & Cultural Center, Kerrville, Texas from October 28 to December 5, 2005." Early applications to this popular Texas furniture show can be made after June 1 with a final application deadline of September 1. The show is juried so it should be a good example of Texas furniture making. **Marcus Brun** passed along the info to the newsletter and he will have information on rules, fees and cash awards in several categories at our next

meeting. See Marcus or look online at www.kacckerrville.com. You can also email Jack Davis at kacc@kacckerrville.com or telephone him at 1.830.895.2911 for more information.

There will be three judges for the show; **Jake Cress**, Cabinetmaker, from Fincastle, Virginia has had his work featured in just about every woodworking and art magazine being published. His work can be seen at www.jakecress.com; **Patty Riley-Brown**, ASID of Austin, Texas ia a medalist of the American Society of Interior Designers and has served on both the State and National Board Directors of that organization; **Howard Hale**, Master Craftsman of Dallas, Texas, has been a master craftsman for 22 years, having studied under the great Danish Master Tage Frid in Providence, RI.

There is a lot of talent in our Club and some of it at a very high level of skill. Recently we've seen some outstanding examples of furniture making by members that would stand up well with some of the best work produced in the state. There's plenty of time to get your act together so let's see if we can't have several members represented in the show this year.

Editor's Note: Club members are welcome to submit information or short articles to the newsletter. Contact Bill White at 713.524.8768 or bwhite444@houston.rr.com. Many thanks to Club members who have submitted materials for past issues. Our newsletter is better because you have.

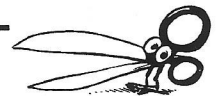
WWCH Monthly Meeting

Second Saturday of every month
We open the doors at 8:30am, program starts at 9:00 and winds up by 11:30am.

Bayland Community Center
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Woodworkers Club of Houston Membership Application



A WWCH Membership is a chance to learn about woodworking, visit with other woodworkers and see some fabulous projects. Your membership includes a monthly newsletter, access to our video and book library, invitation to field trips and occasionally we collectively buy tools at discounted prices. Considering the cost it's a genuine bargain. So, cut out this application, include a check for \$24.00 yearly membership and mail it to the address below. And join us once a month for a good time.

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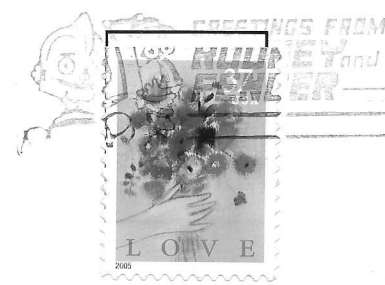
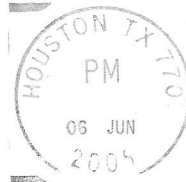
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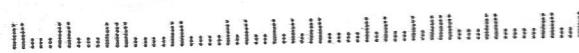
Monthly Meeting:
June 11

Program:
The first computer-driven
home carving system.

Next Monthly Meeting:
July 9

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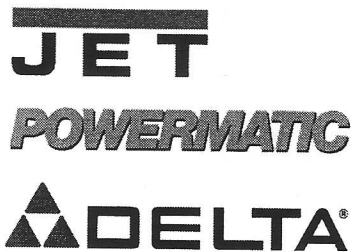
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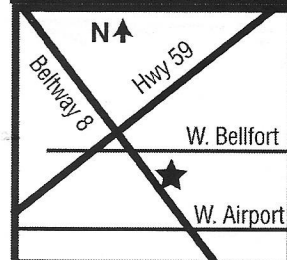
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