

February Meeting Notes

General Items

There were seven guests and visitors at the meeting. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and look forward to seeing you again.

Let us applaud Martin Imber volunteering to take on the job of Book Librarian. Since the raffle proceeds are used for books and videos contact Martin and Denis Muras with your suggestions.

The Nimitz Museum in Fredricksburg is looking for woodworking assistance in restoring of a WWII PT boat restoration. Most of the work are detail pieces to be done in your shop. Those interested in working on the project contact Jimmie Harp for specifics.

Safety

Ear protection: shooters use both ear plugs and ear muffs to cancel out high and low frequency since the bones around the ear and the ear canal transmit sound to the ear drum. It was also noted that the ear canal is an amplifier (the term is 'exponential horn' -edt) so that what could be reasonable sound levels measured outside the ear could be too high in the ear. Let's be careful.

Routers are dangerous, the second story in two months. Dooley George, with arm and hand in a sling, told us of doing a small rabbit in boxwood. His router table is an extension table on his table saw. Dooley was using the saw fence with the router, to do a climb cut without a push stick. Fortunately his wife was near and took him to the emergency room. After two reconstruction surgical sessions totalling 8.5 hours and at least 1 more operation for bone transplants, pins, ligament and tendon reconstruction and 6 months of rehabilitation he may be getting back to woodworking. The biggest cost is the frustration of not being able to do the things he really wants to do.

Jimmie Harp told us to remember that we can be holding 3 hp with a bit turning at 20,000 rpm. That means a 1/2 inch bit has a speed of 30 m.p.h. (with my Unisaw power -edt). On a table saw the teeth are traveling at about 100 m.p.h.

Problems and Solutions

A problem was had with trying to cut a log on a table saw. The suggestion is to not try. Get a band saw and be sure to flatten one side to prevent the log from rotating.

One member brought up a problem with random orbit sander that raising the grain as he thought he was doing the finish sanding.

- By Reed noted that use on reaction wood (lumber that comes from sections of the tree where it bends or branches) can raise the grain since there is no consistent structure of edge, long or end grain. Thus sanding plucks the fibers.
- It was also noted that pine can get to hot causing the soft fast growth wood to swell slightly and be sanded away leaving the slow growth rings standing proud of the surface.

Another member brought up a design flaw in some fountain pens that are being sold for turned pens. The cap of a fountain pen is removed (unlike ball points and pencils) and usually placed on the other end of the pen during writing. The least expensive designs don't consider this. So look for the 'Parker' design that has a slightly smaller section for 'parking' of the cap. (I missed the member's name. Please call me, I am interested in this pen design and where to get the supplies. -edt)

Future Programs and Trips

Saul Harris has suggested a trip to visit Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. It is possible, as a group, to get further into talking with the craftsmen/historians who work in the wood-crafts there.

A second suggestion is to invite a well known author/woodworker to give a workshop to club members. A suggestion is Nick Engler who teaches 3, 6 or 10 hour seminars. To keep the cost down members could provide the room, board and transportation he is while in town.

The Program- Shop Jigs Jigs by Chuck

Chuck Maxwell (the Jig Master) showed us a wide range of the jigs he has built from plans in various magazines. He always improves them specially as far as safety is concerned. The short list is: zero tolerance jig for the table saw made with hardboard; miter jig from Wood Journal 9/92; tenon jig; outfeed rollers with height adjustment and roller table; a mortise-spline-mortise jig from WoodSmith #74; pocket screw jig from Fine Woodworking 8/91; a jig to put tenons on dowels with a router; ... and the list goes on. He suggests labeling each jig you make with the plan identification.

Jigs by Zadis

Zadis Murphy makes common sense simple jigs to safely do repeated tasks. He showed: an extension to his miter gauge with a stop; a simple taper jig; a sander angle jig for sharpening; also the new and improved Incra Jig.

Jigs by Don

Don Sloan took holdover fingers (Woodcraft/Shopsmith) and mounted them on a plywood jig for use on his saw fence as hold-down anti-kickback system. The fingers can be reversed and adjusted for thickness. The fascinating jig (modified from Wood Magazine #46) is his router system to assure the dado will precisely match the particular thickness of your plywood. None of the plywood you buy will be exactly the English measurement specified, thus the standard router bits will not create a proper fitting dado. He also gave an example of the mathematical calculations necessary for precise fit. (Excellent work, Don)

Show and Tell

Sharon Buckley showed photos of her version of Woodsmith's Country Hutch (#96). They noted that clear pine is very expensive so switched to #2 (more knots). Well Sharon went one step further and used #3 pine that she normally uses in business. She cautioned on adhering to the specifications for European drawer slide hardware. Very nice, Sharon.

Loretta showed her and Sharon's handy work in making a large scale Ark with many pairs of animals. Sharon did the construction while Loretta did the sanding and painting. (A fine job of painting I might add. -edt) This is for Jimmie Harp who seems to have been asking for one of these gems for about a year.

Leonard Ekholm told about building one of the Dust Collectors that hangs from the ceiling of his shop. The design comes from Woodsmith #95. The system does a good job of getting the fine dust from the air. (You were a hit Leonard, I had three phone calls asking for your name and number. For those who still want to ask him questions his number is 879-1616. -edt)

The Board Meeting

Lee Palfreyman reported the Treasury is sitting at \$5386.86 as of February 13th. With all of the banking changes going on over the years we had to get new checks since the bank had merged thus changing its name and routing code three years ago.

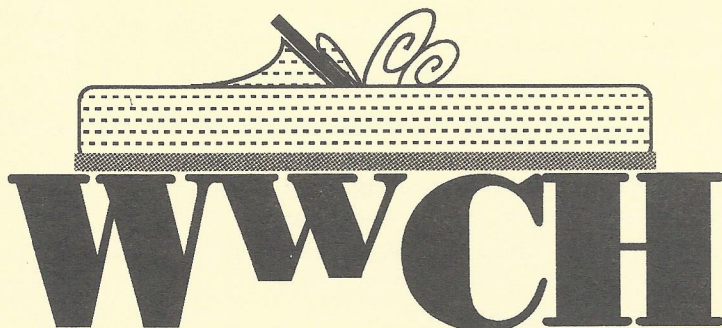
Saul Harris is looking into getting WwCH baseball (*Dare I say that? -edt*) and golf hats. The color scheme is going to be the same as those you have seen around on the older members.

Some of the up coming programs are: April - Freud, May - Porter Cable (rescheduled) and July - Don Richardson on Wood Dynamics.

The March Board meeting is going to be at Steve Procter's house at 7:00 PM Monday March 13, 1995.

Logo for WwCH

The following is the logo we will have on the cover of the 1995 Membership Book. Would we like it on new club caps? Other options will be shown at the meeting in March.



Membership Book

If you receive this newsletter by mail then you are one of 108 members that have paid your dues and will have their name and address in the membership book. We are working to have them at the March meeting.

Name Tags

As with the Membership Book, those receiving this newsletter by mail should look for a new name tag at the March meeting. Joining or renewing after the March meeting will get you a name tag, newsletter, and membership book.

Northside Splinters Guild

Jimmie Harp is wanting to organize an informal woodworkers group in the Heights area. The first gathering is scheduled for March 12th 1:00 PM at his shop, 848¹/₂ W. 24th in the Heights, 862-7222.

Southwest Wood Guild

The SwWG met February 19th at Walt Turpening's shop. Sam Zeisman, Steve Procter, Fred Ringer and Terry McCafferty came and discussed various aspects of our wood working.

Terry showed photos of two cherry baby cradles he made. One is for his new grandbaby and the other for his daughter and husband that are newly married. This is taking 'be prepared' to the practical end since there were 120 mortises in just one. He built a router horizontal mortiser to help make the job easier. He discussed his methods of using a CAD system to design a piece and make full size drawings on the plotter at his office. He also talked about his plans for a Federal style card table and his need for assistance in doing some inlay work on the legs.

Walt demonstrated (again) the easy task of making wood threads, a PVC expansion clamp he made for holding screw nutcrackers for carving and the different clamping variations at his tall carving/sculpting bench. Then we adjourned to the house to ponder (*that is wonder at a very deep level -edt*) some of his completed projects.

At press time, the next meeting is scheduled for 3:00 PM March 19th at Terry McCafferty's, 135 Wilkins Crossing, Sugar Land (in New Territory west of Sugar Land off US-90) 565-2300, Any one is welcome.

Help

Now that Watco is going off the market, where do I go for a Danish oil finish replacement? I have been using it so long that I haven't looked at anything else. Maybe I'll go back to linseed oil and turpentine or tung oil. I'm not a varnish fan. - Walt Turpening

Bar Clamp Orders

Sharon Buckley is getting an order together for more aluminum bar clamps. Included in this newsletter is a copy of the order form. If you want to order bring it (and check or money order) to the next meeting or mail it to Sharon at the address on the form.

March Meeting

When: March 11, 1995 9:00 AM
Where: Bayland Community Center
on Bissonnet at Hillcroft

Program: Steve LeGrue from The Cutting Edge
"Faceplate Turning"

Raffle: Brad Hartman (Manager, Woodcraft Supply
re at 34th and 290) has donated 5 sets of Long
Sanding Drum Kits. Thanks, Brad.

Quote for the Month

A Young Birch

by Robert Frost

The birch begins to crack its outer sheath
Of baby green and show the white beneath,
As whosoever likes the young and slight
May well have noticed. Soon entirely white
To double day and cut in half the dark
It will stand forth, entirely white in bark,
And nothing but the top a leafy green—
The only native tree that dares to lean,
Relying on its beauty, to the air.
(Less brave perhaps than trusting are the fair.)
And someone reminiscent will recall
How once in cutting brush along the wall
He spared it from the number of the slain,
At first to be no bigger than a cane,
And then no bigger than a fishing pole,
But now at last so obvious a bole
The most efficient help you ever hired
Would know that it was there to be admired,
and zeal would not be thanked that cut it down
When you were reading books or out of town.
It was a thing of beauty and was sent
To live its life out as an ornament.

-from COMPLETE WORKS OF ROBERT FROST 1949,
page 517, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, New York

For Sale

- Shopsmith Mark 510** (1989 still in the box) with dust collector, starter package, scroll saw, jointer, auto-feed planer, and biscuit jointer Contact Bob Jackson 482-2535
- Dremel Scroll Saw** with Stand and Blades - \$300 value asking \$130. Contact: Bill Beggs 667-8381
- Air Compressor**, 2 hp/10 gallon with paint sprayer and hose- \$100 o.b.o. Contact: Bill Beggs
- 1900 Upright Piano** - Free Contact: Martin Imber 1-292-1606
- 12" Craftsman table saw** with 2 12" cast iron extensions, direct drive 4-5 hp, retractable casters- \$400 Call 772-7895

Want to Buy

Used Chain Saw 14"-16" Contact: Gale Towns 575-7552

From the Editor's Workbench

I would like to poll the club on working with other craft clubs/guilds on a combined show and sale in the fall. The Weavers, Potters, and Basket Weavers are interested.

I have discussed in past articles in the newsletter my concerns about using too many power tools. In reading American Woodworker on America On-line I read the Editorial. I excerpted this from Ellis Walentine's editorial. He expresses some of my feelings on hand tool versus power tool approach to woodworking.

[From American Woodworker #44, March/April 1995.]

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR "STRIKING A BALANCE"

... I can't help thinking how the router and other power tools can never entirely take the place of hand tools and manual skills, at least for me. While I'm a firm believer that power tools are essential for efficiency in the shop, I've always been a little bit bored by the mechanical precision of operations that I've jigged up to the point of mindlessness. Sure, you get predictable results, but there's something missing.

The missing ingredient is the human touch — that subtle, almost intangible ingredient that distinguishes the finest workmanship. I crave those slight surface imperfections that tell me a hand plane has been there. I look for those little chiseled corners where a router bit couldn't possibly have been. I delight in chamfers that taper gracefully, with a life and spirit you can't get from a carbide cutter. When I'm building something myself, I need to be more personally involved with the process — to use my eyes and hands to create my own vision of beauty — to add the nuances that make a piece distinctly mine.... For instance, I've found that hand-planing a board takes a whole lot longer than stroke-sanding it, but the differences in clarity and character are profound. I believe that once you get beyond the mere mechanics of constructing something, you beginning to enter the realm of personal expression. For me, this is where the real joy of woodworking begins.

—Ellis Walentine, Executive Editor

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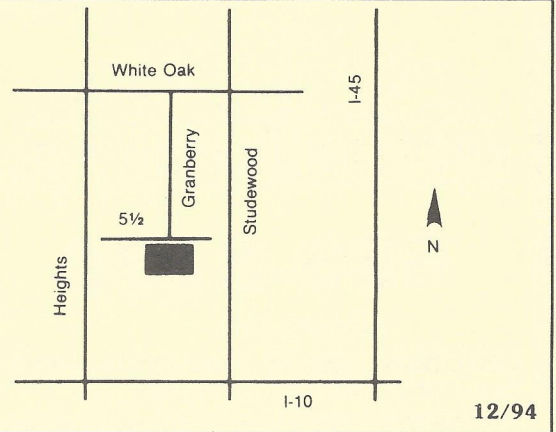
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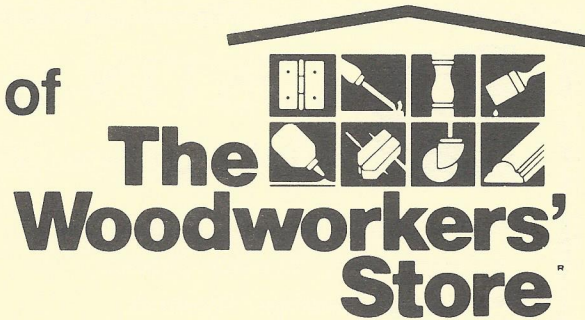
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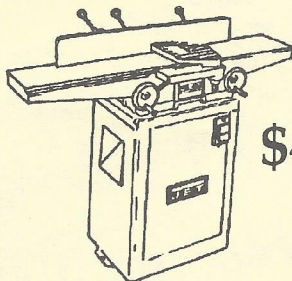
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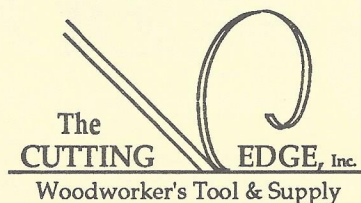


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WwCH Membership

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Make checks payable to Woodworkers Club of Houston.

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WwCH Membership Form

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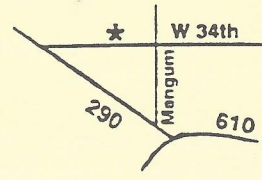
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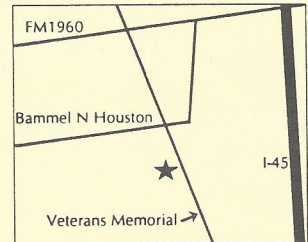


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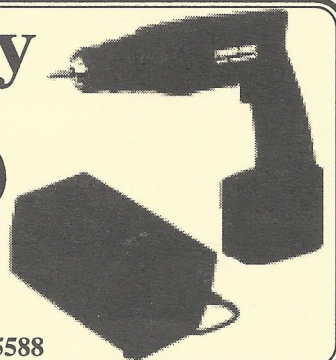
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Fine Handcraft Calendar of Events

Happenings in and around Houston

Woodworkers Club of Houston

Meeting: March 11, 1995 9:00 AM
at Bayland Community Center

Houston Area Wood-carvers Club

Meeting: March 18, 1995 9:00 AM
at Bayland Community Center

Gulf Coast Woodturners

Meeting: March 18, 1995 9:00 AM
at The Cutting Edge (Sw Fwy near Bellaire)

Contemporary Handweavers of Houston

Meeting: March 16, 1995 7:00 PM
at Palmer Memorial Church Meeting Center, 6221 Main at N. MacGregor.