

# Woodworkers Club of Houston

*Happy Father's Day  
From the seed and strengths of  
Fathers, mighty forests flourish.*

Volume 30 Issue 6

June 2014

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you can attend WWCH's June 14 meeting to see Frank Strazza work. Don't forget that the demo is 2 hours long, **so the meeting will begin at 8:30 am and the presentation at 9:00 am.**

Frank uses hand tools, but most of us have a shop full of power tools as well as some hand tools. Some of our old reliable power tools eventually wear out. Last year my old Sears router with the bench-top aluminum table finally gave up. I bought this kit used about 1985 for \$25. It turns out that was money very well spent. That was my only router until about 2000 when I upgraded to a Porter Cable 690 series with both the fixed base and the plunge base. But still, anytime I needed a table-based router, which I just naturally like using more than freehand, I went back to the old Sears. In fact the router failed during use in the table. It started to sound like a grinder rather than a cutting tool. After quickly shutting it off and unplugging it, I of course disassembled it to see what the ailment was. The brushes were quite worn, but the cause of death was the shattering of the plastic rotor. After a moment of silence, I searched online for a manual and parts. I found a manual, but I could hear the SEAR's website laughing at me for thinking the parts for this faithful old friend might still be available. That was that. I had to start thinking about a new router table, if not a new router as well. There are some great router table systems available but some of the prices are enough to choke on, not to mention a woodworker ought to be able to build his own table. My ultimate solution was to buy, on sale with freebie accessories thrown in, a Rockler table top and fence. But instead of buying the metal stand, I decided building an enclosed base with a dust collecting vacuum, bits, wrenches, jigs, and other accessories was the way to go. Well finally, I finished the project and couldn't resist the opportunity to add a new, bigger, better router (3-1/4 HP Triton) to permanently mount in the table. The old Porter Cable could have done the job, but a nice new table needed a new router I told myself, and you can never have too many routers.

I can hardly wait for a few other tools to wear out like my 1/4 sheet pad sander and my substandard 3 wheel Delta band saw so I can justify new upgrades.

Chuck Meeder, President

## NEW MEMBERS

### Welcome to WWCH!

**Bill Rowland**

Pick up your Membership Directory, and sign in at the meeting so you will be counted.

Happy to have you with us!

## SPECIAL EVENT!! GUEST SPEAKER: FRANK STRAZZA TWO HOUR DEMONSTRATION



### **THE JUNE 14 MEETING WILL START EARLY: 8:30 AM.**

**Frank Strazza, renowned Texas woodworker and instructor at Heritage School of Woodworking, near Waco comes to WWCH for a two-hour demonstration: Using hand tools to make dovetail joints, decorative inlay, and other items.**



Frank has won multiple awards, including, Best of Show, People's Choice, First and Second Place, Best Traditional Furniture and much more for many of his pieces, including several awards both at the Texas Furniture Makers Show and at the International Design in Wood Exhibition in California. His most recent win was at the 2012 Texas Furniture Makers Show where he won both Best of Show and People's Choice for his "Roses Table". He has also participated in building furniture for the permanent collection at the White House in Washington D.C. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see a master at work!

**THERE WILL BE NO SHOW AND TELL FOR THIS MEETING.**

## SPLINTER GROUPS

**Hand Tool Splinter Group:** The next meeting will be **June 26<sup>th</sup>**. We'll be making a Seton Square at the next meeting. Details are found in the attached link. We plan to do the joinery at the meeting, but participants should plan on bringing their own dimensioned stock.

Seaton Try Square: <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365021524/>  
Meeting is 7-9pm at Mark Bolinger's garage in Sugar Land near the Hwy 6 and 90A. Info, email Mark at [marksmithb@windstream.net](mailto:marksmithb@windstream.net).

**The Scroll Saw Splinter Group** will meet Saturday, **June 28<sup>th</sup>** at Woodcraft South (Beltway 8) at 9:30 AM. The program will be a guest speaker so the subject is up to him. He will not share what he will be discussing so you will just have to come to the meeting to find out what it is. We always have a good time and even learn something now and then. Bring those items for Show N Tell. We love to see what you have been doing. And above all don't forget you questions for Problems N Solutions.

**The CNC Router Group** will be meeting will be on Thursday, **June 12**, at 7:00pm at Patrick's place. This date is different to our normal time we meet. Patrick's address is 20734 Settlers Lake Our group is currently working on and discussing the construction of a 2' x 3' CNC router design. We have done some preliminary sketches of the machine and discussed what our best options would be in the design of the gantry and its relationship to the base. We will continue to refine our sketches and design utilizing a working prototype of the machine. If you need help finding the address, contact Mike Turner at 281-633-1807.

**Sawmill Splinter Group** is for those who are cutting and milling their own lumber or are interested in doing so. We discuss sawmills and the projects possible with the lumber. If you are interested, contact Bill Lindsey at [bill\\_lindsey@comcast.net](mailto:bill_lindsey@comcast.net) for **next meeting date and time**.

**The Toy Group meets** on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Tim Shaanty's shop at 3614 Thistle St., Houston. Throughout the year, the group makes thousands of toy cars for donation to needy kids around Houston/Galveston. **See the expanded schedule below for additional work sessions** and come lend a hand !!

As a follow-up to earlier discussions regarding providing more opportunities for members to work with the TOY PROGRAM, Tim Shaanty is opening his shop on Thursday mornings while still maintaining the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evenings.

If there is appropriate participation during this **trial period**, we will extend the Thursday morning sessions for the remainder of the year. There is no reason to let us know if you are coming, just show up and join the group in our efforts to continue the toy program of the Woodworkers Club of Houston.

The address of the shop is 3614 Thistle St., Houston, TX 77047.

If you have questions or need directions, call Andy Anderson at 713-409-7030, Tim Shaanty at 713-503-2284, or Norm Nichols at 281-491-3220.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 14 — Monthly Meeting** Frank Strassa: 2 hour demonstration on using hand tools.

**July 12 — Monthly Meeting** Speaker: Heiko Weiner

**June 17 — July 17 Monarch School** (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays)

**August 20 – 23 — International Woodworkers Fair, Atlanta, GA**

## SPEAKER IDEAS? SEE RON KUENNING

We need your recommendations for speakers on topics of interest to you. Your travels take you to companies and people who would make great speakers, so get that business card and pass the information to Ron Keunung so he can schedule some of that untapped speaking talent!! We need kudos and craft fair info too.

## FRED SANDOVAL HOLDS CLASSES

**Woodworking Classes—Fred Sandoval** holds woodworking classes the last two weekends of each month. For information: 281-793-3502 or [sandovalrederick96@yahoo.com](mailto:sandovalrederick96@yahoo.com).

## VIDEO LIBRARY NEEDS YOU

We still need a member to take on the maintenance of the WWCH Video Library. You get to see the videos any time you like. It's a perk of having them right at your fingertips.  
Please see any member of the board if you can lend a hand.

## NEW LOCATION FOR HISTORIC HOUSTON

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**REMEMBER THE JUNE MEETING STARTS AT 8:30AM.**

## TOY PROGRAM EXTENDED DATES

The schedule for Toy Making for June and July is as follows:

**June 11 — Wednesday Evening** 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
**June 12 — Thursday Morning** 9:00am – 11:30am  
**June 25 — Wednesday Evening** 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
**June 26 — Thursday Morning** 9:00am – 11:30am

**July 9 — Wednesday Evening** 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
**July 17 — Thursday Morning** 9:00am – 11:30am  
**July 23 — Wednesday Evening** 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
**July 31 — Thursday Morning** 9:00am – 11:30am

# RECAP: SEVERAL MEMBERS BROUGHT THEIR FAVORITE JIGS, MOST ARE HAND MADE

**Jerry Harmsen** presents a jig that he places on the bandsaw to cut brass pen tubes to length. The jig rides in the miter groove. Jerry has jigs for different sized pens. His second jig was one he created as a version of a Kreg pocket hole jig. He saved bundles of money by making it himself and by purchasing the clamp from Harbor Freight.



**Denis Muras** rests against this crosscut sled that he attaches onto a Craftsman table saw. Denis made hardwood runners to fit into the miter slots on the saw. Denis says make sure that the sled walls are at 90 degrees to the fence. The clamp holds work in place or can be used as a stop.

**D.L. Dickey** explains how he sets up his jig on the drill press to control the thickness of a piece when sanding. The drum sander, Robo-Sander from Stewart-MacDonald, chucks into the drill press. The small block on the fence allows D.L. to more easily grab pieces after they come through the sanding process.



**Fred Sandoval** explains how he constructed his jig that allows a router to cut ovals. Fred strongly recommends using good quality plywood. The dove tailed slide runners are at 22 1/2 degrees, made of hard wood, and must fit tight. He waxes them so they slide easily. He attached a piece of wood on the bottom of the boom so that it doesn't droop under the weight of the router.



Fred returned to the podium to talk about his taper jig that can run just about any angle. The piece to be cut will be placed on the edge of the board in the desired position. The edge of the board is then lined up with the table saw blade such that the resulting cut makes the desired taper.



**Mike Turner** said that this tool came from his iron foundry days and is used for marking radii or for cutting radii with a torch.

**Norm Nichols** has a great respect for the table saw and showed Club members his attachment to the miter gauge that allows him to more safely cut smaller pieces. Plus it keeps his hands farther away from the blade. Norm stressed that you need support all the way around the piece.



**Andy Anderson** talked about this jig he uses to make circles on the bandsaw. An adjustable runner is set to the proper distance from the blade -- either the pin or the peg is used as the center of the piece from which the circle is cut.



**Sean O'Connor** explained with a slide show how he uses his jig to make louvers for shutters.



**Steve Procter** showed Club members several pre-measured spacers for consistency in spacing. He also showed how he uses this jig to cut dentils.

A third jig cuts small pieces on the miter saw. Set the saw so that it doesn't come down quite all the way so it won't cut through the jig -- learned that one the hard way.

Saving his best for last, Steve demonstrated how he uses this jig with a molding machine to make moldings for cabinetry. The jig is adjustable so it can be fine-tuned with respect to the molding blade. The jig must be positioned so that the molding cutter is tangent to the curve of the jig. The piece to be molded then slides easily through the curved portion of the jig.

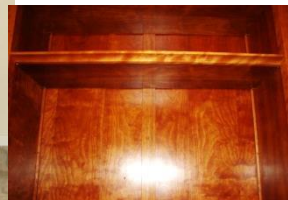
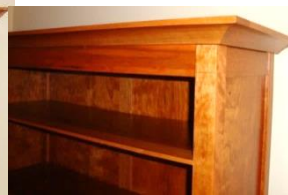
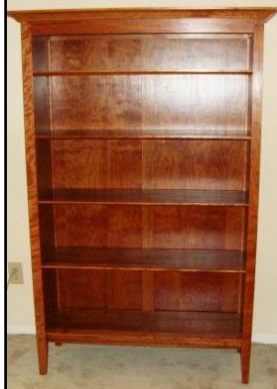


**Vince D'amico** was asked to make tea caddies that can be decorated and sold in the Museum of Fine Arts gift store. The English put tea in domed boxes such as this. He needed a jig to enable him to glue 1/32 inch veneers together (Weldwood glue). The jig clamps the veneers into the semi-circular shape, though traditionally oval.

# MAY SHOW AND TELL

## PRESENTERS

1. **Joe Cook** — Floor Lamps
2. **Dean Grimes** — Turned Pen Barrel
3. **Sid Hockens** — Book Case
4. **Ray Hope** — Turned Wine Stoppers
5. **Chuck Lickwar** — Ring Box and Wine Stopper
5. **Denis Muras** — Kitchen Island
6. **Norm Nichols** — Custom Cup Holder
7. **Rick Spacek** — John Nelson Clock
8. **Mike Turner** — Autocad Demonstration with Crosses



**Sid Hockens** showed Club members slides of his book case made of plywood with cherry edges. Sid explained how he modified his router bit by removing the guide wheel and having the manufacturer grind down the wheel post.



**Norm Nichols** and his wife like to go to the Sugar Land Skeeter's baseball games where they sit on the concourse level. Because of their location, there are no cup holders in front of them but only in the arm rests and Norm gets tired of spilling his drinks. So he did what any self-respecting woodworker would do – he made his own cup holder that he can place on the railing in front of their seats. Better carry order forms for this one, Norm!



**Rick Spacek** showed Club members his version of a John Nelson designed clock. He customized the pattern and made it smaller and used maple.

**Mike Turner's** church sponsored a craft booth at a Cinco de Mayo celebration to demonstrate how he used Autocad to design the crosses and the bandsaw to cut the patterns into different styles. At the booth kids would color the crosses and make them part of a necklace



**Denis Muras** showed photos of his almost completed kitchen remodel work. There was no island so Denis constructed his own of quarter sawn oak. The drawer front is of paintable maple.



**Dean Grimes** holds one of his pens made of wood and acrylic. Dean collects and repairs pens. Doing this got him interested in doing more woodworking and he is now building cabinets – quite a jump from pens to cabinets. To keep pace, Dean traded up his table saw three times.

REMEMBER, DUE TO THE SPECIAL SPEAKER THIS MONTH, AND HIS TWO HOUR DEMONSTRATION, THERE WILL BE NO SHOW AND TELL AT THE JUNE MEETING. SAVE ALL YOUR GOODIES FOR JULY!!

# MAY SHOW AND TELL

**Ray Hope** displayed several of his turned wine stoppers fashioned from colorful wood blocks obtained from Woodcraft and some wood from India – he doesn't know the name. Ray used three coats of shellac then dipped them into polyurethane – no brush marks.



**Chuck Lickwar's** friend asked him to make a ring box for his wife in the style of an antique cedar box. Chuck was happy to oblige. After all, what are friends for?

Chuck's wine stopper was turned from a deer's antler.



**Joe Cook** explained how the long, tall shafts of his lamps of cherry wood are two halves glued together with a string inside that allows him to pull the electrical cord through. Joe finished it with an antique cherry stain.



Members, bring your young 'uns, the neighborhood kids, the guy down the street, or anyone you meet at the hardware stores or suppliers...introduce them to WWCH!!!

## TURNING LEMONS INTO LEMONADE...BEAUTIFULLY!

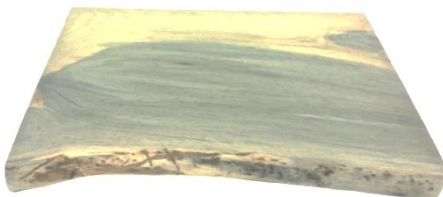
### Azure Furniture Co.: A Solution to Beetle Killed Pine

In the Colorado Rocky Mountains, there's over 3.3 million acres of woodland that has been killed by a beetle infestation. The beetles burrow into the bark of the trees laying their eggs, and in the process a fungus carried by the beetles infect the trees. The fungus ultimately kills the tree and turns its grain into a blue-grey color (like spalting). So what do you do with all of these dead trees that are discolored, an eyesore on the landscape, and a fire hazard? Make lemonade, of course!

Corbin Clay recognized this problem and formed the Azure Furniture Company. He thought, "why cut down live trees when there are so many standing dead?". And so began their mission: To provide a creative solution to millions of acres of dead trees in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

For 4 years, he and his team have been producing timeless furniture from solid beetle kill pine reclaimed from these forests. In their designs, they go back to what is the essence of good furniture: impeccable craftsmanship, quality materials, timeless design. Every product is carefully handcrafted in their own workshop in Denver, CO.

Festool is proud to be a part of what Corbin is doing and shares a passion for coming up with creative solutions to challenges, ambassadors of the new way of doing things. Watch the video of Corbin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djT1x5f6NYU> talking about his crusade to tackle the problem of beetle kill pine. See their website: <http://azurefurniture.myshopify.com>



## KUDOS TO BOB WINK!



**Bob Wink** had another spectacular appearance in the Houston Art Car Parade on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Bob's Flintstone car wow'd the crowd, and the judges too. He brought home a 4<sup>th</sup> place trophy for this effort. He's having just too much fun!!

*Congratulations Bob!*

## SPEAKER COMING IN JULY

**Heiko Weiner, owner of HWR Decorative Woodworking**, will speak on the European woodworking techniques he learned at his grandfather's knee in Germany in crafting decorative objects and fine furniture.

Since coming to the U.S. in 1994, he travelled extensively, honing his skills, and expanding his creativity. His beautiful works of art are shown in fine arts shows across the country.

He mixes styles and materials, which include other natural products like essential oils, semi-precious stones, bone and metal. He creates segmented decorative bowls, vases, wooden jewelry, and customized items for fine and exceptional decor.

Segmented wood crafting led him to search out gnarly pieces of wood that he pieces together into fine works of art, some of which he keeps in his shop as a reminder of how his art is continuing to evolve into his prestigious craftsmanship.

See his website at [www.hwrwood.com](http://www.hwrwood.com).



**MEMBERS SEND YOUR KUDOS AND ARTICLES AND GOOD WEBSITES FOR THE NEWSLETTER.**

## INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKERS FAIR IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

**International Woodworkers Fair August 20-23, 2014**  
**Georgia World Congress center, Atlanta, Georgia**

It's not too early to start planning for the IWF. There are thousands of exhibitors showing hand and power tools, hardware, cabinet components, wood manufacturing machines, and on and on. There are also plenty of opportunity to purchase tools and supplies at discounted prices. The convention center is easy and inexpensive to get to via the light rail, so you don't have to drive and pay parking each day. There are plenty of reasonably priced hotels with access to the rail lines. There are also some interesting things to see and do around Atlanta, like visit **Highland Hardware**, <http://www.highlandwoodworking.com/>. This is an old fashioned store with modern equipment. Visit the Woodcraft store in Atlanta to see how extensive they can be. Rockler also has a store to visit. Visit the website at [www.IWFAtlanta.com](http://www.IWFAtlanta.com) to learn more. Be prepared to walk a lot!

The IWF Show is a showcase of the latest in woodworking technology and the supporting industry. There will be vendors selling to the industry as well as the small/home shop. You will see the vendors that we are familiar with: Lee Valley/Veritas, Jet, PowerMatic, and others. You will see Fine Woodworking Magazine as well. There will be vendors that are not as common such as Oliver Tools. For you CNC types, there will be plenty to see in this field, power heads, mechanism to complete machines. This is the chance to see how large cabinet shops operate. There is also a section on cabinet hardware, Blum in particular. If it is related to woodworking, it will be there, Even our good friends at Woodline have a booth.

While in Atlanta, there are some non-woodworking sites to see to have a little fun as well. The **Atlanta Zoo** is outstanding and is one of the few zoos with Pandas. Nearby is the **Cyclorama and Civil War Museum**. There's also **Stone Mountain Park**, the **Coca Cola Museum** and many other tourist attractions. Travel back in time and glimpse what life was like in the 1860s at the **Tullie Smith Farm**, explore the elegance of the **1928 Swan House**, or visit our midtown campus, the **Margaret Mitchell House**, and see where the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Gone with The Wind* was written.

There's usually a small group of WWCH members that make the 14 hour drive. I am planning on attending the show as part of a vacation with Sheryl. Unless a group of people want to get together and plan a road trip, I will be traveling with Sheryl. Not that a group of men from the club are not fun, she is better looking. If any others want to attend and want to meet in Atlanta, please contact Denis Muras and we can make arrangements

SEEN ON THE WEB—Phenomenal and Inspirational



Although this girl was enthralled with being allowed to hold a Giant Panda cub on her visit to China, the bench she's sitting on is a phenomenal piece too!



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# Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

782 Maler Rd.  
Sealy, TX 77474

## NEXT MEETING

**JUNE 14, 2014**

8:30AM TO 11:30AM

BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER  
6400 Bissonnet

**Speaker:**

**PAUL STRASSA**

**Using Hand Tools ...”**

Dues payments may be mailed directly to  
Larry Page at 19806 Sable Stone Circle  
Katy, TX 77450

***We're on the web!***

[www.facebook.com/pages/  
Woodworkers-Club-of-Houston](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Woodworkers-Club-of-Houston)

[wwch@wwch.org](mailto:wwch@wwch.org)

## **SPECIAL PROGRAM**

**BEGINS AT 8:30AM!!**

**PAUL STRASSA,  
AWARD-WINNING  
WOODWORKER**

**PRESENTS A 2 HOUR  
DEMONSTRATION ON  
USING HAND TOOLS TO  
MAKE DOVETAIL JOINTS,  
DECORATIVE INLAYS  
AND MORE...**

**PAUL IS AN  
INSTRUCTOR AT THE  
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TO CREATE HEIRLOOM  
FURNITURE FOR THE  
PERMANENT  
COLLECTION AT THE  
WHITE HOUSE.**

## **Note:**

**Due to the special two-hour demonstration and program, there will be no Show and Tell at this June meeting.**

## **WWCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **OFFICERS**

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*Members, wear your club shirts and caps!  
Show off your membership in WWCH!*

## **WOODWORKERS CLUB OF HOUSTON**

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CAPS: \$ 8.00**

*You can add your  
custom embroidered name  
to your shirt, too.*

**SEE TIM SHAUNTY TO ORDER YOUR CLUB APPAREL!**

***Guests are always welcome at WWCH***

**Newsletter Publication** --This newsletter is designed and distributed by Joyce Saylan.  
Send content or questions by email to [sayjoyce@hotmail.com](mailto:sayjoyce@hotmail.com).

**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 \$36 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!*