

Woodworkers Club of Houston

Happy Holidays and
Season's Greetings

Volume 25 Issue 11

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November-December 2009

LINZIE ROGERS' TRIP TO GHANA...

Inside this Issue:

<i>Linzie Rogers' Trip to Ghana</i>	1-2
<i>Show and Tell</i>	3-5
<i>Club news and announcements</i>	6-7



WELCOME NEW WWCH MEMBERS!

Jack Keller

Jim Nichols

The Republic of Ghana is one of the prominent countries in West Africa. It borders Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the east, and the Gulf of Guinea /Atlantic Ocean to the south.

From mid 15th century until 1957 Ghana was colonized by Europeans -

Portuguese, Dutch and later predominantly British. Before independence it was called Gold Coast because of the abundance of dust and nuggets of the precious metal in the area. In pre-colonial times the area was part of the Empire of Ghana consisting of various kingdoms that spread over a vast part of

West Africa. In 1957 Gold Coast achieved its independence and named Ghana to reflect the ancient and impressive history of the ancient empire.

Ghana is known for being home to the largest artificial lake, Volte. Ghana is also the largest producer of cocoa in the world. And it is also famous for its passion for the game of football, what we call soccer here in the US.

Continued on page 2

Linzie Rogers' Trip to Ghana

Ghana is known for being home to the largest artificial lake, Volte. Ghana is also the largest producer of cocoa in the world. And it is also famous for its passion for the game of football, what we call soccer here in the US. In 2009 it became the first West African nation to win the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

Linzie Rogers, our fellow WWCH member and one of this year's Box Contest winners took yet another trip to Ghana this past October.

He began his trip in Houston and via Frankfurt reached Accra, the capital of Ghana. It's a 15 hour flight with a 3 hour layover in Frankfurt.

His destination was Kumasi – about 250 kilometers northwest in the Rainforest region of south central Ghana, about 45 minutes flight from Accra. Kumasi, owing to its many species of pretty flowers and plants, is often called “The Heartbeat” of Ghana and “The Garden City”.

In Kumasi there's a delightful B&B named Four Villages Inn. At the airport Linzie was greeted by Chris and Charity Scott, the owners of Four Villages Inn.

From his previous travel to the country Linzie also knew a fine fellow woodworker Kwando Ampofo. Kwando is an excellent woodworker and has built over half of B&B's fine furniture including the beautiful kitchen door with arched plate glass – all done by hand, without any power tools. Woodworking we all know demands hard work. There's ample research to show doing woodworking at that scale with hand tools can wear out a man by the time he's forty. Therefore, this time around Linzie's purpose was to help Kwando get a power saw. To operate the power saw there has to be power. And Kwando didn't have electricity at his home. Kwando managed to get a generator for the purpose. In addition to providing power for the saw, the generator would help provide power for some light at the house too. (Now Kwando is saving to pay for the electricity brought to his house).

Being so close to the forests of Brong Ahafo region, Kumasi is the heart of Ghana's thriving timber industry. In Sokoban, a suburb of Kumasi, there's a Timber Village built by the government. With Kwando as his guide, as he was last year, Linzie spent a good time in the Timber Village. One of the best features of the Village is that the stalls – 400 sq. ft. each - are

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provided free of cost to the qualified wood workers. The Timber Village is divided in three areas. Predictably, they are: Wood sales, furniture making and wood working machinery sales and repairs.

The wood sales and surrounding area has so much beautiful hardwood and some softwood, it boggles an outsider's mind. The exquisite hard wood is used for cooking as well. Stalls are fully stocked and overflowing with Teak and Khaya (The African mahogany) and other such precious kinds of wood. Most of the timber is exported to Europe. In Linzie's words, “I saw Teak as plentiful as sardines in a sea. Many people use small logs for charcoal. They use small teak trees for telephone poles. I also saw khaya, denya, ceiba, black ofram, white ofram, asanfina, guarea, shedua, mansonina, odum, dahoma, wawa, koto, emeri, abako, and on and on.

People there, in many instances, tend to have their furniture made for them. So it's nothing to enter the home of a relatively poor person and see better furniture than some people of better means in this country have in their homes.”

Hardwood is cheap in Ghana. Linzie goes on to list prices. They're cents per board foot to dollar here. Anyone interested, contact Linzie for more details. He'll make you an offer you can't refuse.

Although there are millions of poor – half of Ghana's almost 24.0 million people survive on less than \$2.00 a day – there is very little begging on the streets. Ghanaians are a proud people. This is especially true with woodworkers.

More information and pictures of

Linzie Rogers' trip on WWCH.Org

SHOW AND TELL — November



Fine Intarsia work by **Steve Wavro**. Created using Aspen, Walnut and Red Cedar. Part of the 3-day class by Judy Gale Robert that Steve attended and wrote about in the October issue.



Lon Kelley turned these fine bowls from a wet Magnolia piece left on his porch courtesy his neighbor.



Though we are a wood workers club, we are all artists — **John Gay** amongst the finest and most passionate of them. Using his imagination and wood worker's skills and tools, John created this piece of art using Corrian pieces, glued together and turned as if it were wood with some brass and other metal debris to decorate it.



Matt Adams created these designer spoons using Pecan, Maple, Walnut and Cherry as a birthday gift for his wife.



Here's an example of utilizing time and resources and saving on costly raw material. While vacationing in Minnesota, **John Murray** collected or cut pieces of wood off the ground in the woods, used hardly any tools and created these simple stools from Oak, Birch, Maple and Pine.



Prototype of a Stool designed and developed by **Mike Turner**. Made of Pine and a couple of coffee cans, the piece was part of a design class that Mike teaches. It's fully functional and weighs only six pounds but is designed to withstand a weight of 200 pounds.

SHOW AND TELL — December



Monte Richards created this Crèche using Cedar fence wood for roof and Mesquite for floor. To keep it all together Monte used CA glue.



Richard Storm crafted this beautiful Shadow box out of Cedar to honor his fire-fighter friends on their graduation. Encased in the box is an actual, antique Fire-Pull box alongside a section that displays Badges of County Law Enforcement departments and a decorative Seal. The cover is Plexiglas.



Here's another example of conserving resource and being creative with leftovers. **Lon Kelley** made this clock by piecing together leftover triangles of Cherry wood from an earlier project.



Clark Kellogg made this end table as an experiment and a prototype before a larger piece he had to make. Using predominantly Teak and other wood for contrast in color, drawers of two different sizes for better utility and slip tenons and lpe handles, Clark crafted a simple yet unique end table.



This high-end table is made of Padauk by **Jeremy Grubb**. The use of butterfly joints and other techniques make it an art work.

Continued on page 5

SHOW AND TELL

Cont'd...



With the Arbor Tech mini carver Bill White bought himself for a Christmas present, he carved this, call it a bowl, of Camphor wood. Bill was all praise for the fantastic handheld tool.



Rich Duffy got hold of this antique Bow Saw from 1900s. He replaced the blade and made it functional. Rich plans to make one anew.



Denis Muras built this addition of full wall mounted cabinets, table and drawers for a friends room.



Steve LeGrue spoke at length about turning and gilding these pretty Christmas ornaments.



2010 Board of Directors

- (l to r)
- Roy Gilbert,
- Norm Nichols,
- Andy Anderson,
- Roslyn Hager (Treas),
- John Gay (Pres),

Club News and Announcement



Showing their Certificate of Appreciation from Gifts With Heart L to R John Gay, Jerry Harmsen, Denis Muras, and Doc. Cotton. Not in the picture: Ed Zinny. These gentlemen helped with the MHMRA and Foster Elementary Projects. Thank you.

WWCH in the media

Houston Chronicle published an article on December 4, 2009 lauding the time efforts of WWCH members in making toys for the charity Good Fellows. The toys are distributed amongst needy children on Christmas each year.

On December 8, ABC 13 aired a story about volunteers from WWCH and other organizations who helped designed, built and decorated reading spaces for children at Foster Elementary and MHMRA.

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Club News and Announcements

2009 TOY PROGRAM

A HIGH SUCCESS

Thanks to a great many of our members the 2009 toy program exceeded that of all previous years. Over 5,000 toys and games were

donated to thirteen charitable organizations for distribution to needy children at Christmas.

In no particular order the following club members participated in the making of the toys and games:

Jim Robertson	Andy Andersen	Norm Nichols
Roslyn Hager	Bill Harris	Bill Cole
Lee Knewow	Marcus Brun	Chuck Horton
Jere Kessler	Jerry Harmsen	Ridg Gilmer
Ramona Darden	Jeff Teter	Nick Darden
Glen Edwards	Charles Sembera	Hank Merry
Bill Byrne	Dorothy Sembera	Terry Roush
Lon Kelly	Dan Smith	Martha Harper
Lyn Harper	Norman Stuts	Gary Wallace

Thanks to all of these folks for their participation, however great or small, in this program and a big thanks to WWCH for the financial support needed to make the program a success.

Volunteers needed

We all like hot coffee and donuts when we go to the meeting every month, don't we? We like the Raffles Desk also as it gives us opportunity to "win" useful tools and accessories at good prices without a need for us to go to the store looking for them. Well, nice folks — Charlotte and Jim Robertson — who have been arranging coffee and donuts for us along with working the Raffles Desk, have other priorities and they can not continue for much longer.

We need a couple or individuals to take on the above responsibilities as early as possible.

Please come forward and offer your time and energy for the Club and be counted.

Contact President Denis Muras at the next meeting or contact him via email or phone. Y'all have the member directory, right?

Suggestion Box.

We all have ideas for the Club activities. If you want some special topic to be covered in the meeting. If you know someone that has knowledge that can benefit the members and would like for them to speak at our meetings. Or anything else. Let's share the thoughts with the Board for the benefit of the Club. Jot it down and drop it the box. Participation is good. Try it.

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 \$24 a year, or about the price you'd pay for one good clamp!

WWCH Officers

President	Denis Muras
Vice President	"Doc" Cotton
Secretary	Steve Wavro
Treasurer	Roslyn Hager
Publications	Noor Ali Narsi
Webmaster	Gary Rowen
Mentor	Lon Kelley
Mentor	Mark Bollinger

Contact

To contact a WWCH officer, email wwch@wwch.org

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

P.O. Box 815
Sugarland, TX 77487-0815

Coming Events

Monthly Meeting

Saturday, January 9, 2010
at Bayland Community Center
9 to 11:30 am

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