

Woodworkers Club of Houston

**Special Presentation
for April 12 meeting:
Fred Sandoval and the
Art of Violin-Making**

Volume 24 Issue 4

www.wwch.org

April 2008

Inside this Issue:

Box Contest Winners	2
Legg's for Woodworkers?	3
Meet the New Editor	3
Signing Your Work	4-5
Texas Scroll Saw Picnic	4
Club News & Views	6
Trading Post	6
The Last Laugh	7
Presentation Tips	7

The Woodworking Show in Houston

By the time you read this, the annual Woodworking Show may be a thing of the past. But even if you don't get to attend the show this year, you'll want to know about some of the latest tools and gadgets that are soon to be available for public consumption.

Bob Hunter, the Tools and Techniques editor at Wood magazine, recently wrote in his online blog about some of the more interesting things we can expect to see.

Rigid has a new 14" band-saw with a beefier motor, a built-in mobile base, and many other features. Hunter also mentions that the new class of lithium-ion drivers hold a lot of promise for woodwork-

ers.

Hunter also likes the new Porter-Cable Omnijig, and a 5-inch random-orbit sander with a low profile.



Some of the vendors at the show will include the "big boys" like Delta and Porter-Cable. Other vendors will carry a large inventory of "goodies" to the show, like PeachTree and Woodline.

And of course, our own WWCH will have a pres-

ence at the show. Stop by the booth to see the box contest entries and other works created by WWCH members. And while you're at it, why not introduce your friends to some of your WWCH buddies. You may find a new member lurking through the router bits and saw blades.

The show will be held once again at the Reliant Center, Friday through Sunday, April 4-6.

Next month we'll run some pictures and news from the show. Hope to see you there!

New Look Newsletter

With this issue of the WWCH Newsletter, we introduce some changes.

Bill White and Saul Harris have done a wonderful job in putting together our monthly publication and guiding our club.

But due to time constraints, they have handed the editorial reins over to a new club member, Hugh Poland.

The 8-page bulletin will continue to be published each month. In this issue

we introduce a slightly revamped format and font style. And we continue to urge you to choose to receive the newsletter by email if you can. If you can't, we will continue to mail it to you each month.

March Box Contest Winners

The annual WWCH Box Contest featured a number of great entries, each utilizing a variety of woods, techniques, and designs. The judges had a difficult time choosing winners, but after caucusing together, they decided there were four that really stood out for their design, appearance, and quality of joinery.



Sid Hockens and his third place offering—a classy box for a wine bottle.

Hugh Parker's superb spice cabinet won an honorable mention award. Coming in third place was the maple/paducah wine box by Sid Hockens. Second place was awarded to Lon Kelley, who submitted a stunning maple & walnut octagonal band sawed box. First place went to Art Thompson, for his unique display cabinet comprised of cocobolo and koa. Others who submitted boxes included John Gay, Leon McDowell, Rich Thomas, Dave VanDewalutt, and Mark Bolinger.



Lon Kelley and his octagonal bandsawed box.



The winning entry—Art Thompson's Beautiful Display Cabinet!

But the real winner is everyone who participated! We'd love to see more entries next year. For a closer look at the boxes submitted for the contest, stop by the WWCH booth at Reliant Center during this weekend's Woodworking Show.



Hugh Parker added a lot of spice to his walnut chest.

A Use for Pantyhose and Baby Powder?

It just might be that the average woodworker has more in common with Joe Namath than you might think.

Namath was the All-Pro quarterback who led the NY Jets to a surprising Super Bowl III victory in 1969. But his exploits on the sidelines—wearing pantyhose to keep his legs warm—earned him as much acclaim as his passing prowess.

Flash forward to the 21st century. Can a new woodworker learn old tricks? Christopher Schwarz, an editor at Popular Woodworking magazine, thinks so. Schwarz recently read an article by sawmaker Mike Wenzloff, who quoted from a long-out-of-print book by William Fairham titled Woodwork Joints.

Fairham mentioned the difficulty

some have in transferring tail locations to the pin board when making dovetail joints. He recommended using a “pounce-bag” made of muslin and filled with French chalk to help mark the exact position of the



lines (not unlike marking a kerf line with a chalk box).

Schwarz decided to test Fairham’s method, but had trouble finding muslin. So he utilized a pair of

pantyhose from his wife (we recommend talking to your wife first!) and filled the stocking with baby powder. By placing the “tail” board on top of the “pin” board, and “whacking the sack” laid on top, the baby powder marked the lines exactly for the pins to be cut out. This method, says Schwarz, would be especially helpful on Walnut or other dark wood where it is difficult to see knife lines.

Joe Willie Namath was one of a kind. But if you cut a lot of your own dovetail joints, you may want to keep a couple Legg’s handy. And if you get cold . . . Well, just don’t let your friends see the empty pantyhose egg laying on your workbench!

Meet the New Guy

Hugh Poland

Our April newsletter brings some changes. As your new editor, I’ve got big shoes to fill—Saul Harris and Bill White have done a great job in producing the monthly newsletter. But I welcome the challenge.

I’m a resident of Kingwood, married with three daughters, (and even the dog is a female!) so you know why I’m often out in the garage putzing around on a box or a bowl, or often something more practical for our home.

At my “day job,” I serve as a Minister of Music at a local church, and I also love to write. My second book is coming out this summer, but more on that later.

In addition to all the great informa-

tion about the club and how-to articles, I’d like for the newsletter to be a forum in which we can get to know one another much better.

*Everybody has a story.
What’s yours?*

Everybody has stories—how they got involved in woodworking, their first project, funny goof-ups, a favorite tool—I look forward to hearing your story and putting it in our newsletter. I’m convinced that stories inspire, and if you could tell

your story in such a way to give a budding young woodworker some confidence, it would be worth it, right?

For the May issue, I’d like to hear from you—how did you get involved in woodworking? Who or what inspired you? What was your first project? If you’re into the computer, email me at hpoland@earthlink.net, or call me at 281-360-0673. Please contact me by Sunday, April 27, with your story. I’ll look over some of the more engaging tales and put them in this space for our edification.

Signing Your Work pt. 3

Kathryn Hampton

Those who receive the newsletter electronically have already seen the final installment of this excellent piece by Kathryn Hampton. But for those who still receive the newsletter by snail mail, here is part three.

Last month, in Part 2 of this series, we discussed marking or otherwise signing your work. We discussed some of the different ways to mark your work, such as ballpoint and gel pens or Sharpie markers. We also looked at other methods, such as branding irons, rubber stamps and written signatures. In Part 1, we discussed what different information you may want to include in that marking, such as a logo, completion date, limited-quantity indicator or a project name. This month, in our final installment of this series, let's take a look at a few more ways to leave your mark.

Archival Quality

Of course, archival quality inherently means that they are designed to not bleed and with no color fading over time. Michael's has a non-bleeding fine tip marker in the art section. Cost is about \$2 and it works great. Some have dual tips, fine on one end and thick on the other. The tip is barely bigger than a regular pen and it's a nice dark black. Archival pens can be used with lacquer (brushed or sprayed), polyurethane, and Tung oil. One person reported finding the best price on an archival pen in the craft section of Wal-Mart.

Paint

I know you can find paint pens in craft stores such as Michael's and Hobby Lobby, and I have heard they can also be found in office supply stores as well. The "ink" is paint, so it does not bleed at all. You can get any color imaginable in a paint pen – even 24kt Gold (Real Gold)! Fine point tips are available. You have more control applying

the paint with a pen than a brush.

Woodburning Tool

Okay, it isn't actually a pen with ink in it, but I have included the wood-burning tool here because you would use it like a pen. The concerns with a wood-burning tool are primarily penmanship and difficulty in signing small pieces. Wood-burning is more permanent than ink or paint. Use a wood-burning tool, with either of two points (very small ball or very sharp point), before any type finish is put on. Sign everything with a pencil first. Fixing mistakes or problems with a pencil is easy. Then, trace it with the wood-burning tool. Any stray marks can be sanded out with very fine sandpaper or even erased with the eraser. Apply finish over the top of the wood-burning.

Carving Your Mark

The concerns with carving are the complexity of your mark and your carving skills. The advantages are the mark can be inconspicuous (or even part of the design) and like wood-burning, more permanent than ink or paint. You can carve (using carving tools or a knife) a motif or logo on your piece, then apply the finish. The finish fills in the mark, darkening it, and visually blends it in with the wood. If doing projects one at a time, taking 10-15 minutes to cut the mark is not an issue. Here's another idea, combine your initials to form a simple logo that is quick and easy to do with a scratch awl. Apply it to end grain (easy to control) and keep it very small. Fast, cheap and personal.

Hand Engraving Tool

With very little practice you can sign your name on the bottom of a piece, or wherever, with a precision approaching that of signing your name on paper.

Medallions

If you can't engrave right on the piece, a medallion inlay is a great alternative. Typically laser-cut, the concerns with medallions are cost, availability, and size of the piece in which to inlay. I created this medallion on my laser, its size is approximately 1/4" in diameter and is 1/8"-thick Alder wood. Medallions can be made from any species of wood. The piece to be marked is drilled a 1" Forstner bit for a perfect inlay fit. You can also request sequential serial numbers be engraved when ordering. They look great inlaid in the bottom of turned pieces. If you sign a 3x5 index card (unlined) with your "shop" signature, it can be scanned and laser-engraved onto a medallion.

Rubber Stamp

Concerns with rubber stamps include the same ink issues as with pens (test it first), and application consistency -- too light or too hard, it's kind of a one shot thing or you get a double stamp. Another concern is that the stamp area is not larger than the piece being stamped. An advantage is that you don't have to worry about your penmanship. Stamps can be basic lettering, or can be designed and created especially for you.

Branding Iron

Branding irons can be basic (fairly inexpensive) all the way up to custom designed (more expensive). The concerns with branding irons are similar to the rubber stamps with regard to size (brand in relation to piece) and application consistency -- too light or too hard it's kind of a one shot thing or you get a double mark.

It takes a little practice to hold it vertically so as not to get the outer edges of the iron touching the wood, and how much burn time for a crisp image -- and it varies with species, too. Electric branding irons take about 30 minutes to heat, and if you have multiple things to

Signing Your Work (cont'd.)

brand, you need to wait a little between each piece to let the iron get hot again. Non-electric branding irons take about 5 minutes to heat with a propane torch. Branding irons need flat surfaces for best results. A nice addition is a date attachment.

Punch-Stamping Set

For stained pieces, an option is an alpha-numeric steel hand punch set. The

drawbacks are punching one letter at a time, you need an edge to help line up the letter punches, and application consistency.

I hope this series of articles has been informative and beneficial. As a woodworker, it is important to mark your work so that future generations are aware of who the craftsman was and when the article was crafted. That

marked article could possibly be your family's only perpetual connection to you long after you are gone.

Texas Scroll-Saw Picnic

Norm Nichols

To the best of my knowledge there has never been a scroll saw picnic in the state of Texas. Many of us Texas scrollers have been pushing for one for several years. NOW we have one. First, a "picnic" is a gathering of scrollers and vendors to swap stories, tell a few lies, and hopefully learn something new. There is a competition where anyone can enter and may even win a ribbon. Of course, the vendors are always interesting as they have lots of toys for us to play with and hopefully buy. I will get into more details on all of this in a later newsletter.

The picnic is Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3, 2008 in Grapevine, in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. It is being co-sponsored by the DFW Scrollers and Lyndal's Backyard Workshop.

On Friday, the picnic will be open from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Rumor has it that the vendors will be set up at this time. There will be seminars at the First United Methodist Church in Grapevine. The entrance fee will be \$8. That evening at the church, there will be a BBQ buffet. The BBQ cost will be \$15 and we need to be preregistered by April 12, 2008. On Saturday, the hours are 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Grapevine Convention Center in Grapevine. The entrance fee is \$7 if you are preregistered or \$9 at the door. The competition will be held at this location and will be under the guidelines of SAW (Scroll Saw Association of the World). Concessions will be open and of course the vendors will be in full gear. There will be lots of door prizes, but the grand prize is an Excalibur EX-21 that is being sponsored by Seyco. (I sure hope I win this saw as that will save me from having to buy one.)

Contacts for the 2008 Texas Scroll Saw Picnic are www.dfwscrollers.com, phone at 469-360-9938, or email at lbworkshop@verizon.net.



The Grand Prize—Excalibur EX-21 Scroll Saw

I have been to several picnics and they are really fun. You will be able to meet some of the folks you have read about in the magazines. It is fun to find out what other people are doing. I am hoping that WWCH will have a good turnout at this picnic and lots of pieces are submitted into the competition. So far I know of three us who are going. So mark your calendars and get that saw fired up.

Club News and Views

Your WWCH board meets every month after the regular meeting to discuss club business. Any member of WWCH is invited to attend.

One issue the board took up is the use of time during the meetings. The board wants everyone to receive the maximum benefit from attending, which requires that presentations be brief and to the point. (See the space to the right for tips on how to make a winning presentation!)

A suggestion box will soon be available for members to rate the special guest presentations we feature every month. We are committed to bringing in the best speakers and

demonstrations, so getting feedback from you will be a help in choosing future speakers.

The board also wants to remind us all to sign in at each meeting. Our access to the large room at Bayland is dependent upon our attendance figures, so please help us keep the comfortable room by registering your presence each time you attend.

It won't be long before the Toy Drive will ramp up. Providing a toy for a needy child at Christmas is only one way that the WWCH members give back to the community, but it's a big one. Watch for details in this space and count on getting involved this year.

We're on the web!
www.wwch.org

And don't forget these other great websites when you're surfing around . . .

www.woodmagazine.com

www.betterwoodworking.com

www.woodturner.org

www.gamblehouse.org (Arts & Crafts House—great joinery!)

www.antiquetools.com

Trading Post

WANT TO BUY

- 1998 or newer Honda Gold Wing. Black or silver preferred. I need it to haul small woodworking tools and meeting information to and from the meeting every month.
CONTACT: Saul Harris
(sharris@sawdustcreek.com or 713-299-3785)

FOR SALE

- 1950's model Shopsmith 10ER on wood cabinet with casters... \$600
- Delta 20" scroll saw... \$150
- Bosch #1611 3HP router (22,000 RPM)... \$150
CONTACT: Gene Bradley
(713-723-5343)

- I have over 100 board-feet of Wenge. Superb grade and finished all four sides... \$11.00 / bf
CONTACT: Jon Cummings
(281-304-1109)

- Stanley #5 Jack Plane. Type 19. Tuned and sharpened, ready to use... \$40
- Spokeshave with Adjustable Mouth. Stanley cutter. Sharp and ready to use... \$20
- Spokeshave, Kunz. \$5 (negotiable).
Contact: Mark Bolinger (281-242-4712)

Trading Post ads are always free, but subject to available space. To place or remove an ad in the newsletter, contact Hugh Poland at 281-360-0673 or email hpoland@earthlink.net.

Ads will run one month at a time. If your item hasn't sold, contact Hugh to let him know you want the ad to run again the following month.

All ads must be placed 14 days before the 2nd Saturday monthly meeting.

Of course, we invite you to post your WTB or FOR SALE items on the board in the meeting room.

Presentation Tips

Squaring the stock, joining the edges, and finishing your project may be so easy for you that you could do it in your sleep. But getting up in front of people to “show and tell” on a Saturday morning at WWCH may leave you more than a bit nervous. At last month’s board meeting, there were several suggestions on how to make your presentation go more smoothly.

1. Know what you want to say. In fact, we suggest writing your thoughts out on paper. You don’t have to use the paper when you speak, but knowing a general outline of what you want to say can keep you from chasing rabbits and

taking too much time. And please, speak up! A microphone can only amplify what it “hears,” so don’t think you can speak softly and mumble just because you use a mike.

2. Just the facts, ma’m. Remember the basics—what is it, what inspired you, what kind of wood, how long to make, what kind of finish, what problems did you have?

3. Be ready to go at a moment’s notice. If a guest speaker doesn’t arrive on time, or the computer screen glitches, we may need to feature you quickly. We suggest you sit toward the front on the days you

will be presenting something.

4. If you’re nervous, just picture us all in our underwear! Seriously, you’re not addressing a Joint Session of Congress. We’re just like you—pulling for you—we want to see and hear about what you did. You can teach us a lot, especially through your mistakes.

And a final thought for us in the audience—make sure your question is one that is of a general nature that would apply to the whole group. If you have detailed questions that would only apply to you, we suggest you speak to the presenter during a break time.

The Last Laugh . . .

Two woodworkers are out hunting when they come upon a huge hole in the ground. Amazed by its size, they approach it and the first guy says "Wow, I can't even see the bottom. I wonder how deep it is?"

The second guy says "I don't know, let's throw something down and listen to see how long it takes to hit bottom." The first hunter says, "There's this rusty old table saw here, give me a hand and we'll throw it in and see."

So they pick it up, carry it over, count one, and two and three, and throw it in the hole. They stand there listening and looking over the edge, when they hear a rustling in the brush behind them. As they turn around they see a goat come crashing through the brush, run up to the hole with no hesitation, and jump in headfirst.

While they are standing there dumbfounded, an old farmer walks up. "Say there", says the farmer, "you fellers didn't happen to see my goat around here any-

where, did you?"

The first woodworker says, " Funny you should ask, but we wuz just standing here a minute ago and a goat come a running out of them bushes doin' about a 'hunert miles an air and jumped headfirst into that thar hole!"

And the old farmer said, "Why that's impossible... I had him chained to an old table saw!"

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 Contacts

President	Saul Harris	713-299-3785
Vice President	Mike Turner	281-346-1544
Secretary	Ed Zinni	832-778-7830
Treasurer	Bill Cole	713-772-6697
Publications	Bill White	713-524-8768
Newsletter	Hugh Poland	281-360-0673
Mentor	Rich Thomas	713-666-9073
Mentor	Lon Kelley	713-467-9011
Mentor	Mark Bollinger	281-544-6867

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

PO Box 815
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0815

Coming Events

Friday, April 4

Southwest Houston Splinter Group

Friday-Sunday, April 4-6

The Woodworking Show @ Reliant Center

Saturday, April 12

Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center

Fri-Sunday, April 18-20

Texas Mesquite Association Art Festival

Saturday, April 19

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association Picnic

Thursday, April 24

Hand Plane Splinter Group—Sugar Land

Friday-Saturday, May 2-3

Texas Scroll Saw Picnic, Grapevine, TX

The Cutting Edge offers only the finest woodworking tools and supplies.

Come visit and see our new and expanded store. We've kept all the best lines of supplies and equipment and added lumber and a few other surprises. We're still committed to providing the best sales and service in the Houston area. You won't be disappointed.

- **Woodworking Machinery**
- **Turning Tools and Supplies**
- **Carving Tools**
- **English Hand Tools**
- **Japanese Hand Tools**
- **Lumber from around the world**
- **Monthly Woodworking Classes**


**The
CUTTING EDGE, INC**
A Woodworker's Tool & Supply

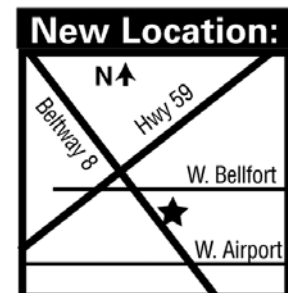
JET

POWERMATIC

DELTA®

**Best Prices on JET
Machinery Every Day!
Authorized JET Service
Center**

See our web site for our
monthly list of classes and
much more:
www.cuttingedgetools.com



11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W.
713. 981. 9228