

# Woodworkers Club of Houston

**CLARK KELLOGG  
IS OUR  
SPECIAL PRESENTER  
SATURDAY MAY 9!**

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## CHARGE IT UP!

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In our world today it seems that so many items are battery-operated anymore. From phones to laptop computers, from Game Boy units and cameras, from iPods to GPS units to even our favorite tools, our stuff requires recharging.

the age at which older starts!) wouldn't think of going outside the house without their MP3 player, their phone, and a laptop or even smaller netbook computer. And families with multiple kids find themselves with multiple phones as well.



A basic charging station should have spaces for at least 4 gizmos, a way to hide the wires, and

plug them into a hidden power strip. Small drawers are a nice touch, and can be used to hold memory cards or other accessories.

And while you're building the station, consider your own life, and how you might recharge your own life physically, emotionally, mentally, & spiritually. Get on the charging station of life and get re-energized to do what you do best. We all need it!

### WELCOME NEW WWCH MEMBERS!

Dave Kissinger  
Tom Odom  
Charles Horton  
Patti Page

If you're still using the old Ni-Cad batteries on your tools, it's time to look at the newer Lithium batteries. Virtually all manufacturers have switched over to this technology, which lasts longer and doesn't develop a "memory" like the old nickel-cadmium batteries did.

You may have a makeshift charging station for your tools, but have you thought of building a charging station for your smaller items? Younger people (I'll let YOU define

# WWCH SHINES AGAIN!

**Norm Nichols**



The 2009 Texas Scroll Saw Picnic was a huge success. Scrollers were there from 28 states and two countries. The attendance was very good and the vendors were more than willing to have you share your money with them. Unfortunately the economy got several of the vendors and they opted not to come. They missed out on getting some of Dan's money.

Your club was exceptional represented by the following: Jerl Blalack and wife and brother (more on him later), Glenn Edwards and wife and family, Bill Harris, Pres. Denis Muras, Norm Nichols and wife, Dan Smith and wife, Norman Stutts and wife, and Steve Wavro. This distinguished group brought back to Houston the following awards:

Pres. Denis – First place Basic Intrasia, Best of Show Intrasia. Best of Show is a major award so Denis is to be con-

gratulated on his Tiger. (I don't think I have seen Denis with that big a smile on his face before.)

Glenn Edwards – First place Open Intermediate – Soccer plaque. Third place Open Intermediate – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plaque, Award of Merit Fretwork Intermediate – Dove with spirit, love, and joy, and Award of Merit Fretwork – Dragon night light.

Norm Nichols – Second place Fretwork Complex – Timber wolf, Second place Fretwork Intermediate – Creation cross, Third place Fretwork Intermediate – Noah's Ark, and Award of Merit Fretwork Intermediate – Easter Cross.

Jerl Blalack - Award of Merit Fretwork Intermediate – John 3:16 and Award of Merit Fretwork Interme-

# TEXAS STATE SCROLLSAW PICNIC

diate – We Will Always Remember.

Not too shabby, I would say. I can tell you that the folks there knew Houston was present and we wanted to be accounted for.

There were two major door prizes. An Excalibur EX-21 saw and a Sand-Flee sander. Jerl's brother Charles came down from Kansas for the picnic and he walked away with the Sand-Flee. As Charles is not currently a woodworker, want to guess where the sander is? You are correct. In Jerl's shop. Some guys have all the luck.

A big thank you to all who went. We all had a great time. The hotel was nice, the meeting place was good, and the food was great. After reading this and seeing what you



It's not quite along the lines of A&M beating UT, but Dennis says it will have to do 'til football season starts.



Charles Blalack signals that all is OK after winning the Sand-Flee machine.



## APRIL SHOW 'N TELL



Clark Kellogg shows us a small box made from Texas Ebony. The box features a sliding lid with a silver pull, and of course those are handcut dovetails. Clark will be our special presenter for the May meeting.

## What is Texas Ebony?

We normally think of ebony as coming from Africa, but the desert southwest features its own brand of this dark wood. Texas Ebony (*Pithecellobium flexicaule*) is an evergreen that can do well with little shade or rain. It is a thorny form of scrub brush that grows in Texas, Mexico, and other parts of the arid southwest. When fully grown it can reach a height of 15-20 feet. If you decide to harvest one for its lumber, be sure to watch out for those thorns!



### Tips for Working Ebony

1. Ebony is considered an exotic wood that can cause allergic reactions in some people, so be sure to utilize proper ventilation.
2. The wood is extremely hard, so use sharp tools.
3. Ebony is also brittle on its edges, so be careful not to drop it.
4. When you finish sanding ebony, chances are you'll look like a chimney sweep! Ebony dust is like a dye.
5. Change out sanding belts frequently, as they will clog up quickly.



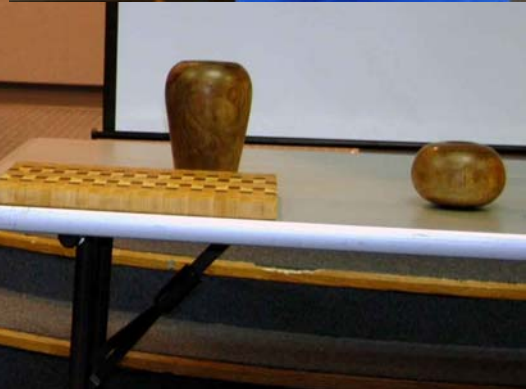
Warren Parker brought a mallet made from pear that will be used to strike a gong. He also made this striking box made from spalted pear and a lid shaped from wenge. The feet are actually ebony keys from an old piano.

Special thanks to new WWCH member Nolan Earle, who volunteered to take these pictures at the April meeting. Way to go, Nolan!

## APRIL SHOW 'N TELL

Richard Storm has been busy turning vessels out of “Bellaire Tallow,” Arizona Ash, and Walnut. The cutting board is made of maple, walnut, and cherry. Way to go, Richard! The question is, is Richard’s neck on the chopping block if he doesn’t do some pretty fine cooking for his family?

When making a chopping block, which will undoubtedly be exposed to moisture and food particles that are a great breeding ground for experimental forms of penicillin, be sure to coat the cutting board with several coats of a mineral oil or walnut oil. Beware of using vegetable oil, as it can go rancid. Butcher Block Oil is another option.



Hank Merry fashioned a cross for each of his grandchildren for their first communion, made from Malaysian Rosewood. The cross features a unique, eye-catching design.



Mike Turner brought several pieces that his students had built in an exercise in proportions and scaling. How many of us could some simple instruction in that area!

# CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

## New Membership Badges

They're going to be here for the May 9 meeting. Come and wear yours proudly.

## 2009 Membership Books

It is that time of the year folks when the WWCH Membership Book is published with names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of the members in good standing (paid up dues) at the close of the month of March plus any new members who sign up at the Woodworking Show. The book will be distributed at the April meeting.

The information that you provided to the Treasurer when you renewed your dues or joined in the year 2008 or 2009 is the information that will be published in the book. This book isn't for public distribution; it is ONLY for members in good standing. This book is not even provided to reputable woodworking companies.

However, if there is any personal information that you would prefer not be published please contact Gary Rowen at row1@sbcglobal.net or at the phone number provided in the 2008 Membership Book for your corrections. Also, if your name is Alexander Archibald Leach and you'd rather be published as Archie Lee (sorry, Cary Grant is already taken), please advise.

If you'd like your book mailed directly to you, please advise.

Gary Rowen  
Membership Book Editor

## October Picnic Help Needed

WWCH needs someone to secure donations for the October picnic, and someone to make arrangements for food as well. Contact the officers through [wwwch@wwch.org](mailto:wwwch@wwch.org) if interested.

## Show n Tell Change

If you bring an item for Show n Tell to a monthly meeting, please sign in on the new sign-in sheet to let us know you have brought your project. This will help us run that part of the meeting more efficiently. Thanks!

## Trading Post

### FOR SALE

Shelving Components  
Upright 12'x18" \$10 ea.  
Shelves 35" x 18" x 3/4" ply \$5  
Contact Andy Anderson at 713-723-1030 or email  
[Anmderson@hal-pc.org](mailto:Anmderson@hal-pc.org)

For Sale: Delta Unisaw, with Excalibur ball bearing fence. Extension table with built in router plate and Freud variable speed router with above table bit changing. Storage drawers and mobile base, perfect condition. \$1250.00  
Contact Charlie Wheatley  
281-370-6485  
[crwheat321@yahoo.com](mailto:crwheat321@yahoo.com)

Trading Post ads are always free, but subject to available space. To place or remove an ad in the newsletter, contact Hugh Poland at 832-244-1782 or email [hpoland@earthlink.net](mailto: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.

## OUCH! SPLINTER!

They're inevitable. If you're going to work with wood, you're going to get splinters. And it's no big deal, right? We're tough, we're men, and we would never admit that that little fleck of wood is setting our finger on fire. It's not serious, even if it drew a drop of blood, right? C'mon, rub some dirt on it and quit whining, right?



Not so fast. All macho-ism aside, a splinter, left untreated, can develop into an infection. At the least, it can make woodworking less than enjoyable. How do you prevent and treat splinters?

Gloves are great for handling raw wood. Rough cut lumber will often gouge holes in shirts and stick on anything and anyone, so get some good gloves. Some

woodworkers like to apply lotion often to their hands, believing that soft, supple hands don't snag splinters like rough hands do.

When removing a splinter, the goal is to not make the wound any worse than it already is. If you're bleeding, a topical ointment or even Vaseline can keep dirt and other unwanted out of the wound.

## THE LAST LAUGH

Are you familiar with the bathtub test?

During a visit to the mental asylum, I asked the Director how he determined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

'Well,' said the Director, 'we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub.'

'Oh, I understand,' I said. 'A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup.'

'No.' said the Director, 'A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?'

Now, pass this joke on to someone this week, or they'll come and take you away and give you the bed next to mine!

## 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	Hugh Poland
Webmaster	Gary Rowen
Mentor	Lon Kelley
Mentor	Mark Bollinger

## Contact

To contact a WWCH officer, email [wwch@wwch.org](mailto:wwch@wwch.org)

# Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

782 Maler Rd.  
Sealy, TX 77474

## Coming Events

Saturday, May 9

*Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30*

Fourth Thursday of Every Month

*Hand Tool Splinter Group in Sugar Land*



*Make precise, tight-fitting box joints faster and easier than ever!*

## Rockler's New Router Table Box Joint Jig

- Make 1/4", 3/8", and 1/2" box joints.
- Works with virtually any router table.
- Foolproof design!

### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

We will not be mailing out our sale flyers in May and June as usual. Instead, we will send them via email and post them on our web site.

*Make sure you're on our email list!*



**Jig makes cutting box joints fast and precise.**



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