

Woodworkers Club of Houston

**DON'T MISS THE NEXT
MEETING ON
SATURDAY JUNE 13
9-11:30**

Volume 25 Issue 6

www.wwch.org

June 2009

BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT—AC YOUR SHOP!

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As the spring bids farewell, Houston woodworkers can count on two things: High humidity and extreme heat in their shops. It doesn't have to be that way, though. Installing air-conditioning might be cheaper than you think. But there are several items you'll want to consider.

First, how much AC do you need? If your shop is a typical 2-car garage (400 sq. ft) in the south it will require about 30-35 BTU per sq. foot, or about a 1 ton unit for your entire garage (at least 12,000 BTUs).

You'll also need to check out your electrical box and see if you have room for an AC. A one-ton window unit can run on 110, but it will need its own 15-20 amp breaker. In other words, don't plan on running your table saw and your AC unit out of the same outlet!

Another issue to consider is dust collection. If you vent your dust to the outside, you may have an issue losing

your cold air as well.

Insulation is also a factor, as it would be in a home. A garage with unfinished walls and no insulation in the attic is going to be hard to cool in the Houston heat, no matter how big your AC unit is.



Of course, an AC unit will also affect the humidity in your shop, and thus affect the drying time and shrinkage/warpage of your wood.

If you do the work yourself, you can purchase a new window unit and the materials to mount it for around \$500-600. And just think of all the time you'll be able to spend in your shop! It'll be great for the winter mornings as well, to be able to turn on a little heat and take the chill out of the air.

Sure, you'd never part with your table saw or your planer. But of all the tools you could purchase for your shop, an AC unit might turn out to be your favorite!

**WELCOME NEW
WWCH MEMBERS!**

Bill Proctor

JOINT VENTURE

Ridg Gilmer

Sure, you would expect a “joint venture” at WWCH, and your next question might be “Is it a rabbit or a dovetail joint?” But you’d be missing the point.

Ms Nicole Scanlin was our special visitor at the May meeting. She spoke to us about her work with Child Advocates, Inc., “Houston’s leader in providing critical advocacy for Harris County’s most severely abused children.” Nicole noted that the Houston/Harris County chapter has the largest and most active program in the U.S. Their court-appointed volunteers speak up for abused children and help break the vicious cycle of child abuse. Following her presentation, she accepted a number of WWCH member decorated toys for auction at her organization’s gala the following Saturday.

So how did this all come about that WWCH teamed up with Child Advocates, Inc.? You might call it networking, but really it was closer to just blind good fortune among like-minded, generous folks. It began when former WWCH member and master craftsman, Todd Burch, was commissioned to build a magnificent dining table of waterfall bubinga for Mr. Bob Davis. Subsequently, Todd referred Bob to Jack Hutchison to build a king size headboard. Upon completion, Jack invited Ridg Gilmer to come along when he delivered the headboard to Bob Davis home at Caney Creek Farms near Chappell Hill, out Hwy. 290. While there, conversation turned to woodworking and Ridg mentioned our Toys for Tots program. This prompted Bob to mention that he was on the board of Child Advocates, Inc. and that

they had an annual gala coming up later in May. He wondered if WWCH might be willing to donate toys for auction.



(L-R) Bill Cole, Ridg Gilmer, Nicole Scanlin, and President Denis Muras.

The rest of the story was more like networking, mainly between Ridg and Bill Cole for WWCH and then Bob Davis contacted Nicole Scanlin to make the above presentation and to receive the gift toys. We asked that she do a bit of soft

advertising for WWCH, in case anyone attending the gala was interested in woodworking.

Nicole reported that over 550 guests attended their 17th Annual Pull for Kids gala, netting an estimated \$500,000 in total donations. Both she and Bob Davis said that the painted toys were a huge hit and attracted viewers interested in the items and the donors. Nicole wrote, “We’ve had many people ask about the organization and I am sure your beautiful items increased awareness of the Woodworker’s Club. Thanks again.”

So the end result seems to be a win-win for both organizations. We’ll see if we receive further inquiries to our web site or at our next meeting, but certainly we contributed expertise and caring generosity to a fine organization. Maybe this joint venture IS like a dovetail—strong and beautiful!

MAY SHOW N' TELL



Plaque made for a granddaughter.

Glenn Edwards laughs because retirees have so much time to pursue their woodworking activities. Glenn has certainly had a prolific month! Below he holds a horse, and we wouldn't be surprised if its for one of his grandchildren!



One of Glenn's favorite subjects, a cross. We suspect it's not merely a piece of decorative art, but something he lives by. Below is a 50th wedding anniversary gift Glenn presented to his wife, Joy. Congrats!

Glenn often scrollsaws out of poplar, yellowheart, and aspen.



Monte Richard displays a beautiful quilt hanger.



Norm Nichols scroll-sawed two exquisite crosses from red oak.

MAY SHOW 'N TELL



We don't know much about his chess-playing ability, but Charles Volek is a grandmaster woodworker as he handcrafted this chess board & pieces out of maple & mahogany. Check and Mate!



Randy Abramson is a percussionist as well as a woodworker. The tongue drum is one of the oldest known instruments in the world. Check out this unique instrument at www.tonguedrum.com And no, Randy isn't trying to play "The Funky Chicken" on his drum.



As a furniture-maker and luthier, Fred Sandoval makes many of his own tools. Here he is with one chisel from an entire set that he crafted. You're pretty sharp, Fred, and we're glad you're part of WWCH!



Clark Kellogg & Lon Kelley display their trophies after winning the first-ever WWCH chairmaking contest!

MAY SHOW 'N TELL



John Gay is all smiles after completing this CD cabinet out of red oak. Has anyone ever made a cabinet for their old, large, black, vinyl CDs? John also turned a bowl and then laid tile on it. John's experiments push us all to think outside the box—way to go, John!



Rudy Lippert continued the theme of "experimentation" with his whimsical veneered box. Looks like a successful experiment to us, Rudy!

CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

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!

Art Chester Tools for Sale

Ken Kooser is asking that Club members be given first opportunity to purchase tools from the late Art Chester's inventory before the items go to Ebay or Craigslist. Art was a long time member of the club and passed away last year. For photos of individual tools please contact Saul Harris at 713-299-3785. Ken and Saul will coordinate pick up or delivery of the tools. Ken and Saul expect that half the new price would be fair.

Wanna Box With an Artist?

John Gay has been in touch with an artist who likes to do outdoor plein air painting. The artist, Guy Jackson, has an idea for a painting box for artists (usually called a pochade box, or cigar box by artists). He built a prototype out of wood, but needs a "professional perfectionist" to build a second proto-type to exact specifications. He is willing to pay a fair price to have it built. For more information you can go to these website pages

[http://
www.artworkessentials.com/
products/ProChade/
ProChade.htm](http://www.artworkessentials.com/products/ProChade/ProChade.htm)

www.artworkessentials.com

Contact the artist on his website at www.guyjacksonart.com.

Trading Post

I have some woodworking magazines for sale:
Fine Woodworking bundle 19 issues mixed 2003 thru 2008—\$35.00 for the bundle
American Woodworker bundle 10 issues mixed 2000 thru 2005—\$8.00 for the bundle
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Telephone: 832-592-1152

Email rihoughton@comcast.net

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BOX-MAKING CONTEST



How's that box coming? You haven't started yet? October will be here before you know it, and wouldn't it be a shame if you'd had all year to build one and never got around to it?

This year's contest will be part of the October Picnic meeting. Boxes will be judged in two categories: Beginner & Expert. Build your box out of any material (but remember, this is a WOODworkers club!) and it will be judged by two standards:

1. Heirloom—judged on finish, joinery, practicality
2. Art—anything goes!

A WOODWORKER WITH SOUL

Sam Maloof, a designer and woodworker whose furniture was initially prized for its simplicity and practicality has died. He was 93.

Maloof's career began six decades ago, and he put usefulness before artistry and turned down multimillion-dollar offers to mass-produce his original designs. He worked out of his home workshop, shaping hardwood, one part at a time, into rocking chairs, cradles and hutches that were simple & tasteful.

His hi-fi cabinets, cork-top coffee tables and other modern pieces were instantly praised by home magazine editors and trend-setting interior designers. His walnut chairs and bar stools were installed in several of the so-called Case Study Houses -- the modernist, experimental homes in the Los Angeles area built between 1945 and 1966.

Even after Maloof was recognized as an influential pioneer of contemporary California decor, and even as his furniture was reselling for 100 times its original price, Maloof referred to himself simply as a "woodworker."

The seventh of nine children born to Lebanese immigrants, Maloof in 1985



became the first craftsman to receive a MacArthur Foundation grant. His designs could not be categorized as Arts and Crafts, modern, Scandinavian or Italian. They were simply "Maloof."

Instead of following plans, he matched an image in his head. Using hand tools to shape the wood, He carefully considered the appearance of every angle of the piece, even chair backs and cabinet interiors, as well as grain pattern and his innovative joinery.

Of course, there was no metal hardware in Maloof's work. Once,

to test the strength of the joints for a set of chairs, he made a prototype and dropped it from the roof of his garage onto his driveway. The joints survived.

"Singer Ray Charles couldn't see my furniture," Maloof told a reporter. "But he said he could feel that it had soul. When he asked about my rocker [at a friend's house], his host told him, 'That's a chair made by Sam Maloof.' Ray ran his hands over the wood shouting, 'I know this man! I know this man!' On his next visit, the first thing Ray Charles said was, 'I'd like to touch that furniture again that Sam Maloof made.'"

THE LAST LAUGH

An Old Farmer's Advice . . .

- * Keep skunks, bankers and lawyers at a distance.
- * A bumblebee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
- * Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.
- * Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
- * Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
- * It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
- * When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- * Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- * Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- * Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- * The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
- * Always drink upstream from the herd.
- * If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

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

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Denis Muras
Vice President
"Doc"
Cotton
Secretary
Steve
Wavro
Treasurer

Contact

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

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

782 Maler Rd.
Sealy, TX 77474

Coming Events

Saturday, June 13

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

Fourth Thursday of Every Month

Hand Tool Splinter Group in Sugar Land

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