The Sawdust Sentinel

Monthly newsletter of Woodworkers Club of Houston

Volume 43 Issue 4 April 2026

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NEXT MEETING

Saturday April 11th
Starting at: 9am

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church,

2003 W. 43rd Street, 77018

http: //www.wwch.org

WWCH Calendar

Monthly Meeting	04/11
CNC Router Meeting	04/14
Furniture Meeting	April
Hand Tool Meeting	May
Scroll Saw Meeting	04/25

April

- Easter; April 5th
-

Toy of the Month Preview

WWCH April 2026 Toy of the Month

Grader

Vice-President Message

The countdown is on for our **3rd Annual Hardwood Derby**, racing into our **July 11th meeting**—and it's shaping up to be our most exciting one yet!

Inspired by the classic Pinewood Derby, this crowd-favorite event brings a woodworking twist, creative designs, and plenty of friendly competition. Whether you're in it to win it or just want to show off your craftsmanship, there's a spot for you at the starting line.

Get in the race:

Log into the club website, head to the **Forums**, and click on **Hardwood Derby** for everything you need:

- Official rules *(note: new weight limit this year!)*
- How to purchase wheels
- Current entries
- Volunteer sign-ups

Help make it happen:

Event lead **Peter Doe** is still looking for a few extra hands. Volunteers are needed to:

- Assist Dennis with **track setup/takedown** *(8:00 AM start)*
- Help with **car check-in** (weight & size)
- **Stage cars** at the starting line

Whether you're building, racing, or helping behind the scenes, this is one event you won't want to miss.

Design it. Build it. Race it. Join the fun!

Rod Griffith
Vice-President

Donations to the Club

The WWCH Board has introduced a new way to recognize donations to the Club. Hopefully it will encourage members, businesses and possibly others to make donations to the club. There are recognized Donor Levels to be published in the newsletter and on the Club website for a one year period following the donation.

2026 Donors

Honduran Mahogany - $1000

- Ricque Pokorny

Quarter-sawn White Oak - $500 - $999

- Ken Oyer - Sawblade.com

Black Walnut - $250 - $499

- Tom Paulley

Cherry - $100 - $249

- Houston Hardwoods

Ash - $25 - $99

- Jack Bailie
- Robert Campbell
- Kent Hawley

Hands on Houston 2026 Highlights

We had a great day at the HCCC for the Hands on Houston event.

Jennifer reported they had 313 folks sign in. Not sure of the mix or adults, and that probably does not include our folks. There were13 of us there, including Brian's son Colin.

We passed out approximately 269 toys during the day.

At present we have 141 toys boxed up ready for next year, and more pigs that we'll need for a couple of more events!

I did meet with Cindy that will be getting some toys and supplies and the track for her summer hemophiliac camp in July. Chuck has coordinated this. I'll gather up about 60 cars between now and then. She only wants cars.

At the Workbench - Peter's boxes were a big hit. The oven rack puller was not, but one lady worked for about and hour to make a perfect oven rack puller, and she doesn't cook! Jeff recruited some apprentices to make some fancy walnut molding, so we'll have to be on the lookout for his new cabinet at a future Show and Tell. Ha Ha.

Maria posted on the WWCH Facebook page, which was a really good idea. We should consider getting this "publicity" out to as wide an audience as possible. She included a video that maybe we can get Denis to show at the meeting on Saturday. I've posted a couple of photos as replies to the post.

Andy Tofuri

Hands on Houston 2026 Highlights (con't)

Photo Credit: Andy Tofiuri

Hardwood Derby 2026

The Hardwood Derby has become an exciting tradition over the past several years, and it's one of our club's most popular events! For 2026, Peter Doe has volunteered to take the reins and lead this thrilling activity. The Derby is already scheduled for our July 2026 meeting, and the track has been reserved for an epic race!

Here's your chance to get involved:

- Publish the Derby rules (don't worry, they're already in place!) so members can start building their race cars.
- Recruit a team to help with checking in cars and record-keeping on the big day.
- Lead the execution of the Derby.
- While attending the Board Meetings in March and April would be great, it's not required.

After years of leading the Derby, the amazing person who has handled this task since it's inception should be given a well-deserved break, and now it's Peter's turn to step up! This is a perfect opportunity to connect with fellow members and create an unforgettable event.

If you're interested in volunteering or have any questions, please reach out to Peter Doe.

Splinter Group Information

CNC Router Group: Next meeting is April 14th at 7:00pm. For more information, please Contact Bill Teague; 2stepper@teague.us

Scroll Saw Group: Next meeting is April 25th; meeting at 9:00am; location T.B.D. For more information please contact: Norm Nichols; scrollsaw@comcast.net or Denis Muras; denis_muras@yahoo.com.

Furniture Group: Generally, the Furniture and Finishing Splinter Group meets the 3rd week of the month at Andy Tofuri's shop after dinner at 5:00 PM at a place close by Andy's house. Please check the Furniture and Finishing Splinter Group forum posting, as the date and place can vary, as well as the restaurant.

Hand Tool Group: Generally, the Hand Tool Splinter Group meets the 1st week of the month at Andy Tofuri's shop after dinner at 5:00 PM at a place close by Andy's house. Please check the Hand Tool Splinter Group forum posting, as the date and place can vary, as well as the restaurant.

Sawmill Group: For more information please Contact Bill Lindsey: bill_lindsey@comcast.net or David Janowitz (contact info in directory).

Toy Group: Toys are independently produced, if you are interested in building toys for the toy program, please contact: Chris Schwartz; christopher7schwartz@gmail.com or Andy Tofuri & Bryan Bailey (contact info in directory). You can also preview the Toy of the Month on the web site.

Toy of the Month

A link to the Toy of the Month file can be found on the WWCH Web Site
This Month: Grader Puzzle; https://wwch.org/toy-program/

Club Announcements

- April meeting (04/11/2026) will be held at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church at 2003 W. 43rd Street, 77018
- If you have an idea for a meeting topic or wish to share a project or skill that requires more time than is available during Show and Tell or Favorite Tool, please contact Rod Griffith at one of our meetings or by email at: rodneywgriffith@gmail.com
- If you need a profile photo for the new Web Site, see Chris Farquhar at the next meeting.
-

2026 New Members

We are pleased to have welcomed **2** new members in March:
Wayne Shepard & David Wong

Show and Tell

Tom Paulley

- Bread knives made with cherry/maple, walnut/maple and ash/thermo-ash, all finished with Odie's Oil

Dan Schmoker

- Banskia pod turned

Rick Spacek

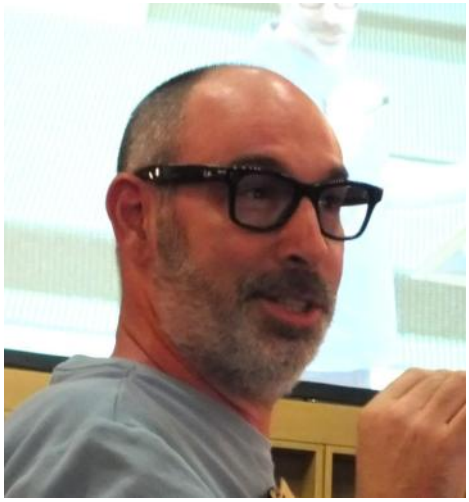
- Scroll saw 3-D sign made from pecan
- Graphic used to make the sign

Show and Tell

Maria Cario

- Hand broom made with the Chairmaker's Toolbox people
- Chopsticks made using the Bridge City chopsticks jig

Brian Murrah



- Flag case made for grandfather's burial flag

Paul Foster

- Turned bowl

Show and Tell

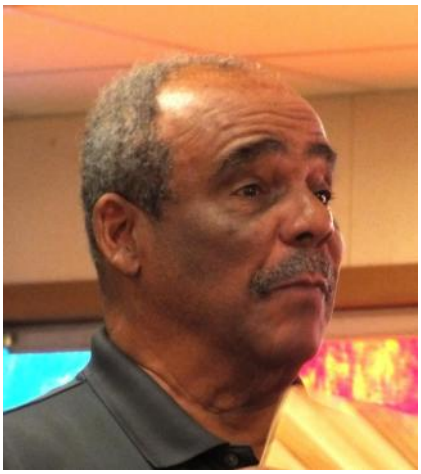
David VanDewerker

- Heart-shaped bandsaw box
- Puzzle cube

Steve Wavro

- Intarsia large mouth bass
- Intarsia Gone Fishing sign

Show and Tell



Bernard Bynum

- Walnut box / Walnut box interior vie
- Cedar serving pieces

Chris Farquhar

- Intarsia koala bear
- Intarsia T-Rex wall art
- T-Rex dinosaur puzzle / Exploded view of dinosaur puzzle

Show and Tell

David Janowitz

- Book-matched charcuterie board from cedar elm
- Turned cherry bowl
- Granadillo serving items and an Osage orange vase
- Cedar elm cutting boards
- Cedar elm serving tray

Upcoming Programs in 2025 at a Glance

Please note that the topics are subject to change and occasionally need to be adjusted.

2025 Meeting Topic Schedule:

April 11th

Gary and Kathy Clark

Bird Houses that Attract Birds

Have you ever built or bought a birdhouse—only to have it sit empty season after season? You're not alone, and this month's presentation will show you why.

Join us for an engaging and informative evening with Gary and Kathy Clark, two highly respected experts in the world of birding. Gary, former Sunday nature columnist for the Houston Chronicle, and Kathy, a nationally recognized wildlife photographer, bring a wealth of knowledge and real-world experience about what birds truly need to feel at home.

They'll share practical guidance on proper dimensions, placement, habitat considerations, and much more—helping you turn a simple wooden box into a nest box birds will actually use. You'll also leave with valuable recommendations for books and online resources to continue your learning.

If you've ever wondered why "a box with a hole in it" isn't enough, this is a presentation you won't want to miss!

May 9

Rick Lacamera

Using Epoxy for slab & River Tables & Charcuterie Boards

June 13

Brian Bailey

Molding Planes

July 11

Peter Doe

Hardwood Derby

August 15*

James Wright

Day Long Seminar – James Wright of the YouTube channel Wood by Wright will present on various hand tool related topics

September 12

Brian Killen

Dust Collection in Small and Homs

October 10

Annual Club Picnic

Activities before lunch & the raffle

November 14

Rod Griffith / 2026 Survey Results

Mike Hardy / Shop-built Mortice Jig from Fine Woodworking

December 12

Virtual Shop Crawls

Three Members

Meetings at a Glance in 2026

In 2026 there will be schedule meeting date that has been changed due to a conflict with St Stevens United Methodist Church. There are only 1 at this time so please be aware of this change so you do not miss the meeting. This post will stay in the Newsletter every month to keep you updated and informed. Any questions, please bring up your concerns at the next meeting.

⇒ ~~January 10th~~	~~2nd Saturday (no change)~~
⇒ ~~February 14th~~	~~2nd Saturday (no change)~~
⇒ ~~March 14th~~	~~2nd Saturday no change)~~
⇒ April 11th	2nd Saturday (no change)
⇒ May 9th	2nd Saturday (no change)
⇒ June 13th	2nd Saturday (no change)
⇒ July 11th	2nd Saturday (no change)
⇒ **August 15th**	**3rd Saturday**
⇒ September	2nd Saturday (no change)
⇒ October	- BBQ - Lunch & Raffle
⇒ November	2nd Saturday (no change)
⇒ December 13th	2nd Saturday (no change)

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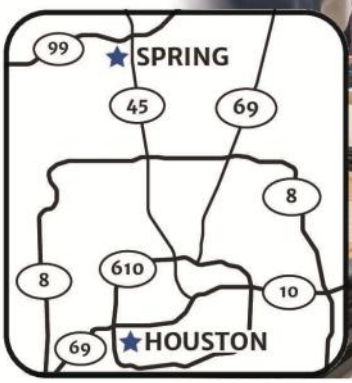


WWCH General Information

WWCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President	Jim Price
Vice President	Rod Griffith
Secretary	Paul Foster
Treasurer	Alan Lipman

DIRECTORS

Bill Harris
Curtis Love
Rich Ostermeier
Brian Murrah
Bernard Bynum

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CLUB SERVICE PROVIDERS

Donuts	Roslyn Hager
Club Logo Items	Norm Nichols
Newsletter	Chris Farquhar
Raffle	Bryan Bailey
Refreshments	Kent Hawley
Technology	Denis Muras
Post Master	Gary Rowen
Web Admin	Tom Paulley

SPLINTER GROUPS

Toy Group

Bryan Bailiey / Chris Schwartz / Andy Tofuri

Hand Tool Group

Henry Majoue / George Alderete / Andy Tofuri

Scroll Saw Group

Norm Nichols / Denis Muras

Furniture / Finishing Group

Henry Majoue / Andy Tofuri

CNC Group

Bill Teaque

Saw Mill Group

Bill Lindsey / David Janowitz

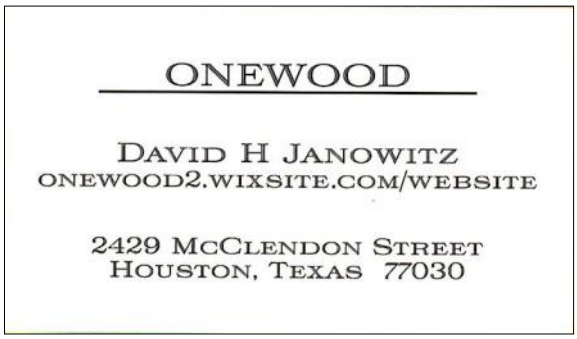
We're on the Web
www.wwch.org

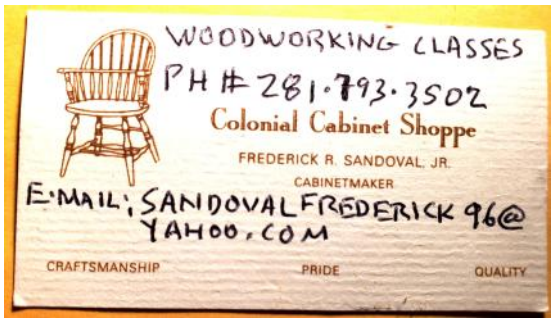
Join our Facebook Group! Woodworkers Club of Houston

Newsletter Publication: Do you have an announcement or item for the newsletter? Send it to Chris Farquhar, WWCH Newsletter Editor, at wwchnewsletter@gmail.com. Please submit the item before April 29th to be included in the next newsletter.

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. Guests are always welcome at no charge. Membership dues are $48 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!

Members Business Cards





If you would like to have your Business Card shown here

and you are a member in good standing.

Please see Chris Farquhar