The Sawdust Sentinel

Monthly newsletter of Woodworkers Club of Houston

Volume 43 Issue 5 May 2026

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NEXT MEETING

Saturday May 9th
Starting at: 9am

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church,

2003 W. 43rd Street, 77018

http: //www.wwch.org

WWCH Calendar

Monthly Meeting 05/9
CNC Router Meeting.....05/12
Furniture Meeting .....May
Hand Tool Meeting ..... June
Scroll Saw Meeting 07/25

May

◊ Mother's Day, May 10th

Toy of the Month Preview

WWCH May 2026 Toy of the Month

Plane Animated

Vice-President Message

American author Kurt Vonnegut once told a story about a conversation he had as a young man. Sitting down to lunch with an archaeologist, he found himself fielding the usual getting-to-know-you questions:

“Do you play sports? What’s your favorite subject?”

Vonnegut explained that while he didn’t play sports, he was involved in theater and choir, played the violin and piano, and took art classes.

The archaeologist was impressed. “Wow. That’s amazing!”

Vonnegut quickly downplayed it. “Oh no—I’m not any good at any of them.”

That’s when the archaeologist said something that Vonnegut later credited with changing the way he saw himself:

“I don’t think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you’ve got all these wonderful experiences with different skills, and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them.”

Vonnegut later reflected on how deeply this idea affected him: he stopped seeing himself as a failure—someone who hadn’t shown enough talent to excel—and began doing things simply because he enjoyed them. Having grown up in an achievement-oriented environment, he had absorbed the belief that something was only worth doing if you could “win” at it. That conversation helped him let go of that mindset.

Although Vonnegut would go on to become one of the most widely read writers of his time, he continued to paint and draw throughout his life. The archaeologist’s words clearly stayed with him.

There’s a lesson here for woodworking, too. It’s easy to look at a project and feel intimidated—to think it’s too complex, or that your skills aren’t quite there yet. But progress doesn’t come from waiting until you’re “ready”; it comes from trying, learning, and improving along the way. Every project, whether it turns out exactly as planned or not, adds to your experience and builds your confidence. So don’t hold back. Take on the challenge, enjoy the process, and trust that each effort is shaping you into a more capable and creative woodworker.

Story from Cole Schafer

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
- Mary Wenzel

Hardwood Derby 2026

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

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 May12th at 7:00pm. For more information, please Contact Bill Teague; 2stepper@teague.us

Scroll Saw Group: Next meeting is July 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: Plane; https://wwch.org/toy-program/

Club Announcements

- May meeting (05/9/2026) 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.
-

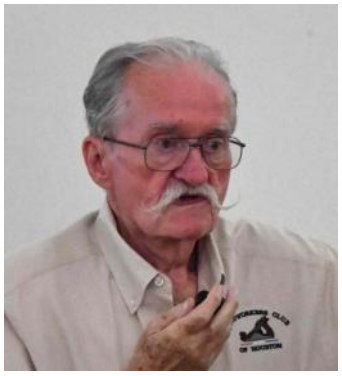
2026 New Members

We did not have any new members in April

Show and Tell

David VanDewerker

◊ Horseshoe Deer Plaque



Norm Nichols

◊ Texas Hanger

Rick Spacek

◊ Scroll Saw Art of Ring-Necked Pheasants

Show and Tell

Greg Solberg

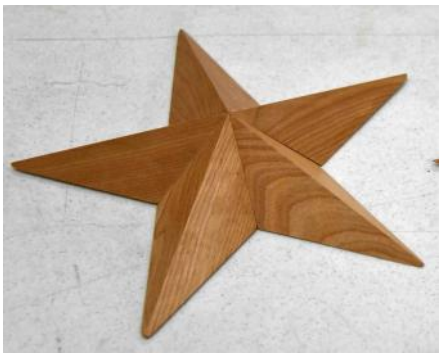
- Turned Bowls

Steve Wavro

- Cork Trivet
- Wine Sign

Tom Blanko

- Texas Stars



Show and Tell

Peter Doe

- Bedside Tables

Gordon Start

- Coat rack for new Scouting facility
- Oak slabs starting drying process coming off the sawmill; Oak slabs starting drying process coming off the sawmill

Show and Tell

David Janowitz

- Cutting boards and serving trays from Osage Orange and Mahogany

Brian Murrah

- Saw Till

Show and Tell

Jack Bailie

- Blanket Chest

After 8 months!

Show and Tell

Frank Patout

- Cabinets for bathroom remodel
- Cabinets for bathroom remodel
- Drawer detail

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:

May 9th

Rick & Daniel Lacamera

Using Epoxy for Slab & River Tables & Charcuterie Boards

Live Edge Slabs of Houston | Custom Live Edge Tables

Exciting May Meeting: Mastering Epoxy for River Tables & Charcuterie Boards!

Are you fascinated by the stunning beauty of live edge slabs and epoxy creations? If so, don't miss our upcoming Woodworkers Club of Houston meeting in May!

We're thrilled to welcome Rick and Daniel Lacamera from **Live Edge Slabs of Houston**. They'll be sharing their expertise on how to work with epoxy for crafting **river tables** and **charcuterie boards** using live edge lumber. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn from seasoned professionals and elevate your woodworking skills.

Whether you're looking to enhance your current projects or dive into something new, you'll walk away with valuable tips and insights.

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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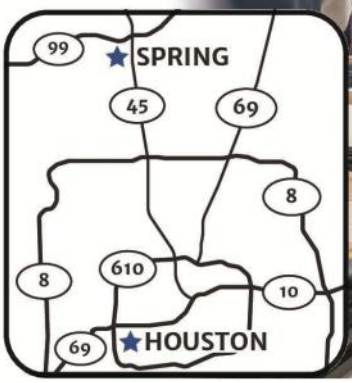


WWCH General Information

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	David Janowitz
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

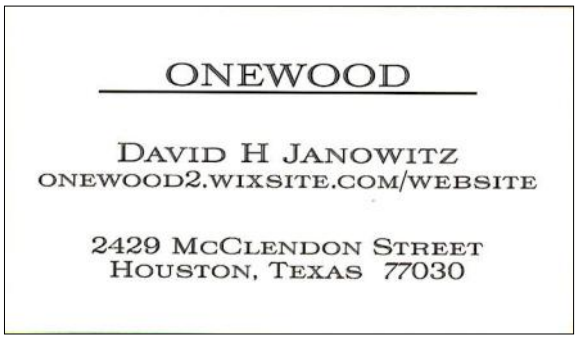
We're on the Web
www.wwch.org

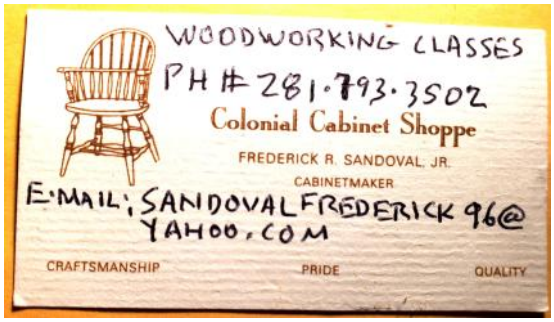
Join our Facebook Group! Woodworkers Club of Houston

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 June 3rd 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