

# North Texas Woodworker=s Association

See us at: <http://www.ntwa.org>

Volume 10, Number 12

Newsletter

March 2001

## **February Meeting Review**

By **Earl Ashurst**

**Owen Haggard** opened the meeting and welcomed visitors and new members, including (approximate spellings) **Paul Kasmatis, Brian Speed, Jack Brackeen, Bob Wilslagel, Fred Riggs, Jim Kersum, Ron Krisman,** and **Gary Tupperman**. Some came with current members, some heard about us at the October Wood show, one saw us on our web page, and one, Ron Krisman, was the newsletter editor of the Oklahoma City woodworking club, SAWS.

### **Announcements**

Come to the meeting March 20, 7pm, at **Owen Haggard's** shop! Program is presented by **Rock Hanna** from Leitz on **circular saw blades**.

### **General Discussions**

Subscriptions to Fine Woodworking magazine did not meet the minimum count needed for our discounts, so the money will be returned to those few who signed up.

**Mike McAloon** asked members to submit photos for the web page (<http://www.ntwa.org>). If you do not have a scanner or digital camera, Mike can scan photos for you. If you do your own, he encouraged that the photos be about 72 dpi and 4X5 in size.

**Vic Caranna** announced that Cummings Tools is holding a sale at the Richardson Civic Center Feb. 27-28. They have a line of inexpensive tools similar to Harbor Freight.

**Owen Haggard** announced that he has a contact for someone who wants bowls turned, but not finished. If you are interested in doing this work, please contact Owen for more information.

We had another **lively auction** as a result of generous donations of items of interest to woodworkers. A hand plane went for a top bid of \$16, plans for a rocking horse went for \$3, and 4 woodworking books went for \$7. All proceeds go to the library fund.

### **Q&A**

**Vic Caranna** asked where can you find 3" wide hook & loop strip sandpaper locally? Econ Abrasives is at 4900 Preston Rd., Frisco, TX 75034. Phone (972) 377-9779.

### **Bring Back**

**Mike Pregent** won last month's drawing. For this month's drawing he offered three sheets of either 1/2" or 5/8" Baltic birch plywood, which stirred a lot of interest. The drawing was won by **Steve Jenkins**.

## **Elections**

The last few positions were filled with nominees and the membership unanimously elected the following officers whose positions will be in effect in April:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>President</i>      | <b>Earl Ashurst</b>                                      |
| <i>Vice president</i> | <b>Jim Dawson</b>  |
| <i>Treasurer</i>      | <b>Jack Edgecomb</b>                                     |
| <i>Secretary</i>      | <b>Vic Caranna</b>                                       |
| <i>Newsletter</i>     | <b>Lynn Sabin</b>  |
| <i>Programs</i>       | <b>Dennis Furlow<br/>Ken Patrick<br/>Walter Schuster</b> |
| <i>Shows</i>          | <b>Dan Henry</b>   |
| <i>Library</i>        | <b>Dale Osborne</b>                                      |
| <i>Membership</i>     | <b>Bob Jones</b>   |
| <i>Webmaster</i>      | <b>Mike McAloon</b>                                      |

## **Show & Tell**

**Earl Ashurst** brought two pieces of plastic glued together with polyurethane glue so you could see the bonding. It was previously reported that polyurethane glue forms a weak bond because it foams and leaves gaps in the bond. You could see through the plastic and see that while it did not foam under clamping pressure, it did have a pattern of places where the gases forced the plastic pieces apart.

Earl also brought in a stick-horse to show how he made the wheels. They are disks of MDF soaked in hot paraffin wax. As they cooled off the hot wax was sucked back into the MDF providing a very slick axle surface. and, hopefully, a waterproof one as well.

**Dan Henry** brought in a DeWalt belt sander. It came with a bag dust collector, but he wanted vacuum dust collection. He bought a spare frame for the bag and adapted it for a vacuum by drilling a hole and inserting a short piece of PVC pipe with a slot fit to cut over the bag opening. He said it works amazingly well in collecting dust. As a bonus, the bag support serves as an extra handle well forward of the built-in handle.

**Frank Gregg** showed a frame he built for cutting plywood sheets. It sits on saw horses and functions as a "strong-back". You can cut the plywood on it without worrying about the cuts going into the frame (it doesn't hurt anything as long as the cut isn't much below the bottom of the plywood). The whole thing disassembles in seconds (as he demonstrated by accident while trying to show it off) and stores in a small space. The basic frame was suggested by a recent magazine article.

Frank also had a Porter Cable circular saw with the blade on the left because he thought that would make it easier to see where he was cutting. When the saw was stolen, he replaced it with a new one with the blade on the right, which he likes much better.

**Ruben Glaucier** showed us an oval guide for a router. It is commonly referred to as a Thomas Jefferson BS grinder. The router mounts on the arm and cuts perfect ovals directly. He often uses a round-over bit to cut tabletops, thus eliminating one step in production. He showed a tabletop with a hand-carved rope pattern around the edge. He used a threaded post to attach the tabletop. He will put tiles on the top and clay inserts into the spiral grooves running up the pedestal. Ruben also showed a number of drawings for his carvings which were absolutely beautiful. There is no doubt that Ruben is a real master craftsman!

**Bob Jones** showed his new RotoZip tool. He bought it at Home Depot for less than \$190 and uses it for cutting, carving, and circle cutting. It is much heavier than a Dremel and he reports that control is perfect.

**Walter Schuster** was impressed with the large rocking chair Martin Lutz showed us a couple months ago, so he made a miniature version of it (entirely from memory) for his granddaughter. It was made of red oak and was nearly all hand-work. Walt referred to it as a "perpetual motion machine" because the rockers are so well matched that it rocks for an extended period if undisturbed.

**Larry Maughan** has an Inkra tablesaw fence and he made some attachments for it. He mounted hold-downs on a wood base that attaches to the Inkra slots so that the hold-downs are at a better height. He also built a fence extension with hold-downs.

**Lynn Sabin** showed a Stanley #39 3/8" dado plane. She said about 4 strokes will cut a 1/4" deep dado and is much easier to set up than a router. It is important when looking at used dado planes to get "nickers" (little blades that score the edge of the dado) that match the plane size. The fence is more universal and can be exchanged between planes, but the nickers are not interchangeable.

**Frank Gregg** and **Lynn Sabin** each won drawings for \$10 from among all the Show & Tell presenters.

### Program

Member Dave Arbuckle, who teaches monthly classes at the Carrolton Woodcraft store, demonstrated the Leigh Dovetail Jig. Speaking from a commonsense approach, Dave explained the Jig's basic components and how they are assembled to do both through and half-blind dovetails. Stock is clamped into the jig quickly with cam-action clamps, which are adjustable for varying stock thickness. Through or half-blind dovetails can be configured easily by flipping the finger assembly. The same assembly is used for both pins and tails.

Using 3/4-inch poplar, his "wood of choice for dovetailing"; a Porter Cable 1 1/2-HP router, equipped with guide bushing; a straight bit (for cutting the pins); an 8-degree dovetail bit (for cutting the tails); and the Leigh Jig, Dave furnished a straightforward demonstration of how to cut through dovetails.

The Leigh Jig (Model D4-24), as demonstrated, accepts stock up to 24 inches wide. Maximum pin thickness is 1 1/4 inches. The Jig, which typically sells for about \$369, includes one 1/2-inch x 8-degree carbide dovetail cutter,

one 5/16-inch x 1-inch carbide straight cutter with 1/4-inch shank, instruction manual, and 45-minute video. A router guide bushings must be purchased separately. Many attachments, which facilitate creation of mortises, tenons, and several decorative dovetail-like joints are also available.



### From the Board

"We been jammin'" about what this years' programs ought to cover. We want everyone to get something from every meeting. First, we feel that Show and Tell and Q&A sessions are absolutely essential to our well-being. Without those interactions, we're better off just watching Norm and Scott on the boob tube! These sessions have gone so well, we may have a couple of meetings exclusively devoted to group "sharing" of experience and knowledge.

But we also want to bring some new blood into the programs, from outside and inside. We've got several folks who exhibit master craftsman skills who have a lot they could share with us. In addition, there are a lot of local experts that can talk to us about our tools and skills. We came up with ideas for programs on cabinet scrapers, hand planes, stationary power tool tuneups, jigs, joinery. How about a session on old and odd tools? Maybe a "Stumpers" session where you have to guess the name and purpose of an obscure tool. Better start your collection, that one will be coming up soon!

We also want a return visit from Paxton, this time to talk about how to choose the right wood for the job, wood characteristics, types of wood. And it was suggested we have a hands-on session where several groups make a paneled door, a table, a finger-jointed box, dovetailed drawer, table leg, or some other activity. We'll want to hear your ideas and interests at the next meeting.

One other change. The newsletter will be mailed soon after meetings in the future, so as to bring everyone up to date on what happened. Those of you who are electronic subscribers will get an electronic reminder in addition a couple of days before the next meeting.

Be sure to welcome your new NTWA Board members. They, and the incumbents, work hard to make this Association a valid and viable one. [ed.]

### Shop Tour

None scheduled, will YOU host one???

### CLASSIFIEDS:

Members can list items for sale, trade, or wanted free. Email or call your newsletter editor!

**North Texas Woodworker=s Association, P.O. Box 831567, Richardson, TX 75083-1567**  
**Current Officers & Directors**

|                |                 | Home Phone   | Work Phone   | E*mail   |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| President      | Owen Haggard    | 972-403-0136 | 972-422-4515 | <a href="mailto:flyingh@gte.net">flyingh@gte.net</a>                           |
| Vice President | Mike Pregent    | 972-242-1115 | 972-487-9474 | <a href="mailto:Mpregent@flash.net">Mpregent@flash.net</a>                     |
| Treasurer      | Jack Edgecomb   | 972-271-0446 | 972-952-3910 | <a href="mailto:j-edgecomb@raytheon.com">j-edgecomb@raytheon.com</a>           |
| Secretary      | Earl Ashurst    | 972-727-3542 | 972-478-3393 | <a href="mailto:Eashurst_2000@yahoo.com">Eashurst_2000@yahoo.com</a>           |
| Newsletter     | Ken Patrick     | 972-734-2392 | 972-856-3227 | <a href="mailto:kenp@airmail.net">kenp@airmail.net</a>                         |
| Programs       | Dennis Furlow   | 972-436-7975 | 214-984-0336 | <a href="mailto:dennis@shakerwoodworks.com">dennis@shakerwoodworks.com</a>     |
|                | George Thornton | 817-261-1254 | 817-239-8199 | <a href="mailto:texaswoodcrafter@hotmail.com">texaswoodcrafter@hotmail.com</a> |
| Shows          | Dan Henry       | 903-527-4515 |              | <a href="mailto:danmary@pulse.net">danmary@pulse.net</a>                       |
| Library        | Dale Osborne    | 214-692-7642 | 972-883-2025 | <a href="mailto:dosborne@utdallas.edu">dosborne@utdallas.edu</a>               |
| Membership     | Bob Jones       | 972-424-8860 | 972-701-5998 | <a href="mailto:Cascademoniale@home.net">Cascademoniale@home.net</a>           |
| WebMaster      | Mike McAloon    | 972-881-2126 |              | <a href="mailto:Mmcaloon@airmail.net">Mmcaloon@airmail.net</a>                 |

The board serves from April through March of the following year. Bylaws are available upon request. The board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at La Madeleine restaurant at Park and Preston, in Plano.

Membership in NTWA is \$24.00 per year. Make checks payable to No. Texas Woodworkers Assoc. and mail to address above. Or come to the next meeting and see Jack Edgecomb.

**NTWA Calendar**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2001 @ 7:00 pm. At Owen Haggard's shop.**

**March Shop Visit: None scheduled.**

**April Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 2001 @ 7:00 pm, @ Owen Haggard's Shop.**

From your Editor:

This is the last issue I'll publish, as I'll turn the reins over to Lynn Sabin in April. I've enjoyed doing it! Lynn's got some great experience that will result in a new look.

I'd like to make a quick observation. Some members seem to be intimidated by the superb craftsmanship we see at the meetings from our own members. I've heard "I could never do that" more than once at meetings.

I'm no pro, and my stuff is mechanical, not artistic. Maybe some day I'll suddenly create something artistic, who knows? But the fun should be in the doing! Don't get discouraged because you see some fine work you know you can't duplicate today. Remember, each and every master craftsman had early projects that, as Bill Cosby often said, "always looked like an ashtray".

It takes time and practice, and yes, a few hours of work go into the firewood pile now and then.

For each project I start, I try to plan some new task that gives me practice at a new technique, or work with new wood, or a new finish. *(Oh, and justify purchasing a new tool!)* Sooner or later, all that experience ought to count for something, right?

My encouragement: Do it for the fun of it! Try something new every time. And don't compare yourself to others, but learn from them. That's what this Association is all about!

Ken Patrick, editor.

**Directions to the meeting:**

From northbound on the Dallas North Tollway, exit at Windhaven Dr. (just North of Parker, South of Spring Creek) and go West. Take the first right onto Communications Parkway and turn into the first driveway on the right. Find a place to park along the driveway or on the street and come back to the shop.

<http://maps.yahoo.com/py/maps.py?Pyt=Tmap&addr=6000+Bishop+Road+&city=Plano&state=TX&slt=33.056600&sln=-96.825000&name=&zip=75093-7813&country=us&BFCat=&BFClient=&mag=9&desc=&cs=9&newmag=8>

**Meeting MAP!**

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| Sunday             | 9 am. To 5 pm. |

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YOUR WOODWORKING PALS @  
THE MEETING MARCH 20!**