



North Texas Woodworkers Association

See us at: www.ntwa.org

Volume 25, Number 10

Newsletter

October 2016

Welcome

President John Loftis welcomed everyone and asked first-timers to introduce themselves.

Guests

Weston Poulos moved to Farmers Branch from North Carolina and heard about NTWA from GT Robinson.

Dennis Amber likes to work with hand tools and found NTWA on line.

Bill Hansen is from Granbury and was introduced to NTWA through Woodcraft. Bill is an experienced woodworking teacher.

JW Hoover retired from the railroad. Liked to play X-box, but started woodworking after his wife told him to find something else to do.

Alvin LaGrenade is a prior member from the 1980's. Welcome back Alvin!

Announcements

Manny has most of the new wooden name tags finished. If you don't have yours, please see him to arrange to get it made.

Jim Cadorette is reformatting his shop and is selling some tools. He had a handout plus a link to pictures and pricing.

Due to confusion over when the swap meet was to take place, it will be repeated at the November meeting.

John Loftis has tools for sale. You can swing by his shop to see them or give him a call.

Shop Questions

Sidney Futrell asked about the effectiveness of non-friction tape. He's building a cabinet with drawers that only use a wood guide. Gary Turman, among others, said it works great and is better than wax.

Dan Brown asked about the best finish for a desktop. John Loftis suggested lacquer or even pre-catalyzed lacquer, but pre-cat is much harder to work with. Mohawk is the easiest brand to find.

Isabel Nieves asked about vacuum bags with a hand pump as opposed to those with motors. The consensus is that they work well, but that you need to check them periodically to be sure they are holding vacuum. Ken McClurg suggested using RoaRocket (yes the spelling is correct) systems which were originally brought out for manufacturing skateboards.

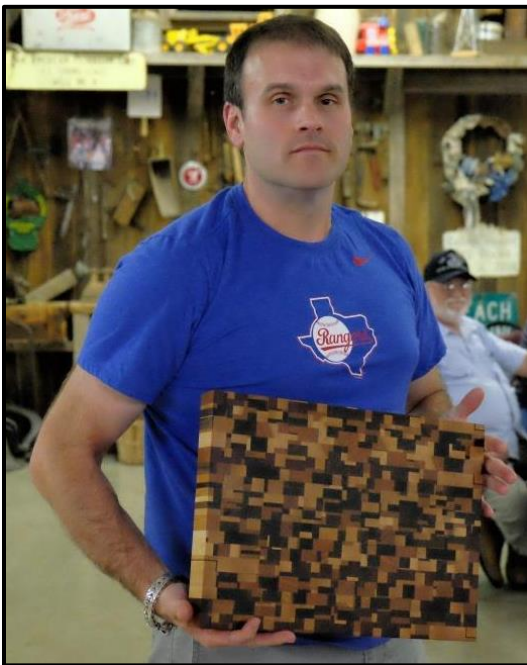
Show & Tell



Bill Bush made this cutting board from book-matched hickory with a walnut frame.



Dennis Amber made this walnut and curly maple box using hand tools only.



Michael Minarzick made this end-grain cutting board with a variety of scrap woods.



Richard Kenyon made this tambour door box from a plan in the April 2011 Woodworkers Journal magazine. A cool feature of this box is that to open the tambour, you pull open the drawer.

Richard Kenyon won the \$10 drawing for Show & Tell.

Raffle

Steve Yauch: Sarge Custom Folding Knife kit with a wenge handle kit.

John Loftis: Sarge Mini-Hunter Field Blade with a Bocote handle kit.

Gary Turman: Tom Kregar Carolina field knife with a purple heart scale kit.

Wendell Brough: WoodRiver 150-piece jig hardware kit.

NOTE: The BIG drawing for the Christmas potluck will be a gift certificate for Festool.

Program



Doug Ashby, a long-time knife maker, talked about his knife making experiences at the October meeting. Doug started his woodworking hobby making furniture and guitars, but switched to knife making over 30 years ago. During the first two years of his learning phase he gave away all the knives he made.

Doug says there are three kinds of knife makers:

1. Forgers
2. Stock removal (custom shapes)
3. Assemblers (buy finished blades and attached their own scales (handles))

The equipment needed to get into knife making are a metal cutting saw, a belt sander, a buffer and maybe a mill. Doug prefers a metal cutting bandsaw – wood cutters turn too many rpms. He uses a 2" x 72" belt sander with cubic zirconium belts. He says that if you use a floppy buffer keep in mind that it is very dangerous and can grab the blade and throw it back at you at high velocity. He has a mill, but rarely uses it anymore.

The steel used for your blade depends on the use of the knife. You can buy it in sheets of various types ranging from carbon to stainless to Damascus. Carbon steel (D2 or 01) holds a good edge, but requires more maintenance because it can rust.

Doug uses ATS34 stainless 1/8" thick. He says to be very wary of the source of Damascus steel. There are real inferior sheets coming out of India and other mid-eastern countries.

All steel blades must be heat treated. Doug sends his out because heat treating stainless is very tricky at best.

Doug suggested that those interested in making knives subscribe to Blade Magazine or Knives Illustrated. They are great sources for supplies and equipment as well as technical information.

Your first decision is what type of knife you want to make and secondly, what the shape will be. He suggests you draw it and transfer the drawing to cardboard. Cut out the cardboard to try the fit before you transfer it onto aluminum to use it as a template on the steel you will use.

Doug says the three most important things to remember about knife making are: Form; Fit; and Finish!



Here are the various stages of a Doug Ashby knife.

Doug drills large holes in the knife tangs to lighten the blade and to give the epoxy places to bond better with the opposite scale. He used a dental epoxy dentists use for dentures.

Doug does not make his own knife sheaths. He has used a leather shop in West Texas for years because he doesn't like to do leather work himself.

And finally, Doug uses the Lansky sharpening system to sharpen his blades. You can readily find Lansky sharpeners at Academy Sports.

Next club meeting:

Nov. 15th, 2016

7:00 p.m.

The Party Barn

***Bandsawn box &
state fair entries +
Swap meet &
silent auction***

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