



# North Texas Woodworkers Association

See us at: [www.ntwa.org](http://www.ntwa.org)

Volume 27, Number 5

Newsletter

May 2018

## Welcome

**President Jay Stearns** welcomed everyone to the May meeting, his first as the newly elected president. He thought it would be beneficial to have the officers tell the club about themselves because not everyone knows them starting with himself.



Jay said that he grew up on a North Dakota horse ranch where his family raised 300-500 quarter horses. He decided early on that there wasn't a lot of money to be made being a cowboy, so he went to school to become a pharmacist. He's been a serious woodworker for 10-12 years and because his brothers are turners, he decided to build boxes, not furniture. Note: Jay has won numerous blue ribbons and best in show at the Texas State Fair for his incredibly beautiful band sawn boxes.

He then asked Vice President Steve Yauch to talk about himself. Steve said he's been a member in NTWA since the 90's and got into woodworking repairing furniture. He

is primarily a woodturner, but also does furniture, cabinets and other projects. He bought his first lathe from club member Steve Jenkins. He likes to use mesquite for turning and cherry for flat work.

Before moving on, Jay held the election to fill the vacant Treasurer position. Steve Yauch made the motion to nominate Ed Mastin as treasurer for 2018. It was seconded by Jeff Whitcomb. **The motion passed.**

Ed said he moved to Dallas from North Carolina and has been retired for 12 years. He turns and does flat work with black cherry as his favorite wood to work with.

## Guests

*Bodie Pyndrus* is getting ready to retire and is taking up woodworking. He lives in Dallas.

*Vinny Nguyen* likes to do cutting boards.

*John Schubert* started woodworking with his dad 60 years ago. He is retiring and want to do more upscale woodworking.

## Announcements

John Young has a 15" Grizzly Planer that cost \$1500 new and has hardly been used. His group would like \$500 for it and will deliver it in the metroplex.

Joe Polich brought in pieces from a popup display that are perfectly flat and straight with a magnetic strip on one side that can be used for setups on your tablesaw, bandsaw or other tool with a metal table. They are free.

Wayne Bower went to the Fine Woodworking Show in Massachusetts with a friend. He talked about the show and the classes they offered. You can review the details on the Fine Woodworking website: <https://www.finewoodworking.com/> Two good classes covered "The Most Common Mistakes" and "Wood Movement."

## Shop Questions

Bernadette Rodriguez has a broken drive belt on her Delta bandsaw and needs to remove the lower wheel to access it. She asked for ideas on how to remove it.

Bodie Pyndrus asked if anyone was willing to rent out tools or their shop to do woodworking. He lives in Allen. Jeff Whitcomb suggested Makerspace.

## Show & Tell



Jordan Williams made this cutting board out of walnut, wenge and cherry.



Ed Mastin made this clamp to fit his drill press

spindle to manually turn the spindle to install threaded inserts. **NOTE:** the drill press is NOT running!



Wayne Bower made this Shaker style step stool out of 1x8 pine. He said this is a great “kids” project.

behind him to tie the strings he just has to get the ends of the dowels close and the magnets will grab to hold the apron in place.



Dan Nilius made this exercise bench using pinned mortise and tenon joints. Scrap flooring was used for the top.



Bill Jacobs modified his shop apron by adding dowels to the ends of the apron strings. Super magnets were glued into a recess on one end of each dowel so instead of reaching



Elaine Turman made this wall mounted candle holder.





Jay Stearns made this "dog eared" box out of maple and padauk.

The winner for the \$10 Show & Tell drawing was **Bill Jacobs**.

## **Raffle**

Owen Haggard: Starrett 6" ruler

Keith Paris: Starrett 6" ruler

Bill Jacobs: Donegan Optical Optivision magnifying headband and Donegan Optiloop.

GT Robinson: Woodcraft wheel marking gauge with spare wheel

Jay Stearns: Pecan slab

Dan Nilius: Oak billets for turning

Ed Jordan: bucket of turning wood

## **Program**

The program for the May meeting was presented by George Freeman. George is a retired Captain of the

Dallas Fire Department and does woodworking and turning in his shop. He owns a sawmill and a chainsaw mill used to cut specialty lumber sizes. He currently stocks 33 different species of wood for woodturning.



George's topic was on finishing. He said modern finishes are elastic and will move with the wood. Shellac is not elastic and does not move which is why you see cracked finishes on antiques.

Good finishes start with sanding and George talked about sandpaper grits and how they are rated into groups. Most sandpaper used by woodworkers are rated using the CAMI grit designation starting with 40-60 grit as course and 180 and up as extra fine.

He said you should decide at the beginning of a project what finish you will be using:

Natural looking (low sheen)

Finished, but not glossy

Spectacular gloss finish which requires polishing through various grits. Cherry and maple are the

easiest woods to get a spectacular gloss finish.



George reviewed the types of protective finishes:

- Waxes
- Oils (non-drying)
- Oils (drying oils)
- Oils/ Varnish mixes (i.e. Danish Oil)
- Shellac
- Lacquer
- Varnishes (includes polyurethane)
- Epoxy finishes (Two part)

George cautioned that none of these finishes should be used on cutting boards as they will allow bacteria to hide and grow, but if any are used, the cutting board should be washed after use with bleach to kill any bacteria.

Additives can be added to finishing products to:

- Promote flexibility (plasticity)
- Durability
- Hardness

- Ease of applying
- Fast drying
- Environmental factors

To insure the best finish possible, you must control environmental factors such as heat and humidity that play a very large role in the drying and curing times of varnishes.

- Temperature - needs to be above 70 degrees)
- Humidity - should be below 30%. High humidity causes finishes to show a milky or foggy surface when dry.
- Air flow - causes faster drying of finishes.
- Shop safety (i.e. health of the woodturner)

George then discussed the characteristics of the various types of finishing products.

Wax has very low protection qualities. It is easy to put on and comes in a variety of colors and hardness, but even the hardest are softer than lacquers and varnishes. You can apply wax over any other finish and it will give the surface a soft sheen and smooth feel, but don't put other finishes over wax, they won't stick.

Oils offer better protection than wax. Its molecules are small enough to penetrate the wood which makes the wood look richer and more



# North Texas Woodworkers Association

See us at: [www.ntwa.org](http://www.ntwa.org)

Volume 27, Number 5

Newsletter

May 2018

---

translucent without adding a film to the surface.

Oils come in two basic types, drying and non-drying. Drying oils turn from a liquid to a solid when exposed to air. Nut oils such as boiled linseed, tung (must be labeled "Pure" to not have any additives) and walnut are drying oils. Teak oil is good to use on oily woods such as rosewood.

Vegetable and mineral oils are non-drying oils. Food safe oils should be used on cutting boards but require frequent treatments since they do not dry to a solid film.

Watco Danish Oil is generally lumped in with the oil finishes but is really a hybrid since it is a mix of thin oils and varnishes. It is the most common of the mixes and comes in a variety of colors including natural. It should be applied liberally and allowed to penetrate for 15 minutes. A second coat is added before wiping the excess off. It can be used as a one-coat finish or multiple coats can be added (no more than one per day) to build a finish that can be as thick and durable as varnish without the need to clean brushes or buff out the finish.

Other oil/varnish finishes include WaterLox and not pure tung oil but "Minwax tung oil finish" which has varnish in it.

Shellac is a natural polymer similar to synthetic polymers and therefore can be considered a natural plastic. Liquid shellac has a limited shelf life of 1 year after which time it may not dry on your project. Shellac can be bought in flake form and mixed with alcohol on an as need basis to reduce waste. It is mixed in various "cuts" referred to as the number of pounds of flakes to a gallon of alcohol. Therefore, a one-pound cut is one pound of flakes to one gallon of alcohol.

One big advantage of shellac is that you can repair the finish by going over it with more shellac. Each coat will merge and bond with the existing coat.

Shellac can contain wax that is naturally found in it or de-waxed where the wax is removed. If you are going to coat the shellac with something else, you should use de-waxed shellac.

Because it is compatible with most other finishes, shellac is also used as a barrier or primer coat on wood to prevent the bleeding of resin or pigments into the final finish, or to prevent wood stain from blotching.

Lacquer dries to a very hard and smooth surface layer which is durable, waterproof, and attractive to feel and look at. It is more durable than shellac and dries by evaporation of the solvents. Lacquer can be of

any sheen level from ultra-matte to high gloss, and it can be further polished as desired.

Varnishes can be formulated for a variety of uses from outdoor projects that require more elasticity to harder finishes for tables and floors. Long-oil varnishes such as Epifanes Behlen's Rockhard Table Top Varnish is good for tabletops.

Polyurethane is a urethane varnish sold by a trade name. Add 25% mineral spirits and it is a wipe on varnish. Add 75% mineral spirits to a varnish and it is a wash coat. Add 50% mineral spirits and 25% penetrating drying oil to it and it is Danish Oil.

Spar varnish has plasticizers and UV inhibitors added to it to keep it flexible longer.

George gave four ways to apply finish:

- Wipe on (the rag method)
- Spray on – rattle can
- Spray on – spray gun
- Brush on (with a good brush)

He closed out the program by saying you aren't finished until you finish the finish. This can be accomplished by:

- Rubbing/ buffing out the finish with wax
- 0000 steel wool (equals 400 grit sandpaper)

- White non-woven pad by 3M (equals to about 600 grit sandpaper)
- Buffing system

George can be reached at:  
George Freeman  
Specialty Lumber and Logging  
Quinlan, Texas 75474  
214-334-4035

Here are some examples of George's work:







# North Texas Woodworkers Association

See us at: [www.ntwa.org](http://www.ntwa.org)

Volume 27, Number 5

Newsletter

May 2018

**Next club meeting:**

**Tues., June 19<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm at the Party Barn**

**Program: Jeff Whitcomb**

**NTWA Program Chairman**

**Favorite Websites**

**See below!**

Newsletter edited by: Joe Polich  
[newsletters@ntwa.org](mailto:newsletters@ntwa.org)  
Pictures by: Sidney Futrell

Everyone has favorite websites that you use for reference, technical information, help in solving problems, etc.

This month we would like everyone to send us at least two that they go to all the time. We will look at as many of these as we can plus distribute a list of the favorites to the members. BUT, if you have more than two send them on as well.

There is so much to learn from others. Broadening our learning assets is very important.

Send to Jeff Whitcomb at:

[jeffbob@verizon.net](mailto:jeffbob@verizon.net)

or if you have questions give Jeff a call at 800-969-9368 or on his cell 903-203-9463.

The success of this program is highly dependent on your sharing in advance!!

## **Shop Tour**

NTWA members have been invited to tour Matt Harmon's custom furniture workspace. You might remember that Matt came to the February meeting to do a program on design and strategies in building custom furniture.

Matt's shop is located at 5200 East Grand Ave, Dallas TX 75223. An email will be forthcoming with more detailed information, but for now, check out his website:

<http://mtthrmn.com/>