



# North Texas Woodworkers Association

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

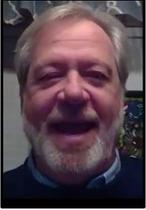
Volume 30, Number 1

Newsletter

January 2021

## Welcome

**President Jay Stearns**, the most well-behaved member in the meeting, welcomed everyone to the January meeting.



## Announcements

There will be two raffles this evening: two gift cards for those participating in the Beads of Courage box program and two gift cards for everyone attending the meeting.

Chris Kersey explained the new process for conducting the raffles. He'll place the link to the raffle in the chat. Once everyone clicks the link, Chris will activate the raffle and it will ask you to fill in a word that Chris provides. If you're a winner, it will ask you to fill in your name and mailing info.

Jay still has veneer panels in his garage for anyone to pick up. These are MDF panels with a quality veneer on one side and mahogany on the other. Some of the panels are crotch, curly and birdseye. Contact Jay via text to arrange a time to pick up: 469.955.2438.

If you have questions regarding the status of your dues, contact Treasurer Ed Mastin at [treasurer@ntwa.org](mailto:treasurer@ntwa.org). Annual dues are \$36.00 and for "new" members joining after the renewal date of April

1<sup>st</sup>, go to <https://ntwa.org/club-information> to see the prorated amount to pay. Below the chart are the options on paying your dues by check or PayPal.

Jay suggested that anyone in the meeting who is trying to reach Ed put a message in the Chat Box for Ed.

Let's get CURRENT with our dues!

## Shop Questions

Jim Polanco had issues with the finish he put on the stovetop cover he built. It was leaving divots, so he re-sanded it. His sanding process is to start at 80 grit, move to 150, then 220. This has always worked for him until this stovetop cover which he sanded up to 600. Cracks appeared in the wood. He restarted the process at 80 and stopping at 220 and all the cracks disappeared. What is causing this cracking? Gary Turman suggested heat from the 600 grit may be the cause. Jim eventually used sanding sealer which seemed to have eliminated the divots.

Bodie Pyndus asked if anyone has used Rubio Monocoat which takes up to 7 days to cure? He used it on a small table and after it cured he placed a warm cup on it which left a ring. Jim Polanco questioned if it was more the weight of the cup rather than the heat. Bodie refinished it and it's now okay. Kyle has used it and has not had any issues, but hasn't

put a hot cup on it. He will try it as a test.

Ron Giordano has experienced a bow in the bandsaw blades after they have been removed. It happens on narrow as well as wide blades and doesn't seem to matter which brand he uses – Starret or Olson. He stores them by coiling them as they come new. This is happening as it comes off the bandsaw not when coiling or after it's stored. No one else has seen this issue. Jay suggested laying the blade on a flat surface and gently tapping it to see if that will flatten it.



Bruce Straats asked how often the tires on a bandsaw should be replaced. The general consensus was that it depends on how much it's used, whether there is damage and if the blade seems to slip due to a lack of traction on the wheels. Another

indication is that the blade doesn't want to track right.

Brian O'Donnell asked if anyone has used chalkboard paint. Jay said he has used it, but it wasn't very good. He bought it at Home Depot so maybe the quality wasn't the best.

Chris Kersey asked how thin of a board he can run through his DeWalt planner before switching to a drum sander. The spec is 1/8", but it depends on the wood itself and whether it has any figures or knots which tend to explode in the planner. Workarounds included gluing it to another board or using double-sided tape. This would allow you to go as thin as you'd like. It was also suggested that the type of knives, straight or helical, makes a difference. Chris then asked if it would help to run the board at an angle. He will try that. JW also suggested running it through with the direction of the grain down like on your jointer. Jay says he slightly wets figured maple before running it through the planner.

## **Product Reviews**

Gary Turman compared Snappy Tools pilot/countersink drills with WL Fuller. The Snappy set is about \$30 while the Fuller is \$120 but it comes with plug cutters.

The Snappy isn't tapered so there is no shank clearance in the hole which can create issues when you're trying

to draw one board up against another. The Fuller is tapered which gives you a hole shaped very much like your fastener. The Fuller seems to have a slightly sharper countersink.

Jay asked about running the drill bit backwards to get a cleaner hole. Gary said he has heard it being done but to get the cleanest cut, use a brad point bit. Bodie said he's heard that technique is used to keep the drill bit from walking. Jim said it's a technique used in construction to keep the bottom or upper plate from splitting when anchoring the wall.

Joe Polich said he had gotten an email from Rockler showing a sale for vacuum clamping blocks for 25% off making them \$50 for a pair so he decided to check into them. He looked at Veneer Supplies and found they have Podz blocks in a kit of 4 for \$96. He also bought the foot pedal for \$28. He showed a short video of the setup.

The kit comes with 4 Podz, 12' of hose, 4 one-way valves, 8 gaskets (one for the top and one for the bottom of each Podz) and a full set of instructions. The tools needed to assemble it are a 7/16" wrench, a utility knife, a tape measure, he used a 9/16" deep socket to knock in the one-way valves and a hammer.



The foot pedal is momentary switch. You press the top of the pedal to turn on the pump and the bottom of the peddle to turn it off. This comes in handy when you can't reach down to turn it off.



The video showed the Podz clamping a box onto one of the Podz and being able to pick up the entire sheet of melamine by picking up the box itself. Veneer Supplies suggests using only the number of Podz needed to clamp the work because there are slight vacuum leaks at the unused valves. Joe says he's now cut three 4" x 4" pieces of ply to cover any unused Podz and has used the vacuum clamps for sanding, on the drill press and on the bench to chop mortises. It works great.

Gary asked about the pump sucking in sawdust when using them for sanding. Joe said the pump has a filter on the inlet side to stop any contamination.

The advantage of the Podz over the Rockler clamps is that the Podz clamp themselves down in whatever configuration you want while the Rockler clamps have to be anchored to a base or on T-tracks.

The big disadvantage is that you have to have a vacuum pump which Joe did have for his vacuum bag for veneering. This expands the uses of the vacuum pump immensely.

Jim Polanco's son gave him this cove cutting table saw jig for his birthday and he used it for the first time the day before the meeting. He said it is simple to set up and is mounted through the miter slots on the tabletop. The featherboard can be

switched from side-to-side. Jim says that when you get the jig set up, it's very solid. He hasn't set it up with the blade angled to change the profile of the cut. He said he's very pleased with it. It was quick to set up and performed great.



Chris Kersey bought this jig for his trim router to keep set up for small jobs. You add your own board to clamp the jig to your bench and said be aware that the dust port is an add-on even though the picture on the package shows it on the jig. Read the fine print..... Chris says.



This cherry box was made by Steve Rogers. Note the unique feet in the second photo.



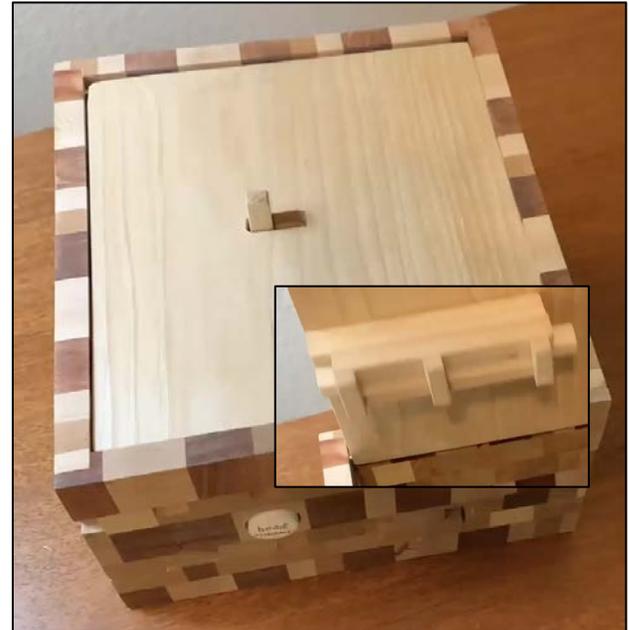
## Beads of Courage Boxes



This box was made by Jim Cadorette. The box is flamed maple with cocobolo stripes. It's his very first box and looks great.



Steve's second box has a unique way to lock the lid to the box. The box is made of mesquite and maple.



Joe Polich made 14 boxes. All boxes were finished with 3 coats of Arm-R-Seal satin oil-based finish that was wiped on.

Box 1: curly maple with a walnut lid and splined miter joints.



This is Bodie Pyndus' box has a hickory lid and a unique latch to keep the lid in place. It uses brass pins for hinges. The box is made from cutoffs of end grain cutting boards made of sapele, oak and maple.

Box 2: curly maple with a mahogany lid and base. The mahogany is finished by filling the grain with Benjamin Moore Van Dyke Brown

followed with General Finishes Java gel stain.



Box 3: black walnut with splined miter joints. The grain wraps on three sides. The lid is walnut finished with Java gel stain.



Box 4: Western red cedar with mahogany for the lid, base and corners. The mahogany was finished as on box 2.



Box 5: Maple and walnut. The stripes wrap across the top and down each side. Each end matches the wood on the ends of the top and sides.



Box 6: Curly maple with splined miter joints.



Box 8: Curly maple with splined miter joints.



Box 7: Quartersawn red oak with quartersawn red oak and maple lid.



Boxes 9 & 10: 80-year old cedar with splined miter joints and cherry lids. The grain wraps on three sides and the pulls on the lid are different.



Box 9



Box 10

Box 11: Maple and walnut. Pins for hinges.



Box 12: Curly maple. Red finish is a combination of TransTint's Red Cardinal and Burnt Sienna aniline dyes. The black is General Finish's waterbased black.



Boxes 13 & 14: Both are walnut boxes with splined miter joints and finished with General Finish's Java gel stain. The lids are maple finished with General Finish's Country Colors Hunter Green. The lid pulls are General Finish's Country Colors Black. The lid pulls differ on these two boxes.



Box 13



Ron Giordano made this box out of quartersawn sycamore and maple.



Ed Mastin made this segmented BOC box out of maple and cherry.



Jay Stearns made his BOC box from a chunk of firewood.



But... wait for it.... you know with Jay not everything is as it seems!



The inner part of the log has Jay's typical hidden drawers with pulls made from the pull chain for ceiling fans.

A second box measures 16" x 18" x 7" deep and is for a special patient Jay knows who has over 2000 beads.

## Show & Tell

Bodie Pyndus' wife wanted some trivets, so he made these heart shaped ones from different species of wood. She took one look at them and said they were too small, but they'd work for coasters. Bodie's next project is "trivet" sized hearts.



Ed Mastin made this banana hanger from yellow heart banana wood and walnut. Is there such a thing as banana wood let alone yellow heart ????



Sidney Futrell showed off his grandson's bridge he made for an eagle scout project. The base is made of treated lumber and the deck is composite decking.



A second project was 4 planter boxes he helped his neighbor build.



Here is his dining table and benches made from bubinga.



This next project is one Sidney has shared as he was building it. The sculptured seat is made from quartersawn white oak and the legs are walnut. The dovetails are 2" x 2" and are hand cut as is Sidney's norm.



All corners and edges were hand planed and all the dovetails were handcut.

Obviously, Sidney has had a very busy year with these beautiful projects!

This coffee table uses the same dovetail technique as in the stool. The legs are 2" square walnut.



Jim Polanco made this mortar and pestle out of purple heart for his daughter. It has a CA finish on surfaces that won't be in contact with whatever she grinds. Jim says one thing to remember about purple heart is that it turns brown after working it, but if you let it sit for 3 days or put it in the sun it turns back to purple.



And lastly, Sidney is now building pull-out trays for his wife's kitchen cabinets.



Jay made this jewelry box for his 4-year-old granddaughter. The handles are pink and it was requested to make the entire box gray, but Jay refused his 4-year-old granddaughter's request and left the drawer fronts natural.



The drawers have partitions.



Jay had made a step stool for her some time ago, but she now has a baby sister so he made a wider one

for them to share. The natural finished wood is quilted maple and he decorated the sides with tree cutouts to hide the sides of the platform. The bar at the top keeps the girls from stepping off accidentally and they duck under it to get on and off.



Jay bought a buck knife kit from Woodcraft and used buckeye maple for the handle. Hope he doesn't drop it. He may not find it!



Jay showed off a bowl his brother had to make for him to pay off a bet they made on the Ohio State – Alabama game. The bowl is made of spalted maple and spectra ply plywood to get the colors right.

Guess who won. Hint – look at the color of the trim on the top of the bowl. Could that be North Dakota State Bison colors?



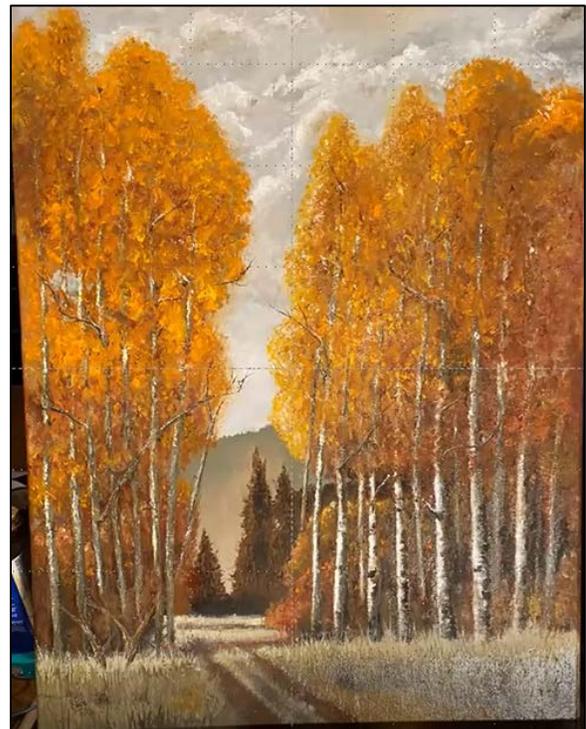
JW Hoover scroll sawed this lantern out of poplar and finished with a gel stain call Georgian Cherry. You can remove the top to put in a candle or simply place the lantern over a candle.



Brian O'Donnell made two cutting boards out of maple, walnut and African padauk.



Dale Smith is an artist and sculptor as well as a woodworker. This is a painting he just completed.



The planter boxes in his greenhouse were getting pretty worn so he made these with removable tubs from Tractor Supply to increase their lifespan.



Dale has lights and automatic watering in the greenhouse.

Matt Gauntt built his work workbench from 1 ½" hard maple. The legs are 3" maple. Three sheets of MDF make the top.



## **Guests**

*Kelly Geer* – *Urban Tree Merchants* from Arlington, TX found NTWA online. They are a custom woodworking and sawmill operation. Kelly's husband is the woodworker and Kelly does the marketing. They also do kiln and air drying, planing, surfacing, metal and epoxy work. They source all their trees locally through tree care companies. Check out their website at: <https://urbantreemERCHANTS.com/> They also have lumber available for sale.

*Matt Gauntt* found NTWA through Facebook and the website. He's from Oak Point, TX. He's been a long-time woodworker and was heavily involved in the Fox Valley Woodworkers Club outside Chicago. Has finally set up his shop.



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## **Raffle - \$25 gift cards**

Beads of Courage boxes:

Jim Cadorette – Woodcraft

Bodie Pyndus – Rockler

Attendance:

Brian O'Donnell – Woodcraft

Jim Polanco - Rocker

***Tuesday, February***

***16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom***

***See email for***

***joining info***

*Newsletter edited by: Joe Polich*  
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