

Welcome



President Jay Stearns welcomed everyone to North Texas Woodworkers Association 2022. "Looks like we have a lot of visitors here tonight, so in a little bit I'm going to ask you to introduce yourself and give a little talk and stuff. Just let us know how you found out about us and stuff. So we'll do that in just a moment."



It's that time of year when Jay brags about his beloved North Dakota State University Bison and their relentless march to another championship. This makes it 9 out of the past 11 years!

Announcements

Jay said we would have a really cool presentation tonight by Jeff Kappell talking about the Lichtenberg wood burning process. The machine won't be turned on, but Jeff has examples

of the different art you can get with this with this process.

Jay read an email requesting help to sell a few tools. Joe has sent out an email blast to everyone with the details.

Jerry Endrance stopped by the meeting looking for someone to take on a painting project of a cabinet in his laundry room. Jay has the info for anyone interested and said he has some pictures to look at during the break, if someone is interested in taking on this project.

Gary Turman gave a brief description of the raffle prizes.

Shop Questions

Dale Smith passed around a sample of wood he is using to make some boxes and would like to know what it is. Several suggestions were made but no consensus was reached.

Jay Stearns made a header out of lacewood to put over the mirror in a bathroom. Over time part of the finish clouded/fogged over while the rest has stayed clear. It's not exposed to sunlight and it's a guest bathroom and doesn't get much use so humidity isn't a problem. One suggestion was that maybe Jay didn't wipe excess stain off completely in that particular area but Jay said he didn't use any stain.



North Texas Woodworkers Association

See us at: www.ntwa.org

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Newsletter

January 2022

Bodie Pyndus asked if anyone has used Rubio Monocoat and what their experience was.

Ron Bauman wanted recommendations on the best finish for pecan. Since the pecan will be used for a coffee table the general consensus was to use polyurethane. It has come a long way over the years and no longer has that "plastic" look it originally had. Armor Seal by General finishes was one recommendation and to use thin coats.

Britt Baumel said he is having problems with snipe on his planner with just a few pieces of wood regardless of what he does. Other pieces of the same wood don't snipe. He's tried reversing the wood and flipping it over but it doesn't change. Suggestions included butting the pieces up as they are run through, put upward pressure on the wood as it comes out the outfeed side, making longer runners to glue to the sides and leaving the pieces at least an inch longer on each end then cutting off the snipe.

Guests

Jack Webre is from Colleyville and is just getting into woodworking. He and his daughter *Shannon* came together and are starting to do projects together. Shannon like cherry and Craftsman style furniture.

They learned about NTWA at the Plano Woodcraft store.

John Brooks is a friend of NTWA's Treasurer Ed Mastin. John likes mahogany and walnut. John says he was influenced by Norm Abrams years ago.

Galen Labree prefers red oak and mahogany. He's from Plano and learned about NTWA through email.

Eric Roberts is from McKinney and his favorite wood is bodark. He loves the color once you put the finish on. He found NTWA through Instagram.

Show & Tell



Steve Yauch made a replacement table leaf for a client. The leaf had a small side apron that needed to be included. In figuring out how to

attach the apron, Steve decided to use pocket screws and used the simple, portable jig shown.



Brian O'Donnell inherited his dad's tools after he passed away and amongst them were a couple of hand planes that he has restored. One is a Stanley Sweetheart that is over 100 years old. He says it cuts beautifully.



Steve Rogers keeps churning out these beautiful Beads of Courage boxes for Bodie to share. This one is curly maple and cherry. Steve uses the cross on the lid to convey a religious theme plus they give him the added benefit of matching the lid to the box since the cross matches mortises in the top of the box.



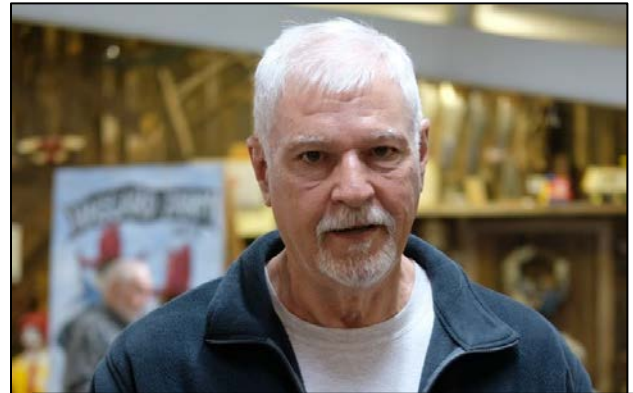
Michael Bosley's wife went to Mexico and picked up a chess set. After returning home they decided they needed a place for it so he built this box out of a very expensive wood, Penne' (Pine for us common folk). The pieces are stored below the board in flocked compartments. The board and pieces are made of obsidian.



Bee Stuart made these little puzzles over Christmas for his grandkids. Each has 13 pieces of different species of wood. Bee says his 6-year-old granddaughter figured them out in about 15 minutes. Took him longer he says.



Steve Allen needed a steady rest for his lathe when turning bowls to keep him from exploding them from excessive pressure. He found this fixture on Ebay, but it didn't have the fingers so he turned to club member Gary Turman to make the 3 brass fingers to complete his steady rest.



Kent McClurg says he doesn't really like boxes, but decided to do this one and to do something special for the lid. Using his marquetry skills, Kent cut out these pintail ducks and inlaid them into the Birdseye maple lid.



Ron Bauman says he works a lot with aromatic cedar and has tons of it down on his ranch. During the pandemic, his wife said she wanted a charcuterie board so he made this one. He also makes them out of oak from his ranch and finishes them with water-based polyurethane.



Dale Smith says he has embarked on a study of making different types of hinges and joints. He made this box out of curly walnut and decided to try wooden hinges made of maple and walnut.



Dan Nilius wanted to test the group by asking if anyone knew what this was. One guess was to tie giant flies for fishing NOT! It's a leather stitching pony he made for his wife using scrapes of sycamore and purple heart. The pillow on the right is her first project using her new stitching pony.

And the winner of the \$10 Show & Tell drawing was **Dale Smith**.

Kelly Geer works with our social media and says that if you have your own Facebook or Instagram account you can link it with our NTWA social media by sending her your information. You can also send her photos of your projects so she can post those as well.

Raffle

Chris Bell: Magswitch magnetic featherboard

Camille Wantanabe: Magswitch magnetic featherboard

Shannon Webre: WoodRiver Sure-grip push blocks

Jay Stearns: 1800's wooden plane donated by Dale Smith

Jack Webre: 1800's wooden level donated by Dale Smith

Bee Stewart: Wecheer HD Power Carver kit donated by the Plano Woodcraft store

Program

Tonight's program was presented by Jeff Kappell on the Lichtenberg Burning Process.



Jeff had been in the construction business for the last 22 years doing custom trim and cedar work for builders in this area. He left that to flip houses for about 8 years until he says HDTV pretty much ruined that

industry. For the last several years he has been primarily remodeling custom wood products. A lot of furniture included tables and custom bookcases and cabinetry. This past spring he decided to get out of woodworking and is pursuing a real estate career.

Jeff decided to keep his fingers in woodworking in a limited way with the Lichtenberg Burning Process. This process was developed by the German physicist Georg Christoph Lichtenberg back in the 1700s, which Jeff said he thought was pretty wild considering that he actually figured out how to generate electricity to do it.

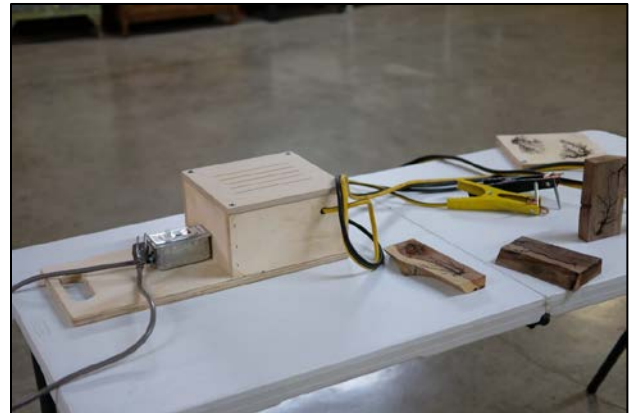
He originally noticed how dust would collect when he electrified it and it wasn't until 1777 before he first tried it with wood and a bunch of different kinds of liquids.

Lichtenberg eventually figured out sodium bicarb and water or baking soda and water works the best and that's what Jeff has found too.

Other names this process is known by is fractal wood burning or wood fracking.

Jeff built his first machine from the transformer of an 800-watt microwave. Although it worked okay, it took too long to make the burn. He has since upgraded his machine using a 1200-watt transformer.

Safety is a big concern with Jeff and if you look closely at the picture at the beginning and below, you'll see the "leads" are jumper cables. Jeff says this is not overkill and that the jumper cables should be connected directly to the transformer to reduce resistance. You should also make sure you have a switch to turn the unit on and off and not just use the plug. He also installed a light to indicate when the power is on.



The process basically starts with wetting the wood with your solution and letting it soak in. Softer woods absorb it faster than hardwoods. Jeff now uses a variety of substances to "color" his burnings to make them stand out even more. 15 minutes soak time is usually adequate but on hardwoods you might have to use a squirt bottle to keep adding solution during the burn.

He says to keep in mind that anywhere you spill your solution is a possible conductor so be really clean!

He uses ¼" carriage bolts sharpened to a point in each jumper cable clamp. These are placed on the workpiece at the edges of the solution.

You really have limited to no control over the pattern. The wood itself and the solution penetration determine the pattern.



Jeff says MDF typically give the most interesting patterns. There are no rules. You need to experiment to see what appeals best to your eye.

When the burn is finished you won't see any details, just a burnt blob. Use a stiff brush and water to scrub off the surface to expose the design. He says to do this as soon as possible after the burn to keep the solution from coloring the wood.

The maximum distance a burn covers is generally less than 24". If you have a larger project such as a bench or table you can do multiple burns.



Thank you Jeff for a really great program!

Dale Smith & Boy Scouts

Club member Dale Smith recently performed a community service project for local Boy Scout Troop 114 of Lewisville, TX, Longhorn Council. He guided 7 boys through the construction of a birdhouse in preparation for earning the Woodworking Merit badge.

The boys gained hands on experience in project preparation, using a bandsaw, drill press, radial arm saw, table saw, router, belt sander, nail gun, squaring a board, sharpening tools and received a brief tutorial on woodworking tools. Each boy took home a completed bird house.



Very nice job Dale and hopefully setting the stage for a new group of woodworkers!

February Program

Club member John Loftis is one of the leading, if not the leading, manufacturer of cutting boards in the U.S. and possibly the world with a strong on-line presence at <https://theboardsmith.com/pages/about-us>

In addition to cutting boards, John has a more traditional woodworking business, Lone Star Artisans: <http://lonestarartisans.com/>

With Lone Star, John does furniture, pens, serving trays and a variety of custom work for clients.

Next club meeting:
Tues., Feb. 15th
7:00 pm at the Party
Barn
5948 McKamy Trail
Plano, TX 75024

Program:
Club member John Loftis will
give us all the ins and outs of
making cutting boards.

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