

## Welcome

**President Jay Stearns** welcomed everyone to the February meeting and made note of all the new faces he saw. He said that in a while we'll ask you to get up and introduce yourself and say a few words about how you found NTWA, your woodworking and favorite wood.



Steve Yauch reminded everyone that elections are coming up and Jay asked that anyone interested in serving to let him or Steve know.

Jay mentioned that club member John Loftis will be presenting the program tonight on cutting boards and said he will be teaching us all his secrets on how to do it correctly.

Bodie Pyndus said that member Kelly Geer has been doing a pretty good job posting to Facebook and Instagram. He said social media has been attracting people to our meetings and asked how many in attendance came because they saw us on social media. A number of hands were raised.

## Announcements

One of the main announcements was that the family of our dear friend Larry Maughan, who we lost in September, is having a friends and family sale this Saturday. It'll be from 8:00 to 6:00 on Saturday and from 1:00 to 5:00 on Sunday. Jay has a few flyers available and Joe has sent out an email with the sale details. He asked that everyone respect the hours and days of the sale.

Joe Polich said that Kelly will be posting the Maughan sale tomorrow and that Jeff Whitcomb has sent it to the Golden Triangle Turners and the Hunt County Turners.

Jay asked Gary Turman to tell everyone about the raffle prizes. Gary said there are a pair of miter bars that were actually 3D printed; a Wixey angle cube that uses AAA batteries instead of the button battery; an iGaging 6" height gauge with a magnetic base and is accurate to .001", 3 packs of Norton sand wet sandpaper: one each of 800/1500/2000 grits; an antique wooden plane donated by Dale Smith and a pair of solid maple frames for a table or bench donated by Steve Allen.

Dan Nilius mentioned that he brought in a bunch of tools and shop items that he is selling very cheap.



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Steve Yauch said he brought in drawer slides that are free.

Jay mentioned that for those who want to join now, dues are only \$6.00 which is prorated to the annual renewal date of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Annual dues are \$36.00. If you want to participate in the raffles, you must be a member.

Greg Merrell said he has a 1959 Sears Craftsman "How To Use Our Power Tools" book that anyone who collects historical stuff about woodworking and tools can have for free.

Greg also said that he has to go to Ohio to pick up about 12,160 board feet of milled red oak along with some mulberry. The red oak is 4/4, 12" wide and 8-10' long. If anyone is interested in some of it, let him know.

## **Guests**

*Kevin Pilgrim* is from Alverado, just south of Everman. He does basic woodworking like cutting boards and cheese slicers, but has restored some furniture. Walnut is his favorite wood and he found NTWA online.

*David Horn* is officially retiring March 3<sup>rd</sup> and has been gathering a garage full of woodworking tools that he plans to put to use. He did use them to make shutters for the house and other outdoor projects. Cedar is his favorite wood at this time because of his outdoor projects.

*Rayanne Kruse* found NTWA on Google. She has been a part of Makerspace and is hoping to expand her knowledge of woodworking. She likes cedar for the smell and maple for the color.

*Chris Ghaley* has been a long-time woodworker and is currently the CNC instructor at the Workshop by TBK Bank a community outreach training organization sponsored by Bang. His favorite wood is Canary and Chris does a lot of commercial CNC work for clients all over the U.S.

*Anna May Ghaley* is Chris' wife and said she helps Chris.

*Kenny Raby* used Google to find NTWA and makes pens and cutting boards so he's really interested in tonight's program.

*Jesus Lopez* is a lifetime woodworker who has a small company that specializes in cutting boards. Jesus says he works out of the Dallas Makerspace and that he found his niche with the competition barbeque group.

*Doug Freeman* is a retired chaplain for Baylor Hospital and although this is his first meeting, he's been a member for three years. He works with the 1<sup>st</sup> Richardson Helpers who do handyman projects for seniors in Richardson. He likes to build outdoor furniture, rocking chairs, picnic tables

and deck chairs. Cedar is his favorite wood to work with.

*Bruce Card* is a friend of member Bodie Pyndus. They met through the First United Methodist parish. Bruce likes to do frames and furniture.

*Mark Schobel* just recently retired and is looking for an inexpensive hobby (hold your laughter please!). Actually, Mark has been woodworking since high school but has gotten more serious about it. He has made some cheese boards and whatever his wife asks for her sewing room. He's interested in doing end grain cutting boards which led to his coming tonight.

*Nolan Russell* moved from Colorado a year and a half ago and is now working with John Loftis. Russell says John has pretty much taught him everything he knows about woodworking. His favorite wood so far is walnut.

*Garth Sellers* lives in Frisco and has been doing woodworking for a long time. He says he's done just about everything from kitchen cabinets all the way down to boxes. Garth has taken quite a few courses from David Marks and his favorite wood is anything exotic.

*Jeff Kappell* decided to join the club after he did the January program on the Lichtenberg Burning process. Welcome Jeff.

## Shop Questions

Michael Mosley's wife wants him to make a sink cover for their travel trailer. He wanted to use a really pretty piece of walnut but she said no, she's going to put hot stuff on it. Michael is looking for recommendations for wood and finish. Suggestions included using the walnut but cutting slots to add "fins" to make it a trivet. If the fins get burned, just pull them out and replace them. Another was to use a piece of tile framed in wood.

Dale Smith brought in another piece of wood he wanted identified. After passing it around the unanimous opinion was wenge!

Bodie Pyndus is in need of someone with a CNC machine to make some windows for model playhouses.

Rayanne Kruse bought an old Victrola that she is restoring and needs help in how to repair stripped hinge holes and how to accurately redrill them.



The cabinet doors are inset and the hinges are mounted on the edge, not

the back face. She is having a real hard time hanging the doors straight. Among the suggestions were to see if the hinge left an impression on the door edge that can possibly be used as a template to drill new holes. It was also suggested that she try mounting the hinge to the cabinet before mounting it to the door edge. Several members met with Rayanne during the break to see the door and offer other suggestions.

Jay Stearns made "a little thing" out of aromatic cedar (see Show & Tell) and wants to use a finish that won't make the cedar darker. Water-based polyurethane was recommended since it doesn't yellow like oil-based.

Eric Roberts turned some bowls out of very old and dry cedar, but they have a lot of cracks and he was afraid the cracks would get bigger. CA glue was suggested. The cedar was also in a fire. Another suggestion was to use a flap disc on a grinder to do the final shaping.

Sidney Futrell honed his 5 ½ plane blade to 30 degrees. He started by using a 300/1000 grit but it was taking way too long so he purchased a 120/180 grit diamond stone and it took him less than an hour with the 120.

Joe Polich showed a #1 Miller dowel drill which is perfect to drill and countersink for a 3" #10 screw. The lower part of the drill is perfect for

the threads and the upper part allows you to drill to the depth you desire to put a plug in the hole to hide the screw.

## Show & Tell



Jay Stearns made these figures out of cedar. The dog is the same color as his Corgi which led to the Shop Question on finishes that won't change the color.





Greg Merrell helped his 6 year-old granddaughter make this "oven squirrel" that can be used to pull a hot oven rack out using the hook behind the ear or push it back in with the slot below the chin.



Brian O'Donnell made this bench out of old redwood that had been sitting in his garage for 20 years.



Kent McClurg made this mega strength square as a work project but it turns out it is very useful. He added the ebony foot to allow the square to hook the edge of the board and accurately draw a perpendicular line.



Jeff Kappell wanted to show that he can do more than just burn wood so he made these two toy cars. He says he made everything himself except the store-bought axles.



Steve Rogers made this Beads of Courage box out of curly maple and cherry. Steve decided to try his hand at making hinges and used a nail for the pin.



Eric Roberts turned these bowls out of hackberry tree logs.





Kelly Geer and her husband own Urban Tree Merchants and are always looking for new ways to use as much of the tree as possible. They are now offering these cross-section slabs as center pieces for weddings and parties. These were made out of bald cypress and were actually rented by the wedding planner so Urban Tree Merchants can offer them over and over to event planners.



Michael Bosley made this shelf/cabinet out of scrap to hold some electronics at his house. He used more of that expensive Pin'ee wood he had lying around. He did it entirely with hand tools and didn't use any screws, nails or glue. The joinery holds it all together.



If you've ever broken the nail or a screw off inside something and you just can't get at it to get it back out, Steve Yauch has a pretty cool trick using steel tubes. You just sharpen one end of it, put it in your drill chuck and you just run it down the outside of the broken screw. You're basically drilling a plug out. Your little screw remains with a little bit of wood around and if you get it down far enough, you're able to snap it out and be able to pull it out. Pretty cheap. Steve says to use a fairly hard steel tube.



Dale Smith made this jewelry box with a sliding panel and brass hinges. He used Tigerwood and curly walnut.

The winner of the \$10 Show & Tell drawing for February was **Jay Stearns**.



## **Raffle**

Camille Wantanabe: A pair of miter bars that were 3D printed

Doug Freeman: Wixey angle cube that uses AAA batteries instead of the button battery

Chris Bull: iGaging 6" height gauge with a magnetic base, accurate to .001"

Gary Turman: set of 3 packs of Norton sand wet sandpaper: 800/1500/2000 grits

Kevin Pilgrim: antique wooden plane donated by Dale Smith

Neal Pappion: pair of solid maple frames for a table or bench donated by Steve Allen

## **Program**



Club member and past president John Loftis presented the program on end-grain cutting boards. John began by giving a history of how he became involved in woodworking through his high school wood shop and his first mentors, Mr. Miles Crane and Mrs. Giamatti. He made a vow at that time that when he bought a house, it would have a garage with tools in it.

His first tool purchases were used tools, one of which was an old jointer that never worked properly. Through

the Sawmill Creek's blog seeking help, he met Steve Jenkins, a club member and past president who helped John set up the jointer and became John's 3<sup>rd</sup> mentor.

After leaving the corporate world due to downsizing, John took the plunge and created Lone Star Artisans doing custom furniture and case-goods. This was still in his garage.

John said he lost an incredible amount of money the first few years before he developed a portfolio to show prospective clients. John says he recognized that commission work would not be steady until a portfolio was established so he started doing cutting boards to have a stable product. He was able to build a reputation in a very specific niche in the knife collecting niche by word-of-mouth.

The established player in this niche was The Board Smith, owned by David Smith out of High Point, NC. When David was retiring 7 years ago, John made a pitch to purchase The Board Smith and took advantage of David's expertise during the transition.

The Board Smith is now the dominate segment of John's business and has 6 employees plus his wife Jenny does the books and helps two other ladies ship orders. They've outgrown their current location and are looking to lease or purchase about 4000 square feet of space.

Because the equipment he now uses is larger and more sophisticated, John said he was going to regress to

what he used when still operating out of his garage.

John broke down the equipment to make end-grain cutting boards into several lists, must have and helpful to have. On the must have list: table saw; jointer; planer; clamps; and sanders. On the helpful list: crosscut and rip blades for your table saw; drum sander or access to a wide belt sander; glue roller; router/router table; and lots of clamps.

The process John uses is to make a panel by gluing up various sizes of wood blanks. Flatten the panel then crosscut it into strips. You then glue those strips into a butcher block and finally flatten, trim and sand the butcher block. The jointer is critical because it starts the process of making the square, flat boards needed to make an end-grain cutting board.



The panel can be any thickness, length or width that you care to use. There are no set standards.

Tolerances are really zero! If the glue joints are bad and open, it is instantly obvious and just invite water and food in which are unacceptable and lead to failures such as cracking and warp.

Switching between crosscut and rip blades on your table saw are worth the effort says John. A router is essential if you are going to round over or bevel the edges, put in finger grooves or a juice groove. Good dust collection should also be a high

priority not just for cutting boards, but in your shop in general.



The key woodworking principles to keep in mind are wood movement and grain direction; tool calibration; gluing and clamping; snipe!!!; work within the constraints of your tools; and buy new tools.

John primarily uses domestic hardwoods such as walnut, hard maple and cherry. He says the exotics have that wow factor, but can be difficult due to silica content, densities and browning.

In describing the hobbyist vs. pro principles, John says it's best to buy the best tools possible – you only cry once. Innovation is only helpful for attention but stressed that hobbyists should experiment because time is the one commodity they have vs. the pro. Efficiency is everything and is achieved through repeatability, speed and quality.

John uses only Titebond III glue. It is fully waterproof, EPA approved and food safe. He says Titebond II is not EPA approved as food safe. Titebond III more expensive, but worth it. He says not to be stingy with the glue, but too much makes a mess and can be difficult to clean up. You want to have squeeze out to prevent a starved joint.



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John's process:

1. Day one, the panel is glued up
2. Day two, flatten the strips, then crosscut them to create the end-grain blocks. Glue them into the end-grain butcher block.
3. Remove the excess glue and flatten the block, but John does not recommend using a jointer or planer for this operation; use sanders.

In closing, John emphasized the importance of having your tools precisely aligned. He keeps a square at his jointer and checks that the fence is square several times a day. He also works to eliminate snipe on both the jointer and the planer to minimize loss of material plus you can not glue up panels or strips with snipe. You won't get a precise glue joint.

## ***"NTWA is on Social Media!"***

Thanks to Kelly Geer, our Social Media Chair:

Follow the Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthTexasWoodworkersAssociation>

Like us on Instagram  
<https://www.instagram.com/northtexaswoodworkers/>

Join the Group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ntwa.org>

Do you have a recent project you would like shared on our Socials?

Email photos and a brief description to Kelly Geer at

[Kelly@UrbanTreeMerchants.com](mailto:Kelly@UrbanTreeMerchants.com).

If you would like to be tagged in one of our posts, please DM the page or comment on the post."

***Next club meeting:  
Tues., March 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm at the Party  
Barn  
5948 McKamy Trail  
Plano, TX 75024***

***Program:  
Jeff Goodman - Presenting  
his segmented board which  
won the top overall prize at  
this year's State Fair.***

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