



A P R I L 2 0 1 9



WOODCHIPS:
BY: GEORGE HANCOCK EDITOR

Dear Member and Guests:

I'm sure everyone has put something off till the last minute. Well, this is the case with this month's newsletter.

I always have in my mind to get it out a day or two after the board meeting, in order to give all of our membership the chance to read and absorb the infinite wisdom therein. This month it seems that my phone rang off the wall with customers needing something on a short fuse. At any rate I got everything out, and decided to work on the newsletter before checking my email.

We have been blessed with good member turnout, a good show and tell table and good demonstrations so far this year. Saturday will hopefully be a continuation of that trend. If I get myself in gear and clean up the shop, everyone should have a place to sit.

As sort of an Antique lover (I think that is something we acquire as we become one), I marvel at the quality of furniture produced 100, 200 even 300 years ago with hand tools made of what we today would class as lousy soft steel. The demo this month will give us a glimpse of what turning a beautiful spindle with a manual lathe might have involved.

I watched a video a while back of a gentlemen hand cutting dovetails, and each turned out tight and beautiful. I can't get a good fit with a jig, so these old CRAFTSMEN, have left a legacy that most of us can only aspire to. However, I expect a lot of us simply don't have the time, or take the time truly learn. I know I want to "do it fast", which is the wrong tact to take.

Still, with my shortcoming of patience, the time I spend in the shop is lot better, and probably more expensive than a therapist's couch.

See you Saturday.

**THINGS TO
REMEMBER:**

- **Renew your AAW Membership.**
- **Plan to Attend Club Functions.**
- **Club Dues should be paid at or before the January meeting.**
- **Make an attempt to participate, and make your needs and ideas known.**

PROGRAM

Roger Pearson will demonstrate his pedal lathe (the way it used to be done) In addition he will share tool tips, tool selection and use, and also touch on keeping your tools sharp.

SWAT Symposium 2019
 August 23 - 25 2019

Sign up for SWAT begins March 15th and ends August 1st.

PRESIDENT'S TIDBITS

We had another great crowd. There were 26 members present. Jerry Bechyne brought Ron Wingo as his guest. Sorry if I misspelled any names. Buddy had Carol with him. Carol brought her pendant jewelry, along with Buddy's off center platter for show and tell. Mike, what a beautiful and magnificent mesquite platter. As mentioned, our show and tell was outstanding again. The following items were brought for show and tell : in and out ornament, six turned eggs with stands, hickory bowl, bottle stopper, and a lidded bowl with finial. I hope I included them all. Thanks to all who participated in this months show and tell. Every time an item is displayed or talked about sparks an idea in our heads that we can do that. Thanks to all for the continued inspiration.

George, thanks for the reminder about our veterans. Many of our veterans do not talk about their experiences during that time of their lives. If you are aware of a veterans service, a simple THANK YOU is enough.

Florenzio, thanks again for a great demonstration. Go into the shop and turn some eggs. Make a jig and various inserts for holding the egg and finish as desired. Get with Randy or Florenzio for more information. There is a You Tube video on line about the jig used in the demonstration with the inserts modified by Florenzio.

SWAT registration opens March 15th and remains open until August 1, 2019. For those who plan to attend, get your room reservations early, as rooms for the symposium fill up quickly.





Show and Tell last month continues to provide a wide variety of items turned by members (and guests) Bring your best, worst and failures. It gives everyone an opportunity to “show off” or teach us what not to do. We have been blessed with a lot of wonderful items month after month.



TURNING TIDBITS, TOOLS AND HUMOR

Of Wine and Table Saws (not to be used together)

by Steven D. Johnson, Racine Wisconsin
The Down to Earth Woodworker

I admit to being an oenophile. Get your minds out of the gutter... it means "a person who loves or is a connoisseur of wine"... I guess I'm a "lover," not so much a "connoisseur." But I have been to a lot of tastings, can usually identify the grape, the year, and the region, and can pass muster with most other amateur wine-lovers. A trained palette, careful note taking, and a bit of moxie helps.

I love wine for all the usual reasons, of course, but also for some not-so-common reasons. Wine, to me, is the penultimate expression of capitalism; there is a pureness to its price/value ratio. Wine is a pure expression of the intrinsic theory of value. Plainly, it is a product where you almost always get exactly what you pay for.

A \$10 bottle of wine will pretty much always taste like a \$10 bottle of wine. A \$20 bottle will be significantly better. A \$40 bottle will taste even better. And compare two different \$80 bottles of wine, and though each will taste different, each will be "worth" \$80 in the quaffing parameters that are important.

Years of tasting and taking notes resulted in this chart of relative wine "enjoyment" scores.

The thing to note here is that from \$15 to \$20 per bottle, there is a pretty significant jump in quality. There are incremental increases from \$25 to \$30 to \$35, but there is another pretty significant jump in taste and quality when you move from a \$35 bottle to a \$40 bottle, and another jump when moving from \$50 to \$60. It is democratic, capitalistic, fair, predictable and beautiful... you get what you pay for.

Fortunately, the price/value scale holds true with many other products. A \$325 [Lie-Nielsen No. 5 Jack Plane](#) is going to work a lot better and last a lot longer than a \$85 contractor grade No. 5. And while statements like this usually stir heated debate, a \$675 [Festool CT 36 E HEPA Dust Extractor](#) works about \$600-worth better than a \$75 home-store shop vacuum... ask anyone who has one.

So it was this price/value optimistic (and some might say naïve) worldview that stopped me from buying a SawStop saw. My rationale was pretty simple:

ITEMS SHOWN ON THIS PAGE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT. IT IS JUST AN EFFORT TO LET YOU KNOW OF NEW (AND POSSIBLY BETTER) TOOLS AND GAGETS FOR YOU TO SPEND YOUR MONEY ON. HAPPY TURNING!!!!



Figure 1 - With wine you almost always "get what you pay for."



Mike Oglesby talking about his fabulous mesquite platter with a Lone star inlay. WORLD CLASS WORK! Below, new member Colton shows his lidded natural edge box. Colton is a guy to watch!



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOUR WORK ON THE WEBSITE, PLEASE FURNISH RANDY SMITH WITH A CD WITH PICTURES IN JPEG OR PDF FORMAT OF THE ITEMS YOU WANT TO SHARE. WE



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REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR TOOLS IN GOOD SHAPE AND SHARP. SHARP TOOLS MAKE FOR SAFE AND BETTER TURNING.

TIPS AND METHODS

THINKING ABOUT SAFETY FOR VISITORS TO YOUR SHOP

THANKS TO GEORGE CHAPMAN AND HIS POST ON HIGHLAND WOODWORKING'S SITE

Like the rest of you, I am proud of my shop and jump at any opportunity to show it off. Twice in the last several weeks I have invited friends with children to come over and see what I am working on and what I have made lately. Some kids have questions about woodworking and tools, and sometimes parents want to see the shop after they have heard me talk about it.

First family came over and the older child, about 11, was fascinated by carving tools. We set up a piece of soft wood in the bench vise and she tried out the draw knife (don't pull it too far towards you, that's what happened to my half-brother! (took three times to get the joke)(Thanks Roy Underhill)). She tried my spokeshave, and was just enthralled with being able to cut wood with hand tools. In the meantime, her five year old brother was loving the round ship's wheel on the leg vise. He must have turned that thing a thousand times. His Mom was concerned that he might mash a finger in the vise, but I assured her that it was a once in a lifetime occasion because if he did clamp up his finger, he would never do it again. Later she winced as most Moms would when he picked up something sharp and I pointed out the box of bandaids. We got through that day unscathed, thank goodness.

A couple of weeks later another couple came over with their four year old daughter. I invited them all into the shop and told them to look at anything they wanted, but make sure to not turn on any tool. They had an old dining room table to re-finish so we set the center leaf on the table saw to decide the best course of action. Kid is wandering around the shop with all of us thinking we are watching her while we work on the leaf. I stepped away to find some stain and while I was in the corner of the shop, to my abject horror, I heard the table saw start up. The little girl had come up next to her Dad and could not resist punching the button right in front of her face. Thank goodness, the blade was retracted below the table or it could have been really, really bad. Talk about dodging a bullet.

We are on the web

Www.comanchetrailwoodturnes.org

BUSINESS NAME

George Hancock's Shop

1709 Clark Street

Midland, Texas

10:00 A.M. Second Saturday



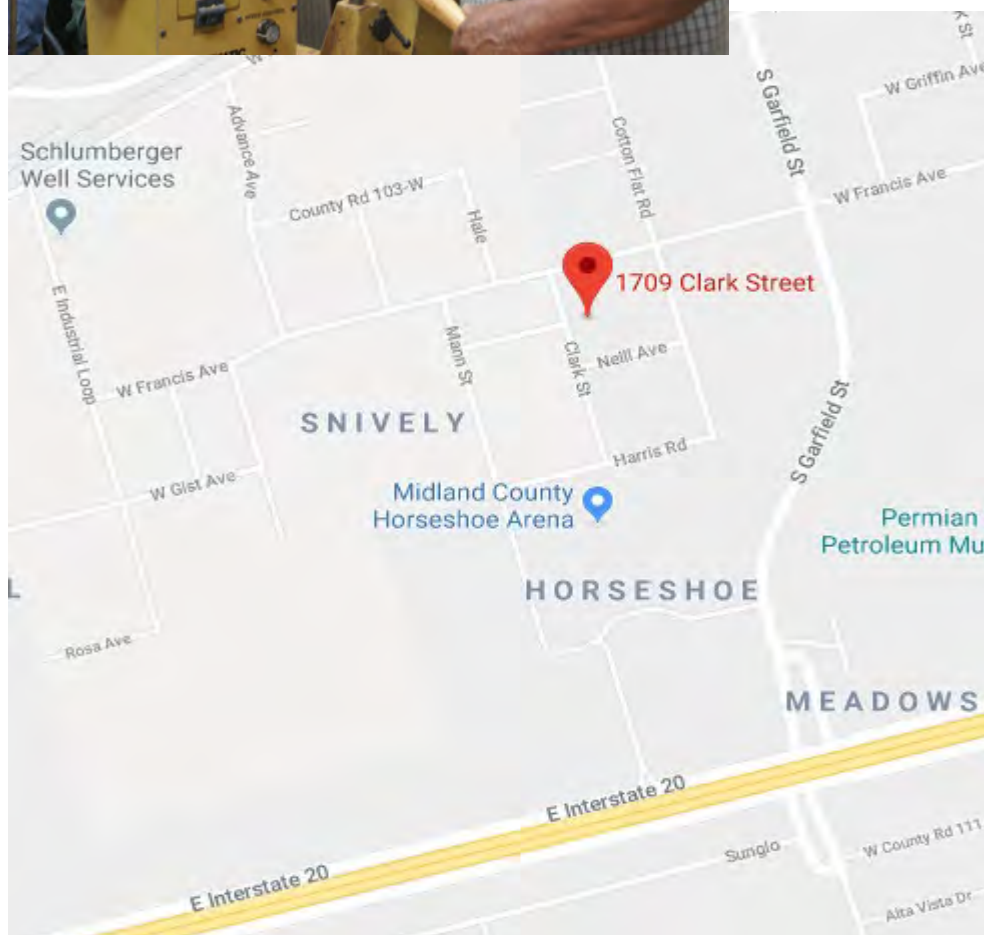
COMANCHE TRAIL WOODTURNERS IS A PROUD CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS , SINCE AUGUST 17, 1996 (AAW) . IN ADDITION IT IS ALSO A SPONSERING CLUB OF THE SOUTHWEST ASSOATION OF WOODTURNERS , (SWAT).

SINCE ITS INCEPTION THE PURPOSE OF THE CLUB HAS BEEN TO PROMOTE WOODTURNING AND PROVIDE A VENUE WHERE THOSE HAVING A PASSION FOR TURNING AND WOODWORKING IN GENERAL CAN HAVE A PLACE TO SHARE IDEAS, HELP ONE ANOTHER, AND DEVELOP NEW SKILLS.

SERVING THE MIDLAND AND ODESSA COMMUNITIES, THE CLUB HAS GROWN OVER THE YEARS AND IS BLESSED WITH A NUMBER OF WORLD CLASS TURNERS. EACH OF THESE SKILLED INDIVIDUALS ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE WITH LESS EXPERIENCED TURNERS, AND TO PROVIDE HANDS ON INSTRUCTION IF REQUESTED.

OUR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES THOSE SKILLED IN PEN-MAKING, SEGMENTED WORK, BOWL TURNING, FURNITURE MAKING, SHARPENING AND JUST ABOUT ANYTHING THAT INVOLVES WOOD.

NEVER HESITATE TO ASK FOR HELP!



Meeting:

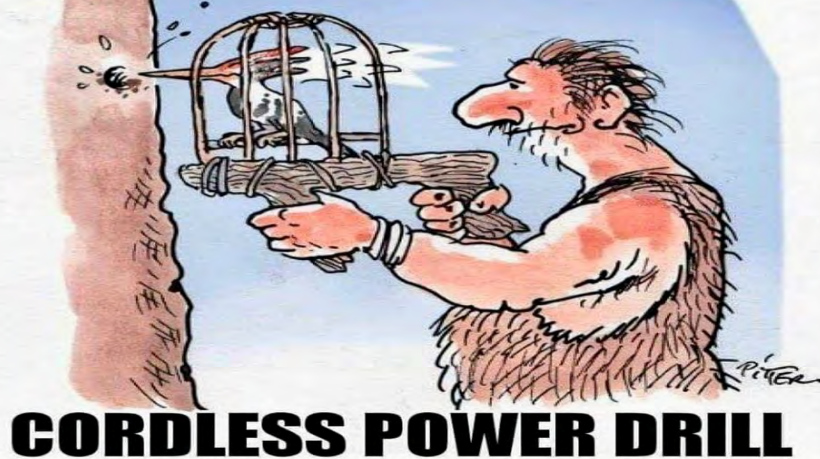
March 9, 2019

10:00 a.m.

1709 Clark St.

Midland, Texas

THE VERY FIRST



Something to think about while the glue dries...



"I don't know if this qualifies as a super-power, but I'm awesome at finding cat vomit with my bare feet..."

The other day I was driving down the road and a bird shot in front of me and tried to outrun my truck. It was a majestic sight, the large wingspan, the sleek feathers capturing the air creating just the right amount of lift to keep it airborne, while maintaining just enough speed to keep ahead of me. On the radio Skynyrd belted out the chorus of Freebird and for a moment I thought I could fly free myself. ("I'm as free as a bird now... And this bird you can not change...")

I had a terrible time getting all the pieces of that bird out of my truck's radiator.

It just goes to show, what may seem like perfection may not be suited to every purpose. The light, hollow bones of that bird were perfect for flight. But they were useless in a collision with my grill.

So it is with woodworking. I'm always trying to find the perfect tool, the ideal machine capable of performing the most tasks. A table saw that can do it all with the proper jig additions. A router that can cut profiles, joinery, shapes and even signs. I spend so much time trying to squeeze every bit of function out of every tool that I sometimes forget that the perfect solution may be found in many tools rather than in just one.

A block plane can smooth a surface, tune a tenon, fit a finger joint. But do I really need to make a jig for using that block plane to sharpen my pencils? That's what I mean about the tendency we sometimes have to look for complicated solutions to simple problems.

Yesterday I saw a guy use a chainsaw to cut dovetails. They came out just as you'd expect. I sat there for a few moments as the gears in my head turned, a chainsaw dovetail jig design taking shape. Then it hit me, maybe the best tool for dovetails isn't a chainsaw. I mean, just because it may be possible doesn't mean it's smart.

Some jigs make our work easier, faster, or more fun. Others make us wonder if doing something a new way is worth risking our fingers. I can flush trim a dowel joint with a circular saw, but is it worth taking the blade guard off to do it? When we design jigs, we have to remember that safety starts with the design process, and sometimes we have to step back and think of what could happen rather than what we expect will happen. Where will that blade be when you finish the cut? Make sure that's not the place you will be holding the jig. What will happen if that work piece slips during the cut? Make sure you have a hold down to catch it.

We design a lot of jigs on episodes of Blue Collar Woodworking (which some say is the best woodworking show since the invention of wood). But we also try to make it the safest woodworking show since the invention of stitches. And that always starts with the design process.

Stumpy Nubs Woodworking Journal