

the Cutting Edge

Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodcarvers Association

Meeting Notes

There was no formal meeting this month because most of the club members were in Cleburne, TX at the Woodcarving Show.

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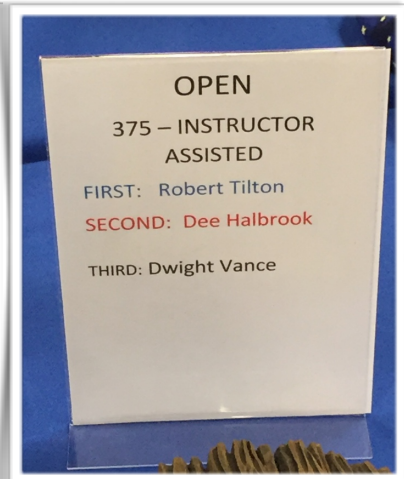
News

There was no formal Thursday meeting. The members that went stated that the show was fun and educational. Enjoy the pictures from Shelly. Congratulations to Dwight Vance for his award. Dwight Vance won third place for this carving "Milk Cow Blues." Tom Sarff's carving of cowboy pulling a tooth was auctioned off for a good price.



Blank of the Month

Months are still available. If you have an idea, let somebody know, we'd love to carve your blank!!!!



Special Report: Woodworkers of Austin Spring Social

prepared by Dan Gillen

The event is an attempt to bring together individuals, companies, and organizations involved in woodworking and related endeavors. It was the brain child of Austin Waldo at the Austin School of Furniture and Design.

Most "vendor" tables were in the upstairs loft of the Skull Mechanix Brewery. A couple overflow tables were on the lower level. Participation in the event was on a volunteer basis and free to vendors and attendees. <https://>

www.eventbrite.com/e/woodworkers-of-austin-spring-social-registration-43440949048# is a link to some specifics about the organization and participants in the event.

11 - 12 vendors had tables.

- Two Sawmills
 - o Berdoll Sawmill - Mills and Kiln dries reclaimed lumber within 100 miles of Austin
 - o Harvest Lumber Company - Mills reclaimed lumber in Austin
 - o TX Urban Sawmill just opened in Dripping Springs had a representative present with Info about their business.
- Austin School of Furniture and Design
 - o Organized this event
 - o www.Austinschooloffurniture.com
 - o 3900 Woodbury Dr., Austin, TX
- Toolmarks Austin, TX
 - o Community driven cooperative wood shop.
 - o Membership based (Full \$700/mo and Half-time \$350/mo memberships available)
 - o www.toolmarksatx.com
 - o 3900 Woodbury Dr. (Near Congress and 71)
- Texas Heritage Woodworks
 - o Aprons, Tool rolls, and Shop Accessories
 - o Heavy duty leather and canvas products.



**Next meeting will be Thursday,
May 10, 2018, 7:00 PM,
at the Hancock Center in Austin.**

- o www.txheritage.net
- Broads and Boards
- o 501c3 Non Profit - Supporting and promoting women in woodworking
- o <https://broadsandboards.com>
- o Mission Statement: *Broads and Boards* is dedicated to empowering self-identifying women in woodworking and other skilled trades through workshops and events that promote access, education, and community.
- Multiple tables of individual or teams of woodworkers displaying their products, skills, and capabilities.

Dan's summary comments:

I sat up a small 2' x 4' table with a selection of different types of wood carving (Relief, Chip carving, Caricature carving, stylized carving, Cottonwood bark, Architectural carving, etc.). I also include a carving project sequence showing the steps from a band saw blank through the stages of carving leading to a finished painted carving. This seemed to be a very successful set of carvings. Many comments about the various pieces.

Different pieces sparked different people's interest.

There was a good crowd that I would estimate at 30-40 people most of the afternoon.

Most had purchased a beer so they tended to stay for a while. After touring the vendor tables many of the attendees chatted with groups of friends who happened to meet at the event.

There were multiple vendors with similar or closely related offerings (e.g. Sawmills, instruction, collaboration, professional wood workers). We were the only woodcarving group.

Several people expressed interest in woodcarving. Many had just attempted to start wood carving and others were just thinking they would like to try it. A good handful expressed serious interest and asked good, specific questions.

Suggestions:

- I think this was a worthwhile event for our club. It would be hard for us to brush elbows with this many people in one afternoon (remember there was no cost to the club). I estimate we distributed at least 30 club business cards.
- I brought my carving tools but I left them in the truck. With just a 2' x 4' table there was not enough room to display carvings and tools. Plus I was busy discussing carvings and the carving process. It would be hard for one person to watch over tools and carvings. However, several people had specific questions about tools. I would have been very good to have a sampling of tools to help explain techniques and tool related topics.

- I suggest we have at least two people man a table if we do this again. It would provide a break to allow each to circulate and view other vendors in more detail.
- I think it would be a good idea to have a small 5x7 card sized form to collect information in what someone is interested in. After talking to several people things run together if you don't get something in writing. This could also provide a way of following up when that is appropriate.
- Several vendors had a signup sheet to collect attendees contact info (At least name and email) to subscribe to a vendor's newsletter. We should do that.
- Several vendors gave away "bling" like hats, tee shirts, notepads, small clipboard, stickers, color pamphlets, etc. We might consider that. We also may consider having a PC with a slideshow of completed carving. I don't know how many electrical outlets this venue had.

If you are interested in receiving our free monthly newsletter about the activities and events of the Central Texas Woodcarver's Association, please send us an email to be added to the mailing list. We do not share your information and promise not to spam you!!!

- Lu