



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

www.sonomawoodworkers.com

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June 2011

May Event: SCWA Team Wins Wooden Boat Challenge!



Dan Lyke of the SCWA Wood Ducks II team powering to a winning finish in the Wooden Boat Challenge race!

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June Meeting Notice

Who: Kevin Drake

**Where: Tom Segura's Shop
2058 Laguna Rd
Sebastopol**

When: June 7th, 7:00PM

Our guest speaker in June will be Kevin Glen Drake from the Glen-Drake Toolworks in Fort Bragg. This is Kevin's first appearance here as a guest speaker. He will be talking about hand-saw use and maintenance, along with hand-tool ergonomics.

After graduating from the College of the Redwoods Fine Woodworking Program, Kevin remained in Fort Bragg to launch the Glen-Drake Toolworks. Best known for his Tite-Mark (tm) marking gauge, Kevin's newest tool is an attention getting dovetail saw that has a unique shape and geometry.

Kevin will be returning to the College of the Redwoods the first week of June to teach a four-day handsaw making, using and maintenance class. See the link below for more information on the class and catch him here, June 7th.

Link of Kevin in action: <http://www.crfinefurniture.com/1pages/sitelinks/smr11sawcls.html>

Directions:

To get to Tom's shop, from Sebastopol, go north on 116 towards Forestville. Turn right (east) on Guerneville Rd. Go about one mile to Laguna Rd. Turn left (north) to 2058. Turn right, down to the end of the drive.

If coming from Santa Rosa, Take 101 to the Guerneville Rd. exit. Head west on Guerneville Rd. to Laguna Rd. Turn right to 2058. People can park where they can find the space in the orchard.

BRING A CHAIR – if you want to sit!

Calendar

Here is the calendar for the next few months:

July 12th - Artistry in Wood judging night

August 2nd - Artist night at the museum

September 13th - Loy Martin

May Event Report

By Art Hofmann

The Wooden Boat Challenge, part of the Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival on April 30th, was quite the event. It was held on the little bluff close to the water at Westside Park in Bodega Bay where the organizers had yellow-taped off a section of the park to separate it from the vendors and music venues. Fortunately the weather cooperated. It was a fine day.

About a dozen four man teams entered, two of them manned by SCWA members. Bill Taft led one team –Wood Ducks 1 which consisted of his son, John, and Rancho Cotate High School students, Nathaniel Clites and Louis Garcia. Tom Segura led the second with his team of Dan Lyke, Andy Lyke (Dan's dad) and Paul Swartz (also from Rancho Cotate High School) and named themselves the Wood Ducks 2. Teams worked with a very limited set of materials: two sheets of 3/8" plywood, some 1x2s, 2x2s, screws, tape, caulking, hand tools and battery powered drills. The resultant boats ran the gamut to put it mildly. Some teams produced very artistic boats, completely decorated and painted.



Wood Ducks I Team before the start

The Wasabi Rockets' entry was definitely the most colorful, featuring light blue, wasabi green paint and purple dots above the waterline. It was sleek and long and had a pre-manufactured prow with eyes. It was manned by four paddlers, which did not help at all in the speed category. The Flying Monkey Claw boat wasn't bad either, and had some fancy decorations as well. The other end of the spectrum was represented by the Cosco Buson, little more than a box with a prow, a tub of a thing, like a chopped down WWII landing craft. It didn't go very far in the race either, and sank out from under its paddler, which is possibly what it was designed to do, though this one at least didn't leave an oil slick, as its namesake did in S.F. Bay two years ago.

It was a pleasure to watch Tom Segura and Dan Lyke put together their craft, with which they had great success in the race. Tom had the design in mind and cut out the parts with his trusty Japanese saws. It was all very Zen like and minimal,

like a truncated kayak.

The remarkable thing is that he screwed the plywood sides (one thickness) right into the bottom; no furring strip at all, just plywood butted and screwed into plywood, a fair amount of caulk, and some bracing. They wisely left a bit of margin for themselves in attaching the plywood, enough to trim back with saws and block planes. But the thing held well enough for Dan, who is lean and tough, to paddle kayak-style and come in first at the finish line, a good four lengths ahead of the nearest competitor. Kudos to both of them. Tom said that he thought the boat should last about as long as maybe a Dixie Cup, and by any measure, he succeeded.



Wood Ducks II team nearing completion

Bill Taft's craft was not as elegant, but very strong — two thicknesses of the plywood covering the sides, but only one on the bottom. It was held together by lots of screws and was caulked and duct-taped at the seams. In the race, the students had problems steering, and so they overall, did not fare all that well in terms of the race. One of them went into the drink, but they had a lot of fun, and that is what it was about.

The Wood Ducks 2 team, led by Tom Segura, won the Master Carpenter Award and first place in the race. The paddler for that race, Dan Lyke, says he and Tom are already plotting for next year. Bill's team got the "Titanic Award", for their dramatic one man overboard and the other for walking the boat to shore through the shallows.

Kudos to Bill and to Tom for taking students onto their team, and letting them be a part of something competitive that involves woodworking. There is a lot of buzz about next year. Tom, Dan and Bill are stoked about getting the teams going early, doing some practice and really involving some of students on a consistent and ongoing basis. Students need all the help they can get these days, and it will be a priority for these

individual members and perhaps for the overall organization. More will be revealed.

The Flying Monkey Claw team won the People's Choice award. You had to hand it to them in terms of the amazing job they did with the mechanism, four circles and a fully operational paddle wheel, and with their overall assembly schedule. It was far and away the best team effort.

A fascinating day overall. Various rescue helicopters flew over and landed, one pulled three or four people from the Bay several hundred yards off-shore, just showing how it was done. Very dramatic, with lots of prop-wash that blew off Bob Nelson's shades when he put them up on his hair to shoot photos. He lost them for a while, but got them back, although a bit damaged. The whole thing was fun, especially the race. The air and the light made the many people tolerable, and the stimulating activity made for an exciting day.



**Winning WoodDucks II Team:
Dan Lyke, Tom Segura, Paul Swartz,
Andy Lyke**

From the organizers, the following are the awards:

Titanic award : Wood Ducks 1 (SCWA)

Coming from the Farthest Away: Gagenators

Captains Courageous award: Bodega Bay Fire Interns

Spiffy Skiffy: Buoys in the Hood

Peoples Choice: Flying Monkey Claw

Master Carpenter: Wood ducks 2 (SCWA)

3rd Place Plyway: To the Danger Zone

2nd Place: Wasabi Rockets

1st Place: Wood ducks 2 (SCWA)

Want to see more photos?

http://www.flutterby.net/2011-05-01_More_Boat_Building

Artistry in Wood 2011

The dates for the show are as follows:

July 8 - Acceptance of pieces

July 13 - Judging event

July 15 - Opening

August (TBD) - Artist night at the museum

September 25 - Closing

Updates:

The fees this year will remain as they have in previous years. Every year, the officers must officially sanction the fees for this show and so they approved the current fees.

Please be reminded that our space is limited this year. We will not have the same space we did last year when we had over 90 pieces of art. We want to make sure everyone who has a piece can exhibit it, but not all the additional pieces can be displayed if we don't have room.

Stickley Exhibit

Following is a description of a show that is coming to the San Diego Museum (the ONLY California museum to be exhibiting this show)

Gustav Stickley and the American Arts and Crafts Movement

June 18, 2011 Through September 11, 2011

"The San Diego Museum of Art is proud to present Gustav Stickley and the American Arts and Crafts Movement. Organized by the Dallas Museum of Art, this is the first nationally touring exhibition to focus on the career of Stickley (1858–1942), one of the leading figures of the American Arts and Crafts movement. The exhibition will examine Stickley's contributions to the history of American design and architecture during his most productive and creative period, from 1900 to 1913, and will provide new insights into the artistic, commercial, and social context of Stickley's work. From *The Craftsman* magazine to his own stores in New York, Washington and Boston, Stickley offered customers a complete lifestyle based on his philosophy of simple design and quality materials. Ranging from furniture to metalware and embroidered textiles to architectural designs, the majority of the more than 100 objects in the exhibition are from private collections and have never been seen before by the public.

One of the exhibition's highlights will be the re-creation of the dining room first displayed in the 1903 Arts and Crafts Exhibition organized by Stickley and exhibited in his Syracuse Craftsman Building. Other highlights include an armoire, ca. 1907-1912, which Stickley kept for his private use in the decades after he sold his business, and works showcasing his

experimentation with different varnishes, which can still be seen as a patchwork of colors on the undersides of the drawers. Also on view will be a rare armchair, c. 1903, with copper and wood inlay reflecting Stickley's brief foray into decorated Arts and Crafts furniture influenced by the work of progressive British and Scottish designers.

The exhibition finds a particularly appropriate venue in San Diego, which has a rich heritage of Arts and Crafts architecture and decorative art. Communities such as North Park and Mission Hills are well known for their historic homes from this era. Marston House, at the edge of Balboa Park, was designed by local architects William Sterling Hebbard and Irving John Gill and is one of California's finest examples of the Arts and Crafts movement. San Diego also saw the production of Arts and Crafts pottery, tiles, and metal work."

The San Diego Museum of Art is at:

1450 El Prado

Balboa Park

San Diego, CA 9210

A Note from the Chariman

I hope that, while you were reading the article about the two SCWA teams participating in the Wooden Boat Challenge, you sensed the satisfaction that those of us participating in this event felt. Not only did our teams do well in the event, it was a great experience for all of the team members. My thanks to Tom Segura, Dan Lyke, Bill Hartman and all of the student members for making this a big success.

As a result of this experience with the students, we have started talking about next year. Not only about the Wooden Boat Challenge, but possibly starting a longer term boat building project or other projects with the students. Right now this is still in the formative stages, but if you have any ideas about it, please send them to me.

One other thought that occurred to me; some of you may want to become involved with this but are a little unsure about your boat building knowledge. Please don't let it hold you back. This is a very good opportunity to learn more about it.

Another reminder, Entry day for the 2011 Artistry in Wood Show is Friday, July 8th. Just around the corner! Hope that everyone is close to finishing their entries.

Bill Taft

Forum Credits:

Reporting: Art Hofmann, Editing: Michael Burwen, Photos: Dan Lyke, Andy Lyke, Art Hofmann, Carl Swartz

WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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Join Us! The Sonoma County Woodworkers Association is a 31-year old association of over one hundred professional and amateur woodworkers who meet monthly at members' shops to share experiences, ideas, techniques, and mutual enjoyment for creating with wood. Membership entitles you to attend monthly meetings, receive Wood Forum, our monthly newsletter, attend our annual show, and apply for seminars and demonstrations. Annual dues, payable at the beginning of each calendar year, are \$25. New members joining after September 30 may, for \$35, have their membership extend through December 31 of the following year. Please consider joining the SCWA and meeting people who, like yourself, are interested in the art and business of fine woodworking. Send dues to:

PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Wood Forum is the monthly newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association. Please feel free to submit articles, notices, photographs, announcements, and comments for inclusion in the publication. Advertisements are accepted with a per-entry cost of \$25 per column inch. All submissions for the July issue must be received by July 15, 2011. You may submit your entries to the editor listed below.

Contact Michael Wallace
Snail-Mail PO BOX 1838, Sebastopol, Ca 95472
E-Mail mjmwallace@gmail.com
Home (707) 824-1013



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I would like to join the SCWA and meet other people who are interested in the craft, the art, and the business of fine woodworking. Here is my application. I have enclosed a check for the annual dues of \$25 that covers my subscription to Wood Forum and entitles me to attend the monthly meetings.

Send check and completed application to: Sonoma County Woodworkers Association
PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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