



# WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

Volume 38, Issue 5

May 2018

## SUPER BOWL PARTY

Our May 1 meeting will feature a presentation by another familiar face, Hugh Buttrum from Sonoma. Many will remember him for his stack of bowls, or perhaps his many ginkgo-carved turnings. In the *2017 Artistry in Wood Show* he took home the **Best Woodturning** honors with a magnificent carved walnut bowl. Hugh has been at it for a long time, but he now seems to have really hit his stride.

Hugh plans to start out with a discussion of basic turning operations, primarily focused on bowls. He will talk about wood and where to get it, roughing, drying, twice-turning. Then he will address what he describes as the fun stuff: carving and texturing. He will bring examples, and will demonstrate using his MicroMotor carving tool (it's like a very high speed dental drill).

The meeting starts promptly at 7pm on May 1, in the shop facilities of **180 Studios**, 150 Todd Road, Santa Rosa.



## Happy Birthday to Us

This month marks the 40th birthday of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association. From the inspiration of a handful of woodworkers trying to scratch a living making sawdust, to the present day membership of around 140, the SCWA has seen a lot of changes. Two long-time members, Bill Taft and Art Hofmann, have collaborated on a brief narrative that touches on some of that history. See page 6 for details.



Photo by Tyler Chartier



# SCWA Monthly Meeting

April 3, 2018

by Joe Scannell

Don Jereb opened the meeting with a couple of announcements. First, the photographs of the entries from *Artistry in Wood 2017* have been incorporated into a seven minute slide show which is now available on our website. The second item was a request: in order to implement the upcoming workshop/class with Garrett Hack (planned for September), Don needs to borrow a few true woodworking benches (with vises). Anyone having such a bench and willing to loan it for the class, please contact Don directly, or through the website on the Members Only/Directory page.

A new member, Chris Shepperd, introduced himself as a cabinetmaker of 35 years experience who builds kitchens and custom furniture at a shop in the Tomales area. He is looking for employees, in anticipation of an upswing in business as a result of the fires.

The floor was given over to Bill Taft, our speaker for the evening. Bill was trained as an engineer, and worked in product development. He used slow periods in his engineering career to design and build five different boats, ranging from an 8' dinghy to a forty foot off-shore cruiser capable of sailing anywhere.



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His love of boats began when he was 16 and bought his first. Although he was ultimately forced to sell it to help pay his way through college, the seed had been planted.



Bill began construction of his biggest boat, *Southern Star*, in 1982 while living in San Diego and working as a consultant. It's a forty foot fiberglass hull sailboat, and he and his wife Anne worked on it full-time for a year,

then part-time for another 4 1/2 years until completion. He worked from plans by a designer named Bruce Roberts, and Bill was very pleased with the plans, which came with full-sized frame plots, study plans, and a "guidebook" on how to build a boat. One feature that drew him to this particular design was its headroom clearance (he's 6'2"); another was the aft stateroom, which was comparatively roomy for a sailboat.

The boat has a 52 horsepower diesel engine as well as sails. The decks are plywood reinforced with fiberglass. He wanted zero maintenance, so all outside surfaces are fiberglass - no varnishing every year! The only exposed teak is a small deck in the cockpit.

The hull was constructed upside down, by building a mold on the ground with frames of the needed shape every few feet. The frames were simple 1x construction lumber that he cut with a Bosch sabersaw. These were spanned with 1x2 wood stringers, then Bill "planked" the mold with a product called C-Flex. Each 12" wide "plank" of C-Flex contains small semi-rigid rods in the longitudinal direction. These rods allow the fiberglass to hold its form while resin is applied to the cloth. This eliminates the need for a full mold as is used in traditional fiberglass construction.

Many layers of fiberglass mat and resin followed (probably about 14), so that the hull finished out at about



3/4" thick below the waterline, and 1/2" thick above. The exterior of the hull had to be faired, which was done using a putty mixed of resin and talc, troweled on and eventually sanded smooth with a side grinder and 40 grit disks. Then the exterior was finished with three coats of high-build epoxy paint to create a very tough water barrier.



The next step was to build a cradle around the hull, to support it so it could be lifted by a crane and set upright. Here there was a slight glitch, as the first crane could not lift it, but eventually they brought in a big boy that got the job done. Bill said the crane cost him \$1000, which everyone agreed was a bargain.

Now, with the hull upright, stairs were built so the interior work could begin. The interior skeleton was stripped away, and a fiberglass ledge was created all around to build a floor upon. Nothing inside the boat

is attached to the hull; everything sits in the floor. This accommodates the constant flexing and such that a boat must endure.



There was still a great deal to be done to make this a real boat. It took awhile to build up the courage to cut that first hole in the hull, for the propeller shaft. Then there was the 7500 lbs. of rebar he cut into short lengths so he could fill the keel, using epoxy resin to hold the metal in place.

Bill used 1/4" ply to form the interior panels, coating the plywood with six coats of paste wax as a form release, then applying layers of mat and resin to become the actual panel.



The main deck was built up of two 1/4" layers of fiberglass with 1/2" plywood sandwiched in between. He built the mahogany cabinetry at home in his shop. He bought most of the hatches, rails, and other components from Bruce Roberts. The boat has two 100 gallon tanks for the diesel engine. He bought the engine as a kit, which included everything needed except the prop and shaft.

The deck and interior fiberglass components were sprayed with a two-part polyurethane paint, and the deck was given a non-skid surface: epoxy & sand, top coated with more epoxy.



At launch time the boat weighed about 23000 lbs. Employing the same crane as before, it was loaded aboard a large truck and transported to the harbor five miles away.

*Photos used in this article courtesy Bill Taft*





After the launch, the mast was installed. All the wiring, lights, spars, etc. were installed flat on a bench, then the crane hoisted the assembly into place while it was secured.

Bill calculates he and Anne invested 6000 hours in the construction of their dream, and were very proud and pleased with the result. They estimate that between 1982 and 1987 they spent \$35,000 on the construction, and the boat was worth more than \$100,000 in 1987 dollars. They eventually moved it to Seabrook Island, South Carolina, where they lived for a time, then sold it to a couple who planned on living aboard the sailboat in Florida.



The second boat Bill discussed was his T-15 Daysailer, which some members have probably seen parked in his garage. He designed it to fit his specific needs: it had to be able to be used singlehandedly, from transporting to launching to sailing; it had to be usable in the shallow waters of South Carolina, where he lived at the time; and it required sail rigging that could be lowered to fit under low bridges. It also had to be a good performer, and “pretty.”



The boat is very light, and was built using a method known as “frame-less cold molded,” essentially as follows. A strongback the length of the boat is placed on the floor, and the many frames are attached as needed, then stringers are temporarily attached to the frames. Next, 1/8” x 1.5” strips of southern yellow pine are placed diagonally and screwed to the stringers, as seen here. When the entire hull is covered, a second layer of these strips is placed perpendicular to the first





and bonded to it with resin and fiberglass mat. The same strategy is used for the transom, but with three layers of wood instead of two.

A keel is attached, again using fiberglass and resin, and the entire hull is covered with a layer of fiberglass mat bonded with epoxy resin, then the whole thing is made fair by sanding and given another coat of epoxy resin. More sanding, and two coats of high-build epoxy paint are applied. Then it's time to tip her over.



There's still a shear beam to fabricate and install, a centerboard trunk, and numerous other structures, not least of which is the seating. The seats are made by bending more of the pine strips over a form, again



using the same technique as for the hull. The seats are three plies in thickness. The most difficult part was mitering the three completed sections where they meet in the stern. The finished product is indeed pretty!





# From a Small Acorn...

by Bill Taft and Art Hofmann

On May 1, 1978 a group of woodworkers from Sonoma County formed the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association, which grew from fourteen members to about 30 members during the first year. The purpose of the association was to share information about woodworking. The initial constitution stated "The Sonoma County Woodworkers Association is a group of people interested in maintaining and further developing the quality of his/her work by a mutual sharing of knowledge and resources in order to learn." With the Mendocino Woodworkers Association as an inspiration and model, the idea for SCWA came from John Keller, who was a student in the Expressive Arts Program at Sonoma State University. Philip Nereo, another student in the same program, quickly warmed to the idea, as did others whom he invited. Important connections were made in these early days among persons like George Breck of Sebastopol and John DeMarchi of the SSU Art Department, who would become figurative later on. Others joined and the ranks grew quickly. Breck and Keller were elected co-chairs to serve for the first six months.

The aim of the founders was to use the Association to organize the woodworkers of the area, to provide them with a structure that would further their individual goals through the sharing of knowledge and resources. Though the initial members were all young

2 THE TIMES  
Thursday, Aug. 17, 1978

## Woodworkers form an association

Bringing together shared knowledge and the advantage of group buying, woodworkers in Sonoma County have formed an association.

According to John Keller, Sebastopol, one of the organizers, membership has grown to about 30 woodworkers since its inception in March.

One of its purposes will be to let the public know there are talented artisans who can make anything from wood. "People don't have to go to the Bay Area to get something made," Keller said.

Group purchasing at discount will allow members to pass cost savings on to clients, he added.

The first group event which the Sonoma County Woodworkers Assn. held was a 2-day workshop last weekend with James Krenov, an internationally recognized cabinetmaker and author who is touring in the United States.

The association was patterned after the Mendocino Woodworkers Assn., which formed several years ago as a matter of survival, Keller said. It has gained a reputation for its

group shows.

The Sonoma County association is not planning group shows at this time because its members have an established clientele or produce for wholesale dis-

tribution. For example, States.

Keller does executive furnishings and a Sonoma member produces oak toilet seats and water closets that are sold throughout the United

States.

Keller said the advantage to buying from customers woodworkers is that said. Future workshops planned for association members include visiting a

"The initial cost is higher but in the long run it's

tremendously cheaper," he said. Future workshops planned for association members include visiting a

lumber mill, learning to mill wood and kiln building. Members also visit each other's workshops.

The association is seeking to add to its membership. Anyone interested may contact Keller at 823-7549.

Among association members who reside in Western Sonoma County are: Michael, Rabbit, Furniture in the Shaker Tradition, 887-1200; Jefferson Rice Woodworking, 876-3342 or 823-8210; Corrine Anderson, looms, 823-0321; George Breck, custom furniture, 823-1571; Don True, Furniture Guild, Occidental, 874-1733; David Differding, Sebastopol Wooden Windows, 823-8796; Larry Dubey and Patrick Hamilton, Wood Ingenuity, 876-3342; Izetta Feeney, mirrors, 823-6203; and Isaac Khelif - John Banks, Salmon Creek Custom Woodworking and Design, 876-3325.

SONOMA COUNTY Woodworkers Assn. members pose with their work. At center, Phil Nereo. Back row, from left: Daniel Terragno, John Keller, Don True, George Breck and Michael Rabbit.

THE LA  
KATE WOL  
FRI., AUG. 18th '78

professional woodworkers, there was never a restriction on membership, which grew to become a mix of professionals and enthusiasts.

First Tuesday of the month meetings, a monthly newsletter and an annual show – these three features of the association were established early on. A newsletter was published after the monthly meeting in order to document the proceedings, and to provide information on woodworking activities in the area. In 1982, the newsletter became the Wood Forum, which continues to this day.

The focus of the Association has always been on education and sharing of knowledge. Indeed, a mission statement in the 1991 bylaws states that SCWA "is a not for profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the education, promotion, and execution of the principles of woodworking." Interestingly, the first 'Special Purpose' in the Bylaws is to provide 'a friendly atmosphere' for woodworkers to meet, a goal that has by and large been met. This notion of sharing knowledge has carried SCWA throughout its existence.



1978

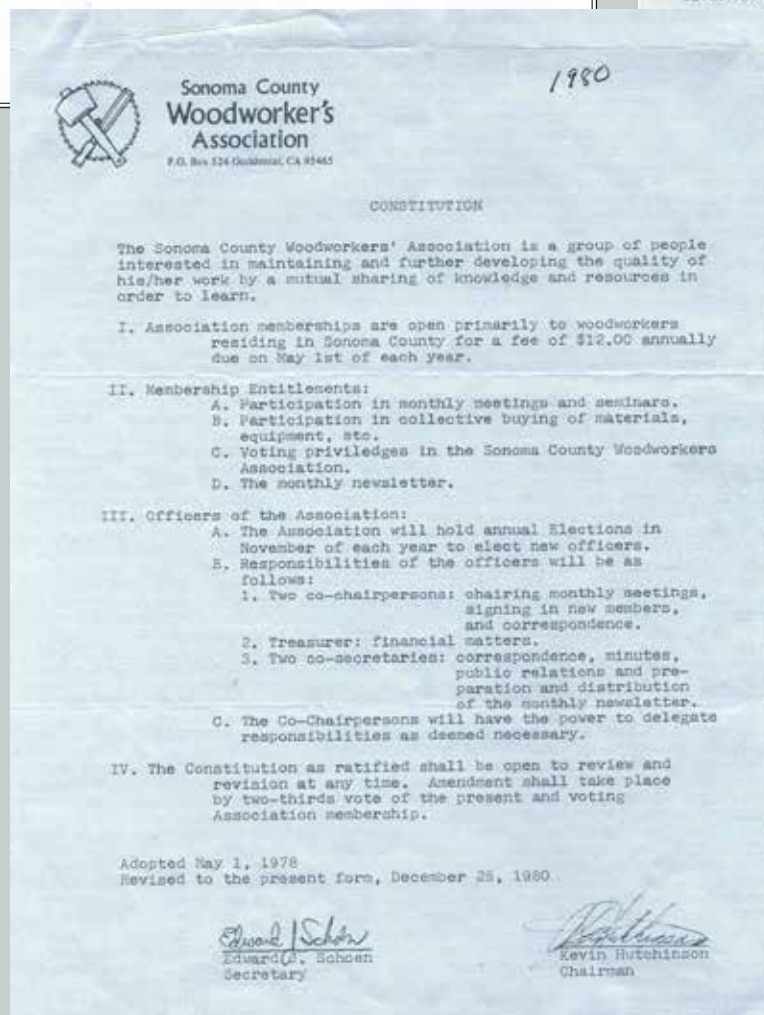
SONOMA COUNTY WOODWORKERS ASSN.  
MINUTES May 1, 1978

1. Constitution draft as presented by John Keller was reviewed, revised and ratified by members of the Association.
2. Dues of \$4.00 per 6 months was proposed by Phil Nério and passed. \$56.00 was received from 14 members and turned over to George Breck, acting treasurer.
3. John Keller and George Breck were elected as co-chairmen of the Association for the period May 1 to October 31.
4. Don True and George Breck have volunteered to get membership cards printed prior to the next meeting.
5. The next meeting will be held at the Creamery in Valley Ford at 6:00 P.M. Monday, June 5th. and will be a potluck barbecue.
6. A seminar on milling will be given by Tom Falk sometime next month. The exact time will be set at the next meeting.
7. Izetta Feeney volunteered to set up a filing system for the Association that would include members needs and wants.

Submitted by:

*John Keller*  
John Keller  
Acting Secretary

While the monthly meetings and the *Wood Forum* have been the primary instruments used to further the SCWA's purpose, the *Artistry in Wood Shows* have provided the opportunity for members to present their skills to the public.



LAST MONTH'S MEETING

THE OFFICERS MEETING last month also included the Show of Artistry in Wood - '82 was the major topic of discussion. In charge of publicity will be Tim Synon, John Heffel and possible for on-site co-ordination, Kevin Hutchinson will attend. Melody Lynon, our newest member, will organize the John Keller is securing Jurors and Jeff Dale, David Harkes acquiring Sponsors. Phil Nereo and John Tranchina are doing help will be welcomed, call Chris at 829-1122. Thanks to what looks to be the best SCWA Show ever!

THE GENERAL MEETING was held at David Yark's shop in Santa the meeting together and talked briefly about the reasons be increased.

Artistry in Wood - '82 also predominated discussion as the Murray filled us in on the details to date. The biggest n Center for the Arts being confirmed as the location, due, Keller's involvement. The Ballet will be opening there on also Mother's Day.

The names of possible Jurors were discussed. They will be not names were thrown around. (see back of poster for sale Awards were also discussed. Possibilities included Cash, s, icates at Woodworking Supply Stores.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for members who will ente Ed Schoen also discussed another exciting prospect. The West Marin and Mendocino have expressed an interest in mer, newsletters to take advantage of greatly reduced postal re lication of efforts involved in putting together a monthly were heard.

David Yark's stroke sander was demonstrated and slides of

those of you who have filled out and mailed in y haven't will receive another one in this issue and publish the results in a future issue. Also, not proceed on a work-referral list. Make an

How much wood would a wood-worker work?

Woodworkers plan first group show

The first group show of the newly-formed Sonoma County Woodworkers Assn. will be Oct. 27 - Nov. 5 at Hand Goods, 3627 Main St., Occidental, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. The association was formed last March and now numbers over 30 members, all residents of Sonoma County. Many of them have been woodworkers for a long time and have an established clientele; others have just begun to explore the possibilities of their craft.

The membership includes John Bauer, John de Marchi, Michael Rabbitt,

Robert Herzog, Corrine Anderson, John Keller, Phil Nereo, George Breck, John Heffel, Daniel Terragno, Michael Cyr, Don True, David Differding, Isaac Khelif, Michael Arion, John Banks and more.

This is their first show as a group and will include woodwork of all descriptions — furniture, both traditional and modern, bowls, mirrors, clocks, looms, windows, toys and much more.

There will be an artists' reception Friday, Oct. 27, 7 - 9 p.m. at Hand Goods.



Although there were no plans to hold a public show at the very first, this changed quickly as membership grew, so that the new group presented a show in its first year at the Hand Goods store in Occidental in October 1978. This was the beginning of the annual *Artistry in Wood Show*, which missed only one year, 1984.



volume 7 issue 3

July, August, September, 1993

# THE MUSE

The news of the Sonoma County Museum

## Sonoma County Woodworkers

### Artistry in Wood

By Kurt Steger

The Sonoma County Woodworkers Association's premier exhibition and technical demonstrations of fine woodworking return to the Sonoma County Museum on August 14th of this year and run through September 16th. An opening reception will be held the afternoon of August 14th from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. This popular show, now in its 12th year, annually features the work of Sonoma County's finest woodworkers.

Artistry in Wood is the portion of the exhibition which is juried to assure that entries meet the highest standards of quality and the principles of fine craftsmanship.

The jury consists of SCWA Guild members. These woodworkers have been voted Guild status by the Association for their consistently high quality work, service to the Association and commitment to sharing their knowledge with others. In addition, an outside panel of nationally-recognized woodworkers will judge the included pieces for awards recognizing "Design" and "Craftsmanship". The "Best of Show Award" and "Awards of Excellence" will be presented at the opening reception.

The show also includes the "Craft and Production" category. This section displays production-oriented woodworking and samples of members' work in the areas of craft pieces, architectural woodworking and specialty items.

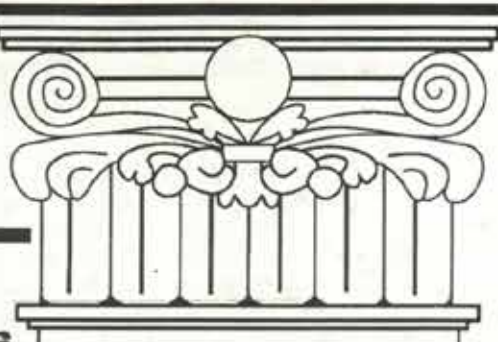
Scarab Chair by David J. Marks

photo by Don Russell

This year will also present a new feature, "The Box Show." Members have been encouraged to create a unique personal statement in woodworking with the single, simple requirement that it fit into the definition of a box. We look forward to showcasing the wide-ranging design and creative talents of the SCWA in these flights of fancy.

As an organization, the SCWA represents about 100 professional and amateur woodworkers. The Association exists to provide its membership with an opportunity to share their knowledge with each other. Meetings are held once monthly (first Tuesday evenings) at various shops and studios. In sharing


continued on page four



The Luther Burbank Center for the Arts

Presents

Sonoma County Woodworkers Association



*Artistry In Wood '82*

May 8-16

A public viewing of selected works  
traditional to contemporary  
by some of the county's  
finest woodworkers

chairs      tables / desks      cabinets / chests  
turnings / carvings / marquetry      other functional items

9-5 daily      50 Mark West Springs Rd.      Santa Rosa

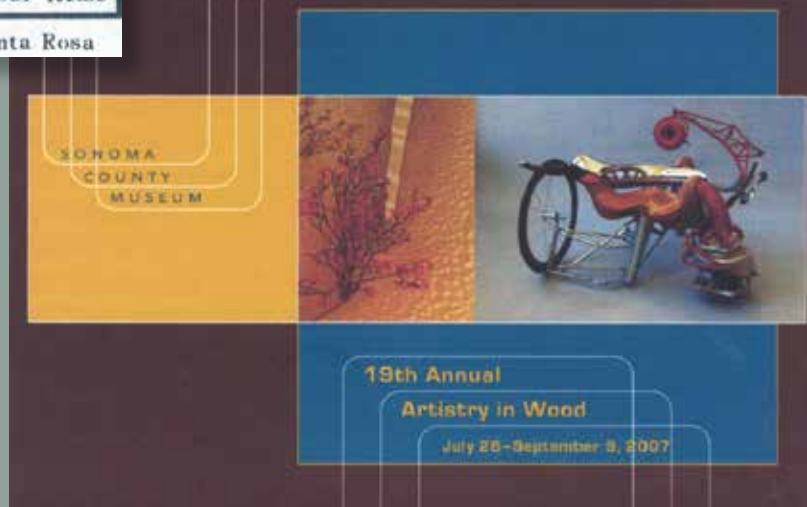


photo by Dorothy Haub

SONOMA COUNTY WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION  
and  
SONOMA COUNTY MUSEUM  
present  
**ARTISTRY IN WOOD**



Artistry in wood is an annual, juried exhibit featuring work from the finest woodworkers in Sonoma County  
SONOMA COUNTY MUSEUM - 425 7th Street, Santa Rosa  
Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed. Thru Sunday  
Show dates May 29 Thru June 28, 1998  
Artists reception Friday May 29th From 6 - 8 p.m.  
For further information contact the museum 707.579.1500



SONOMA COUNTY MUSEUM

19th Annual  
Artistry in Wood  
July 26 - September 8, 2007

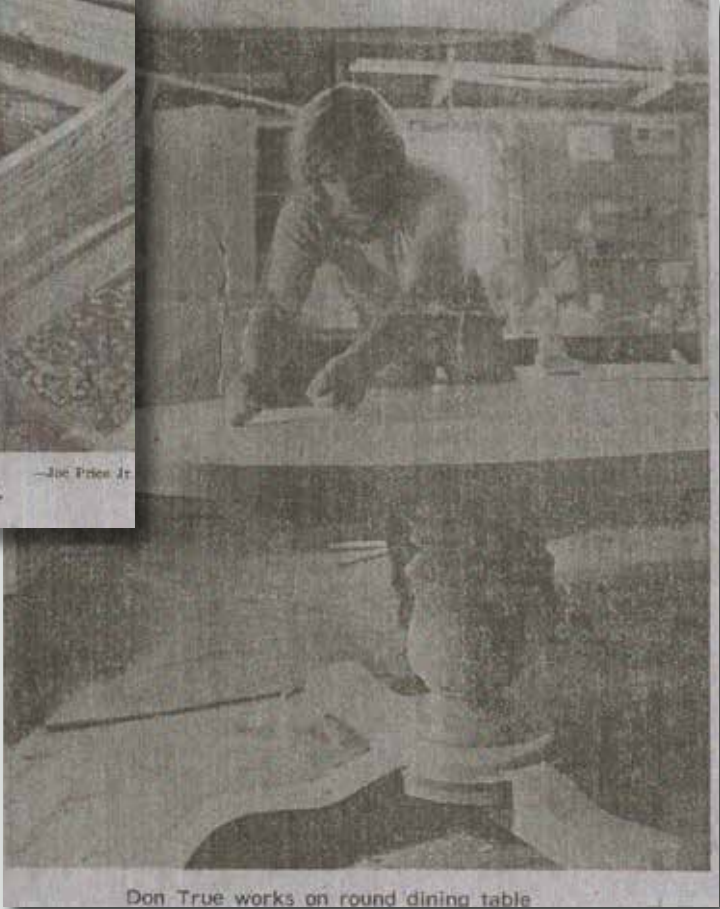
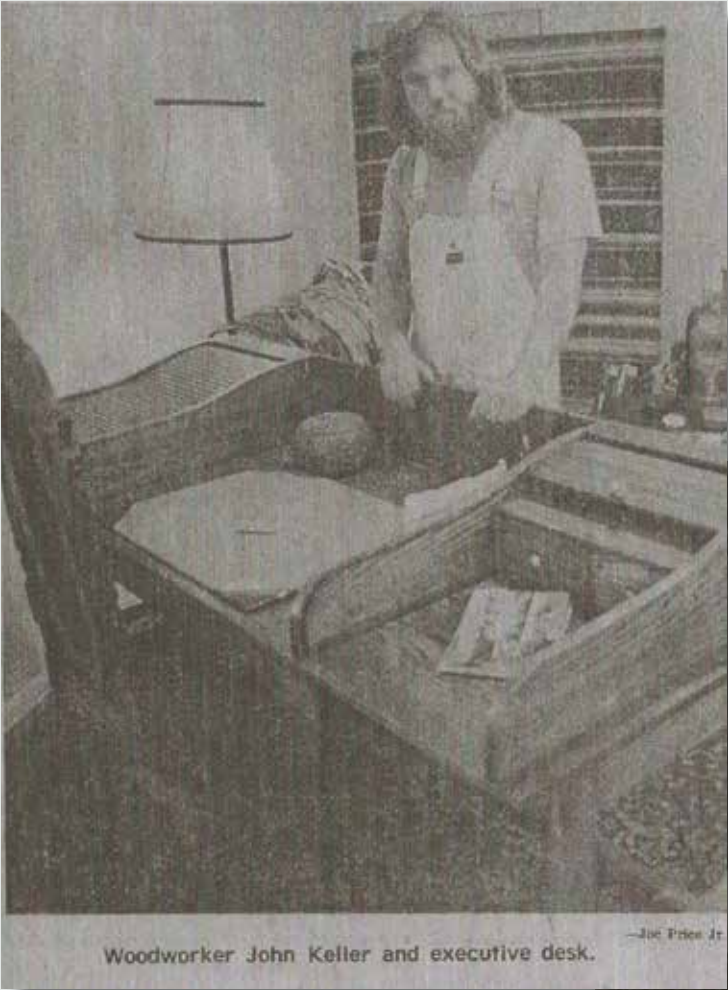



Exhibited work was generally for sale in the early days, which accorded with the group's main purpose of furthering the business of its members. While the purpose of the shows is still to exhibit the work of the members, the aim is to provide a display that demonstrates high skill in a variety of areas – furniture, turnings, and art pieces. For members, shows are the primary vehicle for sharing work with each other and with the public, and they afford the opportunity to be recognized for outstanding efforts.

The first show to use the *Artistry in Wood* title was held in 1982 at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts – now the Wells Fargo Center. Association membership had grown to about 75 members, with about half of them professionals. The emphasis by this time had begun to shift from commercially oriented woodwork to pieces that emphasized fine woodworking. These shows ran for one week, with members presenting demonstrations most days.

The first *Artistry in Wood Show* held at the Sonoma County Museum was in 1988, with about forty pieces displayed in a six week exhibit. SCWA was particularly pleased to hold their show at the Sonoma County Museum as it provided the opportunity to reach a larger audience interested in fine craftsmanship. Association members presented demonstrations of woodworking techniques on weekends.

*Artistry in Wood* is currently the only annual woodworking show that is held in a museum. The format has changed little since the first show. It has always been a juried show, with entries reviewed and accepted by the SCWA Guild, a subset of the membership with proven skills, who evaluate entries according to guidelines established in 1991. There has also always been an element of competition in the shows. Entries are judged for awards by an independent (non-member) panel of specially invited judges, and the Awards of Excellence and especially the Best of Show Award are coveted prizes that reflect the best quality of workmanship by artisans from Sonoma County and beyond. Over the decades *Artistry in Wood* has won a reputation as a show featuring work of high quality in a refined setting.





**JOHN ANTHONY  
DE MARCHI**  
1941—2011

John lived his life with long established principles which drew so many good people to become his friends. He continued to reflect those principles until his passing.

Bravery. Kindness. Clarity. Honesty.  
Compassion. Generosity.  
Dignity.

He will be remembered and missed.





## Officers of the Association

<u>Chairman</u>	Tom Vogel	<u>Secretary</u>	Lars Andersen
<u>Program Chair</u>	Chuck Root	<u>Guild Chair</u>	Mark Tindley
<u>Treasurer</u>	Judith Garland	<u>Show Chair</u>	Don Jereb
<u>Editor</u>	Joe Scannell	<u>Web Master</u>	Rod Fraser

*Wood Forum* is the monthly newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association. Please feel free to submit articles and photographs for inclusion in the publication. You can send your submissions to the Wood Forum Editor at [SCWAEditor@gmail.com](mailto:SCWAEditor@gmail.com). Advertisements are also accepted with a nominal cost for paid members.

## Membership Application

I would like to join the SCWA to meet other people interested in the craft, the art and the business of fine wood-working. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$35 for the annual dues. I understand that this fee entitles me to attend monthly meetings and to receive the Wood Forum newsletter by email or via the SCWA's website.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to help further the organizational goals of our volunteer-run association? Please tell us how you would like to help:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send check and completed application to:

Sonoma County Woodworkers Association, PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA 95402