



# WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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## *The Makers Meeting 2019*

The long wait for rain has finally ended, and with it the attendant anxiety over danger of wildfire. Whew!

The Evening with the Judges saw a large turn out of the membership, as everyone listened attentively to what the three judges had to say. Had the Show Chair, on behalf of the Museum staff, not placed a time limit on the meeting, we might still be there. It was a fun and educational evening. In addition to the traditional Best of category awards, the judges bestowed Awards of Excellence on sixteen spectacular examples of woodwork. In fact, all 74 pieces in the Show are exemplary works.

The Show opened to the public on Friday, November 22, and was the largest opening night audience in this editor's memory. Kudos to Don Jereb and his team for a first-rate job.



The next date on our calendar is our official Annual Meeting, to be held on December 10 at 7pm, also in the Sonoma County Museum. This meeting entails elections and decisions about association business for the coming year. It is also the Makers Meeting, which may well be the most anticipated meeting of the year, when the makers of the *Artistry in Wood* entries discuss their pieces and field questions from the audience. Whether you are a maker or someone who simply appreciates good craft, don't miss this one. It promises to be a fun evening.



**Award of Excellence:** *A Mouse's Life* by Paul Marini

*Photo by Debbie Wilson*

# Judgment Night

November 19, 2019

by Joe Scannell

In recent years Judgment Day has become an increasingly difficult day for the judges, both in terms of time and the increasing number of entries. This year saw 74 entries by 46 artists, including at least two collaborative efforts. The entries were mostly from Sonoma County, but also included some from Mendocino County, the Central Valley, and the Bay Area. There was even one from Texas! The judges began work in mid-morning, and when the call for dinner came they were still working and declined to eat!

Show Chair Don Jereb opened the meeting by welcoming new members, three of whom came forward. He then reminded everyone that we are still seeking to fill the board position of Program Chair, to replace retiring Chair Chuck Root. This position is critical to our continued functioning as an organization.

Don went on to thank the many volunteers who made the Show possible by their tireless preparatory work: Don Naples, Dominique Charmot, Steve Forrest, Rod Fraser, Rick Abbott, Paul Marini, Andrew Carruthers, John Cobb, Frank Ertel, Joe Scannell, Carol Salvin, and Ann Jereb, with apologies to anyone who was missed.

This year we were blessed by having three local judges who are extremely well respected in the artistic community, and each brought their own individual insight into the process. Scott Clark is a woodturning and pyrography specialist (as well as a former Show Chair, serving for several years). Terry Schmitt is an extraordinary woodcarver and woodworker with a keen eye for design. Michael Cullen is a mechanical

engineer-turned artist, furniture designer, maker, author, and teacher.

Following a path through the exhibit laid out by Don, the judges discussed each piece they came to and offered constructive comments when warranted. They also announced the winners of the various categories, and Awards of Excellence, as they came to them. But

they withheld the Best of Show winner until the end, building suspense for the evening. I will not do that here.

The **Best of Show** winner was the magnificent sculpture “The Calculated and Systematic Dismantling and Sinking of Blue Collar Workers” by Michael Cooper.



**Best of Show:** *The Calculated and Systematic Dismantling and Sinking of Blue Collar Workers* by Michael Cooper



**Best Box:** *Veneered Wine Box* by Kent Parker



**Best of Furniture:** *Cardiff* by John Rinehart

In memory of and designed by Matt Mecaro.  
Upholstery by Kathleen Loenig and John Rinehart



**Best of Art:** *Serving Tray and Three Bowl Set* by Joe Amaral



**Best Turning:** *Ashes to Ashes* by Paul Feinstein

**Best Miscellaneous:** *Cello* by Andrew Carruthers





**Award of Excellence:** *The Box Family* by Don Jereb

Don utilized Michael Cullen's bandsaw box technique on a small piece of figured Claro Walnut, yielding this box family.

**Award of Excellence:** *Hollow Form* by Robert Nelson





**Award of Excellence:** *Untitled* by Brian Cullen



**Award of Excellence:** *Mr. Stirt* by Brian Cullen



**Award of Excellence:** *Aspire* by John Cobb



**Award of Excellence:** *Cabinet of Conservation* by Michael Palace

Michael speaks:

All the materials are recycled and saved urban wood which is important, as the point of the piece is the value of trees, and thus our entire planet. Wood standing up for life of trees.



**Award of Excellence:** *Peter's Stool* by Thomas Vogel

Tom speaks:

My first piece made with a wood lathe. Having no experience with a wood lathe made this quite challenging. This piece is dedicated to the memory of my dear friend Peter Weber, who left me with his old wood lathe.

Patrick describes his bowl:

This piece (below) beautifully displays a vertical grafted junction between the Claro walnut and English walnut. The Claro is the vertical shaft of brown wood onto which the branches of English walnut were grafted onto the side, which are primarily displaying only their sapwood. It is this contrast in wood species and wood color, combined with the drama of the forced convergence of annual rings that tell this tree's story.

**Award of Excellence:** *Dual Junction Wedded Wood bowl with propeller handles* by Patrick McDonnell





**Award of Excellence:** *Set of Three Bandsaw Boxes* by Victor Larson



**Award of Excellence:** *Letter Openers* by Ralph Carlson

Dugan Essick's "Bubinga Gaga Rocker" is the updated version of his dramatic 2017 entry, "Lady Gaga's Rocker," whose carbon-fiber skeleton left many wondering how it could work. The design is made possible by using very heavy carbon fiber inserts in the legs and rockers to stiffen the design.

The judges found the proportions and curves very tasteful, and declared the chair to be quite comfortable. Michael Cullen added that he had just finished a project using bubinga, and he "really does not want to work with that wood for awhile."

**Award of Excellence:** *Bubinga Gaga Rocker* by Dugan Essick





**Award of Excellence:** *Metamorphosis* by David Marks

David Marks reflects:

Having survived the Northern California fires three years in a row and being forced to evacuate twice, I now have a new perspective on my wood collection. Whereas I used to see treasure, I now see fuel. Chuck Quibel's advice, "Use your best wood now before it burns!" has been seared in my memory. In a sense this vessel is a direct result of the recent evacuation that Victoria and I had to go through. On one level, I am now using up my best wood, and on another level I need to make this vessel to calm myself down and recover emotionally from the experience of feeling like a refugee. On another level I see this piece as a metaphor for us humans. We are all but flawed vessels and yet still with our cracks, holes, flaws and defects there is beauty in each and every one of us.



**Award of Excellence:** *Untitled* by Steve Forrest



**Award of Excellence:** *Untitled* by Ric Taylor



**Award of Excellence:** *A Boost for Claire* by Joseph Scannell

Joe comments:

Not my first stool, but the first time I have used color, inspired by Kalia Kliban's recent excellent presentation on milk paint. I will be going back for more.

# OPENING NIGHT



## Officers of the Association

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*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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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