



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

Volume 39, Issue 7

August 2019

Take a Day Off and Relax

It's that time of year, time to kick back and relax with like-minded woodworkers at a summer barbecue on Saturday, August 10 from 4pm to 7pm. It is to be held once again at the lovely home of Don and Ann Jereb in Santa Rosa.

The SCWA will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, sodas and mineral water, and utensils. The remainder of the food will be on an organized pot-luck basis. Members are asked to bring a favorite dish: either an appetizer, salad, or dessert. And bring a six pack of beer or bottle of wine to share.

Don requests that attendees RSVP to him with the number of individuals attending, and the dish that you will be bringing, as he may have to request changes in dishes if there are too many of one type. His email is:

donjereb@gmail.com

The address: 3110 Montecito Meadow Drive, Santa Rosa.



Photo by Jose Cuervo

SCWA Monthly Meeting

July 9, 2019

by Joe Scannell

Secretary Lars Andersen opened the meeting with the announcement that Thomas Vogel is stepping down as SCWA Board Chair. Tom has served in that position since January of 2017, but circumstances in his life have made the change necessary. Thanks, Tom, for your energy and devoted service.

Lars went on to say that in the recent Board meeting, the Board elected him to act in the position of Vice-Chair and assume the duties of Chairman until the upcoming election.

Lars welcomed new members and guests to the meeting, then went on to remind the audience of the need for members to step up and help in the running of our organization. We currently are without a Board Chair, and a Program Chair. Whatever your interests, your talents and abilities, and the amount of time you have to contribute, we can find a niche for you to help our organization in the coming year.

Having made that appeal, Lars handed the floor to Show Chair Don Jereb.

Don began by inviting everyone to his home for a summer barbecue on Saturday, August 10 at 4pm. The association will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, sodas, mineral water, and utensils. The remainder of the food will be on an organized pot-luck basis. Members are asked to bring a favorite dish: either an appetizer, salad, or dessert. And bring a six pack of beer or bottle of wine to share.

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Don also gave an update on the upcoming 31st annual *Artistry in Wood* show. The time frame is the same as last year, with opening night on Friday, November 15. It will run through Sunday, January 5, 2020. The Museum is very excited to be hosting the show again. Last year's show was the Museum's second most-attended show, based on days of exhibiting.

Don then brought up the discussion had at the last Board meeting (minutes were in the last *Wood Forum*) about considering a change in the format of the show this year, specifically as to whether to have judging and awards be part of that format. After careful consideration and input from the board members and Tom Rogers, who also attended the meeting, he has decided to leave the format the same as it has been in past years. Entry information will be posted to the website in the next month.



Finally, Don said he will be asking for help from individuals with skills helpful in preparing for the show. Jobs will include preparing programs, setup, and painting. Larry Stroud rose to address the group, and spoke briefly on our dear friend Art Hofmann, who passed in early July. Art was a man of many hats and seemingly boundless energy, devoting most of the past two decades to SCWA chores, including Secretary, Show Chair, and finally Program Chair. He was a good friend and gentle spirit and an inspiration to all, the essence of volunteerism. He will be missed.

Program Chair Chuck Root then introduced the evening's speaker, Mark Tindley. Mark began by discussing an interesting project he is currently collaborating on with Greg Zall (photos on previous page). It is a 24 foot wide pair of gates, each side comprising a 230 lb. steel skeleton encased in cedar. Lots of graceful curves, lots of glue-lines.

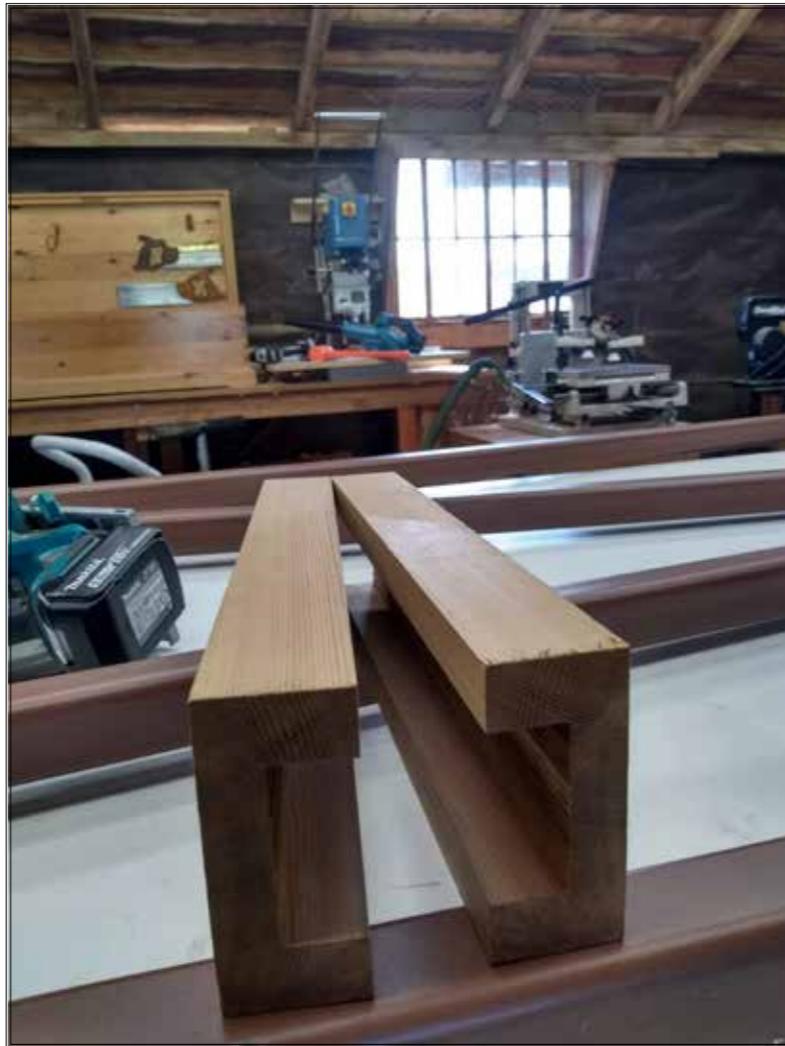
Launching into the promised discourse on superglue, Mark said he finds it a bit unusual that furniture makers in this country rarely use it in the shop.

By contrast, makers in other countries use it extensively, and in the U.K. they always seem to have a bottle sitting somewhere on the bench, and use it for quick fixes as they're working.

Cyanoacrylates are a family of strong fast-acting adhesives, of which ethyl 2-cyanoacrylate (ECA, commonly sold under trade names such as "Super Glue" and "Krazy Glue") is the type most likely to be found in a woodworking shop. It requires a humid environment to "go off"; in a completely dry environment it will not cure. It also requires a somewhat alkaline environment, which the air normally is, or it will not go off.

Mark believes that early press reports of harmful accidents and pranks involving CA glue have scared many people away from using it. He thinks it's actually much safer than generally believed, although the fumes which often accompany its use may lead one to think otherwise. There are of course precautions which must be taken, the most important being eye protection. A splash of CA glue probably won't make you blind, but it will certainly curtail your day. Mark spoke with some

authority on this, because he did exactly that. After squirting some in a hole, he drove in a dowel, with the (un)expected hydraulic effect spraying glue into both his eyes. He immediately flushed with water, which turned out to be the recommended remedy. He did not glue his eyes shut, although many people have been known to do so. What he did do was to badly scratch his cornea, but luckily the cornea is the fastest growing part of the human body, so by the next day his vision was back to normal.



It is far more common to glue ones fingers together, but this, too, is not without remedy.

There is a debonder for sale, or you can use acetone or nail polish remover. The bottom line message from Mark is: Be careful, but don't be scared.

Mark keeps his CA in the refrigerator, because he finds that storage in a hot place will cause it to go off on its own, becoming thick and eventually solidifying. Thick superglue can be useful in some situations, and in fact it's sold that way. There are multiple viscosities available for sale, from water thin to thick (good for gap filling), with many steps in between. For woodworking, the most useful are the very thin and something a bit thicker.

Mark buys his superglue in a hobby shop in Rohnert Park called Fundemonium. They have an extensive selection of adhesives, accelerators, and extra tips of various lengths.

Mark strongly recommends using an accelerator, which comes in a spray bottle or an aerosol can. Accelerators are pretty much universal, so one from one manufacturer will work fine with other brands.

Mark demonstrated that using superglue does not have to be a race, because when it is puddled it can remain viable for quite some time, depending upon the environment (he specified 10 minutes for his experiment). But when it is flattened out into a thin film, as when joining two boards, it does indeed go off quickly.

How much glue you use is really a matter of how securely you want the join to be. For many applications the need is to simply hold something (like a template or a piece of inlay) temporarily. In this case, the inherent brittleness of superglue works to your advantage. By using minimal glue, when you're through, a quick whack across the joint will break it

loose with little cleanup.

Mark glued two pieces of wood together with a small amount of superglue, then applied hand pressure for

Be careful, but don't be scared.



less than a minute, and when he held the pieces up they fell apart. Not enough time. However, sometimes you are in a hurry. Accelerator to the rescue! He applied a bit more glue to one side of a joint, and accelerator to the other side, put them together, and it was DONE. The accelerator can also be used after you have glued and joined your work; simply spray it around the outside of the joint, and capillary action will deliver the accelerator to the glue. The accelerator residue on the wood evaporates in a couple of minutes, causing no problems with finishing.

This is not to say that superglue is appropriate for all situations. When joinery is involved, for example, we need time to get the joint together, check for square, alignment, etc. Superglue would be a very poor choice in this case. But in situations where clamping is problematic, such as gluing a very small piece of wood, as in a repair, or applying small moldings, or edge banding a curve, superglue has big advantages. Mark demonstrated this by using glue on one piece and accelerator on the other, and simply wrapped the banding around the base using hand pressure as he brought the pieces into contact carefully from one end to the other.

Another useful application he mentioned was gluing closed a crack in a board. The idea is to clamp the crack closed first, then apply water-thin superglue to the crack. Capillary action will draw the glue into the crack. In this case accelerator would probably not be advisable, as it would halt the wicking action.



Mark was asked whether the accelerator might reduce the strength of the bond, perhaps over extended time. None of the manufacturers will say that it does or does not, and Mark has seen no evidence that it does.

One thing that does happen to anyone who has ever used superglue is that the applicator tip gets clogged with glue, so that when you go to use it again you have to cut away the tip. Eventually you must replace the tip, which is why extra tips in various sizes are usually sold next to the glue. Mark suggests that after using the glue, you clear the tip by holding the bottle away from yourself and squeezing a bit of air out of the tip to get rid of the glue there, then cap it.

Mark's next example involved a dovetailed drawer that had a damaged corner, which he proposed to repair with superglue. He cautioned that CA is probably not the best glue to use in visible areas of fine furniture, because it leaves a visible

dark glue line, but in the interests of demonstration he continued. He chose the somewhat more viscous CA for this repair. Because of the close proximity of the two parts, accelerator could not be used beforehand. He simply applied the glue to one side of the repair, and held it together with his fingers, then applied the accelerator.

Giving the glue a minute to set, he planed the repair area, then assembled the drawer dry, without glue. Selecting the thin CA, he dribbled it along the outside of the dovetail joints, letting it wick into the joint. He applied it also to the end grain of the parts, because he likes the darkening effect it has on the end grain wood. As an aside, he cautions that some of the glue may wick



its way into the inside of the drawer, making a mess that is difficult to clean up. His solution is to spray some accelerator on the inside of the drawer before applying the CA; any glue leaking through will go off before it can become a problem.

Miter joints are a good application for superglue. Normally, a lot of effort can go into making a tight miter joint, because you need to jig up a way to apply clamping pressure perpendicular to the glue plane. But with superglue, hand pressure sustained for a minute can be all you need. And if you have a third hand to

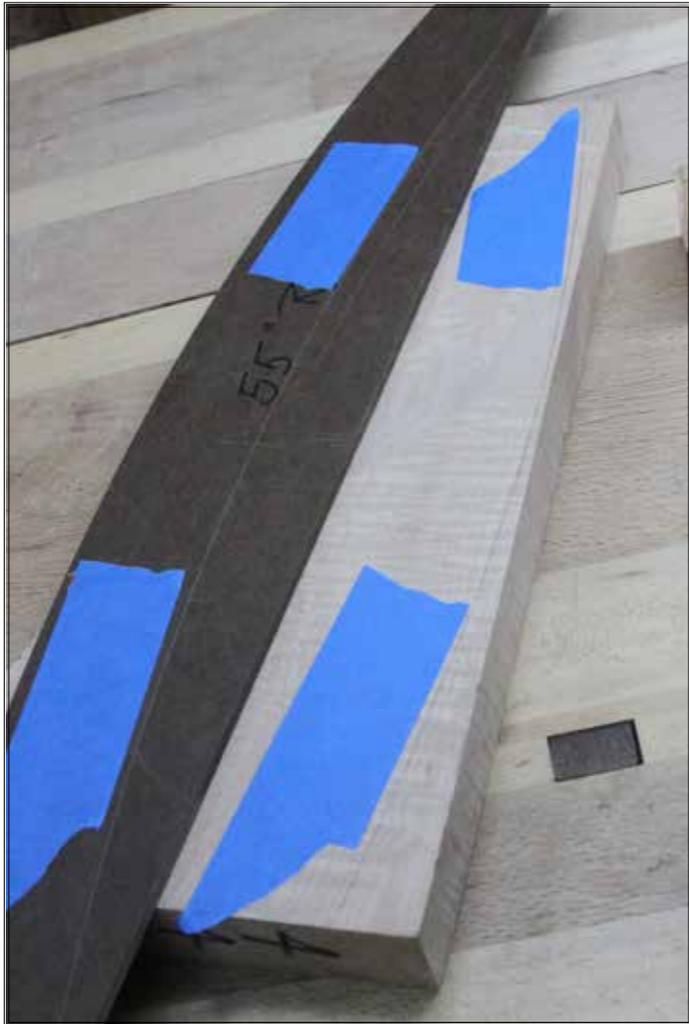
spray the accelerator, you can work quickly. This kind of a joint is not intended for high stress situations, as in a chair for example, but where moderate strength will do, like joining moldings and such, it is a great solution.

But wait, there's more. We've all had dents in a workpiece. The first approach to repair is water, either a drop of it in the dent or via a steam iron, the water will swell the dented fibers and with luck the dent will disappear.

This works better with some woods than with others. Failing this, sawdust mixed with superglue can be used as a filler. If you plan to go this route, Mark recommends using a somewhat lighter tone of sawdust, because the glue will cause some darkening. And use a medium viscosity CA; the thin stuff will go off as soon as you begin mixing it.

Greg Zall reminded Mark of a technique they both use extensively in the shop: adhering templates to the workpiece prior to template routing/shaping. Of course, the best way to attach a template is to screw it to the blank, but screw holes will often be objectionable. So their solution is (courtesy of Art Hofmann) to use superglue and masking tape. Basically, you cover with masking tape the areas on

both the template and the blank where you want to make the temporary join. Then you lay a bead of medium viscosity CA on the tape and press the two together. Once positioned to your satisfaction, you can use the accelerator if you like. The resulting bond is extremely reliable in the shear direction, so routing/shaping can proceed without worry. When done, a vigorous pull of the two pieces away from each other will break the masking tape free. Then it's just a quick peel and you're done. No sticky cleanup, as with double-stick tape.



Speaking of templates, Mark makes his by gluing a printed paper template to a bit of 1/2" MDF, then roughs the outline on the bandsaw, followed by careful sanding to fair the curves. It's important to keep the edges square, so Mark uses a sanding block with a fence to keep the block perpendicular to the surface. The problem is, after a bit of sanding that area of the

sandpaper becomes worn down. The solution: glue another layer to the fence, exposing an area of fresh grit, and get back to work. Of course, yellow glue would do the same job, but not as quickly.

While on the subject of template routing, Mark talked about the problem of cutting against the grain (or "stroking the cat backwards" as he put it), which usually results in tearout. The solution he suggests is to use two different bits, one with a bottom bearing, the other with a top bearing. Of course that means frequent bit changes, or two routers. A better solution is to use a bit with both top and bottom bearings. You can even make your own by using a bottom bearing bit and installing a second bearing of the right diameter at the shank, and securing it with a collar. These are easily obtainable items nowadays.

Another gem he shared with us was an odd looking thing that no one in the room could identify. He finally identified it as the Little Lipper (photo below), made by Fastcap. It mounts in a hole you drill in your router base, and enables you to essentially "balance" your router on even quite narrow edges to perform edge trimming. Check out the video:

<https://blog.fastcap.com/tag/little-lipper/>



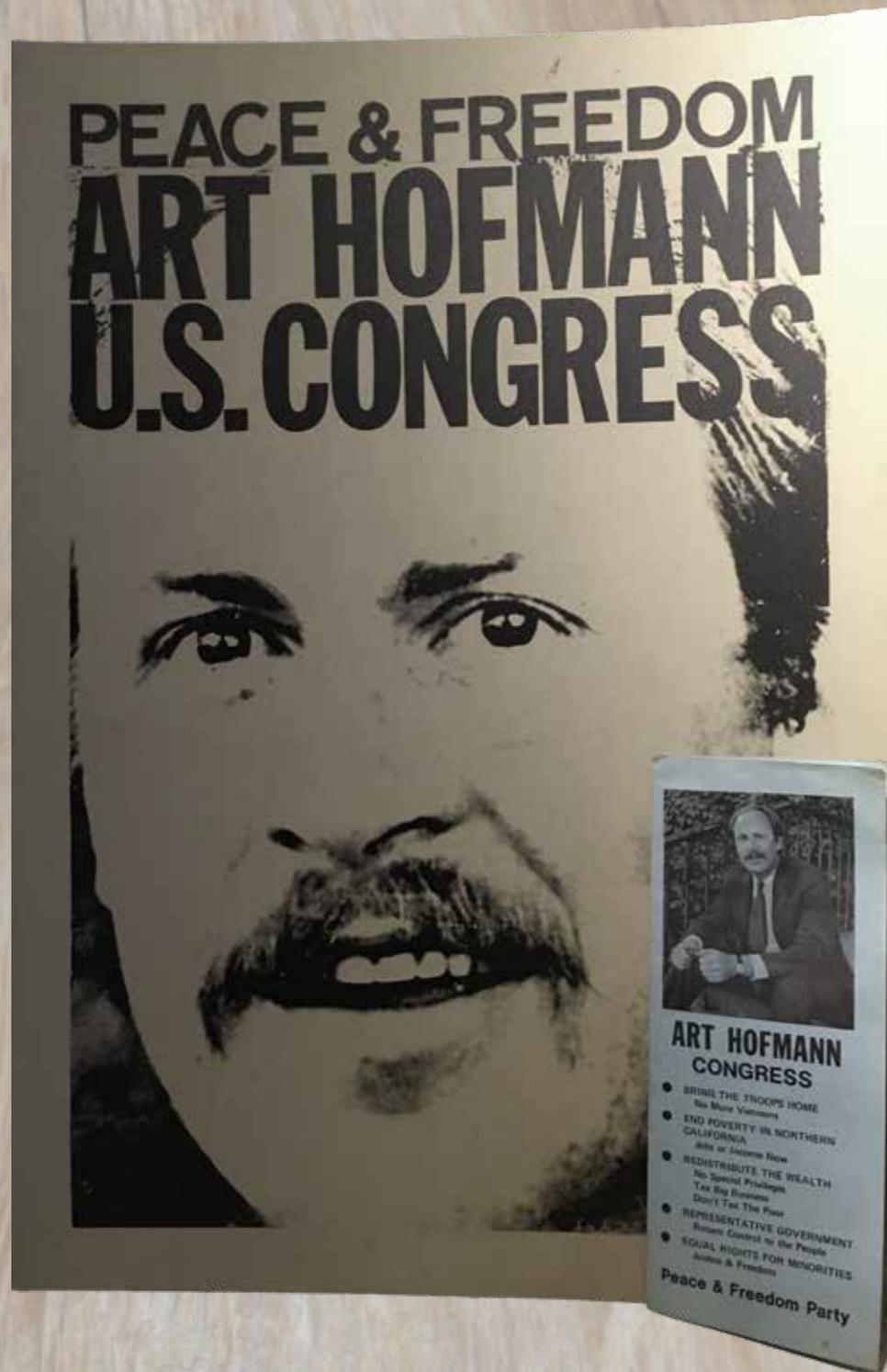
Mark concluded the evening with a demonstration of the classic English Arts and Crafts method of dovetail layout, using two pairs of dividers (Mark is a pins-first guy). This is the method used by everyone ever trained in the Barnsley workshop in the U.K. For more on this method, check out the Rob Cosman DVD "Hand-Cut Dovetails". Cosman got it from Alan Peters, who got it from Edward Barnsley.



One more once...

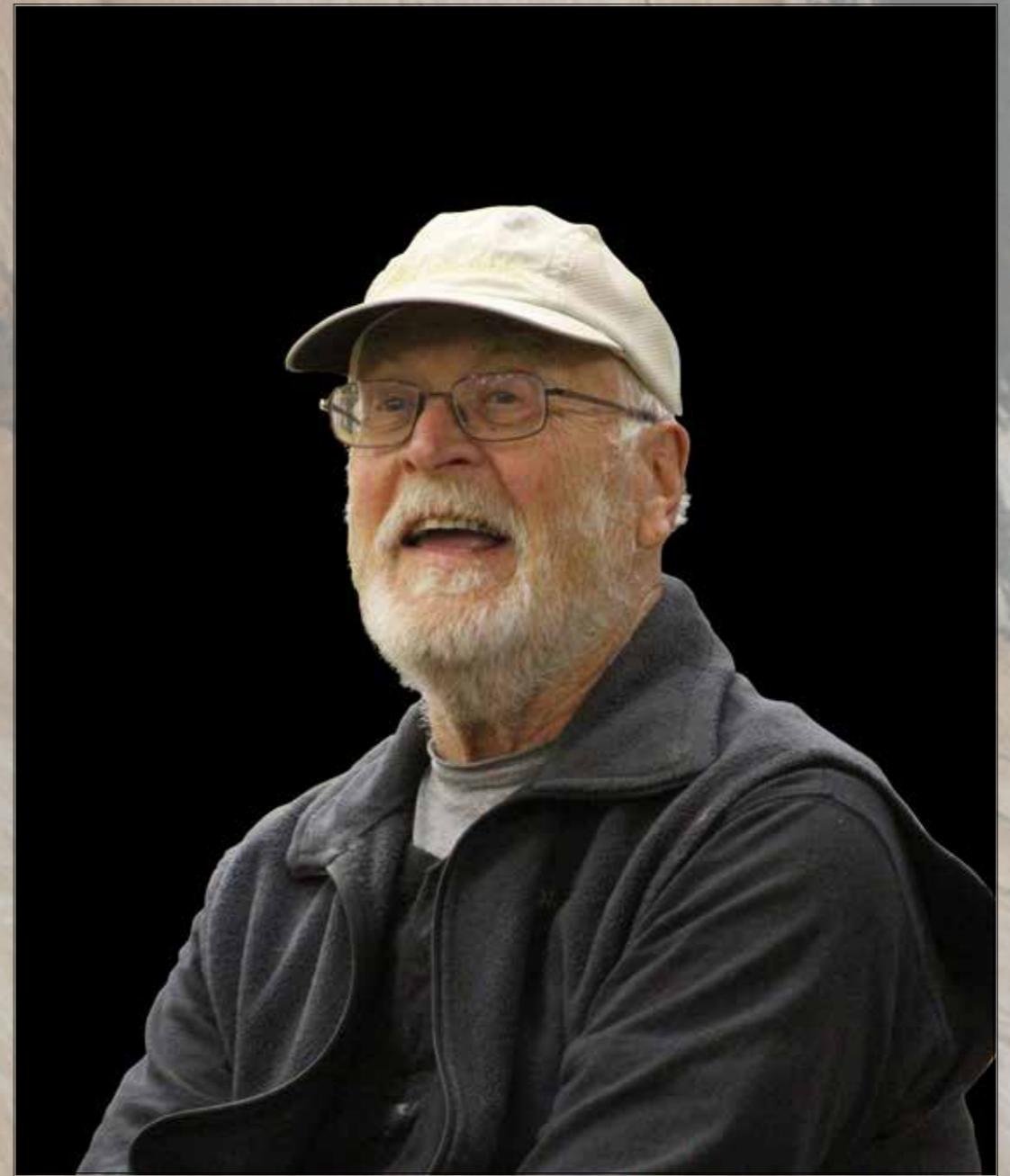
ART

Your beauty came through your hands
coaxed from grain patterns
as intricate as your life



And words drawn in one
language and experience,
brought into another with
grace and sagacity
through strong broad strokes
of the Pelikan

And feathered joys seen
through binocular or scope –
patience its own reward



Art Hofmann 1936-2019

And always that wry glint in your eye
like you knew something that the rest of us didn't,
perceived perhaps, in pulp and ink and feather

That our lives are shaped by fingers and letters
and kindnesses of strangers
and, first and foremost, by love

- Fred G. Samia

Artistry in Wood 2019

Mark your calendars: the 31st annual Sonoma County Woodworkers Association *Artistry in Wood* Show opens Friday, November 15th. The Museum of Sonoma County is again looking forward to hosting the show. Last year's show had the largest attendance for an *Artistry in Wood* exhibit.

This year's show will have the same format as in recent years. There will be five categories of entries: Furniture, Turning, Art, Small Boxes, and Miscellany. There will be Awards for "Best of Show," "Best of Category," and Awards of Excellence. We will have our November meeting at the Museum on Tuesday, November 12. This will be the Judges' night, always an interesting and instructive evening.

To view a video of last year's show entries, visit Joe Scannell's superbly produced slide show at:

<https://vimeo.com/308006908>

Finally, I want to encourage Association members to read the in-depth article written by Bill Taft and Art Hofmann on the history of the show (*Wood Forum*, May 2018):

<http://www.sonomawoodworkers.com/resources/Documents/WF%20Archive/2018/2018-5%20SCWA%20newsletter%20sfs.pdf>

Don Jereb

Artistry in Wood Chairperson



It Takes Two Hands by Les Cizek



Photos by Debbie Wilson

Unity by Kent Parker



What's Underground by Paul Feinstein

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|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
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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. 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