



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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Help Wanted

As of this writing there are less than two weeks until the November 4th Drop-Off Day, when the *Artistry in Wood* entries have to be delivered to the Museum. A short nine days after that, the Show opens, on Saturday, November 13th.

Show Chair Don Jerb has once again expended enormous energy in getting things ready. Among other things, this year we have online entry processing, which should greatly streamline things on Drop-Off Day.

On November 2nd and 3rd Don needs a crew to help with gallery preparation, so if you're someone who believes in All Work and No Pay, he needs your help. Please let Don know via email that you are available.

As mentioned, entry submission day at the Museum is Thursday, November 4th, 9AM-5PM. Volunteers are also needed on that day.

Monday, November 8th is Photo Shoot day, another day on which volunteers are needed.



2018 Photo Shoot, Debbie Wilson and volunteers

The Judges Night Meeting is Tuesday, November 9th, 7PM-9PM. This will be our first live meeting since... I can't even remember. Be there for the reunion.

The following two days, November 10th and 11th, will be spent finalizing the gallery setup, for which volunteers are also needed.

So, there is a great deal to be done in the next two weeks. Hope to see you there.

One final note: in order to make our members as comfortable and safe as possible at this indoor venue, the SCWA Board of Directors has unanimously decided that all meeting attendees must be vaccinated for Covid, and must wear a mask while inside the Museum building.



The Judges Night Meeting convenes at 7pm on Tuesday, November 9th.

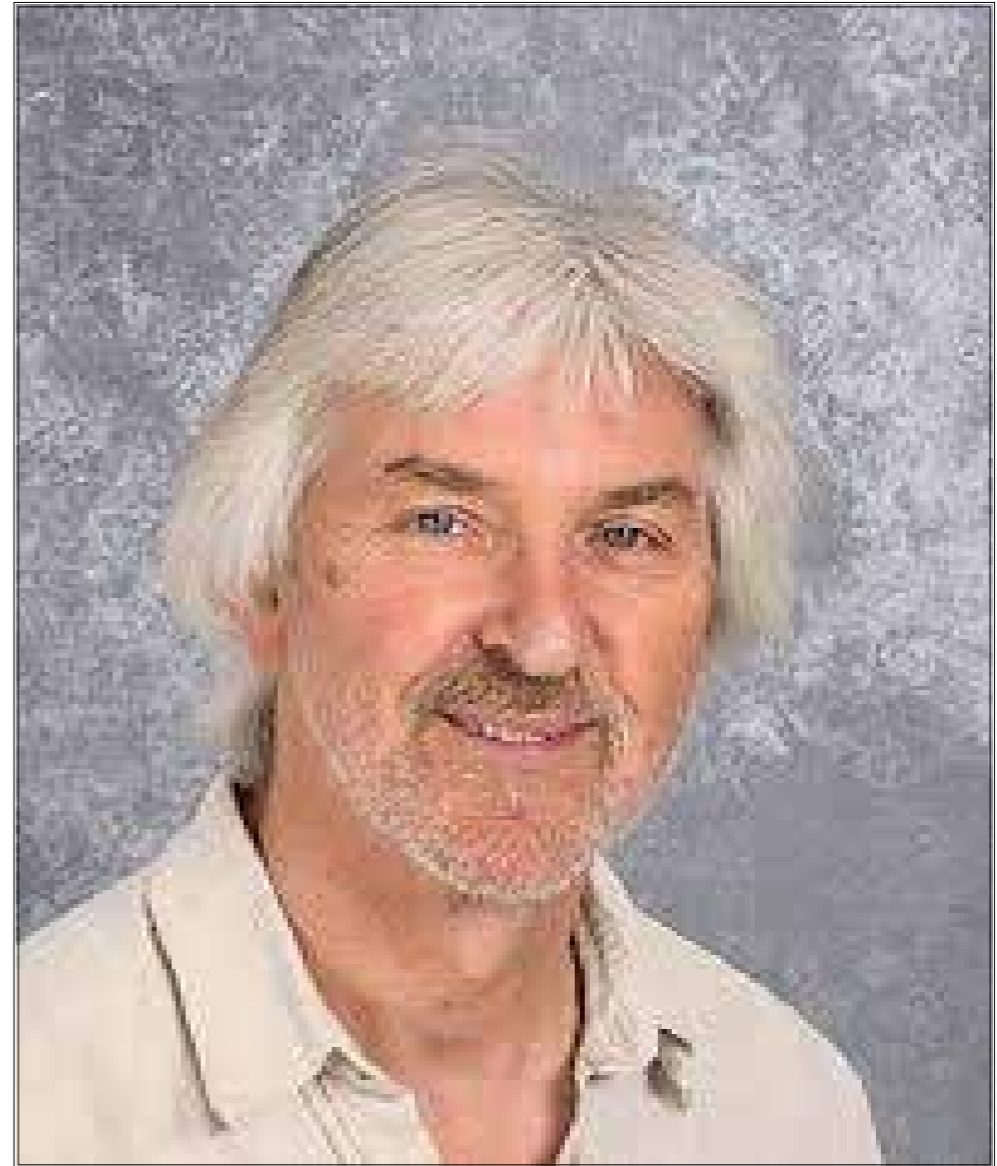
These are our judges



Brad Adams is a woodturner from Benicia. After careers in fisheries biology and computer networking, he began woodturning full time in 2004. He is well known within the turning community and has taught numerous classes and workshops as far away as New Zealand. He has been featured in *Creative Wood* magazine and his work has appeared in the *American Woodturner*. His work is sold on The Embarcadero through the San Francisco Arts Commission and from his online website.



Pat Kirkish and her husband, Steve, have created and managed Dovetail Collection, one of the most respected galleries on the West Coast dedicated to fine woodworking. The gallery has built a nationwide reputation for its incredible collection of American handcrafts, with an emphasis on handcrafted wood furniture. Ms. Kirkish evaluates three-dimensional works across a set of criteria which includes artistry, craftsmanship, functionality, and emotional appeal.

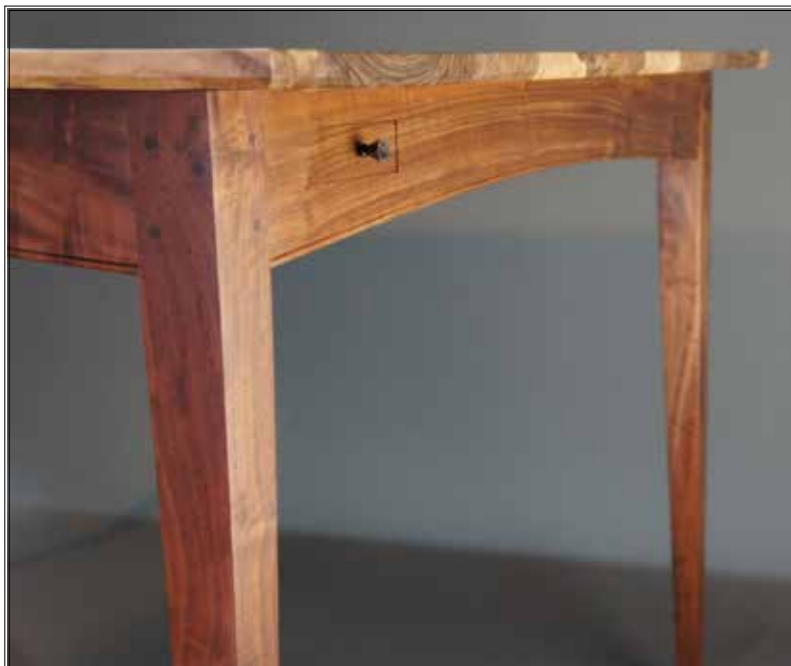


John Lavine has been involved in furniture and woodworking for 40 years, as a maker, teacher, magazine editor and writer. In 1980 he started Kodama Woodworks, a one-person shop combining his study of Japanese woodworking with contemporary furniture. He has exhibited his work nationally and is a master member of the Baulines Craft Guild. From 1997-2008 John was the editor of *Woodwork* magazine. During that same period he also taught furniture-making part-time at Laney College in Oakland. He was a founding board member of the San Francisco Museum of Craft + Design, and continues to participate on its Advisory Board. He is a member of the Furniture Society. Presently, he teaches woodworking at Westmoor High School in Daly City.

Meanwhile, back in the Shop...



Don Jereb sent in these photos of a writing desk he completed earlier this year for a friend. She had previously purchased a mobile from him, and was in need of a writing desk for her office that would double as a card table when guests were over to play bridge. Originally, she didn't have a clear idea of the wood she wanted, other than no cherry. They made a Covid limiting trip (separate cars) to a Claro Walnut dealer near Woodland (thewalnutplace.com), sorted through some beautiful Claro and Paradox walnut, and came up with a figured Paradox top and Claro base. Don says construction was fairly straightforward, utilizing techniques from a simple Shaker style writing desk by Christian Becksvoort (*Fine Woodworking* #81 March/April 1990). He altered it a bit to include arched aprons, and a somewhat hidden side drawer to hold two decks of cards.





Dominique Charmot was recently toying with a simple process to make textured surfaces using veneered material and a router. He used it to make simple jewel boxes (as gifts for an upcoming trip to France) and an octagonal box (seen here) coined “monolith”. The latter involves a spring loaded button at the bottom to open the box, small ball bearings to slide the drawers set in and out, and small 1/8” inch magnets to close it.



The holiday season wouldn't be the same without hearing from **Bill Taft**...



Every year I make Christmas presents for our six grandchildren. This year the pandemic changed things, as I had a lot more time to work on the presents because we could not do many of the things that normally consume some of my time. It was September and the presents were finished.

Early this year I wrote a short children's story about the activities of the birds at the lake that Anne and I walk around. I decided that I would try to create an illustrated children's book. As I got into it, thinking that I might even get it published, the illustrating part became a major task. An illustrated children's book typically has 32 pages, which means 32 illustrations. It kept me occupied for the winter and I ended up making a lot of illustrations about our local birds. I don't have any plans to publish the book except for copies to give to family members.



With the book completed I ended up with lots of drawings of local birds, the birds that live at the lake. I used two of the bird drawings, a House Wren and a Song Sparrow, to make two small marquetry pictures, thinking that these pictures might make nice Christmas gifts for our grandchildren. Once these pictures were finished I had second thoughts about giving hanging pictures to our grandchildren again. Two of them are currently away at college and no longer have any place to hang a picture. So, the two pictures that I made are hanging on the wall above our kitchen table.

Anne has a small rectangular pottery box made by Royal Crown Derby displayed on her night stand. It is part of her Posey Pattern collection. It has a very delicately shaped cover. I thought, wouldn't a



small box with a little bird inlaid into a delicately shaped cover make a nice Christmas gift? I made one to see if I liked it. Then I made the other five boxes. A House Wren is the story teller in the book that I wrote. I have many drawings of it as it appears on many pages. I used the main drawing of it for the bird image on the box top.

I made a drawing of another smaller Wren that was inlaid into one corner of the bottom of the box. All of the marquetry was 'double bevel' marquetry, done on a scroll saw.

I use 1/8th inch thick veneers for marquetry. The pieces of the birds were cut into a piece of 1/8th inch thick birch plywood and then the completed birds were cut into the box top and bottom. The box bottom is also 1/8th inch thick and therefore the bird image appears on both the inside and outside of the box.

The box tops are 5/16th inch thick and the Wrens were cut into the tops so that the outer surface was flush with the surface of the tops. Both the 'plug' from the top and the Wren marquetry are glued into the top. The projection of the plug on the back side, the inside, of the tops was

removed by making a skim cut on my table saw. At the same time I cut a rabbet around the edges in the inside surface to produce a ledge that fit the inside of the box.



The outer surface of the tops is contoured. I made a shallow angle cut on the edges of the top and then sanded the surface to get the contour that I liked.

Two of the boxes are Birdseye Maple and the other four boxes are Maple. All of the box pieces were sanded before assembling the boxes. The boxes have mitered corners and the bottoms are retained in a groove. The corners and the bottoms are glued using Elmer's White Glue. All of the pieces were hand sanded using a sanding block. I started with 100 grit, then 150 grit and then 220 grit to get the finishes surfaces. The marquetry surfaces were sanded with 320grit sandpaper to remove all the cross grain scratches.

The boxes were finished with two coats of Minwax Polyurethane clear satin varnish, wiped on using a folded rag as a brush. The tops received three or four coats in order to fill in the grain in some of the marquetry pieces. I finished the box bottoms and the inside surfaces of the box sides before gluing the boxes together. All of the surfaces are as finished. They did not require any sanding or polishing.

Making these gifts was fun for me, a great way to occupy my time during the pandemic.



And the last story this month is from SCWA Treasurer **Judi Garland**, whose tables are seen in the photos. Judi tells the following story.

The saga of the cherry mission-style end tables begins several years ago. A friend (Ellen) from college commissioned me to make two end tables for her and her family. I had just moved to Sonoma County and was renting a cottage in Forestville. My shop equipment was in storage, so I was working in a co-op space in Berkeley called Joshua Tree. It was located next door to the Wooden Duck warehouse, just off I-80.

Ellen and I collaborated on the design and I got to work. I traveled to Berkeley a few times a week to work on the tables. All the components were ready for a final glue-up when a fire broke out in the Wooden Duck warehouse and completely destroyed the Joshua Tree collective. Most of the table components had smoke and water damage and roof tar had dripped on some. It was heartbreaking because I was so close to finishing the tables. I decided against trying to salvage any of the wood that had been damaged.

Once I recovered from the heartbreak (it took a while), I contacted my friend to make sure she still wanted the tables. Her response was a resounding and enthusiastic “YES!” I got back to work. Doing the job over again allowed me the opportunity to fine tune my techniques and some of the details. I collaborated with

Mike Center on some of the details and worked in his shop after 180 Studios closed. I built a jig to make the mortises for the spindles and carefully matched tops and bottoms to ensure that they would be vertical. I learned new techniques, new approaches and used new tools to complete this project

and put the pedal to the metal for four days in early June 2021. I spent a little time stopping to sightsee along the way, but my focus was on covering the 1,787 miles between my home in Guerneville and my friend’s in Texas. It wasn’t too long before I realized I was too old to be doing this!



I finally finished the tables. So my task now was to deliver them to Ellen, who lives in Arlington, Texas. After 15 months of COVID lockdown, isolation and other restrictions, I was ready for a road trip! I plotted out my trip so that I did not drive more than 6 hours a day, stopping first in Mojave, CA, Winslow, AZ and Tucumcari, NM. I dubbed it my musical journey. I packed up the car and my two Vizslas, Remy and Kiva,

I had a wonderful visit with the McDonald family in Arlington. They were absolutely thrilled with the tables, my reward for making the trip. The icing on the cake was going to a Texas Rangers baseball game while the SF Giants were in town. After my visit with the McDonalds, I continued east to Mineola, TX to visit another friend, Helen, who had recently moved there from LA. We worked together in SF in the 70s and had lost touch until shortly before my trip. I headed back west, staying in Lubbock, TX, another stop on my musical odyssey. I now had some time to explore along the way to meeting another friend, Joan, in Flagstaff, AZ. Joan and I were VISTA volunteers in Yakima, WA in the 70s. We camped for a few days and enjoyed our time together despite the heat. Joan lives in

Tucson but escapes to the mountains when it gets too hot in June.

It was HOT and humid in Texas as one would expect. But in Flagstaff it was unexpectedly hot as the elevation there is over 7000 feet. We visited Sedona, AZ on a 103 degree day. This was in mid-June when the entire west was in the grip of a major heat wave. So once again

I headed west. I had a reservation in Lake Havasu City, AZ, which was on my bucket list. But that day it was 118 degrees so I just kept driving until I got to San Bernardino. It had cooled down about 20 degrees by the time I got there.

My last visit on this trip was with Carolynn in El Segundo. Carolynn was also a VISTA volunteer with Joan and me. It was great to be oceanside again, and we had an enjoyable visit. I left



after a few days for points north and home. I took the coastal route and stayed in Morro Bay, a place I had not been before. The highlight of my trip home was stopping on the beach to run the dogs. I had never seen so many intact sand dollars before. I struck up a conversation with a woman on the beach about the sand dollars. As it turned out she had left where she lives in Lake Havasu City when it was 118 degrees for coastal relief.

Now it was time to finish the trip. I think the dogs were ready to be home, though they were quite adaptable and happy on our trip. I was ready to be home, having accomplished my mission. So we hit the road for the last leg of the trip. Home Again. Home Again. Jiggety jig.



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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