



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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Cockatoo inspired by Ohara Koson by Greg Zall

www.sonomawoodworkers.com

No headline this month; the picture is the headline. As we approach the opening of *Artistry in Wood 2023*, this beautiful work of marquetry by the late Greg Zall, inspired by a print made by Japanese artist Ohara Koson in the early 20th century, seems fitting in many ways. Greg, the consummate teacher who so generously shared his time with us and inspired so many of us in ways we may not even realize. You are missed, Greg.

Membership "Meeting"

October 10, 2023

Well, our first stab at what appears to be society's direction of the future, remote meetings, has met with mixed reviews. It is nice to hear from accomplished and respected craftsmen and craftswomen, and **Gary Rogowski** of The Northwest Woodworking Studio certainly fills that bill. In his nearly two hour long discussion of mistakes we all have made, Gary shared his solutions to quite a few.

He began by emphasizing that all of us - amateur and professional - make mistakes. Generally, professionals recover faster because they have made them before and already have a strategy. But nobody is immune.

The presentation basically consisted of two 20 minute videos interspersed with Q&A periods.

In the first he began by repairing a drilled hole that suffered tearout caused by unsupported fibers. His solution was to make the hole larger (he used a plunge router to do this) and make a plug to fill it. Of course, you need a plug cutter that matches your router bit. But at least this gives you another shot at a clean hole. With careful grain selection and orientation of the plug, most people will not notice the repair. Of course, you must resist that urge to point out your mistake!

Another fix involved getting rid of a dent in a piece of wood. If the fibers have been compressed but not torn, application of a drop of water can "reinflate" the wood. Gary's method improves on this basic truth



by applying a wet cloth and heat from a soldering iron to generate steam, which really speeds things up. An important caveat: Don't scorch the wood!

So you have a great piece of wood, but it has a small hole that cannot be avoided, perhaps insect damage. Gary's trick is to fill it with a mixture of epoxy and sawdust. But

first he excavates around the hole, stretching it out into a cigar shape like we often see as pin knots. The objective is not to make it disappear, but to look like something that

is naturally seen in wood. So the epoxy/sawdust color doesn't have to match the wood, it just has to appear a natural part of it. He fills it with his mixture and lets it cure awhile. Before it sets hard, he pares it flat with a chisel, and then finishes with a light sanding.

Woods that are high in tannin can react with iron in the presence of water and leave unsightly and permanent stains in the wood. This can often happen during a glue-up. But it doesn't have to be permanent. An application of oxalic acid, available at the paint store and diluted in warm water, will make things right. It even works through a finish. It does not bleach the wood; it just removes the iron oxide.

He illustrated his method for dressing up loose fitting mortise and tenon joints. He recommends re-cutting the tenon so that it is significantly smaller, perhaps as much as 1/8", then gluing on new cheeks and starting over. Hopefully it will be necessary to replace only one of the cheeks.



A similar fix can be applied to a loose fitting dovetail joint. He demonstrated doing so on a single dovetail that was already glued up and fit poorly. He whittled a very small wedge of the same wood, but it was still too thick to fit into the crevice, so he compressed the fibers by hammering it with a steel hammer until it fit. The trick is to drive it into place quickly, because the moisture in the glue will quickly expand the wedge.



In the final segment Gary demonstrated his method of correcting a wobbly chair or table, caused most often by an out-of-square glue up. The fix is, of course, to shorten one or two of the legs until they are all sitting on the same plane. He installs a flat ground blade in his table saw, and sets its height to a scant 1/32" above the table. Then he starts with one of the "long" legs and determines what part of the foot is actually making contact with the saw table. That is where he begins removing material, which he does by passing the leg over the blade in a freehand motion as seen here. It is important to keep checking the bottom of the leg, and stop before you've removed the entire original surface. Then check for wobble, and if necessary repeat the operation on the opposite leg. Stop before your chair becomes a footstool.





Dugan Essick, our longtime member from Grass Valley, participated in a local Open Studios event recently up there in the foothills. You will remember Dugan for his rocking chairs that seem to defy the imagination, thanks to carbon fiber. He also makes other things, of course, and conducts woodworking classes in his shop. If you haven't been up there, add it to your To-Do list.

STUDIO #7
15087 LOST LANE
GRASS VALLEY

OPEN STUDIOS
SATURDAY & SUNDAY | OCTOBER 21.22
10am- 5pm



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. 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 4663, Santa Rosa, CA 95402