



# WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

[www.sonomawoodworkers.com](http://www.sonomawoodworkers.com)

Volume 30 Number 12

December 2010

## November meeting: Evening with Michael Cullen



Collaborative bowl by: Chuck Quibell, Michael Cullen, Barbara Cullen

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## Calendar

December -11 (Saturday) Holiday Party - Don Ajello is the host

January 11th - Don Naples

February 8th - Merryll Saylan

March 1st - TBD

## Election of Officers

At the last meeting, the annual election of officers was held. The current Chairman, Michael Wallace, asked for a resolution to suspend the voting process and accept the slate as proposed in last month's newsletter with the late introduction of Michael Burwen to be the Publicity Coordinator. The proposal was seconded and accepted by the attending members.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Elected Officer 2011</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	Bill Taft
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Tom Segura
<b>Program Chairman</b>	Art Hofmann
<b>Secretary</b>	Bill Hartman
<b>Treasurer</b>	George Nostrant
<b>Show Chairman</b>	Michael Wallace
<b>Wood Forum Editor</b>	Michael Wallace
<b>Guild Chairman</b>	Larry Stroud
<b>Publicity Coordinator</b>	Michael Burwen
<b>Video Librarian</b>	Dennis Lashar
<b>Seminar Coordinator</b>	Larry Stroud
<b>Post Officer</b>	George Nostrant
<b>Web Page Master</b>	Michael Wallace
<b>Photographer</b>	

## November Meeting notes by Michael Venables

On November 9th, Michael Cullen, the featured speaker focused on the art of collaboration. To explain his points, Michael gave a PowerPoint presentation on his various collaborative activities. The notes below are reflective of that talk.

Michael Cullen's slide show took the attendees on a brief tour of his work, then transitioned into a look at some of his adventures in collaboration with others — not just with other artists but at events intended simply to foster a spirit of fun, excitement, and fluid creativity. He offered the following maxims.

### **On Inspiration.**

“There are no rules. The key to making things, to creating things, is that you don't create rules. The minute you start creating rules,

even the size of the piece of paper you're drawing on can become a constraint. If you're drawing something and you get close to that edge and you start worrying about it, it's like you're stepping into the middle of a freeway. Sometimes the best idea is to just use a bigger notebook, or use a roll of paper so that you can just keep on going.

My main tool is the notebook. I like to draw and some of my drawings are formal — but they don't have to be. I start all kinds of notebooks and I always have them with me, so that if I have an idea, I'll write it down. The other thing is that I always have a camera with me. I'm completely addicted. I'm always taking photos. It gives you a memory of something.

“Everywhere you look, all around you, there are things that can catch your eye and capture your attention.”

### **On Collaboration.**

“You don't have to go to a place that has 100 people. You can come out to a shop that has two or three people and just have fun making some stuff. It doesn't have to be formal. You don't have to worry about a client, you don't have to worry about the gallery owner not liking what you did. If it doesn't work out, you can throw it away. It's not that big of a deal. The thing is to have fun.

The secret to collaboration is that it's not subcontracting. Subcontracting is “you don't know how to do it, so you need somebody else to do it.”

I usually hope there's not a well-defined leader on a collaborative project, because if it's too orchestrated, that will kill it because then it's just executing their vision.

It's better to just have an idea and let everybody run with it.”

Below are some collaborative pieces Michael has done with other artists. The first is one of several outdoor sculptures he did while working in France. The second, is a small box of toys that he and other people made.



## John deMarchi's Chisel Sale

This is a rare opportunity to buy some really great chisels. John was able to bring some of these to our last meeting and they were snapped up. The prices are extremely fair and John has taken very good care of them. The heft on some the larger ones sure beats what you can buy today. The value of these chisels exceeds what John is selling them for. A really great buy for yourself or perhaps as a holiday present.

Please call John to arrange a time for you to stop by.

### **Description:**

These chisels run in size from 1/8" to 2" and are mostly of the firmer type and most are made from cast steel, the best.

The handles are made from many different exotic and domestic hard woods, the pattern is one I find very comfy and it can be struck with a wooden mallet with considerable force. They are all unique so they have to be seen and felt rather than described.

There are several large carpenters gouges that have been in my collection for 40 years or so and are hard to find in long lengths and in fine shape.

I have added some more chisels this past week and I think I am finished making handles and fitting chisels for a long while.

I think that there are over 40 chisels at this point, so plenty to choose from.

My number is 795-5047 and the price range is mostly 25 to 35 dollars. A tool collector friend said that the price hardly covered the price of the handles, but it makes me feel good to see them back at work!

John deMarchi

## People's Choice Award

On November 9th, Bill Taft, Show Director, made a presentation of the People's Choice Award to Grif Okie. The People's Choice Award is determined by the public as they viewed the Artistry in Wood show. It's a balloting process and the count was overseen by a number of members to insure accuracy and fairness.

This award is the only monetary award given out during the Artistry in Wood Show. Grif's Koa Rolltop Desk won decidedly over his nearest competitors.

Good going Grif!



## A Thank You From Diane Evans

This year, the SCWA gave the Sonoma County Museum a \$1,000 donation. This was the second time that the Association gave this type of gift to the museum. For the last 22 years, we have held the annual Artistry in Wood Show at the museum and will be doing so again in 2011.

On September 10, we received a nice thank you note from the museum's Executive Director - Diane Evans.

In her letter, Diane thanks us for our contribution and notes that this year, due in part to our contribution, the exhibiting artists would receive free admission to the museum during the 2010 exhibition. She continues to note that the museum has welcomed over 25,000 visitors every year to include 6,000 school children.

We all know how important the show is our Association. I do hope that you had the opportunity to see other exhibits at the museum this past year. Diane and her team strive to attract interesting artists and their works and this year was no exception.

If you have any ability to do so, a museum membership is a wonderful way of supporting the work that the museum does. While the discount that applied during our exhibit is no longer available, it is still a bargain given the costs of museum shows in general.

The museum is in a partnership with others to move its main exhibit space to the AT&T building, which is planned for a major renovation. The new exhibit hall will more than double the space that the museum currently has and will attract even more people.

Given our relationship with the museum has been strengthened due to our recent contribution, we should find ourselves enjoying even more visibility when the new space becomes available.

*You are cordially invited to  
the SCWA Annual Holiday Party*

*When: December 11*

*Time: 3:00p.m.*

*Where: 570 Piezzi Rd Santa Rosa*

*Host: Don Ajello and Linda Illsley*

*Guests are welcomed*

**Directions: 570 Piezzi Rd is between Hall and Occidental Rd. The house is at the T intersection of Piezzi and Country Club Dr Drive on the east side of the street. There are two large stone columns with lights on them at the street.**

**Please bring a dish to share.**

## From the Chairman

The cold season is upon us! My fingers feel like ice at times and since my shop isn't heated, I'm not motivated to get out there. I hope it warms up slightly. Looks like if I am going to work in my shop during these winter months, I need to invest in some nice insulated boots. I did some quick Internet shopping to get an idea - boy are these things expensive! I looked for steel-toed boots because last month, my hands slipped as I was putting up my router table and it fell on my foot. OUCH! I was lucky. It hurt like heck but I don't think I actually broke the toe. My shop accidents (oh, like you never had one?), seem to be of this order (thank goodness). I am very, very careful around sharp spinning things, like saw blades.

A group of us met to discuss the program agenda for 2011 and we have some really great (well they are all great) meetings. Ron Hock and Kevin Drake will be visiting us, as will Merryll Saylan. Our Artistry in Wood show looks like it will be in June in 2011. I'm working with the museum to pin down the exact dates.

Say, if you haven't seen John deMarchi's chisel inventory, call him up and go over to his shop. I got a really nice firmer 2" from him and it's a real nice piece of tooling. John has several more for sale and they make great gifts for yourself or perhaps that someone special.

This is my last column as your chairman. It has been a pleasure serving you all in this capacity. One of my goals was to know more about the members and to that end, I think I did well. I had hoped that I would have got to know more but it is what it is. I really do enjoy the times in which we have an opportunity to just socialize. The upcoming annual holiday party is one such time. I do hope you can make it on the 11th.

With that, I'll simply close here by wishing you a wonderful holiday season. Please have a safe one. I hope we all have a great year next year.

See you at the meeting!

Michael

# WOOD FORUM

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## Officers

Chairman	Michael Wallace	824-1013
Vice Chairman	Carl Johnson	473-9505
Program Director	Art Hofmann	542-9767
Secretary	Bill Hartman	696-0966
Treasurer	George Nostrant	538-3398
Show Chairman	Bill Taft	794-8025
Wood Forum Editor	Michael Wallace	824-1013
Guild Chairman	Larry Stroud	823-1775
Publicity Coordinator	Bill Taft	794-8025
Video Librarian	Dennis Lashar	538-9793
Seminar Coordinator	Larry Stroud	823-1775
Post Officer	George Nostrant	538-3398
Web Page		
Photographer		

**Join Us!** The Sonoma County Woodworkers Association is a 31-year old association of over one hundred professional and amateur woodworkers who meet monthly at members' shops to share experiences, ideas, techniques, and mutual enjoyment for creating with wood. Membership entitles you to attend monthly meetings, receive Wood Forum, our monthly newsletter, attend our annual show, and apply for seminars and demonstrations. Annual dues, payable at the beginning of each calendar year, are \$25. New members joining after September 30 may, for \$35, have their membership extend through December 31 of the following year. Please consider joining the SCWA and meeting people who, like yourself, are interested in the art and business of fine woodworking. Send dues to:

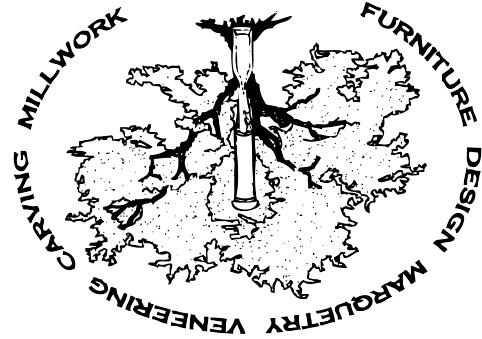
**PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA**

**95402 Santa Rosa, CA 95402**

*Wood Forum* is the monthly newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association. Please feel free to submit articles, notices, photographs, announcements, and comments for inclusion in the publication. Advertisements are accepted with a per-entry cost of \$5 per column inch. All submissions for the January issue must be received by December 20, 2010. You may submit your entries to the editor listed below.

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**Wood Forum 5**



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I would like to join the SCWA and meet other people who are interested in the craft, the art, and the business of fine woodworking. Here is my application. I have enclosed a check for the annual dues of \$25 that covers my subscription to Wood Forum and entitles me to attend the monthly meetings.

Send check and completed application to: Sonoma County Woodworkers Association  
PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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PROFESSION AND WOODWORKING INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Wood Forum 6 \_\_\_\_\_