



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

www.sonomawoodworkers.com

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March 2010

February Meeting: An evening with Jerry Kermode



Inside:
March Meeting notice
February meeting notes
Calendar
College of the Redwoods exhibit
From the Chairman

March Meeting

Who: Joe Amaral

When: March 2, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Where: Rancho Cotate High School

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 2 in the Bill Hartman's woodshop at Rancho Cotate High School and will once again feature the expert finisher Joe Amaral. Joe will focus on the practical aspects of finishing, in particular the choice of finishes for new furniture and for the kinds of jobs we might encounter in our own shops. Please bring questions and problems encountered from your own experience.

Rancho Cotate High School is on Snyder Lane south of Rohnert Park Expressway and north of East Cotati Avenue. The address is 5450 Snyder Lane. The main parking lot is on the north side of the campus. After leaving your car, walk east towards the hills, past several buildings and fences until you see the woodshop cyclones. We'll try to put out a sign or two.

February Meeting by Ron White/Bill Hartman.

Business Notes

February's meeting was held at Jerry Kermode's shop in Sebastopol on Tuesday the 2nd. Michael Wallace opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. We had one new member, Bernardo Fernandez from Ukiah, who is a general contractor interested in improving his woodworking skills.

Michael Venables announced that Santa Rosa Tool would be soon closing. Santa Rosa Tool has been a fixture of Sonoma County since 1964. It is sad our economy is taking away resources that will be much needed in the future.

George is collecting dues and soon renewal notices will be going out.

Jerry Kermode

Dennis Lasher introduced internationally known turner and teacher Jerry Kermode. Jerry does shows and seminars across the U.S. And teaches turning at his Sebastopol shop as well as locations throughout the U.S. Jerry spent 22 years in Hawaii where Dennis recently spent 3 weeks avoiding our recent series of storms. Jerry, who has been a lifelong woodworker, started as a building contractor and started turning for his Victorian restoration business in Santa Cruz. Jerry and Deborah moved to Hawaii in 1978 and that is where he started turning green wood. Dennis Lasher then introduced Jerry and Deborah Kermode. Jerry is an internationally recognized woodturner and teacher, who has his own distinctive style of turning bowls.

Jerry has been a woodworker most of his life, and lived in Santa Cruz for some time before moving to Hawaii in the 1970s. It was in Hawaii that woodturning became his dominant practice. Jerry noted that there are around 200

different species of wood available on the islands. He and Deborah moved to the mainland in 2001, settling in Sonoma County. He started his own school, and since 1991 he has only turned, exhibited in shows, and taught.

In addition to his classes at his shop just about every Saturday and Sunday, Jerry will be teaching at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur on April 16th -18th, and exhibiting and demonstrating on July 10th-11th in Eureka at the Wood Fair. He will also be teaching at the College of the Redwoods later in July (12th-15th) - a 2 day show covering all types of woodworking. Jerry will be again demonstrating. Right after this, Jerry will be teaching 3 days at the College of the Redwoods. At the same time Deborah will teach a marketing class for artists and woodworkers.

As this was a demonstration meeting, Jerry selected an "old piece of wood" to demonstrate his process of creating a bowl, using his signature stitching of cracks and inclusions. He likes to use wood selected from the main branching of a tree, where you can obtain the compression figure in the wood. Jerry used a template to mark a circle on the blank and cut out the rough bowl on the bandsaw. Another jig was used to mark the center on both sides and then it was mounted on the chuck and live center. Jerry calls this the Non-Violent School of Wood Turning. He said to start slow and get comfortable. Jerry turns all of his pieces wet and because the wood has so much moisture it is necessary to rough out a bowl and let it further dry for up to 6 months or a year. Jerry says he stays about 300 pieces behind. Jerry showed us some of his finished bowls. They contained his signature technique which he calls stitch work, which is beautiful but initially a mystery as to how he accomplishes this.



He then began creating a bowl shape on the lathe. Jerry has a video camera and monitor set up so everyone got a clear view of his work. He showed the use of the various gouges used to shape the wood: a bowl gouge - a deep fluted gouge used to turn the outside and inside of bowls and vessels. Often these gouges have a thick shaft and long handle. There is also the spindle gouge or detail gouge - a shallow fluted gouge used to create details on spindles,

including beads (raised portions of the turning typically semi-circular in cross section) and coves (relieved portions of the turning). The parting tool - a pointed tool used to separate (part off) work from the lathe, and to create a straight edge separating large and small diameter sections. Jerry showed the latter gouges when he made a spindle.



Using his VicMarc VL300 lathe, with a 24" capacity, Jerry went through all the steps of creating one of his signature bowls. The stitches mystery was solved when he took out a biscuit cutter and using a technique that definitely is not an OSHA approved one, cut slots in his work. He fills the hole with a biscuit that he makes out of different woods. That night it was walnut. Using cyanoacrylate glue to fix the biscuit, Jerry then carves it down before finishing the bowl.



Jerry showed us the a handmade lathe he had created for faceplate turning with the help of a machinist. The plans for building your own are available from Jerry. This lathe was interesting because it was mounted in such a way that the work was not between centers, but at waist or chest high.

Jerry also used an interesting vacuum pump he named

"Igor" which he said he obtained from a friend in Hawaii. This is used with a vacuum chuck to hold the work in place with vacuum pressure to mount the bowl and finish the outside and the bottom of the bowl.

At the end, Jerry gave away the bowl he made to the lucky person who could guess the lactation period of the Hawaii monk seal. Larry Stroud came closest with his guess of 42 days (it's 5 - 6 weeks).

Jerry and Deborah supplied hot cider and cookies for all the members and answered lots of questions from those attending. The meeting adjourned shortly after 9 pm.

Calendar

March 2nd - Joe Amaral at Bill Hartman's shop in Rancho Cotate H.S.

April - 10- Design Workshops in Hayward, 11 A.M.
Saturday April

May - 4 - George Miller, wooden puzzles at Bill Hartman's classroom shop at Rancho Cotate High School

June - 1 - Karl Schumaker and Greg Zall: two approaches to marquetry at Karl Schumaker's shop in Sebastopol

College of the Redwoods exhibition by Art Hofmann

Judy Hutchinson and I drove to Ft. Bragg to catch the final day of the mid-winter College of the Redwoods furniture exhibition at the Town Hall on Main St. It was a fine show that featured mainly student work, plus two pieces by faculty members. Krenov lives on, indelibly in the work that comes from this school, and that is a very good thing. Every item is a testament to the elephant and chisels, bespeaking persistence and hard work. The lines are clean, the color comes from the wood, and the drama from the tension in the design.



Modest innovation is at work as well. Old forms are evoked and new elements are added. What I find interesting is that this is the work of young people - mainly - who value real tradition. Artist's statements accompanied every work, some of which were trenchant, some poignant and others revealing. Many express a sentiment that concerned hearth and home and the families that live there. Some employ pieces of wood

that come from an uncle, who was a woodworker in the past, another seeks to evoke a homestead somewhere, and then there were keepsake boxes, sewing boxes, a box for a family Bible, a spice rack. Earth elements are summoned, too, in sunburst patterns, or Heather Trosdahl's sideboard, inspired by a walk near the ocean, resulting in the open lattice work, twisted little sticks of live oak, that produce a pattern of movement as one walks by. One student says simply, he carried some wood around for 'let's just say, a while.' The statements and the work express the makers' values. Most pieces would fit in most homes.



We liked best Michael Burn's Table for Two and John Einloth's chairs, that went very well together, though not intended necessarily that way.



Editor's note: you can see all of Art's photos at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/art.hofmann/CORFeb710FtBragg#>

The photos are a pale reflection of the real items. No attempt has been made to adjust for parallax, the colors are not all that true either, plus the names of one or two of the makers may not be quite right. Nevertheless, the pictures give an inkling of what the show intended.

For more pictures:

<http://crfinefurniture.com/1pages/exhibitions/winter10/thumbnailsmw10.html>

From the Chairman

Hello again,

Well this month has been interesting hasn't? I mean temperature/weather-wise that is. It's been more Spring-like in the last couple of weeks than the final weeks of winter. While we can certainly use more rain locally and snow in the Sierras, I do hope, like me, you've been busy in your shop doing things you want to do.

I actually did some "woodworking" this past couple of weeks. Nothing to be proud about or really exclaim, but just starting up the table saw and cutting some plywood was more than I have done in that shop is some time. It felt good.

As Chairman, I have authorized that the Officers send out a questionnaire to the membership. The results will help us to measure our current activities as well as provide input into direction for future events. While the questionnaire was to be ready for this Forum, it just didn't get there. I plan to distribute it at the March meeting and include it an email that will go out to the membership soon after. Please take to review and send your filled out form back to us. It is important.

This month's guest is Joe Amaral, a master of finishing. Last year, Joe gave us a very good overview of his background and the type of work he does, as well as a general talk about finishes in general. This time around, Joe will be concentrating on specific things you can use to apply a finish to your projects. It seems to me, after reading many a book and magazine article that there is always more than one way use or apply a specific finish. Having Joe be able to discuss his methods based upon his experiences will be extremely valuable. You just got to go to this meeting!

Very soon, you will be receiving a dues form from our Treasurer - George Nostrant. Please get these back to him as quickly as you can. Your dues pay for the variety of guest lecturers also it funds the club's ability to have a web site, have parties and other events.

Photo Credit: Jefferson Rice, Art Hofmann, Michael Wallace

WOOD FORUM

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Officers

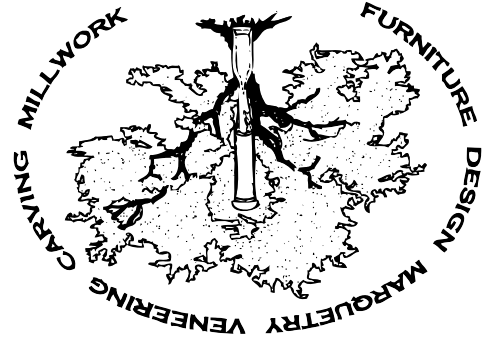
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Join Us! The Sonoma County Woodworkers Association is a 31-year old association of over one hundred professional and amateur woodworkers who meet monthly at members' shops to share experiences, ideas, techniques, and mutual enjoyment for creating with 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 March issue must be received by March 20, 2010. You may submit your entries to the editor listed below.

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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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