



# WOOD FORUM

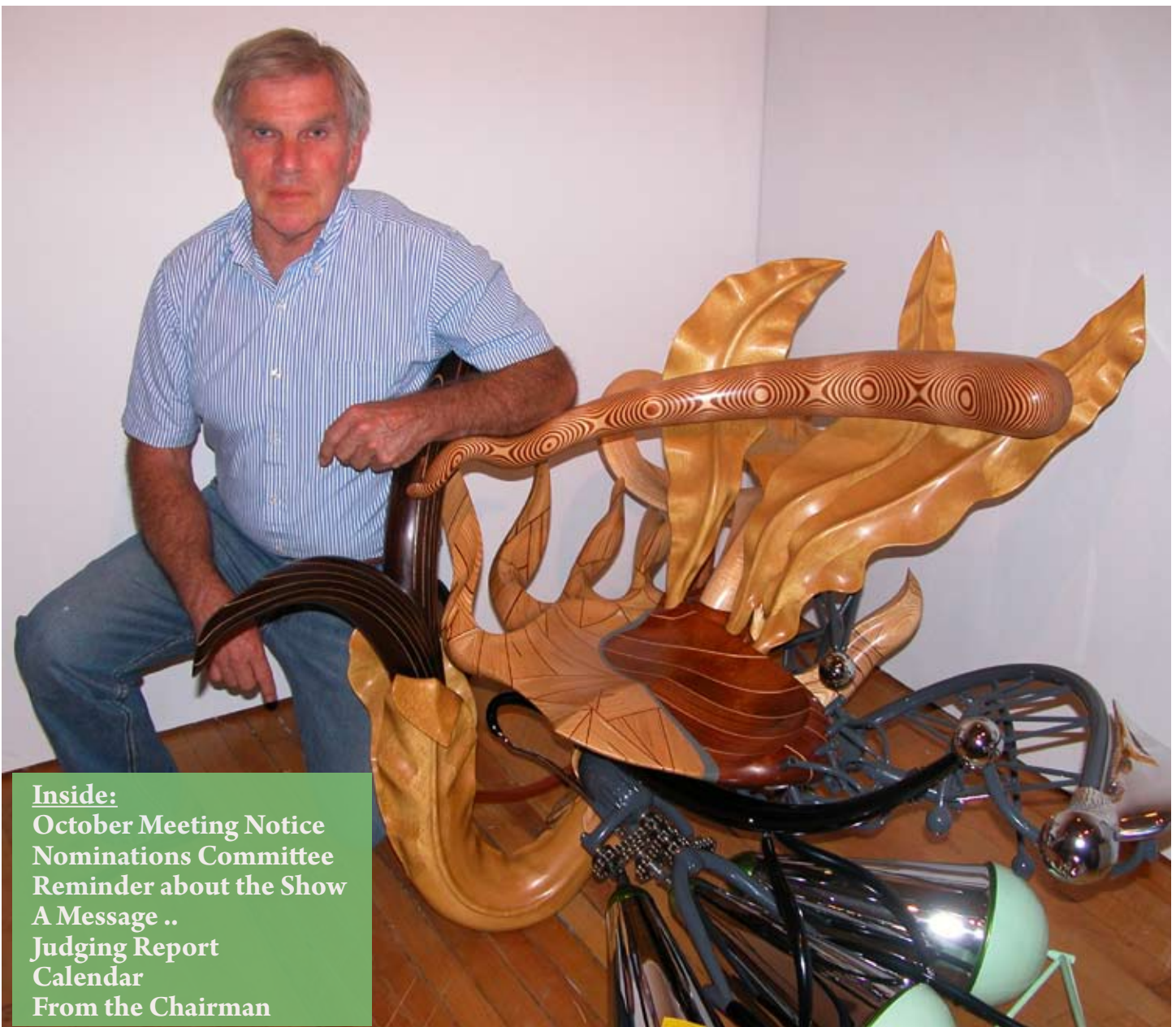
Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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

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October 2010

## Best in Show - Artistry in Wood: Michael Cooper's - "Ruby"



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## October Meeting Notice – Bill Taft

The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5th in the Artistry in Wood exhibit hall at the Sonoma County Museum, starting at 7 PM. Award certificates will be presented at this meeting and show participants will discuss their entries. The meeting will be an open forum where you may ask questions of the members during their presentations. All members with work in this year's show are encouraged to attend and talk about their entered work. Bill Taft will serve as moderator.

## Nominations Committee and Officer Nominations

In accordance with the SCWA Bylaws, the officers' nominating committee is to be formed during the September meeting. Because the "Meeting with the Judges" was held this September, this association business was postponed until the October meeting. As a result, we will be asking for members to join the nominating committee and to nominate candidates for the officer positions. Three current officers are stepping down this year. The other officers have agreed to remain in their current positions. The three open officer positions are: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Show Chairman. The nominated candidates will be announced in the November Wood Forum and the election of officers is to be held during the November meeting.

## Reminder about the Show:

**Saturday, October 9th, 12 to 4 PM – Free Family Day**

This is a Sonoma County Museum event for which we provide woodworking for children, demonstrations and more. If you would like to help with this event please contact Bill Taft.

**Sunday, October 17th, Show Closing.**

**Pick-up day for all entries is Monday, October 18th, between 9 AM and 4 PM.** Please contact Bill Taft, at wgtaft@aol.com or 707-794-8025, if you are not able to pick-up your entry on this day.

## A Message ...

Working on this year's show has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience for me. All of the comments that I have received on the show are very complimentary. Everyone likes it. All of the credit for this is because of the outstanding work that has been entered. I congratulate all of you that entered your work in this year's show.

The show would not be what it is without the help of the volunteers and the museum staff. A special thanks to Art Hofmann who has helped with every aspect for the whole year of preparation. This year's volunteer crew, so large that I decided not to try to list all of them, made preparing the

exhibit space and setting up the show seem easy. I wish to thank the Guild members for reviewing the entries and judging the amateur pieces.

A feature that makes the Artistry in Wood Shows special is the annual "Meeting with the Judges". I want to compliment this year's judges for their assessments, their diligence and their commentary. Thanks for helping make this year's Artistry in Wood Show a great success.

*Bill Taft, Show Chairman*

## 22nd Artistry in Wood Show – Judging Report

Just in case you feel that this year's show is a little more crowded than previous shows, your feelings are correct. There are 91 pieces in the show this year, almost twice the number of entries just two years ago. One more statistic that might interest you: 26 awards were made by the judges. This is more than twice the number of awards made two years ago.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7 PM by SCWA Chairman Michael Wallace. After welcoming everyone, he introduced Kris Berger, who spoke to us on behalf of the Sonoma County Museum, urging members to join. Then the meeting was turned over to Bill Taft to begin this year's "Meeting with the Judges".

After a few words of thank-you to all of the volunteers that helped with this year's Show, Bill began the evening with the Amateur Division Awards.

The SCWA Guild members had judged the amateur division entries the previous Friday afternoon. The guild member's comments were recorded and will be sent to all of those entering work in the Amateur Division.

The Guild made two awards:



The first amateur award was an Award of Merit for Scott Chilcott's "**Bowl 1**". Their comments on this bowl: "great job, well formed shape and impeccable craftsmanship".



The second award was for the Best Amateur Piece, which was awarded to Doug Nesbitt for his entry "**Downed Flying Saucer**". Their comments were; wonderful shape and good use of material.



Judges: Jim Budlong, Loy Martin, David Marks

This year's judges were introduced and Bill turned the meeting over to them for their comments and to announce the awards.

The judges were: Jim Budlong, who has been teaching for many years in the College of the Redwoods fine woodworking program, which was founded by James Krenov. After attending college, he spent some time restoring antiques and then attended the College of the Redwoods. Jim did woodworking for four years then returned to the college as a teacher. Jim received an Award of Excellence for his Krenov-style "Wall Cabinet" in the 2006 Show.

After studying art at Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz, David Marks moved to Santa Rosa and began working in cabinet and furniture shops during the 1970s. In 1981, he opened his Santa Rosa studio and built one-of-a-kind furniture. David was the host of the television program Wood Works on the DIY network. David received the Best Piece – Turning Award at last year's show for his "Alchemist's Vessel".

Loy Martin has been making one-of-kind furniture in his workshop in Palo Alto since 1982. His furniture has been shown in many of California's fine woodworking galleries. Loy's furniture has appeared in numerous magazines and has been featured in books such as Taunton Press' Design Books Four, Six and Eight. He served on the first editorial board of the Furniture Society's "Furniture Studio" series, and later served a term on the Furniture Society's Board of Trustees.

### Best ... Awards

The following entrants were given the unique awards (Best in Show, Art, Furniture, Turning).



The "Best of Show" award was given to Michael Cooper for his chair "Ruby". The judges acknowledged that they recognized this as Michael's work. They said that they used the "Best of Show" award to recognize this piece as the outstanding entry of the show.



Julie Tsivia Cohen won the "Best Piece – Art" award for her marquetry picture "Evening Squall at Great Bridge". The judges expressed their admiration for this piece. They were impressed by the use of marquetry to create a picture. They liked the use of the 'scribe marks' to show the rain.



Hugh Buttrum's "Ginkgo Leaf Ginger Jar" snagged the "Best Piece – Turning" award. The vessel has carved ginkgo leaves and the judges liked the shape and the removable top of the ginger jar.



The "Best Piece – Furniture" award was given to Craig Thibodeau for his "Maple Leaf Cabinet" entry. The judges chose this cabinet as the best furniture entry because of the fine workmanship and finish. They appreciated its design and the integration of the maple leaf marquetry. They commented on the use of

mounting the doors at a slight angle so that they would stay closed using gravity.

### Excellence Awards

The following entrants were given the Award of Excellence. The judges awarded these twenty outstanding examples for their outstanding craftsmanship, design execution and artistic approach.



Hugh Buttrum's second award for the night, was for his "Ginkgo Leaf Madrone Vessel". Like his other vessel, it also has carved ginkgo leaves.



The judges liked “**Humming Bird**” done by Karl Shumaker, for the excellent wood choice, and a wonderful sense of balance. As a general comment, they lauded the marquetry entries, a particular strength of this year’s show.



Bruce Johnson’s “**Indoor/Outdoor Table**” drew the judges curiosity for its ‘bowl’ shape and they wondered if it was hollow. The decorative copper top was noted by them as well.



The judges remarked on Tom Stockton’s “**Demilune Table**” entry for its craftsmanship, wood selection and the added touch of the pearl inlay accents.



While judges liked all of Robert Plutchok’s four entries, the award went to his “**Lizard**”. They commented that the “**Lizard**” had great tension in his body and that the use of the many small pieces of different color veneer for the scales was very well done.



Thomas’s second prizee was for his “**Chair**”. It was singled out for its nice design, slightly Asian and comfy look and for its joinery.



The judges questioned the use of the pre-made drawers in Greg Zall’s entry “**Insect Cabinet**”, but they felt the marquetry was sensational. As such they agreed that it deserved an Award of Excellence. Greg explained that the drawers were supplied by the client.



Kai Herd’s work - “**Workbench with Shelves**” was a winner in this category. The judges commented that when they initially looked at the Formica tops they wondered about it and why it would be entered in the show. Once they knew that it was a workbench, they saw the

fine joinery and the design features such as the cloud lifts, and decided that it deserved an award.



Scott Clark was a double winner in this category. The first was for his entry “**Wolf Song**”, a delightful picture of wolves made using wood-burning techniques.



The judges admired the design and the integration of wood and bronze castings of Don Ajello’s entry “**Container**”.



The second was for his big turned bowl “**March Storm**”. The judges said that they liked the shape and that it was very nicely executed for a bowl of this size and difficulty.



The judges were impressed with the details and the workmanship of “**Bench**” as executed by Rick Redus. They said that it has a nice design, although a bit commercial looking, by which they meant designed for production. .



David Hirsch’s entry “**Hinge**” got the judges attention and acknowledgment. They thought that it was well made with nice clean construction. They said that the inclusion of the machined parts was a nice touch and very well implemented. David

collaborated with John deMarchi, who fabricated the metal hinge.



William Taft nabbed an award for his entry “**Corn Cockle Vase**”. The judges said that it had an attractive shape and very nice marquetrie. They liked that it was made of formed laminations. They commented on the use of splines in the corners and the inset base in the bottom.



Ralph Carlson received two awards. The first was for his entry “**8-32 Nut Bowl**” The judges liked the free form shape of the legs of the “**8-32 Nut Bowl**” and that they were different lengths and shapes.



Andrew Wallace’s entry “**Pacific Treasure Box**” got the judges attention. Their comments included phrases like: “great box”, “nice shape” and “excellent craftsmanship”. The hand planed surfaces and the compound curved dovetail

joints were of particular interest of the judges.



Ralph’s second award was for this “**Spider Bowl**”. The committee members were surprised that these bowls were carved and not turned.



Larry Stroud was acknowledged by the judging committee with an award for his “**Cradle for Logan**” entry. They liked the design, execution, wood choice and the finish. It was, to them, a virtual “clinic” on construction elements and details such as: the form of the laminated stretchers, their associated joinery and the locking pin to secure the cradle in a fixed position.



The judges were captivated by the use of pine for the top and the nicely coopered base on Tom Segura’s “**Dragonfly Series Table**”, which netted Tom an award

## Calendar

November 9th - Michael Cullen

**Note:** Change in schedule. Second Tuesday of the month, the first Tuesday is Election Day.

December - Holiday Party - Don Ajello is the host



Paul Reiber was singled out for his carved statue entry “**Thou Shall Not Destroy Hope**”. The judges had positive comments on the strength of image itself: a pregnant woman holding a bird. Noted as well was the sensitive use of carving tools, and the hand tooled look.

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## From the Chairman

Is it October already? Where has the time gone? Our show at the museum closes in 3 weekends from the date I write this. It seems only a short time ago, we were anticipating the show beginning and now we are moving to see it close. Well, it was a good one, no? Over 90 pieces were entered, a record I'm told.

A number of the association members were awarded more than one prize and the big one - the "People's Choice"- has yet to be announced.

I was fortunate enough to be able to spend more time this year participating in some of the stages of getting this show started. I was really not aware of the all the prep work that has to happen. One of my "educational moments" was when found out that the museum's favorite color for the walls is "Tundra" from Benjamin Moore. Bill has already acknowledged the turnout of volunteers and I like to offer my thanks as well. Good job everyone!

Our next big event is the annual election. Carl Johnson, Bill Taft and I are stepping down from our posts (I'm hoping to hold on the Forum editorship for at least another year). I hope that you will consider being an officer next year. Please review Bill's announcement on Page 2 for more information.

I have an update from Woodcraft as to their current situation. They are in a planning process with a potential buyer. It appeared that the process would go past their deadline to close the Santa Rosa store, so the owner decided to extend the building lease for another year. He was also able to the same for the franchise lease as well. Whew, good news that one! Over the last couple of months, I have gone in to the store and talked with the manager - Tom. He has high hopes that things will work out. He is definitely a supporter of our organization and I hope we can work on reinforcing this relationship in the coming year.

With the ending of the "New Yankee Workshop", there was a hole in the PBS schedule for DIY shows. But there is a new show coming. Here's the quote from the WGBH website:

"WGBH is proud to introduce a fresh and modern woodworking series for public television. Rough Cut—Woodworking with Tommy Mac is scheduled to premiere on public television stations in October 2010. The series invites viewers into the workshop of Boston native and fine furniture maker Tommy MacDonald, a graduate of the famed Boston-based North Bennet Street School."

The first show starts Oct. 9th on KQED. This should be interesting.

Hope to see you at the October meeting. Last year, we decided to hold another museum meeting focusing on the works from a technical perspective. It was such a success so we decided to repeat it. It is informal but highly educational. You get to ask "How did you do that?" of the show entrants. Guests are always welcomed at our meetings. Many of us will be there prior to 6:30, so if you want to see the show again, this is a great time.

See you at the next meeting!

Michael

Photography credits: Bill Taft, Theo Mueter, Michael Wallace

# WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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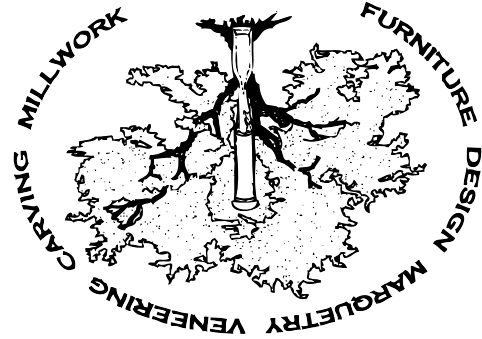
**Join Us!** The Sonoma County Woodworkers Association is a 31-year old association of over one hundred professional and amateur woodworkers who meet monthly at members' shops to share experiences, ideas, techniques, and mutual enjoyment for creating with wood. Membership entitles you to attend monthly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

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**Wood Forum 7**



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# WOOD FORUM

## 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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