



# WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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

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December 2011

## November Meeting: Evening with David Marks



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## December Meeting Notice

**Who: SCWA Potluck**

**Where: Don Ajello/Linda Illsley  
570 Piezzi Rd  
Santa Rosa**

**When: December 10th  
3:00pm**

This is our annual potluck (hmm, thinking of desserts!). It's time to relax and enjoy just hanging out with your fellow Association members. Our hosts are preparing a turkey, but you have to bring something to share. Try to think beyond dessert (we usually have enough, but they are always welcomed!). We'll provide drinks of course.

See you there!

### **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.

## The October Meeting Report

*by Chuck Quibell*

The Annual Meeting of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association was held at David Marks' Studio on Tuesday, November 15th, after which David presented demonstrations of several of the woodworking and other skills which are regularly taught in his school at this site.

The General Meeting was brought to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Bill Taft, who announced that the first order of business was the Election of Officers for the coming year. The Nominating Committee had proposed and published a slate of candidates for each of the various offices, and further nominations were then called for from the members attending. There being none, it was moved, seconded, and passed to formally vote on the slate presented.

Each of the proposed candidates was elected by unanimous voice vote, as follows:

Chairman – Michael Wallace

Vice-Chairman - Michael Burwen

Treasurer – James Heimbach;

Secretary – Bill Hartman

Program Director – Art Hofmann;

Guild Director Larry Stroud;

Artistry in Wood 2012 – Michael Matsumoto

Librarian – Dennis Lasher

Forum Editor – Michael Burwen

Seminar Coordinator – Bill Taft.

Larry Stroud then nominated Art Hofmann to the Guild, mentioning several of his many accomplishments and contributions. Larry began to pass out slips for a written vote, but it was decided that the unanimous voice votes which occurred would suffice.

Mike Wallace mentioned that the By-Laws indicates that Guild membership remains effective for only three years, and that by that rule Art was now the sole member of that group. It was pointed out that we perhaps should address that issue at another time, and perhaps amend the By-Laws.

President Bill Taft announced that he had been contacted by a representative of North West Figured Hardwoods which sells wood, mostly as turning blanks and was offering discounts. Bill passed out cards with contact information.

Art Hofmann showed a copy "The Best of Woodwork: The Pursuit of Mastery", edited by John Lavine. John had given several to the Association and Art proposed to sell them to the membership for \$10 each. Several were sold over the course of the meeting. Anyone additionally interested should contact Art. All monies from sales will go to Bill Hartman for supplies for his Rancho Cotate H.S. wood shop students.

The annual December Holiday Party, which will be on Saturday, the 10th, will again be graciously hosted by Don Ajello at the same place as last year. It is potluck with each member bringing one food item and the SCWA providing the beverages.

A hearty round of applause was given for our two retiring officers: Bill Taft as Chairman, and George Nostrant as Treasurer. Bill has been especially active, initiating the very successful "Wooden Boat Challenge", as well as his on-going contributions to the "Artistry in Wood" shows – not to mention all the good monthly programs. He was applauded again as each of these was mentioned. Many Thanks for a well done job, Bill!

At this point Michael Wallace handed out the CD's of this year's show entries to each entering member. Extras are for sale. Larry Stroud was given a big round of applause for again making the images for this CD.

At this point, after all the necessary business had been taken care of, Bill introduced our hosts, David and Victoria Marks. David has been a very successful woodworker here for over forty

years. He also was host to nearly a hundred episodes of fine woodworking for the Home Improvement TV channel, copies of which he generously donated to the SCWA library.

More recently the Marks have been developing a justly famous woodworking school at these premises. Several of the members of SCWA present had attended various of the programs, but many were not aware of their diversity, so for the night's program, David proposed to introduce us to the skills taught in several of them.

He began by showing us the physical facilities. The first stop was the west-most which is well-known as the source of coffee and goodies! Here he described the school and showed various of its 'products'.

Next he showed us a central area which contains a collection of all the many power tools David has put together over the years, including a massive new 36" bandsaw and a very impressive antique 18" jointer which the late John DeMarchi restored for him many years ago. Dave showed us a photograph of John with the jointer just after it was installed. Many comments were heard from the group indicating how much we all miss John and all his many contributions to the Association and its members individually.



*David and a finished vase*

Off one end of this machine room is the dust-free paint and patina room, which with the others constituted the original shop. We then were re-assembled back where the meeting had been taking place, and this room was described as the principal classroom where groups of a dozen or more can be taught such things as various woodturning skills.

For this a group of midi-lathes are brought in from a storage area to complement the fine "OneWay 24/36" lathe at the front of the room.

David next showed us some of the turning techniques he and others teach in various classes taught throughout the year. In the process he showed us a number of the many turning tools arrayed across the front wall area. Several of these have been recently developed to use replaceable carbide cutters – and a "Signature Series" with massive bubinga handles bear David's name and 'Limited Edition'. He and the school are a source of these fine new turning tools, which can be purchased through their very fine website [djmarks.com].

David then told us about 'double bevel marquetry' and showed us how this skill is taught here. Again, when a class is assembled, numerous fine variable-speed jigsaws are brought in from a storage area. This lovely room has fine natural light and an effective dust collection system, along with several more of

David's extensive bandsaw collection.

And finally, we were introduced to the patinas class skills. This is an area where David has become justly famous. His development of the use of gold, silver, and copper 'leaf', along with many very creative post-treatments with various chemicals, is quite remarkable. He has taught this subject, among others, over the whole country at various Woodcraft stores.

By this time it was nearing eleven, and although everyone was



*David at the scroll saw demonstrating the double bevel marquetry technique.*

still fascinated and asking all sorts of excellent questions, it was deemed time to wrap it up and call it a night. The group, which included several who apparently had been attracted to the meeting expressly for these demonstrations,

likely will contribute students to various of the classes taught here by David Marks and a number of fine, nationally recognized instructors.

A big show of appreciation was displayed to David and Victoria Marks for their on-going fine hospitality. As one who has participated in at least two of the many classes put on here by the Marks, let me point out that Victoria's contributions are legion. She is a great facilitator who keeps everything running smoothly, takes individual lunch orders to a local deli, and even has been known to make an occasional heroic batch of the most heavenly brownies you're likely to meet!



*David's panel showing how he lays down the maple leaves as a resist.*



## Calendar

Here is the calendar for the next few months:

January 10th - Robert Erikson, furniture maker, from Nevada City - Cotati Cottages

February 7th - John Lavine, Chinese and Japanese Joinery

March 6th - Walter Kitundu, musical instruments, artist-sculptor

April 3rd - Laura Mays, furniture maker, educator from Ireland

## From the Chairman

*by Bill Taft*

This is the last time I'll get to address you as Chairman, so I want to say thank-you to some of you. First, to all of the Association Officers for all of their work keeping the organization humming along. A special thanks goes to Michael Wallace for all of his work in organizing the Show and getting out the news letter each month. On behalf of the membership, I want to thank George Nostrant for serving as Treasurer and Tom Segura for serving as Vice Chairman. Both of them are retiring from the Board of Officers.

I want to give recognition and my thanks to our Program Chairman Art Hofmann for all of his work, not only this year but for many years. Art is the one that sees to it that we have an interesting program at all of our meetings. He coordinates with most of the presenters and he takes notes and writes the report on the programs for the Wood Forum. Art was elected to the Association Guild at the Annual Meeting. This is recognition of Art's skills as a woodworker and of his contributions to the Association. Congratulations Art, you certainly deserve this position.

We elected the slate of Association officers for the 2012 year at the business part of the November meeting. Please support these officers as they tend to the business part of running the affairs of the Association. David Marks gave us three splendid presentations during a meeting that lasted late into the night. First he filled the floor and some of the audience with chips, while turning a bowl. Next, we all learned the basics of double-bevel marquetry. Then he demonstrated how he applies Silver and Gold leaf to a surface and described the processes for application of finishing patinas. David teaches all of these and more, so look at his web site if you want to learn more by taking one of his classes. Thank you David for giving us a very interesting evening.

Our December meeting is our Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner. It's not a meeting. It is a good opportunity to get together and enjoy some food and drinks and some good conversation. We ask everyone to bring a food item to share with the others. We

will have wine and other beverages. Our hosts again this year are Linda Illsley and Don Ajello. I believe that Don is roasting a turkey for us.

My year as Chairman is just about up. I feel that we had a good year. We put two teams into the Wooden Boat Challenge and one of them won the top prize. We helped some wood shop students learn a little about boat building in the process. We had a very good Artistry in Wood Show and a years worth of interesting meetings. Thank you to everyone for your support of our organization.

## Exit Stage Right

*by Michael Wallace*

This is my last issue as the newsletter editor. I have been plugging away at this for over 3 years and its been both a lot of fun and to be honest, a chore, but one that I was glad to do for the Association.

I think my contributions were somewhat minimal, but I am glad that I was able to bring in some color to the Forum as well as some new design elements.

A lot of people over the years work to make the Forum readable and convey what's going on at the monthly meetings. I want to thank Art Hofmann, Mike Burwen, Michael Venables, Bill Taft, Larry Stroud, Chuck Quibell, Theo Mueter, Bob Moyer and I am sure there's someone I've left out, for their contributions that they made to capture the sense of our meetings with either words or photographs.

We are a volunteer organization. That means no one gets paid to do anything and so what you see in your hands every month is a result of someone spending their precious time to make that happen. The afore mentioned people have put a lot of that time into making this newsletter. For that, I am grateful to have worked alongside these individuals.

I am not going away. As I assume my Chairmanship, I will be doing the monthly Chairman's column. I also have plans to do articles.

I leave this post in good hands. Mike Burwen has a background in doing a newsletter, so he's aware of what has to happen and I know he'll do a great job.

Finally, I want to thank my wife, Judy, who has read all 36 issues as a proof reader. If there were any mistakes in the final copy, they were all mine, but she caught a larger number of them before you get an single issue. Without her help, I would come across as more of an idiot then I do.

Thanks for reading!

# WOOD FORUM

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## Officers

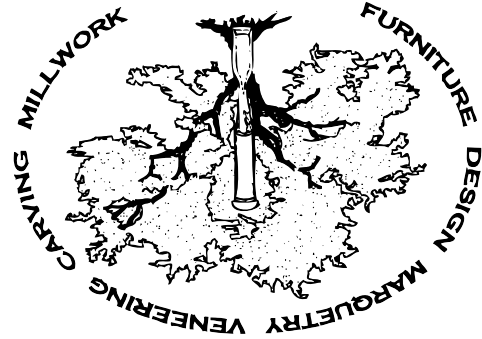
Chairman	Bill Taft	794-8025
Vice Chairman	Tom Segura	824-9560
Program Director	Art Hofmann	542-9767
Secretary	Bill Hartman	696-0966
Treasurer	George Nostrant	538-3398
Show Chairman	Michael Wallace	824-1013
Wood Forum Editor	Michael Wallace	824-1013
Guild Chairman	Larry Stroud	823-1775
Publicity Coordinator	Michael Burwen	658-2844
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 April issue must be received by December 15, 2011. You may submit your entries to the editor listed below.

Contact Michael Wallace  
Snail-Mail PO BOX 1838, Sebastopol, Ca 95472  
E-Mail [mjmw Wallace@gmail.com](mailto:mjmw Wallace@gmail.com)  
Home (707) 824-1013



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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

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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