

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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President's Column

By Jay Perrine



Eco-Tourism woodworkers trip to PUERTO RICO

I mentioned this trip 'casually' at our last SBWW club meeting. Someone suggested, "write it up for the Newsletter so, we have all the details". Hence, this article.

WHEN: May 15-25, fly to San Juan, Puerto Rico. The average May temperature is 87 °F.

What: It's titled FORESTS TO FURNITURE. Takes advantage of the many trees fallen from Hurricane Maria

WHO: The sponsor is GREENWOOD GLOBAL a non-profit focusing on helping develop woodworking skills "Artisan Development" in underdeveloped countries. Greenwood has been around since 1993 and is respected by the US Forest Service. They developed a program where artisans in Honduras make mallets now sold by Lee Valley, over a 1,000 already.

The key figures in this ECO Tourism trip are Michael Fortune and Rene Delgado, a Puerto Rico based instructor. He is affiliated with the University there.

COST: \$4,000 not including airfare - get there yourself. They encourage attendees to come early or stay late at same hotel.

WHAT: Well, hard to say. You will have a bench at a woodworking school run by Rene in a suburb of San Juan. There is a limit of twelve participants, based on workbenches available at Rene's workshop.

I emailed Michael Fortune and asked for clarification about the trip objective. The writeup hints that this endeavor would be helpful by providing furniture designed to be made by locals using local woods. He responded, that it could be that or just have the opportunity to make something in another setting.

The participants can make a stool or table, leave it there, and locals could make it. He would also make the same table in his production shop in Canada. Or, participants can just have fun making something using the many millions of board feet of trees knocked down during 2017 Hurricane Maria.

Michael posted on Instagram a design he started in another country when he was consulting.

Several of the days are ECO TOURS with trips to national forest and other things. Travel is in 19 passenger vans - the other reason for limit of 12.

Currently, most wood used by local artisans is imported from the US. There is almost no local capability for milling or drying. Greenwood is going to help make a solar kiln; several Woodmizers have now been introduced.

REFUNDS: Yea, this is the not so great part. March 1st is currently the final date for full, less \$300, refunds. I called Greenwood and spent close to an hour with Scott Landis, Workbench book author. He said the biggest driver is the hotel, that is not anxious to give discounts and hold rooms during their high season. They require full payment in advance. I encouraged Scott to consider that deadline for the hotel portion only and refund the rest of it for a longer period. \$4000 to be held and not refunded for 70 days is a long time.

As a result of my conversations, there is now a 50% refund available before April 15th.

\$4,000 is also a bit steep for a ten day class, but you are getting a class, tours, many meals, and a high class safe hotel in a tropical climate. Works out to \$400/day and that's close to daily expenses on a trip to Europe.

I can testify thar Michael Fortune is a good instructor. I took a chair design class from him at Northwest School of Woodworking in Portland about 10 years ago.

I am probably at about 85% deciding to go, both my daughter and Jennifer are encouraging me. American Airlines among many others flies there. I have enough mileage to get a free ticket to and from the island. I can fly non-stop to Philadelphia and then nonstop to San Juan from there.

For more information, go to Greenwoodglobal.org. There you can find Ag Handbooks on trees of Puerto Rico. They are out of print but available on line electronically. Michael Fortune and Rene Delgado both have websites. Verdanza Hotel has a website also (but you would be booked via Greenwood Global - and extended stay can be booked via Greenwood for the discounted price, whatever that is.

Well, something to think about or use for ideas for a trip elsewhere where woodworking and eco tourism can be combined!

Meeting Location

Near term meetings will continue to be held at Cupertino High School's wood shop, hosted by Tracie.

Address is:
Cupertino High School
10100 Finch Ave.
Cupertino

Map and directions were provided in the September 2021 newsletter and associated emails.

Everyone should be vaccinated. Masks are required on school grounds, unless eating or drinking.

2022 Dues

2022 dues are due. Send your checks payable to "Southbay Woodworkers" to Steve Kelem, our new treasurer. His address is on the roster, available on the web site, members' section.

Editor/Webmaster Note;

A brief discussion was held during the January meeting about web site refreshing. The main idea proposed was to make the first pages or so, more of an introduction to the club rather than just where the club meets. How to do that is unclear to the webmaster, but will be explored with input from the members.

Program for February;

Ron Gerard will regale the club with "A Tale of Two Tables".

January's Program



Chuck Aring is making a table to replace the jury-rigged arrangement he now has to support his large screen television. He starts with cut-offs of Claro Walnut from previous projects and forms them into what looks like a hyperbola resting on its side with both parts bolted together at the middle.

He's currently working on the cabinet that will sit on the hyperbolic base that will support the television. The five quarter Claro members of the upper portion of the project will be joined with dovetail joints. Chuck described his method of avoiding the cutting off of the tails instead of the waste between the tails. The box like upper portion of the table will house equipment that compliments the working of the television.

Show & Tell Note:

Normal Show & Tell at the February meeting, Ron will take pictures. If you have photos beforehand, please send them to me, takenyon1@gmail.com to save Ron or me from taking pictures.

Thank You – Tom Kenyon

Show & Tell:



Syd Dunton created a table that measures 26 inches wide by 15 inches deep by 24 tall. He used two coats of water based green aniline dye for the top and shelf. The parts were sanded with 220 grit after the first coat of dye to knock down the raised grain. The piece that bisects the top is ebonized walnut. The walnut legs are also ebonized with a concoction of oilless steel wool and vinegar. The top and shelf are finished with wipe-on polyurethane while the remainder of the table is finished with three coats of Osmo.

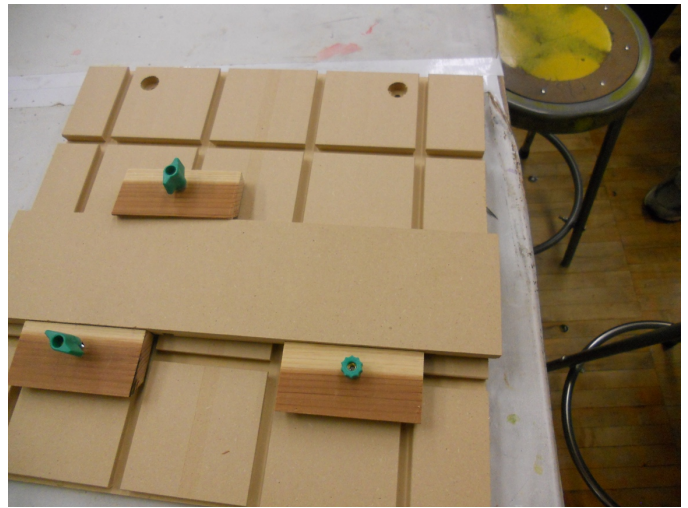


Mateo McCullough carved the body of a boar from one piece of poplar and added the ears that are made from mahogany. The game character is called "trufflesnout". The carving is painted with acrylics.

Eugene Gulko described the repair and upholstery of eight chairs. The back splats of several of the chairs were damaged where the screws entered. The damaged wood was removed and replaced with new wood. New holes were drilled with the aid of a homemade jig and hardwood dowels were glued in to the edge of the splats. The chairs were then reupholstered.



Eugene also brought in a full-range speaker that he uses with his guitars. He made it from pine to keep the weight down because of the heft of the speakers. He cut box joints using an Incra Jig at the corners for strength and will add metal caps at the corners to reduce damage. The enclosure is colored burgundy and is finished with Minwax polyurethane.



Steve Kelem demonstrated his dovetailed hold-down system that he uses on his CNC router table. The wooden hold-down pieces have one side beveled to engage the part being shaped. The hold-downs and nuts are low profile to ensure clearance for the cutter.



Tom Kenyon continues his work with segmented bowls. The work starts with sacrificial wood in between the three arms. After turning, the sacrificial wood is removed and the arms are carved to shape. The canary wood bowl is finished with lacquer.



Tracie Johnson took us through the process of making wooden heart shaped boxes that her woodworking class is creating. Each student glues up a stack of various colored woods to form the body. The inside is cut out and sanded. The outside is carefully cut leaving a 5/16-inch wall. The inside at the pointed feature of the heart is rounded so as to leave space to install a 5/16-inch dowel for the lid to pivot on. The boxes are finished with tung oil and flocking is applied to the inside.

2022 Program Responsibilities

February	Bob Konigsberg Ron Gerard
March	Tracie Johnson Mateo McCullough
April	Syd Dunton Mark Flanagan
May	Bill Henzel Terry O'Donnell
June	Bill Turner Don McKell
July	Tom Gaston Norm Burns
August	Eugene Gulko Steve Kelem
September	Richard Winslow Tom Kenyon
October	Allen Glessner Mark Flanagan
November	Dennis Yamamoto Jay Perrine
December	Holiday Party – officers
Unassigned	

If there are conflicts or need for changes, please contact Richard Winslow.

2022 Officers	
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