

# SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

Volume 32, Issue 7

July 26, 2022

## President's Column

By Jay Perrine



After my EcoTrip to Puerto Rico I am really appreciating all the "benefits" of our geo-position, and surrounding retail and resource situation.

First and foremost is our Mediterranean CLIMATE with low humidity and almost no freezing temperatures. And thus no snow. Puerto Rico also lacks snow. In my presentation last month I explained how the high humidity affects the moisture level in the wood. And because of this high humidity, wood products made on the island need to stay on the island, or be exported to another high humidity climate.

Next aspect I really appreciate after the visit there is abundant supply of wood on the island. It does not need to come in by container ship AND it is milled locally by Woodmizer mills, or even on an Alaska chain saw mill.

The variety of trees we have locally might be more than in Puerto Rico, partly from urban areas planting imported ornamentals, but the bigger benefit is we

we have each other - fellow hobbyists - there is a "culture" here of hobbyist woodworkers that is almost non-existent in Puerto Rico. As descendants of farmers, ranchers or tradesmen many of us have "inherited" do-it-yourself skills.

My read is that as a colony Puerto Rico first had slave labor and large monoculture agriculture which was owned by a few. Many worked at specialized tasks at these plantations and no call for developing skills to survive a repair without a trip to town.

When monoculture farming left the island so did specialized skills that kept the plantations running; that included the processing of lumber and other trade skills.

They do have Home Depot, but classmates reported that they are not well stocked for do-it-yourselfers. We on the other hand take for granted our well-stocked home improvement centers, lumber yards, and a Woodcraft and Rockler store within an hour or so drive.

Speaking of benefits of our club of woodworking hobbyists, our new member Tom Petzoldt, an occupational and hand therapist, will discuss how to AVOID back problems while woodworking.

Also, Fred Sotcher will bring hand tools to sell that a friend can no longer use. Sadly his friend has dementia, and Fred is helping out his wife. See you soon!

## Upcoming Program July 26

Tom Petzoldt, an Occupational Therapist and Certified Hand Therapist, will discuss how to prevent back injuries while woodworking; and other general safety considerations.

### Meeting Location

Saratoga Federated Church  
Postal Annex Building  
14376 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga

Map and directions:

<https://www.southbaywoodworkers.org/>

## SBWW Fall Picnic September 10th

SBWW Club Picnic will be hosted by Bill Turner on the grounds of his new shop in Scott's Valley. The picnic will include a shop tour of his new 40x60 space. This facility may set the standard for personal shops in Northern California!

### Editor's Note

This is my first editing of the SBWW newsletter. I (Tracie Johnson) just retired from my day job as a woodworking teacher at Cupertino High School and I am glad I can support the club in this way. Tom Kenyon leaves some big wooden clogs to fill.

## June Program in Review

Jay Perrine attended a workshop in Puerto Rico sponsored by Greenwood Global. Greenwood Global trains artisans to make high-quality wood products, adding value to forest resources and creating incentives to protect biodiversity.



Jay at a milling site

The ten day workshop, attended by nine participants, was directed by Scott Landis and Michael Fortune and took place in the shop of native Puerto Rican Rene Del Gato. Five and a half to six days were spent in the shop while the remaining time was spent going on field trips.



Examining trees in El Yunque National Park

Some of the goals of the workshop were to expose students to the forests of Puerto Rico, have students meet local craft people, and leave designs that locals could use. The group visited El Yunque National Forest, a local hardwoods lumber company, and a sugar cane plantation. Michael created the design for the class project that all the students made. It was a stool that used local hardwood lumber. An unusual feature of the stool was the round



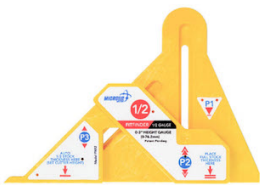


Steam bending for a stool

in cross section footrest. It circled the legs, but did not complete a circle. It started at one level and sloped down and finished several inches below the original starting point.

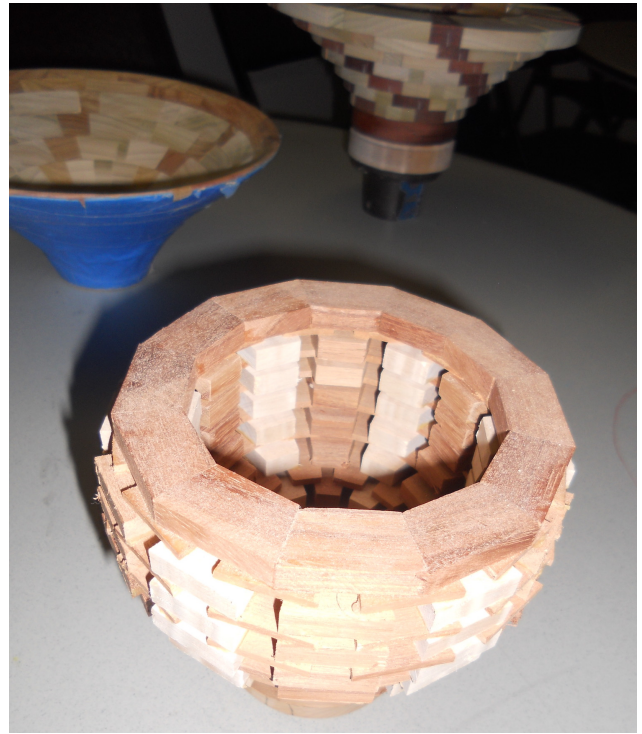
## June's Show & Tell

**Allen Glessner** demonstrated a gadget called "Micro Jig Fit Fitter 1/2 Gauge". It finds the center of any object up to 3" tall. The target object, board, dowel, etc. is set on a



flat surface with the gauge sitting along side. The two moving panels on the gauge are placed on top of the object and knobs on the back of the gauge are tightened. A pointer at one side indicates half of the thickness of the object.

[FITFINDER 1/2 Gauge | Automatic Thickness Finder \(microjig.com\)](http://microjig.com)



**Tom Kenyon** will be making a presentation at the Segmented Woodturners Symposium in Chicago in September. He brought in some of the props that he will be using in his presentation and explained their significance.



New member **Tom Petzoldt** displayed a table with red oak top slats and free form legs made of clear pine. It's finished with polyurethane and General's Seal-A-Cell.





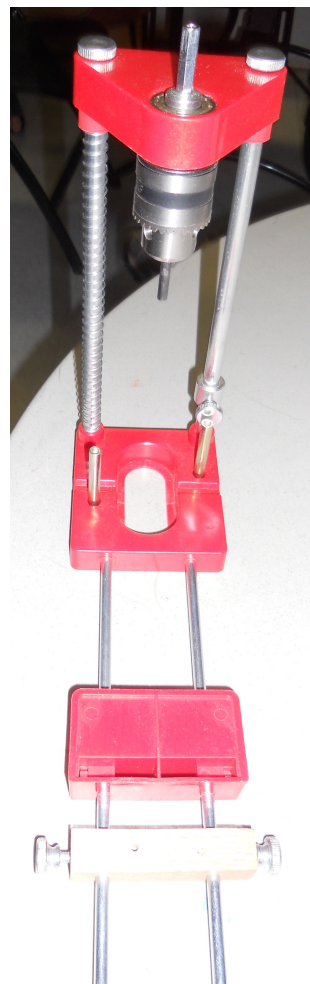
New member **Mike Castellanos** created a birdhouse using cork on the face with scrap wood for the remainder of the project.



**Mateo McCullough** carved a lion from a 2" X 2" X 4" piece of basswood. The figure was burned in some areas for accent and finished with linseed oil.



**Mateo** also made two ash boxes assembled with a bit of black epoxy. They measure approximately 7.25" long, 2" wide including a one inch overhang, and 1.5" to 2" tall.



**Eugene Gulko** reviewed a Chinese knock-off of a Woodpecker drill guide. He told us about the various shortcomings of the device and what he did to correct the shortcomings.

## 2022 Program Responsibilities

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

July 26	Tracie Johnson Tom Petzoldt
August 23	Eugene Gulko Steve Kelem
September 27	Richard Winslow
October 25	Allen Glesser Mark Flanagan
November	TBD Jay Perrine

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