

# SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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July 2019

## President's Column

By Jay Perrine



**T**om Gaston, who, during the break at our June meeting suddenly exclaimed that he uses his smart phone three hours a day and it is one of his MOST IMPORTANT and most used tools in his woodworking pursuits!

He then demonstrated a tree identification app by using a photograph of a branch of a tree. This app could be used to identify the species of a tree that is about to cut down to check if it could provide useable lumber or stock for bowl turning or other woodworking project. Tom said the software is accurate with branches and leaves but not as accurate using bark. The internet connection of phone or desktop is very useful for finding photos on the world wide web that Tom was able to use for his presentation on carving - he showed us photographs of carving tools he doesn't even own but was able to download from the internet.

With a smart phone or a computer we can research and compare products. We can also find out whether a wood species is toxic or produces allergies. Then, if you want to know HOW to do SOMETHING just pop over to YouTube and see how someone else did it or attempted it as the case may be. Lose an instruction manual or want to see how to install something before purchasing - find users manuals on line.

Thank you Tom for giving us a hot summer tip that doesn't involve making a special tool box or case to store it between uses. Sharing tool tips is a great club benefit...happy searching.

## June Program

Tom Gaston gave the program about woodcarving. He made the distinction between wood carving and whittling. Generally, woodcarving is done where the wood is held in a vise or held down on a workbench whereas whittling is done freehand. Tools used in

woodcarving and whittling include chisels, gouges, veiners, spoon and sloyd knives, spokeshaves, power carving tools and rotary bits.

When choosing the wood, its best to use seasoned wood of medium density free of defects. Basswood is excellent for carving. It's known as lime in England and linden in Germany. Black walnut, mahogany, cherry and fruitwood in general are also good for carving. Softwood like pine can also be carved, but is subject to bruising.

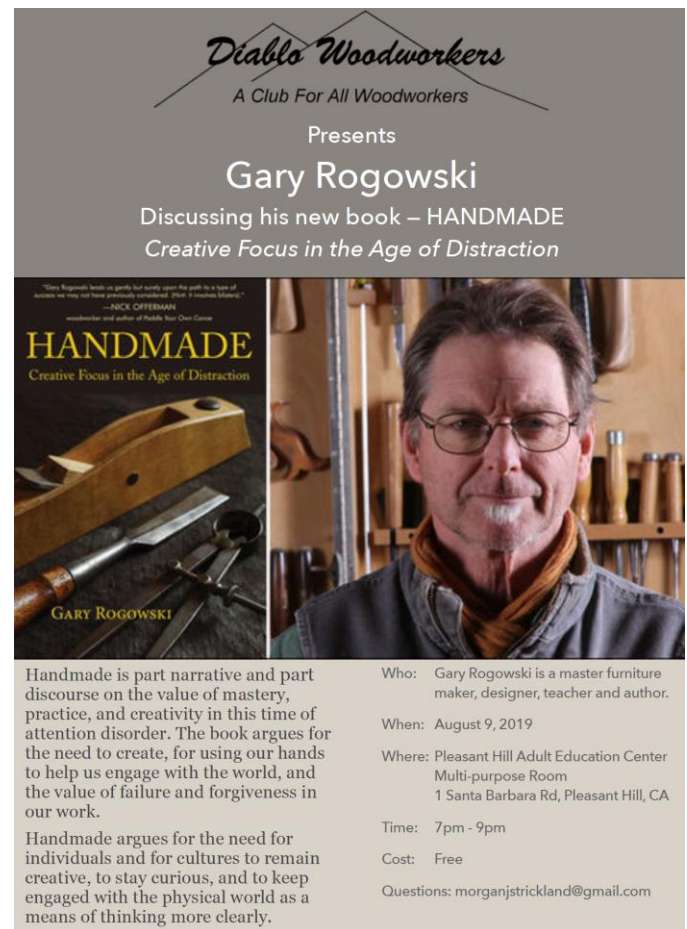
When carving, it's important to be aware of the grain direction. Cutting down hill or cross grain is preferred. Cutting into or uphill tends to cause the tool to dig in.

Sharpening your edged tools is an integral part of woodcarving. Carving tools are flat ground as opposed to hollow ground. This gives the cutting edge more support and also creates a stronger edge because carving tools are ground from 15 to 30 degrees.

The first step is to drag the tool lightly across the oil stone in a vertical position only once. This will reveal any portions of the edge that requires extra attention when the tool is held up to the light that is coming from over your shoulder. While power grinders can be used for sharpening, care must be exercised to insure that the edge doesn't get burned and lose its hardness. Oil stones are traditionally used in sharpening. The process starts with a coarse stone and progresses through a soft Arkansas, a hard Arkansas and then sometimes a hard Arkansas slip stone. This is then followed up with the tool passed backwards over a leather strop that is charged with polishing medium.

Tom brought in numerous examples of his woodcarving. There were two sun motif carvings that were started on the lathe to outline the main detail. A lizard carved from catalpa was perched on a wooden rock while a green dyed frog was carved in 3D. For installation on his pergola in Santa Cruz, he carved a dolphin that has a rod through its body that causes it rock back and forth when the wind blows. He showed pictures of two bread bowls that are carved out of Port Orford cedar. They're used for containing dough when it's rising. There was also a long handled spoon that Tom whittled.

## Announcement:



*Diablo Woodworkers*  
A Club For All Woodworkers  
Presents  
**Gary Rogowski**  
Discussing his new book – **HANDMADE**  
*Creative Focus in the Age of Distraction*

*"Gary Rogowski leads us gently but surely down the path to a type of wisdom that may not have previously occurred. (From 'Handmade Masters')"*  
— NICK COFFMAN  
member and author of Public Year One Center

**HANDMADE**  
*Creative Focus in the Age of Distraction*  
GARY ROGOWSKI

Handmade is part narrative and part discourse on the value of mastery, practice, and creativity in this time of attention disorder. The book argues for the need to create, for using our hands to help us engage with the world, and the value of failure and forgiveness in our work.

Handmade argues for the need for individuals and for cultures to remain creative, to stay curious, and to keep engaged with the physical world as a means of thinking more clearly.

Who: Gary Rogowski is a master furniture maker, designer, teacher and author.  
When: August 9, 2019  
Where: Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center Multi-purpose Room  
1 Santa Barbara Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA  
Time: 7pm - 9pm  
Cost: Free  
Questions: morganjstrickland@gmail.com

## GUEST:

Allen Glesser's grandson Jonathan Glesser was the guest tonight.

## Show and Tell



Allen Glesser made a device that produces an accurate width of cut for half lap joints using a crosscut sled. It mimics one that Bridge City Tools sells for \$70.00. It consists of two pieces of wood the same length that slide past one another to create a gap at one end the exact width needed for the joint. The maximum width for the joint using this tool is 2 1/4 inches. A bolt passes through the tool and with washer and knob, the two pieces can be clamped together. A screw is set in the other end of the tool to account for the blade thickness when setting the position of the stop for the second cut.



Jonathan, with his grandfather's guidance, created a stand for his I-pad. The I-pad can be oriented horizontally or vertically at a 27 degree angle. When sitting in the vertical position, the home button can be accessed through a cutout made in the middle of the stand. This was Jonathan's first woodworking project and was introduced to many woodworking tools. He used a bandsaw, drill press, miter saw, router, belt sander, chisels, files, sandpaper and finished the stand with a spray finish.

Allen observed that, unfortunately, there is no woodworking classes available in Jonathan's area.

## Program For July:

**Don Mckell** will talk about his experiences of building a queen size bed.

### List of Useful Woodworking Websites:

The top woodworking blogs of 2019:

<https://www.drumsanderspecialists.com/25-best-woodworking-blogs-for-2019/>

Top 75 woodworking websites, blogs and newsletters:

<https://jayscustomcreations.com/2014/04/50-woodworking-blogs-you-may-not-know-about/>

The woodworkers on-line resource:

<https://www.woodnet.net/links/>

**Next Program Committee**

Please take the ice chest home after the meeting

**Refreshment Suggestions**

**Variety of Soft Drinks**

Water, Regular, Diet, Caffeine-Free, Juices

**Varied Snacks: Donuts, Cookies, Chips, Nuts**

**Program Committees 2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Members</b>
January 22	Dennis Yamamoto Terry O'Donnell
February 26	Ron Gerard Ed Vincent
March 26	Chuck Aring
April 23	Bob Koningsberg
May 28	Traci Johnson Bill Turner
June 25	Bob Koningsberg Eugene Gulko
July 23	Don Mckell Jeff Lucanc
August 27	Richard Winslow David Manley
September 24	Bill Henzel Syd Dunton
October 23	Allen Glesser Norm Burns
November 26	Steve Kelem Terry O'Donnell
December	Officers

Contact Richard Winslow for any changes to the committee schedule

**2019 Officers**

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