

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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Presidents Column

By Jay Perrine

David Ellsworth is



legendary for turning hollow form vessels. His work is in museums and his technique is documented in books and videos. I was fortunate to be able to attend his class at Arrowmont in late June.

David's hollow turning method is very straightforward. It is all scraping, which is the only choice on the inside of a bowl where you cannot guide by sight. He uses mainly two hollowing tools, both of which he designed and sells either directly or via vendors like Packard. The tools are made with 5/8" O-1 (oil cured) drill rod and have a cutting tip (replaceable) that is facing either straight ahead or at a 42 degree angle. No handles are sold with these tools. David taught us how to attach the tools to a large-diameter wood handle approaching three feet in length.

The cutting method is simple to describe and appears relatively simple when observing, but difficult to execute - so I was glad I took the class. David uses the straight cutter first and works his way in achieving a hole in the vessel similar to a hole a Forstner bit would achieve, except the entry or access hole is smaller in diameter. He then uses a

second tool that has a cutter going off to the left at the end of the drill rod at an angle of approximately 42 degrees. He uses this tool to hollow out little by little to about the depth cut with the first tool. using compressed air, one blows out chips every few minutes. He then repeats the process of going in with straight tool, followed by the use of the angled tool to get close to the edge and toward the vessel bottom.

It only took me three tries to complete one hollow vessel. My first two vessels broke. The process is VERY physical - I felt like I was fighting an alligator who had bitten the end of my long handle and was shaking his head every which way to get the hook out. David claims at last count there are now 22 other products on the market to accomplish hollow turning. I might look into those as the Ellsworth method was great to learn and even better to learn from the master himself, but a less bone crunching tool might be worth trying. David turned 74 during the class and seems to be going strong. I had a good experience in Tennessee and I would quickly consider other classes there. Hope you are enjoying your summer equally so far!

June Program:

Bob Konigsberg described the making of a "teardrop cajon" a type of percussion instrument meant to be played on your lap. He makes the drums to sell at craft fairs and music festivals.

The two curved ends were originally made of twelve angled staves, but he found that he had fewer problems on the current version by using six staves. While the top surface is level with the top of the body, the bottom is inset to prevent the sound from being dampened when placed on a lap. Both top and bottom faces are made from three mm birch plywood where the grain is oriented side to side to decrease the amount of movement.

He uses tite-bond II to glue the segmented ends together in multiple jigs in order to save time. Bob uses a template to make the sound hole in the side of the cajon by first drilling several holes in the body and following up with a router. He found that using Whiteside router bits produced a better job than the Vermont-American bits that he previously used.

When first making the cajons, his production time was about eight hours, but with changes in the construction, he was able to reduce the time to six and a half hours per instrument.

The instruments, made from various woods are given two coats of poly seal and a finish coat of wipe-on poly. The density of the wood affects the sound produced by the drum. The lighter density wood produces a lower tone while the denser wood produces a higher tone.

Show and Tell

Tom Gaston made a depth gauge used in woodturning. It's made of fiddleback maple and a brass rod. His other project was a curved dolphin meant to grace a pergola. It's made from two pieces of mahogany glued together with the top, side and back fins added separately. Tom used rasps and carving tools to shape the body. He finished it with an oil product.

Jeff Lukanc described the restoration of a fiberglass canoe that he received free from a friend. He replaced the dry-rotted ash gunnels with 3/4" square mahogany. Because he couldn't find any mahogany locally long enough to make the replacement pieces, he spliced two pieces together using an eight inch long scarf joint and epoxy glue. Jeff didn't glue the mahogany gunnels to the boat making it more easily repairable. The gunnels are finished with a 50/50 mixture of Tung oil and spar varnish. The deteriorated cane seats were replaced with black webbing. The canoe will be used by the boy scouts.

Syd Dunton created a sculpture he calls "stele". The substructure is 1/2" MDF and is covered with a veneer of bleached white oak. The veneer was cut to create a pattern with the edges emphasized by applying brown ink from a marking pen. The dimensions are 44" tall by 11" wide and 9" deep.

Norm Burns constructed a dovetailed box to store his dovetail bits and bushings. It's made of walnut and maple.



Richard Winslow showed off two pencil boxes of various woods created by eighth grade students in a class that he co-teaches once a week at a private school. He says that doing operations like mitering corner joints, dadoing slots for bottoms, and finishing with spray lacquer are good tasks for beginning students to learn.



Tom Kenyon brought in a small pneumatic reciprocating saw made by Ingersall-Rand. It uses portions of hacksaw blades for cutting. He figures that the tool runs at about 15,000 to 20,000 strokes per minute.

GUEST

Dave Stone was our guest tonight.

2018 Officers	
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Photographer	Richard Winslow
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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

Date	Members
January 23	Tom Kenyon LeRoy Nelson
February 27	Tom Gaston
March 27	Tracie Johnston Ed Vincent
April 24	Jeff Lucanc Dennis Yamamoto
May 22	Don McKell Leroy Nelson
June 26	Bob Koningsberg Richard Winslow
July 24	Allen Glesser Ron Gerard
August 28	Bill Henzel Larry Schwarcz
September 25	Mike Papa Richard Sprague
October 23	Todd Johnson Tom Kenyon
November 27	Bill Sprague Larry Patulia
December	Officers
Contact Richard Winslow for any changes to the committee schedule	