

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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President's Column

By Jay Perrine

Sourcing wood...

I just saw an article in one of the WW magazines on sourcing wood from non-traditional sources. I realized, we have it pretty good here in Northern California at this time in history.

We used to have a plethora of supply places like Southern Lumber, PALCO, Global Wood Source, Aura, and numerous lumberyards. In San Francisco and Berkeley, there were a number of well-stocked lumberyards with foreign species. Now there are fewer and fewer and sadly the plywood out of the 'big box stores' suffers from paper-thin veneers on the outer layer.

But, there is a fairly good supply of custom cut timbers, appropriate for some projects, from small-scale suppliers of wood. Perhaps not enough of consistent quality to make anything in quantity, but enough for a kitchen table, or some chairs. Luckily, we live in an age when Woodmizer horizontal bandsaws are scattered about. Most folks with these mills have cut far more wood than they can use personally. Or, you can have them cut your own logs. Such was the case, with a previous member Sal, from whom I bought all the redwood for my big patio trellis.

Then, there are the chain-saw mills. Perhaps the best known manufactured in the Bay Area is the Alaska Mill by Granville.

The other source is someone who has collected or perhaps even hoarded custom milled wood and is now reaching the age where it is time to sell or in some cases nearly give away those boards hoarded for 10 to 40 years. Finding this wood is the combination of sources like Craigslist (no cost ads) and woodworking clubs like Diablo that send out for sale emails without need to be a member. Clubs have been helpful in this regard to help widows sell their late husband's tools and materials. Previous club member, Fred, authored an article on how to do this methodically, helping those heirs not interested in keeping or storing the lifelong collection of tools and wood.

Turning clubs are especially good at alerting fellow members of trees being cut down by arborists and getting to the site the day of 'harvesting'. There are also small-scale mills but they are not plentiful around here any more - there were some in the Santa Cruz mountains, but they disappeared a while back. I have gotten some materials from a lumberyard in Whitethorn in Northern California. I was fortunate to discover it on a vacation drive through the Lost Coast area.

Then we have Jackel Enterprises in Watsonville offering mostly small sawmill and Woodmizer cut wood. They also have some more traditional lumber and reclaimed stock derived from bridges and barns.

When I think of Show-N-Tell projects of club members I recall a majority of the sources are non-lumberyard acquisitions. Interesting as 50 years ago the additional sources were not as plentiful and what little there was is now available second-hand as old timers sell off. We are fortunate to be in this valley at this time to get this relatively plentiful wood, timber and lumber supplies from the various sources.

Jay

2021 Dues

2021 dues are due. Send your checks payable to "Southbay Woodworkers" to Syd Dunton, our treasurer. His address is on the roster, available on the web site, member's section.

Show & Tell Note:

If you have a Show & Tell for zoom meetings, please forwarded the photos to me, takenyon1@gmail.com prior to the meeting. I will prepare a slide show. Thank You – Tom Kenyon

2021 Program Responsibilities

The Program Responsibility table was being updated at the time this newsletter was being distributed. Updated version is anticipate at March's zoom meeting.

March's Zoom Program

Chuck Aring will present "Contradiction? 'Attractive Cutting Board!'"

February's Program



Blair Glenn took the club through the steps that he performed when constructing his tool chest that measures 24 inches tall by 24 wide by 36 inches long to house his favorite tools. The idea came from the book "Anarchist's Tool Chest" written by Christopher Schwartz.

The chest in the book is made of pine and then painted. Blair had access to some wide red oak planks from which he chose to construct his chest. The corners have hand cut finger joints while the bottom is secured in a dado. There are walnut skirts around both the top and bottom of the tool chest that have hand cut dovetail joints at the corners. Blair installed piano casters at each corner so that it can be rolled under the workbench.

The top is made from one piece of chamfered, highly figured walnut harvested locally that floats in a frame of highly figured maple. The corner joints have free-floating domino biscuits encased in tenons. He attached the lid to the base with two butt hinges and used a small cord on the left side to keep it from falling back all of the way. Blair says that the cord is not permanent, but that he hasn't decided what will replace it. There

are three large brass handles on the chest that came from a Los Gatos bank building being converted to a restaurant. One handle is placed on each side and one is on the lid.

Blair put a lot of thought into what tools will live in the chest and where they will be placed. He has a collection of molding planes that are placed at the back of the chest standing on end at the bottom. Forward of the molding planes, are his handsaws. The saw blades are set in slots that leave space below the teeth for storing several small tools. Forward of the saw till is a space reserved for four large hand planes. There are maple runners at each end of the chest that support three sliding trays. One tray is yet to be made while the other two are made from old growth redwood. These trays contain additional small tools. The trays slide forward and back allowing access to the lower part of the chest.

He is working on plans for attaching tools to the inside of the lid, possibly a brace and a set of bits.

Titebond III was used throughout the construction. The outside is finished with Watco oil and wipe-on polyurethane while the inside is left unfinished.

Show and Tell



Syd Dunton was experimenting with a new technique that is out of his comfort zone when he created a table with a green dyed top and shelf. It started with a two inch thick by 19 inches wide slab of spalted and worm-holed maple. The slab was resawn to produce two, one-inch boards. He had Jackel's in Watsonville run it through the wide belt sander to clean up the surfaces.

He filled the wormholes with wood dough then emphasized the wormholes and some of the spalting with a black felt tipped pen. The natural edged boards were then treated with a green aniline dye.

The base is constructed of five-quarter hard maple obtained from Aura. Syd used water-based polyurethane for the finish. The final dimensions of the table are 24 inches wide by 20 inches deep by 20 inches high.



Tom Kenyon completed the hutch for his daughter. It fits nicely in a corner out of the way of foot traffic. The base contains a rollout file cabinet that also has a foldout work surface.

2021 Program Responsibilities

All meetings will be conducted on zoom till further notice.

The program responsibility table is being updated as this newsletter was being distributed. It is anticipated that an updated table will be available at the March's zoom meeting.

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,

2021 Officers

President	Jay Perrine perrinedazign@gmail.com
Vice-President	Richard Winslow Yukon106@comcast.net
Secretary	Ron Gerard Jst4rig@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Syd Dunton syd@tridentdesigns.com
Newsletter Editor	Tom Kenyon takenyon1@gmail.com
Photographer	Richard Winslow Yukon106@comcast.net
Librarian	Dennis Yamamoto dennismnyamamoto@yahoo.com
Web Master	Tom Kenyon takenyon1@gmail.com