

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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President's Column

By Jay Perrine



I recently attended the Urban Forests Council 2019 Conference in San Luis Obispo.

I mistakenly thought the Urban Forest Council came about because woodworkers like us were interested in grabbing and cutting up trees coming down in or near our communities that could be useful for either furniture or turning. I learned that Urban Forestry is a MAJOR at Cal Poly in SLO. At a conference dinner I met several people who worked as urban foresters their entire careers and others who sported shirts showing the city for whom they work and their title of Urban Forester! The Urban Forests Council is celebrating 50 years of existence this year! Many cities have arborists on their staff to review whether trees are diseased enough to come down on city streets and advise city councils and public works departments as to which tree species to plant in their city. City maintenance staffs need guidance on

pruning and maintaining city trees usually numbering in the thousands.

California legislature in 1989 passed AB 939 which became the California Integrated Solid Waste Management Act which basically called for a 50% reduction in waste going to landfills. This bill triggered organizations like Cal Fire to provide grants to those willing to cut up the trees otherwise destined to landfills. Cal Fire even lent interested organizations portable horizontal band saw mills to process the tree trunks on site or at city maintenance yards and wood kilns to dry the lumber created by the portable sawmills.

In addition to the increase in activity created by the new law there was a simultaneous increase in woodworkers purchasing portable bandsaw mills, in particular those made by Woodmizer. There were also chainsaw mills gaining in popularity especially by the Granberg 'Alaska Mill', whose company headquarters is right here in Richmond, in our bay area. The chainsaw mill is more portable in that it can be hand carried while the bandsaw mill arrives towed behind a pickup. Either method can produce slabs which can be gems to us woodworkers - whether green or dried.

There were over a hundred people in attendance at this Conference (more than I recall in the two prior conferences I attended, both of those where here in the bay area). A new focus is on developing grading standards for urban woods since most wood processed from urban trees do not enter the commercial lumber market. The grading standards are being put forward by a new group called the Urban Salvaged and Reclaimed Woods, Inc. which hopes to gain membership by all the small mills undertaking these efforts on a commercial basis. Urban wood is used for flooring, pallets and creative projects by woodworkers like us to create furniture and the like. Some folks create lumber to build their own sheds, houses and barns, but that is unusual use, since trees removed in urban areas are of many species and rarely supply enough conifers for the framing of a house.

A keynote speaker was **Sam Sherrill**, PhD who was an economics professor at University of Cincinnati. He became addicted to acquiring fallen trees for making furniture and happened to end up on the PBS show New Yankee workshop with Norm Abrams. Norm visited Cincinnati to show on TV a Woodmizer in action. Sam then wrote a book called Harvesting Urban Timber and his talk was about carbon sequestration which is of interest to him now that he is retired in Tucson.

Our two day Conference ended at a business on the outskirts of SLO where a fellow gets logs from local arborists, wineries, the city and other random sources. He has a Woodmizer and Lucas Mill (made in Australia which can both slab logs, cut into dimensional lumber AND surface slabs all using a clever parallel aluminum frame to provide a gantry for the saw and planer

attachment to the gas motor). This operation sports a dehumidifier kiln set up in a former refrigerated 18-wheeler trailer.

Yes, I did have lots of fun, made a few contacts and got the latest brochures from Woodmizer and Granberg. I have my eyes on a nice sycamore slab that is about to be kiln dried by the demonstrator but time will tell whether I spring for it.

Well, as a club we need to discuss WHO will be writing the President's letter in 2020!

September Program

President Jay Perrine introduced our guest speaker **Sandor Nagyszalanczy** who has written many woodworking books and at one time was an assistant editor at the Fine Woodworking magazine.

His subject for the program was "Mistakes in Woodworking" which is the title of his latest book. The mistakes would include ugly design, wrong measurements, procedural mistakes, and machine malfunctions.

He juried a Sonoma County Woodworkers show where a table was expected to get the best of show award. It didn't get the award because the very intricate base was overpowered by the very large top. You couldn't see the base unless you stood way back from the table. Making a full size model of the table might have prevented this design mistake.

He talked about the sliding tab at the end of tape measures where one can measure both inside and outside measurements. In reality, the measurement is frequently incorrect. It's better to use the one inch or the ten inch mark as the starting mark. He now uses a black faced ruler because his eyes don't see as well as when he was younger.

The use of story sticks is one method of ensuring accurate measurements particularly when multiple parts are being cut. It's best to label each mark so that there is no confusion as to which dimension the mark belongs to.

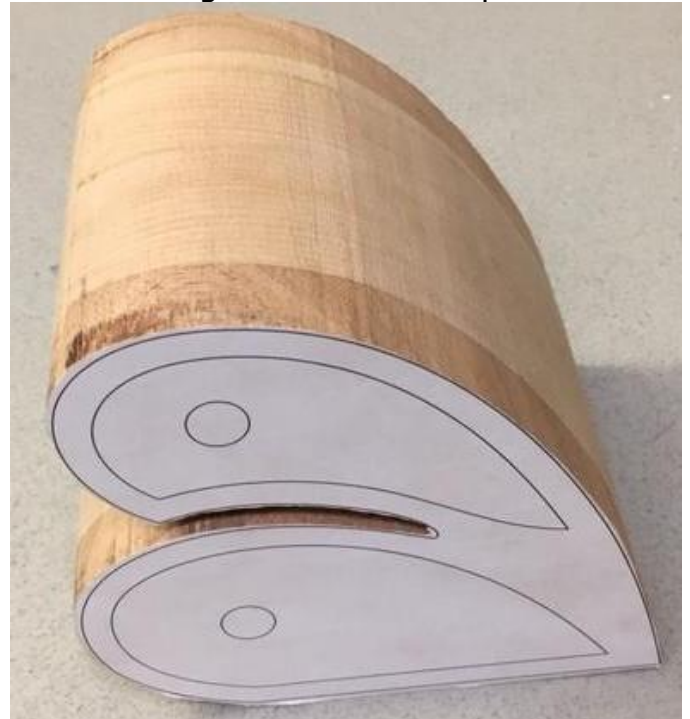
Sandor advocates the use of a handheld calculator if you use fractions in your work because it's easy to make mistakes when doing math with fractions.

Using a cabinetmakers triangle ensures the grain pattern, on a multi-board panel to be glued, remains in the order intended. It's also good practice to mark the waste on dovetail joint pieces so that you don't cut away a tail or pin.

There was a discussion about old glue. Sandor described a clever way to determine whether or not old glue is still usable. Push a stick down into the glue bottle, pull it out, and let the glue flow back into the bottle. Usable glue will flow back into the bottle while unusable glue will form a slim thread and not flow very well or at all.

Show and Tell

A discussion ensued when **David Manley** brought in a partially finished bandsaw project. It's a small two drawer cabinet and he wanted advice about cutting out the drawers without the saw cuts showing on the finished product.



Syd Dunton created a coffee table of zebrawood and mahogany. The top is zebrawood with the grain running across the table instead of lengthwise. The boards were tapered before being glued up resulting in a more complex grain pattern. Additionally, the front and back edges of the table are scalloped.

The rails of the mahogany base are likewise scalloped. Syd applied six coats of wipe-on polyurethane that were sanded with 320 grit sandpaper between coats.



Tom Gaston made an urn for the remains of his father-in-law from claro walnut, white oak and brass coffin nails. The top contains a clever hidden method for opening the box. The white oak was stained with an iron vinegar solution and the claro walnut was cut so as to form a continuous pattern around the body. The top and bottom are made of plywood where a marquetry design will be applied to the top. His father-in-law was an avid fisherman thus the top will contain a fish. The urn is finished with shellac.



Program For October:

Guest speaker **Matthew Werner** will discuss his custom furniture that incorporates marquetry with designs from nature.

Program Committees 2019

Date	Members
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	

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

2019 Officers

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Secretary	Ron Gerard Jst4rig@yahoo.com
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