

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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President's Column

By Jay Perrine



I write this from our little rental in Rockport, Maine - home of Center for Furniture Craftsmanship where Peter Korn has set up a non-profit crafts school. The school has about 40 instructors that come through each year and teach classes with 12 -20 students. I took the two-week wood finishing class here nine years ago from Teri Masaschi and I had good memories of the school and location which is a vacation mecca.

I just completed a one-week course on upholstery and I learned a considerable amount in five short days. The Instructor was Michael Mascelli who hails from Albany, NY. He taught using daily lectures, mostly PowerPoint, with great step-by-step photos of his work or others' work. He had a rough framed ottoman and a straight back chair for each of the 12 students which we actually upholstered. I had NO interest in jute webbing and springs, but right away that is what we

did! He had us upholster step by step and gave us hands-on demonstrations before each step and all the warnings of what we would do wrong and how we could fix it if we did.

We completed the ottoman in two days and spent three days on the chair. We learned, via good slides, lectures, and his personal experience from disassembling some historic pieces, about upholstery for the last roughly 200 years. We were informed that springs are barely present in furniture sold today with the exception of zig-zag springs. I never imagined how many layers are involved to provide a soft and comfortable seat. Mike told us about a number of newer materials that we can substitute for historic layers like horse hair and burlap (but we still did some burlap). We used only about ten hand tools which are all that were necessary to perform basic upholstery. Half round sewing needles are used for blind stitching and I found myself actually accomplishing that fairly successfully. One of the most used 'tools' is ones hands - pull, fluff, smooth, stretch until its ready to tack and then staple or stitch and then often remove the tacks.

Selecting, cutting, matching patterns is all part of the 'show fabric' (the fabric you see on the upholstered seat) work and we were lectured on that. Proceeding in a specific order is

very important. In many cases tacking or other means of temporarily shaping the materials, cushions or stuffing in place before proceeding to be sure it's the right shape, centered or balanced is the mantra of the day - somewhat like dry fitting before gluing.

This was another fun class for me and my first foray into a world I knew little about. Now I want to try some leather upholstery for seat bottoms.

August Program

Yeung Chan, author of the book "Classic Joints with Power Tools" talked to the club about making joints in wood using power tools.

He uses jigs and fixtures made of Finnish birch for many of his joints. He demonstrated one that he makes finger joints with that slides back and forth on his Biesemeyer fence. It has two attachments, one that's used for 90 degree joints and the other is used for angled joint.

Rather than using a dado blade, Yeung chooses to use a single blade and run it through the material multiple times. He favors saw blades with a flat grind at the top for operations like this.

A question was raised about the table saw fence alignment-whether it should be parallel to the blade or offset slightly. Yeung thinks that the fence should be offset two or three thousandths to keep the blade from burning the material.

Yeung brought in a box full of samples of various types of joints and briefly described how to make them. They included a three way miter, a mitered

corner with through tenon, a double miter with through tenon, a typical mortise and tenon, a slip joint with multiple tenons, a triple lap, a mitered and chamfered cross lap, a scarf lap joint in both round and square stock, a long and deep lap joint that appears in a good many Chinese pieces of furniture, and a finger joint.



Show and Tell

Tom Kenyon created a stack of what appears to be plastic drinking cups out of poplar. They are made up of a series of segmented rings except for the bottom. They are painted blue on the outside with white on the inside with the rolled edge of each alleged cup also painted white.



Tom Gaston turned a bowl with lid of ash that resembles a basket. It may be used as an urn. He also made a prototype of a rustic box with lid for a neighbor. It's made of Douglas fir and stained with a solution made of iron objects soaked in water. The recipient is a fisherman so Tom plans to create an appropriate marquetry picture on the lid on the final version.



Bill Henzel made a shop stool out of left over scraps from other projects. The seat is walnut, the legs are cherry, and the rungs are maple. The stool is finished with oil and urethane.



Ed Vincent quipped that he was not old enough to use a cane but he did bring in his walking stick made by Blair Glenn, a former member. It's made from a piece of privet that has a natural bend in it. He also brought in a magazine rack he is making for a friend. The sides are white oak and the dividers are 3/16" hardwood plywood. So far it has no finish on it except for stain.

Syd Dunton described his latest sculpture he calls "blue tower." It's blocks of MDF wrapped with poplar veneer. A wandering line was scroll sawed through the blocks to appear as a three dimensional puzzle. He used a turquoise aniline dye then covered the sculpture with polyurethane.

Eugene Gulko fashioned a table saw blade guard from acrylic plastic. It has a 4" PVC vacuum port at the top. Where the bottom of the port meets the guard, he formed the PVC into a rectangle using a heat gun. The guard attaches to the riving blade.



Yeung Chan, besides giving the program, showed us two of his custom made planes. Both planes are built up from bronze channel stock, both use high speed steel blades heat treated by Ron Hock and both use Norris-style blade adjusters. The number four plane has the blade bedded at 45 degrees and uses claro walnut as infill material. The smaller plane is a block plane where the blade is bedded at 11.5 degrees.



Steve Kelem described how he made footstool legs of poplar using a CNC turning center. The leg has a square top portion to receive the rails that are joined to the leg with Festool's domino floating tenons. The next section is round that contains half rounded flutes while the next two lower sections are tapered. The bottom section is a straight cylinder.



Program For September:

Sandor Nagyszalanczy will give us a presentation on fixing woodworking mistakes.

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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