

CONEJO VALLEY WOODWORKER'S ASSOCIATION

The Bladerunner

July, 2000 Number 53

JULY MEETING

July 6 – Community Craftsman Award Presentation and Discussions on Wood Finishing – Harvey Sass, Sr. V. P., and Bruce Johnson, Finishing Expert, Minwax

Last March, Minwax informed Gene West that he received the Community Craftsman Award for 1999. The annual award, started in 1992, is given to persons or institutions that have improved their community and instilled a sense of pride and satisfaction through working with wood.

Harvey Sass, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing for Minwax, will give some background information on the Minwax Community Craftsman Award Program. After that, he will present the award to Gene West.

Following the presentation Mr. Sass will introduce Bruce Johnson, Minwax' spokesperson and finishing expert, as another part of the grand-prize. Many of us have already met Bruce Johnson at the American Woodwork Shows where he demonstrates wood finishing techniques. He has also written numerous books and articles on the subject. Bruce will then give a 10-15 minute presentation regarding stains, brushes, application, or other aspect of finishing that interests the group. After the presentation he will open up the floor to questions. If possible, Bruce will demonstrate the use of some of Minwax' finishing products.

SATURDAY SHOP SESSION

July 8th Todd Waite, Furniture Maker

Saturday, July 8th at 9 AM, Todd Waite, a local furniture maker will host a tour of his shop at 4217 Orchardview Ct. Westlake Village. (phone: 818-735- 4900). Directions: Exit 101 at Lindero Cyn Rd. heading south, toward Westlake. Turn right on on Baronsgate; turn left on Village School; turn left on Orchardview Ct (first left). Todd will be at the July 6th meeting and we will get a count on the number who will attend.

August Meetings

Thursday, August 3 – Vacuum Veneering – Stephen Case-Pall and Ira Goldberg

Stephen and Ira are in the process of assembling a vacuum veneering system from parts rather than purchasing an integrated system. At this meeting they will demonstrate how it works or why it didn't, and steps to correct problems they encountered. With luck, they will show a few examples of veneered projects.

Saturday, August 5 – To be determined

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS

We were happy to welcome new members Paul Conser, Alan Trimble, Paul Lorentzen, William Gourlay, and Chuck Diedrich, and guest Charlie Bartolotta. We hope that you enjoyed the meeting and we look forward to seeing you at future meetings and club activities.

MAY MEETING PRIZES

Stan Wolpert	- Drill press vise
Marshall Nathanson	- 24" Clamps
Bill Gourlay	- Marking Gage
Ira Goldberg	- Drill press clamp/vise
Howard Wallis	- Feather board
Ed Darling	- Push stick

We hope that you enjoy the prizes.

THANK YOU AGAIN, JUNIORS' TOOLS

The CVWA thanks Junior's for "helping out" by donating door prizes. Please remember, when you purchase a tool at Junior's let the sales person know that you are a member of CVWA. Not only will you receive a discount, Junior's will also give the club credit toward future prizes or items.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

Jack Luhrsen, our librarian, requests that all members look through their homes for CVWA books and videos that are outstanding. They need to be inventoried

CONEJO VALLEY WOODWORKER ASSOCIATION CAPS AVAILABLE

Marlene Peters, our treasurer will bring some CVWA caps that she ordered for sale to members. There are two styles, the rounded cap and the vertical front, and a variety of colors. Each cap has a logo similar to one-half of the Bladerunner logo, and says "Conejo Valley Woodworkers' Association." The cost of the caps is \$15 each.

JUNE MEETING NOTES

"Show and Tell"

Bill Brandt showed a small basketball game where the object is to get a wooden sphere attached by a string into a turned cup.

Gene West showed a music drum box that he made from plans in *Woodworker's Journal*, November/December 1989. He cautioned that it is imperative to use the dimensions that are recommended in the plans.

Dennis Zurcher's made a fretwork CVWA sign that was used to label the club's library kiosk display.

Bill Waters showed how to use PVC pipes instead of steel pipes for long pipe clamps. The PVC pipes are lighter and cheaper than steel. One jaw of the pipe clamp is screwed into a short steel nipple. In turn, the nipple is screwed into a PVC to NPT (pipe thread) adapter, and the other end of the adapter is glued onto the PVC.

Discussion on Safety

We were concerned about how small the turnout would be for a meeting on safety, but we needn't have worried. It is an important subject to all of us. There was a lot of discussion and participants presented a lot of good ideas.

Most of the discussion centered around table saw safety. Stephen Case-Pall led the discussion by presenting a small sliding cut-off table that he made and a large cut-of table with accurate angle control and board hold down, that he and Ira Goldberg made based on numerous ideas from woodworking magazines. Both tables permitted wood to be cut safely, with hands well away from the blade.

Kick-back was another issue. Mike DeCaprio and Bill Brandt said how important a zero-clearance saw insert was to avoiding kick-back problems. Stephen Case-Pall reinforced this with some recent experiences.

Bill Brandt described that kick-back occurs in either of two ways. The wood can twist into the blade at the end of a cut if the wood is not held securely or it can pinch the blade. In either instance the wood is shot back at the woodworker at a high speed. [note: Wood is a very unstable material and even though a wide board might be straight, it can warp after it is cut and potentially pinch the saw blade.]

The question of blade height was not resolved, although it is important for both kickback and hand safety. When the blade cuts down on the wood, the wood is held more firmly to the table. Even when it is pushed from the back, it has more of a tendency to fly up than straight back. But this is at the expense of hand injury. Members suggested the following heights that the blade should extend above the wood: $\frac{1}{8}$ " and $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ of the wood thickness, equal to the wood thickness, and fully extended. Bill Brandt suggested that experienced woodworkers should continue to do what is useful, but new woodworkers should be introduced to use the table saw with the blade only about $\frac{1}{8}$ " above the wood.

Although the table saw blade guard has an anti-kick back pawls and a splitter, very few of our members use it because it interferes with accurate woodworking. However, many members have made substitute splitters that they place on their zero-clearance insert.

Gene West brought table saw jigs that he made, including a tenoning jig, a vacuum jig to hold thin strips of wood for resawing or making veneer, and push sticks of different thicknesses. He pointed out that the push sticks should be sufficiently long to keep hands away from the blade, regardless of the blade height.

Howard Ford stated that accidents happen very quickly, and discussed the psychology of safety – see article below.

Other suggestions were:

- When pushing wood through the blade, keep one finger in the miter groove and the other hand over the saw fence.
- Unplug the table saw when changing blades or working around the blade. One member had a saw with a defective switch that started by itself.
- Count to two and look at each hand before you use the saw. While you look at your hands, see the path that they will take.

- Add a knee shut-off so that if your hands are caught you can kick the switch to stop the blade.
- Wait until the blade stops completely before you get the wood you've cut.
- When tightening or loosening the blade, rest the wrench at the edge of the table and tap the blade with a piece of scrap wood.

Not only are we concerned with table saw safety and blade guards, but the recent internet on line woodworking magazine, Woodworkers Journal E-zine, Vol. 1, No. 3 reported their informal survey on the use of blade guards. This is excerpted from the issue:

"Table Saw Safety Guards: Lots of opinions, no consensus."

"We got 19 messages regarding using table saw safety guards and it was almost even divided among the pro guards (eight readers) and anti guards (seven readers)."

"Pro:"

"I've had two kick back injuries, one serious. Fortunately I have all my fingers, but these accidents could have been avoided with a splitter and kick back dogs. Guards must be set correctly to be of any use at all ... they also help with dust collection on my table saw."

"While ripping a 24" piece of red oak, and using a push stick in the narrow space between the fence and the Brett guard, the blade threw the wood. It didn't go very far. The guard held the wood but the force was great enough to bend the support rods."

"Guards are generally a pain and there are some cuts that require them to be removed. I believe, however, that [u]sing a table saw without some kind of blade guard and kick back protection is very foolish to say the least. Sooner or later the brave come up just a little short, at least a joint or two."

"I removed the blade guard, which included the splitter and anti kickback pawls. My hand was jerked into the blade and I lost a digit from two fingers ... Have a good blade guard and splitter and use them for all 'through' cuts. You don't save any time or money by cutting off your fingers."

"Con"

"I was amazed at the way the splitter was designed. The wood would jam in the splitter and

then I would panic as I tried to reach down and shut off the saw. When I approached other, more experienced woodworkers at a craft school, they all said to take off the guard and splitter and to be careful."

"Over the last dozen years, I have lost the tip of a thumb to a safety guard. Each time I lost control it was because a guard induced a kickback. In the 30-odd years working with unguarded saws, I've only once had a serious kickback (that one left a bruise just below my rib cage) ... I've reached the conclusion to 1) put nothing between me and the blade, 2) fear the blade, and 3) arrange each cut beforehand."

"The saw guard is usually useless, in the way and blocks the view of the cut. Most professionals couldn't even find the thing if they needed to. The thing that has saved me many, many times is a switch that will shut the saw off with the knee or the kick of a foot."

"I lost a little finger in 1998 and damaged my index finger. Cost a bunch, but a guard would not have helped. I still work without one."

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SAFETY

By Howard Ford

Remember the inner voice you hear before an "accident" occurs. The warning thoughts may keep occurring in an effort to get the conscious mind to heed the warning. The subconscious **Red Light** may last only a split second, about the length of time it takes a table saw to remove a finger.

Our subconscious mind always has our best interest at heart. That inner mind has common sense and knows things that are dangerous. It is quite possible that an educated and uninhibited subconscious mind gives out a warning before every accident that we cause. If we have provided our minds with a reasonable amount of safety training then the subconscious mind will always direct us toward safety.

A Question To Be Ponder:

If our subconscious mind has given us a warning and an injury occurs as a result of ignoring that warning, can we call it an accident? If we are warned that the stove is hot and we ignore the warning and put our hand on the stove, is the burn an accident?

What do the warnings sound like?

The warnings may come as a question or as statement. They may come as a shout of emergency or they may casual, gentle and without excitement. Following are some warnings I have heard.

My hands are too close!

I should use a dusk mask!

“Is the machine (saw, grinder, router) adjusted correctly?”

If the drill bit bends it will hit my hands!

If it (emery wheel, band saw blade, scroll saw blade, wood on the lathe) breaks it will hit me!

If the drill sticks and the material spins, it will hit me!

It should be held in a jig!

It might hit me in the eye!

The noise is loud enough to damage my hearing!

“If the screwdriver slips where will the point go?”

If the wrench slips off the bolt where will my knuckles hit?

The fumes are toxic and I should not be breathing them!

I believe that the warning is always there. I have realized many times, after I have had minor injuries, that I had thoughts about how to avoid the injury a few seconds before it happened. I then realize that if I had stopped instantly, when the warning came, I would not be bleeding now.

Conscious responses to the red light warnings of our subconscious mind.

The subconscious mind speaks clearly and the conscious mind makes many different responses. Far too often I failed to hear the warning. I also failed to heed the warning and I have a lot of small scars to prove it. Here are some of the responses I have made to my warnings:

“I just have this one to do. It would take a long time to build a jig.”

“It will take too long to clamp the work to the table.”

“I don’t need a push stick for this one.”

“It is too much trouble to unplug this saw.”
(When changing blades.)

“I’m tired and I have to get this finished.”

“There is not very much dust in the air, the fan will blow most of it away.”

“I think I can hold it down.”

“I only have to make this one little cut.”

“I know my fingers are close to the emery wheel but I think I can hold this little piece.”

“I should use the machine’s guard but it is in the way.”

“I don’t have any gloves and I hate wearing that big old filter mask.” (While using toxic materials)

“I know my fingers are too close so I will be extra careful.”

“I see a lot of dust in the air but I will be finished soon.”

A person with a hard driving conscious mind, that tends to deny dangers, may have difficulty listening to the subconscious warnings. A mind that is consumed with negative emotions (anger, hurt, fear, etc.) will be out of balance when it comes to communicating the warnings to the conscious mind. A mind that is under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs and some medications will have an impaired ability to communicate the warning and/or heed the warnings.

If one is focused on the task at hand and remains open to all the safety factors then the warnings may be heard and corrective action taken. Manufacturer’s safety warnings are of value only if the conscious mind works in harmony and cooperation with the subconscious mind.

Fear of the machine is not the answer. The truth is, fear can become a risk. A mind limited by fear does not have the balance needed to give and heed the warnings. A mind that is distracted by strong emotions and thoughts should stay out of the shop.

When we walk into the shop, there needs to be a conscious commitment to listen to the subconscious warnings. The answer to the warnings needs to be, “I will immediately take appropriate action and work safely.” A person who that accepts their mind’s safety rules and heeds it’s warnings, will operate safely.

I AM THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE I HAVE.

COMING EVENTS

Ventura County Fair August 2-13: Competition entries collected at the Fairgrounds Fri-Sun July 21-23, 10 AM to 7 PM.

The CVWA and the County Fair Creative Living Department encourages all county woodworkers to display examples of their work at the fair Exhibitors must be amateurs and residents of Ventura County. Amateur is defined as a person who engages in an activity as a pastime rather than a profession.

Classes of woodworking entries are:

Fair Theme, "Visions of Tomorrow"

House and garden accessories

Farm animals cutout Fret work

Furniture Intarsia

Marquetry/Inlay Musical Instrument

Toys (play on) Toys (play with)

Wood turning All other

All entries are secured during the Fair. Entries must be picked up Monday, Aug. 14, between 10 AM and 7 PM

If you would like more information or would like to enter a project but cannot take it to the Fairgrounds contact Gene West, 805-483-1210. Gene can enter the item on your behalf since he is involved in setting up the exhibits.

WOOD VENDORS

Since we are starting the summer, people are starting to think about new projects. Take advantage of the suppliers listed below, and let them know that you are a member of the CVWA.

Please inquire to the vendor for details on their products and discounts and show your CVWA membership card to receive your discount.

Conejo Hardwoods

31275 LaBaya Drive
Westlake Village, CA 91362
818-889-0487

Discount Book Outlet

255 Easy Street, Unit E
Simi Valley, CA 93063
805-582-2665

Do-It Center

3775 Thousand Oaks B'lvd
Thousand Oaks, CA 91561
805-497-2753 (go to customer service desk)

Eisenbrand Hardwoods

4100 Spencer Street
Torrance, CA 90503

310-543-3576 (Orders: 800-258-2587)

H&M Hardwoods & Moldings

19 Aviator Street (Near 101 and Central)
Camarillo, CA 93010-8314
805-987-3877

Hardwood Specialties

7801 Canoga Ave. #8
Canoga Park, CA 91304
818-703-6472

Higgins Hardwoods

524 Pacific
Oxnard CA 93030
800-241-1883

Integrity Wood Products

7838 Alabama Ave.(Near Canoga & Strathern)
Canoga Park, CA 91304
Phone: 818-704-7490; FAX: 818-704-8912

Junior's Tools

813 E. Ventura Blvd.
Oxnard, CA 93030
Phone: 805-278-0937; Fax: 805-278-3919

Mayan Hardwoods

3130 Paseo Mercado #101 (Behind Price Club)
Oxnard, CA 90303
Phone: 800-937-8890; 805-981-4555
FAX: 805-981-4560

SEND US YOUR NEWSLETTER INPUTS!

Vendors that offer discounts to club members

Special topics, questions, or local events

Items of interest to club members

Items for sale, items wanted, letters and "Tips"

Inputs for the newsletter are needed by the 15th of the month before the meeting.

Ira Goldberg 805-495-7580 FAX: 805-373-4775

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