

# *CONEGO VALLEY WOODWORKERS* BLADERUNNER-NEWSLETTER

May 2023 Issue #315

## **President's Message:**

Greetings from New Bern, South Carolina. This month's message is going to be a really short message since I am typing it with one figure on my cell phone.

I am at a woodworking conference that the Society of American Period Furniture Makers put on. It is our Annual Conference. Our speakers were Ben Hobbs and his Sons Matt and Calvin, Mary May, and others. We just finished up with Roy Underhill today.

This month we have Frank Jones who will demonstrate how he made his router sled. You're in for a treat. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Brad

## **Highlights of April**

During our April meeting, we had the privilege of listening to an amazing presenter/artist. Jennifer Duke is a violin maker! She was trained over 15 years ago by Michael Darton. She and nine others were at the right place at the right time. The group of ten students studied under Mr. Darton for a few years and honed their skills in violin production. The story of how Jennifer found her way to the CVWA, was by chance. She had seen our club name somewhere and reached out to Bill Aurand for assistance with her band saw. I put the request in our April newsletter and somehow, I kept in contact with her.

Life got in the way for her and she went radio silent for a few weeks. I understand that Frank Jones made contact with her but they were never able to meet up. As luck would have it, she texted me and asked if I remembered who she was and that she was still seeking help with her Grizzly bandsaw, after learning that what she needed was to install new tires on it. She had already purchased them but didn't feel comfortable trying to replace them

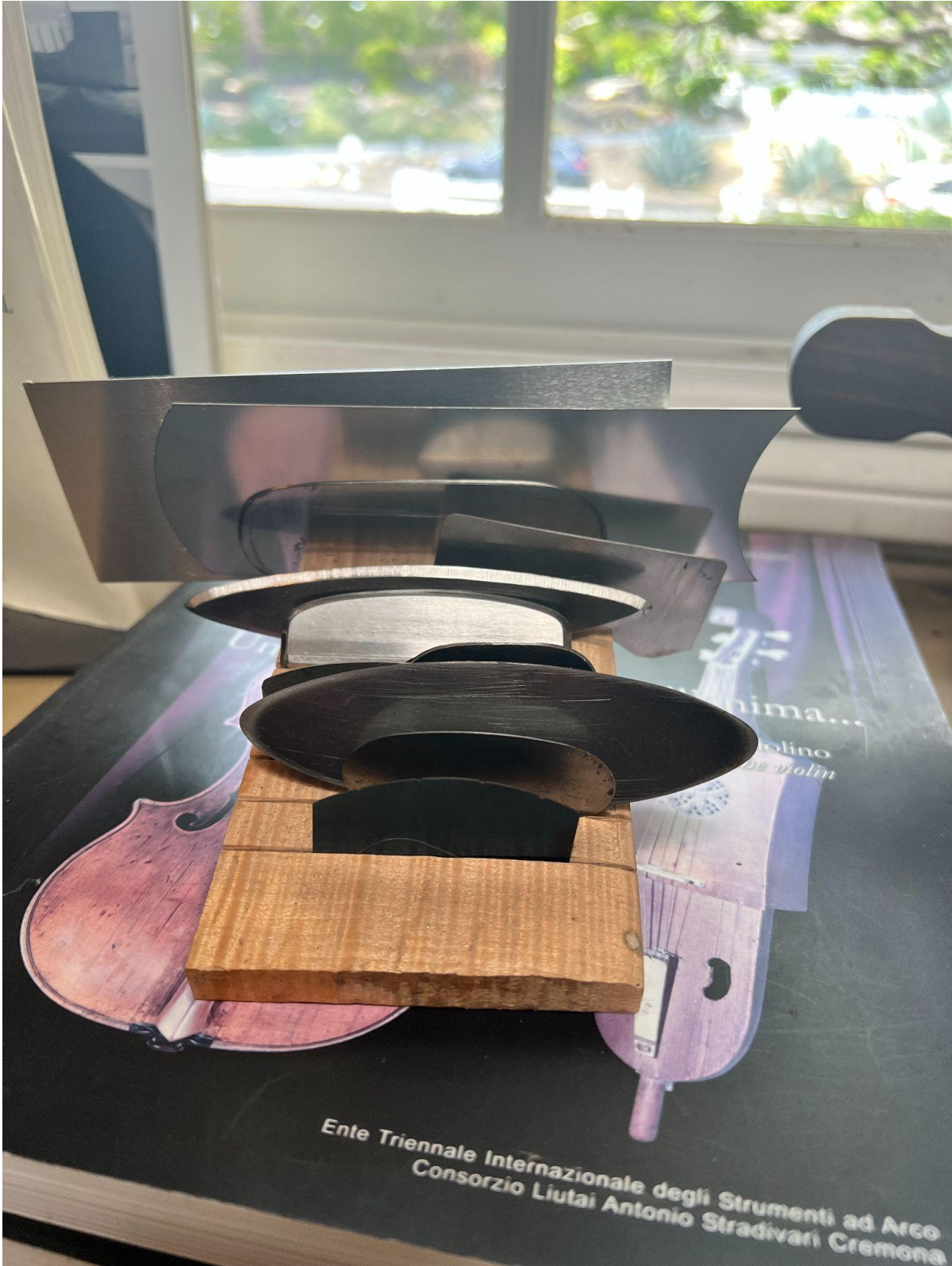
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after speaking with a Grizzly representative. They were telling her that she needed to disassemble the wheels in order to put the new parts on!! Well, that wasn't going to happen so I told her I would come to take a look, and if I wasn't able to help, I had plenty of great resources to reach out to. I thought, how tuff could it be? I replaced mine after having watched a YouTube on how to do that so why not give it a go? I instructed her to get some hot, soapy water to soak the tires in for just a bit. I explained to her what I learned from the video and that we could do it. Well, guess what? We did it! The two of us worked together and were able to replace the tires as well as tune it up a little to meet her expectations. I have to give a shout-out to [Arlen Handberg](#) for his excellent tutelage in this area. Arlen had come to my house a couple of months ago to help me adjust my Jet bandsaw and I learned so much from watching him that I felt confident in helping Jennifer. This is the true power of mentoring and friendships.

After Jennifer and I finished with her bandsaw, I asked what she made and to my BIG surprise, she answered, "Violins." Well, if you saw her presentation then you had the same reaction I did. She was gracious enough to take me on a little tour of her workshop in her home. It is just a bedroom that she converted into her shop. She is very organized and complete with everything she needs to do her craft. I was amazed, to say the least. She wanted to pay me for my time and I replied, "Absolutely not." This is what paying it forward is. In return for my help, I asked her if she would be willing to come to our meeting and show us what she does and speak of her craft. That is how we were so lucky to get her there. Here are some photos from her presentation and workshop. Enjoy



Just a few of her violins



Handmade Blades for shaping





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## New Projects from our members



Don Halverson sharing his “Flag Boxes.” Don spends many hours making these amazing flag boxes for several of his Veteran friends and others. Next month we will feature how he goes about this from start to finish.



Another “Jig” for the table saw from Arlen Handberg

A small carving from Stacy. This is 1x1x2 basswood



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Raffle Prizes:

Waterproof Lubrication- Rust & Corrosion Protection





Saw Horses



Jig Saw Blades



Spade Blades



Tower Stackable Storage

Please remember to send your recent project photos to [stacygerlich@gmail.com](mailto:stacygerlich@gmail.com) so we can post them in the following newsletter.

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Last month, we decided to have a little fun. We have added a new category to our newsletter; “What is it?”



This is an antique bench-mounted and hand-cranked air pump.

This month's challenge piece for the “What is it?”



Write your answer on a piece of paper and drop it in the box at the sign-in table or tell Jeff Bock. Your entry will get you a free ticket for the raffle. We will post the answer in our June newsletter.

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## Free Wood\*\*\*\*

Rich Bryne 818-366-1187, has a Silver Maple tree that was felled about 8 months ago. If you are interested, please reach out to him. Sizes range from 9" - 36".

## Member Deaths

We are very sad to report that **Al Fournier** passed away on Thursday, April 27, 2023. He was a long-time member of our club and will be missed greatly.

Another woodworking legend, **Gene West** passed away recently at the age of 92.

See you all at the next meeting, on May 4, 2023, at the Goebel Center. The meeting hours are 6-8:30 p.m.

Please, send me pictures of your latest masterpieces.  
stacygerlich@gmail.com