

# *CONEGO VALLEY WOODWORKERS* BLADERUNNER-NEWSLETTER

August 2023 Issue #318

## President's Message

No update on the Cherry Table top, the board is still in the flattening position! The Duncan Phyfe dining room table has received some stains. The next process will be applying some shellac to refinish the affected areas. More to come on that one too.

**There will be no meeting in August:** Our next meeting is September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget our "Annual Picnic" which is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> at Stonefire Grill, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Everyone in attendance will receive a free Raffle Ticket, and you will have a chance to win one of our gift certificates.

It is not too early to make plans for our Annual Auction. Clean out the shop of tools no longer being used and then replace them with tools you need and want! This year, our Auction is scheduled on October 14<sup>th</sup> again at Will Robbins' house, please save the date.

Our Membership Chairman, Jeff Block, is still accepting your dues payments and updating your current information. He might even have a new "OLD" tool for you to identify.

See you at the next meeting.

Brad Ormsby

# Highlights of July

Welcome to the sweltering heat of summer! Hopefully, everyone is staying hydrated and relaxed as possible. It's hard to believe we are halfway through the year. Before we know it, it will be Christmas. We still have lots planned for our club.

The month of July brought us an excellent presentation from our own Dave Siedler. He gave us some great information on stains and dyes. Just when you think you know about stains, dyes, and wood finishing, Dave came along and shed some great light on the subject for us all. As a quick review, here are some of the facts shared during Dave's presentation:

- Stains and Dyes
- Oil penetrating stain
- Non-grain raising Stain
- Gel stain
- Chemical dyes
- Dyes
- Distressing wood
- Paints and glazes

What is coming up in August for the club: CVWA Summer Picnic at

**Stonefire Grill 3635 East Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks, CA. 805-413-0300. Saturday, August 5th from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

All attendees will receive a ticket for our raffle gift certificates. The restaurant does not accept reservations. Each member orders their food prior to sitting down. Last year, we were all together on the outside patio. Please be sure to dress for the hot weather. Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate!!!

## **September Events:**

Bill Aurand will be presenting Mitre Saw Basics. This will be during our September 7th meeting at the Goebel Center. Please come and support Bill and gain some great information.

## **Interesting Article submitted by our Jeff Bock:**

# **300,000-Year-Old Weapon Reveals Early Humans Were Woodworking Masters**

# **300,000-Year-Old Weapon Reveals Early Humans Were Woodworking Masters**

By University of Reading July 22, 2023

**New research on a 300,000-year-old throwing stick reveals advanced woodworking techniques among early humans, suggesting communal hunting practices involving the whole community. The artifact, demonstrating high craftsmanship, indicates early humans' deep knowledge of wood properties.**

Newly conducted research has revealed that early humans were proficient masters of woodworking.

This insight came from the detailed analysis of a 300,000-year-old double-pointed wooden throwing stick, discovered three decades ago in Schöningen, Germany. Research indicates that the stick was meticulously scraped, seasoned, and sanded before being used for hunting, suggesting a more advanced level of early human woodworking skills than previously believed.

## **Tools That Mobilized Communities**

These findings, published in the journal *PLOS ONE* on July 19, also suggest that the creation of lightweight weapons such as this throwing stick potentially enabled communal hunts of medium and small animals. It is thought that the

use of throwing sticks as hunting tools could have been a community-wide activity, even including children.

Dr. Annemieke Milks, of the University of Reading's Department of Archaeology, led the research. She said: "Discoveries of wooden tools have revolutionized our understanding of early human behaviors. Amazingly these early humans demonstrated an ability to plan well in advance, a strong knowledge of the properties of wood, and many sophisticated woodworking skills that we still use today.

"These lightweight throwing sticks may have been easier to launch than heavier spears, indicating the potential for the whole community to take part. Such tools could have been used by children while learning to throw and hunt."

Co-author Dirk Leder said: "The Schöningen humans used a spruce branch to make this aerodynamic and ergonomic tool. The woodworking involved multiple steps including cutting and stripping off the bark, carving it into an aerodynamic shape, scraping away more of the surface, seasoning the wood to avoid cracking and warping, and sanding it for easier handling."

### **High-Impact Weapon**

Found in 1994, the 77 cm (30 inch) long stick is one of several different tools discovered in Schöningen, which includes throwing spears, thrusting spears, and another similarly sized throwing stick.

The double-pointed throwing stick – analyzed to an exceptionally high level of detail for this new study – was most likely used by early humans to hunt medium-sized game like red and roe deer, and possibly fast-small prey including hare and birds that were otherwise difficult to catch.

The throwing sticks would have been thrown rotationally – similar to a boomerang – rather than overhead like a modern-day javelin and may have enabled early humans to throw as far as 30 meters (100 feet). Although lightweight, the high velocities at which such weapons can be launched could have resulted in deadly high-energy impacts.

### **Intimate Connection Between the Tool and Its User**

The fine surface, carefully shaped points, and polish from handling suggest this was a piece of personal kit with repeated use, rather than a quickly made tool that was carelessly discarded.

Principal investigator Thomas Terberger said: “The systematic analysis of the wooden finds of the Schöningen site financed by the German Research Foundation provides valuable new insights and further exciting information on these early wooden weapons can be expected soon.”

The well-preserved stick is on display at the Forschungsmuseum in Schöningen.

Reference: “A double-pointed wooden throwing stick from Schöningen, Germany: Results and new insights from a multianalytical study” by Annemieke Milks, Jens Lehmann, Dirk Leder, Michael Sietz, Tim Koddenberg, Utz Böhner, Volker Wachtendorf and Thomas Terberger, 19 July 2023, *PLOS ONE*.

[DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0287719](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287719)

Can you guess what this tool is used for?? The answer will be in next month's newsletter. Put on your thinking caps.



### **SAFETY TIPS**

As most of us know, accidents happen when we least expect them. Because of this, the Board has decided it would be a good idea to start including some safety tips for all of us to remember and practice. With that said, how about we start with the table saw:

- Before cutting your material, adjust the blade height with the machine unplugged.
- Do not wear loose clothing that could get caught in the blade.
- Always use a push stick to keep your hands/fingers away from the blade.

- Do not wear jewelry that hangs from your neck.
- Always wear eye and ear protection.
- Do not attempt to clear cut-off pieces while the machine is running.

We will begin including other tips like these in the upcoming newsletters. If you have any suggestions for safety tips, please email them to me.

We are trying to grow our membership. If you want to earn a free year of membership, bring a friend who signs up for the club and you will receive a one-year paid membership:)

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.

## 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".

## Board Member Request

Jeff Bock is looking for ideas on where to rent a workspace for his woodworking. If you have any ideas, please contact him at: [fejjbo@gmail.com](mailto:fejjbo@gmail.com).

Check out these articles:

<https://usvintagewood.com/most-expensive-woods-world/>

Have you ever heard this term- dendrochronology?

As woody plants grow in diameter a new layer of wood is produced each year by the cambium. This layer is called an annual ring or growth ring. By counting the rings, the age of a tree can be determined. This use of tree-ring dating to find the age of a tree is also known as dendrochronology.

<https://www.treehugger.com/estimating-forest-trees-age-1343321#:~:text=The%20most%20accurate%20way%20foresters,sample%20using%20an%20increment%20bo rer>

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Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. Stay safe!