

GOLD COUNTRY WOODCRAFTERS

Newsletter February, 2019

Vol 52

GCW NL Brief:

The February 12th meeting was well attended with 35 members plus a few guests in attendance. Jim Hunt announced that there will be GCW hats available to our members to help publicize our club. Gail Cone gave a presentation on wood stabilizing and enhancement with the focus being a process using a heat cured plastic resin injection process. There was a good showing for the night's Show-N-Tell with 10 members sharing numerous projects, each describing their features, procedures and fabrication issues. On a sad note, Homer Rail gave us the news that Neil Knutsen, one of our original and long time members, has passed. Please see memoriam later in this newsletter.

Presidents Message:



Gold Country Woodcrafters

Thank you to all who braved the elements to come out and attend the February meeting. It was a well-attended night, highlighted by a well prepared and informative presentation on wood stabilizing by Gail Cone.

Gail illustrated how the smallest scraps of otherwise useless wood can become artful creations using stabilizing resin and dyes. Just what we need, another reason to save all those wood scraps. LOL. Thank you Gail for educating us on yet another skill

for our arsenal.

Thank you as well to all who participated in show and tell and especially to Nelson Exum who entertained the crowd with a nice melody on his handcrafted banjo.

It continues to be a pleasure to see all of you every month. I am continually amazed by the talent of our members!

Until next time, happy and safe woodworking!

Jim Hunt

GCW President

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February Presentation, Wood Stabilizing, Gail Cone:



Gail gave a presentation on options and techniques for stabilizing wood. The objective was to show why and how one can improve machinability and enhance or reclaim wood. To aid in the effort a set of prepared slides was shown. The slides showed example projects where stabilizing techniques were used, and the products that can be used. The products discussed were CA, Wood Hardener and Heat Cured Resin with a focus on the Heat Cured Resin technique. Also, a number of example pieces were passed around so members could get a sense of

what can be done using the injected resin process. Link to slide presentation: [Wood Stabilizing By Gail Cone](#)

Why bother? We as woodworkers often find, in our projects, the need to improve its machinability or beauty. The process could include stabilizing end grain fibers or soft areas in a project to facilitate finishing. In other cases we may have material that may not be solid enough or interesting enough to use in its natural state. One example would be wood with some cool spalting (coloring due to the interaction of natural funguses) but is not stable. Another example would be pieces that may be stable but are just not that interesting. Using some stabilizing processes or a subset thereof can enhance wood by adding color and or texture. This can be a neat way to make your own unique wood inlays.

What kinds of projects could benefit. Well wood turning projects are the obvious ones. However, almost any project could benefit from some stabilizing products to enhance/stabilize pieces prior to finishing.



Far left: CA was used to harden soft end-grain for final turning, sanding and finishing.

Middle: CA was used to harden and fill the maple burl before final turning, sanding, finishing.

Far right: Rough turned piece saturated with Wood hardener (Minwax). Oak round was essentially rotten, but had interesting coloring.



Bottle stoppers at left were made from woods that were: soft and or worm eaten. The blanks were stabilized using the heat cured plastic resin injection process. Any voids are filled. Dyes were used.

Outline of steps: Blank preparation, Prepare resin, Apply Vacuum, Bake it, cleanup. For details see slide presentation.

Links for online videos on Resin Stabilizing are provided at end of slide presentation document.

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Announcements and News:

- 1) **Executive Committee Members Needed:** Ron Sexton and Dale Gamble will be terming out off the Executive Committee in March. This leaves 2 open positions. Because of the openings there is a need for members to consider becoming involved to help guide the club activities going forward. Mark Butzler has volunteered to fill a MAL position. There is still an open position so if you are interested, please let one of the current committee members know. *There is a misconception among some members that a position on the committee requires significant management skills. This is not true. The committee is really a general discussion forum. Trust me, you would enjoy the experience.*
- 2) **Shop Tours:** The 2019 shop tour event is scheduled for Saturday May 11th. There will be 3 shops featured on this planned tour. They will be those of Nelson Exum, John Roberts and Basil Borkert. The first tour begins at 8:00 am with the schedule being Nelson Exum 8:00-9:00, John Roberts 9:30-10:30 and Basil Borkert 11:00-noon. Maps will be sent out well before the event.
- 3) **GCW Hats:** Hats anyone? Jim Hunt announced that GCW hats are on their way. They will have the GCW logo across the front and the cost is only \$12. A signup sheet was passed around at the February meeting for members wishing one to sign up. Some signed up for 2. It is expected that the hats will be available at the March meeting.
- 4) **Meeting Topics for 2019:**

March 12th: Ron Sexton will give a presentation on Shellac, its origins, and uses. The talk will include a short video. He will spend some time on how to use it for touching up and repairing using hot shellac sticks. He will show some of the techniques used to make excellent long lasting repairs

April 9th: This night will be the spring GCW Project Challenge. The task will be to create a "Work of Art" that can be hung on a wall (inside or out). The definition of "ART" is fully definable by the craftsman. The only rules are that it must have been created within 6 months of the April challenge and that it must have some wood in it. Let your imagination run wild. Let's have some fun. Each member bringing in his or her art will receive a raffle ticket for a \$25 cash prize.

May 14th: A number of members will be demonstrating track saws. The units will include examples of those purchased and some shop made with some able to accommodate both saws and routers. It is planned to have demonstrations setup outside the meeting room so members can see the units in action. There is room for more volunteers to show their track saw solutions. If interested please contact Tim Bynon at 530-206-7000 or steamglidertim@yahoo.com or at March meeting.

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June 11th: Homer Rail will present ideas on how to make the most from a small shop space. Mark Butzler and Bruce Hall will also be contributing. Homer would also like other members to bring up ideas that helped make their shop spaces work.

July 9th & August 13th:

Continuing into the summer we are hoping to have more outdoor demonstrations. Details will be forthcoming in the coming months.

September 10th: Topic to be determined

October 8th: Fall GCW Project Challenge. The project focus is to be determined.

November 12th: Topic to be determined

December 10th: Back by popular demand. This meeting will be “bring your spouse/special guest night”. This special event, marking the holidays, will feature extended show and tells, treats-refreshments, and a special raffle as well as the regular raffle and much more. So mark your calendars so the date stays open.

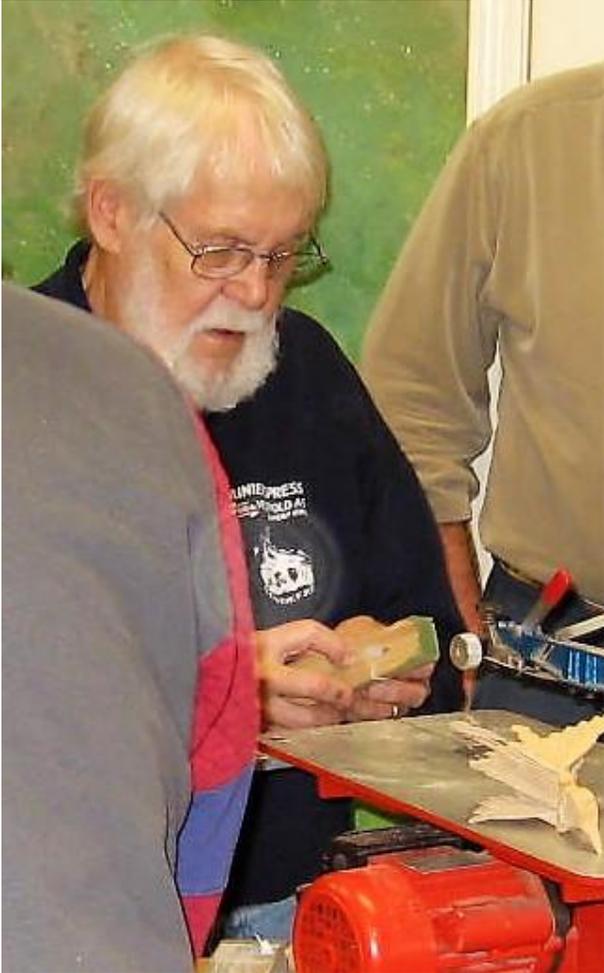
Members that would like to give a presentation or have ideas for a presentation please contact Tim Bynon steamglidertim@yahoo.com. Remember this is your club and the more club members participate in sharing knowledge, the more proficient we all become at our common interest, woodworking.

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In Memoriam: Neil Knutsen



Gold Country Woodcrafters, we are sad to report that a valued member of our club Mr. Neil Knutsen, has passed away. Neil was with the club from the very beginning in 2007. Neil was highly instrumental in helping make our club into what it is today. He was a member of both SAW and GCW and led the way with his dual membership and was a huge supporter of both clubs. Neil's character, dedication, knowledge and love of woodworking were evident to all who knew him. Neil served on the GCW Executive Committee for many years until his health got in the way. He was an excellent craftsman and was always there for our members, sharing his talents and his friendship. His favorite endeavor was creating unique scroll saw pieces. One of his unique pieces, he made a number of, was a scrolled bird (see picture). His projects were regularly on display at Woodcraft Supply. He along with the late Jack Van Keuren gave scroll saw presentations that were a ton of fun.

During my tenure as GCW President, Neil was always ready to help when the need arose. Just to give an idea as to his character, when he was no longer able to really do woodworking, he still came to meetings just to be with fellow woodworkers and friends. He even participated in the raffles. So what would he do when he won an item, he would give it to one of our young

members (all of 11 years old). One item was a Craftsman scroll saw, go figure. Way to go Neil, you put a real smile on that young man's face. Goodbye my friend we'll miss you.

By John Brideson, GCW Founder and Past President

When a woodworking club was proposed for western slope woodworkers, Neil Knutsen was one of the first to sign on. He was one of the stalwarts of Sacramento Area Woodworkers (SAW Club) and helped make that club successful. His contributions to our Gold Country Woodworkers group not only included his superior scroll saw talent, but he was a liaison with SAW Club and helped add many dual memberships to our club. He did many demos and mentoring for our club and I fondly remember his efforts and will deeply miss his friendship.

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Show and Tell (10 members, numerous projects):

Ron Sexton



Ron had a special picture given to him by his daughter. So he needed to come up with a frame. He decided to use some 100 year redwood he reclaimed from old water flume planks given to him by Jim Hunt. The challenge in this effort was that the miters just would not come together. The more he tried to fix the angles the smaller the frame became. We all know miters can be a challenge. He accomplished the task, as most of us do, by “fudging”. Turned out great it appears.

Victor Larson



One of our newest members, Victor, has been bringing some very fine projects to share in the Show-N-Tell. This time he brought one that is truly unique. The pieces are called Drop Spindles. They are used in the making of yarn similar to that made on spinning wheels. It turns out (no pun intended) that his wife belongs to a club involved in the use of Drop Spindles to make yarn. Victor decided to try his hand at making them. Well

now he finds himself selling them at her yarn spinning events. They take about an hour apiece to make depending. Most of the material he uses is scrap wood from prior projects. He gave a brief description on how they are used and the process he uses to create them. Here is a link to a video on [Drop Spinning](#).

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Nelson Exum



Mr. Banjo Man, Nelson Exum, has done it again. We have seen his works before that trend towards musical instruments. This banjo has been in the works for about a year, off and on. The primary woods used were Walnut and Maple. Besides the hardware, the only purchased part is the finger board. You can see why. Note the inlay work in the peghead (tuning part of banjo). I believe he made the overlay also. The head is exceptional as he took special care to take advantage of curly maple in the layout on the banjo head. He used Aqua Coat grain filler before finishing with lacquer. If you missed this meeting, you missed Nelson entertaining us by playing some Blue Grass music.

Paul Velk



Paul brought in this fine cutting board. It incorporates Walnut and maple. Note the end-grain pattern he was able to achieve. He described the design layout as a brick pattern. The finish used was mineral oil and wax.



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John Roberts



All aboard...

We all know John's passion for making toys. He had brought in a train engine to a prior meeting. Well, where is the rest to the train?

The train has arrived, all 7 CARS of it, engine to caboose.

John said it took a whole month to make the balance of the train. A whole month, what did he do with the rest of his free time? He fabricated all the parts except the wheels. Primary woods are Walnut and Maple.

That many cars required

a lot of wheel covers. He made them by machining a piece of walnut to the required profile and the slicing off cover sections. The challenge for this reporter was how to get pictures for the newsletter.

Gail Cone



Finally got a chance to do some turning. Left to right are a Juniper Vase, Fig Bowl, and a Maple Bowl. Finishes are lacquer, tung oil and tong oil respectively. The vase has black tinted resin plus brass inlay along with a bit of CA to fix the brass. Both the Fig and Maple bowls required some CA to stabilize soft grain areas. A deep hollowing rig was used to do the hollowing of the vase. The black ring at the vase bottom is painted with black acrylic artist paint.

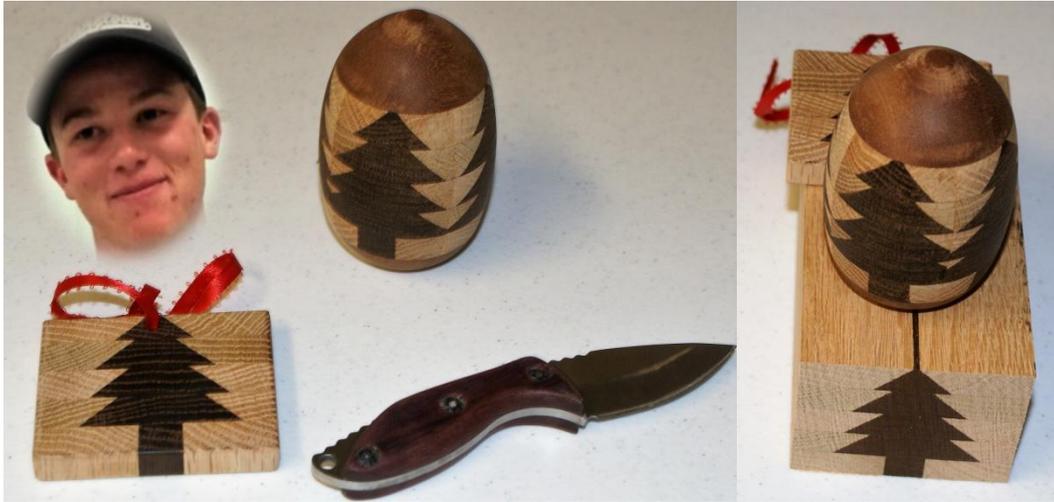
Note, the resin is tinted using a dab of artist's acrylic paint. Resin is just plain old fiber glass resin.

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Sam Garcia



Sam has become a regular at our Show-N-Tells and each time it is a real treat. This time he shows a segmented piece depicting a Fir tree. He called it a “Complementary Tree Pattern”. He made it using a process of segmenting slices of Walnut and Oak. He cut wedges from the

segmented block, glued them together and turned the assembly. Note, you will see brown trees when upright and white trees when upside down. The knife blade he found at Woodcraft and for the knife handle he used Purple Heart. For the finish he used Tong Oil with bee’s wax.

Mark Butzler



Ok, it’s not purple spaghetti. Did he say yarn bowl? Yep, Mark’s wife needed something to help controlling that darn yarn... So Mark created a “yarn bowl” using some Koa wood given to him by Dale Gamble. He made staves, 8 it looks like, glued them up into a ring and turned away. He incorporated a solid top and bottom solid ring for decoration and stability. And that is his “yarn for the day”, a true one though.



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Tony White



Tony turns numerous bowls for the “Empty Bowl Program” which are then sold with the proceeds benefiting local area food banks. I believe he said that these bowls represent just 5 of the 115 he has made. I suspect he used the Beall Buffing System to give them a finish.

Most of you know that Tony is president of the Northern California Woodturners. We commend Tony and his fellow turners for their time and efforts toward this very worthwhile program.

Jim Hunt



Well Jim should have held off bringing in this project. It would have qualified as “wall art” for the April GCW Project Challenge. Well anyway, he made this “laundry drying rack” at his wife’s request. He used Poplar and purposely added the stressing to give it that aged/kicked around look of an antique. The old rusty hinges are a nice touch. Ok, now he has to come up with something new for the April challenge.

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Businesses that support GCW: Be sure to stop by Woodcraft Supply Sacramento, Pro Builder Placerville, The Paint Spot*, Churchill Hardware Cameron Park*, or the Rockler Woodworking* store in Rocklin. Please let them know how much Gold Country Woodcrafters appreciates their support. * *offer GCW members discounts.*

Membership Dues: For those members wishing to renew their membership for the 2018-2019 year by mail here is the information you need. Make out a \$20 check payable to Gold Country Woodcrafters. Send to: Steve Cabrol 3000 Builders Place, Rescue, CA. 95672. *Please note on the envelope ATT: Gold Country Woodcrafters.*

Notice to members: If your contact information has changed since joining please let the club know. Just send any changes you may have to the email address used to send out the newsletter. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Gold Country Woodcrafters Meeting Place: GCW meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise notified and are at the Park Community Church meeting hall, 3901 Wild Chaparral Dr. Shingle Springs, Ca. exit 37 off highway 50. A map is provided on the home page of the GCW website.

Saw and Planer blade sharpening:

For members that need some blades sharpened GCW member Ken Welsh can handle the job. Just give him a call.

WELSH'S SAW WORKS

Formerly Rocklin Saw Works

Ken Welsh

Owner

3021 Crystal View Drive
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
(Off Bass Lake Road)

Phone: (530) 677-4938

Cell: (916) 275-3388



Regards and happy woodcrafting.

Gail Cone

GCW Newsletter editor

At this time I would like to acknowledge my Wife, Karen, for taking the time and effort to proof read and the newsletter each and every month. Believe me it makes a real difference.

GCW Web site: goldcountrywoodcrafters.com

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