

# GOLD COUNTRY WOODCRAFTERS

Newsletter January 2021

Vol 75

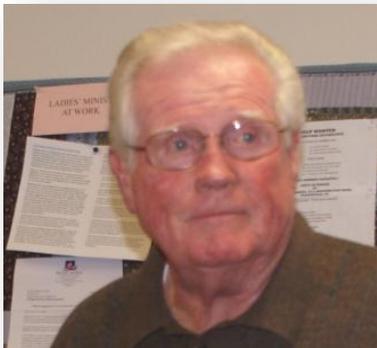
## GCW Newsletter Brief:

For January we again set a record with 23 members joining the GCW Zoom meeting. Note that our regular in-person meetings normally draw an average of 35 members. Basil Borkert again managed the Show-N-Tell with 11 participating in the Show-N-Tell. There were some great discussions on the presented projects prompted by our members which brought the meeting to span 1.5 hours. For the January newsletter we have 9 members presenting their projects in the Show-N-Tell section. Check the “Members Corner” section on page 2 for messages from our members.

## Zoom meetings:

The club is planning to hold Zoom (online) meetings until we are allowed to meet in-person. Unfortunately it may still be a few months before in-person meetings can be convened. Stay tuned for the Zoom meeting notice for February 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 and be sure to mark your calendar to join in at 7PM. Have pictures of your Show-N-Tell projects ready for these meetings. During the meetings you can bring up your project pictures and use the SHARE button on Zoom to show members your work. Homer Rail will continue to be hosting the meetings. All 2020 members and guests are welcome to join the Zoom (online) meetings for the foreseeable future. Details with the Zoom sign-on will be published the Thursday prior to each Zoom meeting. We have more and more members each month mastering the Zoom meeting experience. If you haven't yet made the leap, give it a try. If you need one on one help, contact Homer, he's “the expert”. Homer Rail: [railart16@yahoo.com](mailto:railart16@yahoo.com)

## Presidents January 2021 Message:



Dear fellow CGW members.

We had a skeleton crew of 23 GCW members soldiering on with 23 members in attendance for the Jan 12th ZOOM meeting. Again, thanks to Homer Rail for hosting and Basil Borkert for handling the “show and tell” along with a little “gossip “. It was good to see John Cassidy (recovering from dialysis) on line with us. The Park Community Church is OK with no rental payments thru Apr. and hopefully we'll be back “face to face” meetings in Apr. I'm scheduled for my first Covid 19 shot Sat. Jan. 23rd. If I'm not in attendance for the Zoom Mtg. Feb. 9th, be afraid, be afraid, be very afraid. Just kidding...

Stay safe and keep on trucking.

*Warm Regards:*

*John Brideson*

GCW President

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## Standing message from the Editor:

We encourage our members to continue with their woodworking hobby. This is just one of the ways that can help us cope with the challenges being presented to us in this difficult time. The club is meeting through Zoom each month until in person is allowed and safe. Our members are encouraged to join the virtual meetings. With all the projects being created during this wild period we can look forward in anticipation of showing them “in person” at a future meeting. Our next, “in person” meeting will most certainly have to be a Show-N-Tell meeting to rival any.

## Notice:

**Membership Dues and Club Year:** Dues will not be due until we have our first in-person meeting. So for now, please **DO NOT** send in your annual Club dues. When in-person meetings are allowed dues will be prorated to align with the month that first in-person meeting occurs. Normally, established members are required to pay the full yearly dues regardless of when they pay their dues. That requirement will be reinstated the first calendar year the club is operational on January 1. The Executive Committee decided to set the club year to coincide with the calendar year. That is the club year, will now officially start on January 1 of each calendar year instead of September 1 of each year.

## Members Message Corner:

**Gail Cone:** If anyone would like to change their mug shot picture that is used for Show-N-Tells, etc please send me a new preferred one. Don't forget to smile...

**Jerry Preston:** Jerry Preston needed to convince his Cardiologist, as well as himself, that electromagnetic radiation from his power tools would not interfere with his pacemaker. He found a study that subjected volunteers with pacemakers to elevated electromagnetic field strengths to the point of the pacemaker's failure. He purchased a meter to measure both electric and magnetic field strength. He was able to show that the field strength associated with his power tools was less than a microwave oven and significantly lower than the field strengths that resulted in pacemaker failure in the study. Jerry would be happy to share information and his meter with club members.

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## V-Show-N-Tell (9 Members):

*John Brideson*



Here is a humidor a completed with a Walnut exterior. Humidors call for a Spanish Cedar lining on all interior sidings. The edge trim is square strips of ebony. A hygrometer is inserted thru the top and digitally records the humidity without opening the box. Two moisture packs from Broveda keep the humidity at 72% for 3 months vs. the old system of sponges and wash rags. I used a water based finish and buffed the box with the Beall Buffing system wheels.



*John*



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## Micky Dupper



Here are 2 projects I completed recently. The small lidded box is 2 inches in diameter and 4 1/4 inches tall. I used my new Nova G3 4 jaw chuck to hold small tenons on each end that were cut between centers. The turning sequence was as follows: turned the exterior, parted off the lid, drilled the vase opening with 1 inch forstner bit mounted in a jacobs chuck on the lathe. I then mounted the lid, turned out the inside, remounted the base with the lid on tight and turned the lid detail. This was definitely a fun experience. The wood used was Patagonia Cypress finished with a Beeswax/Mineral Oil mixture. The picture frame was made using Paper Birch tree trimmings that are growing in my front yard. The photo was taken last year of the same tree. I caught the Lady Bugs "playing leap frog" ! For the finish I sprayed several coats of clear semi-gloss polyurethane on the frame and photo.

*Mick*



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## *Nelson Exum*



Entertainment Cabinet: This is an entertainment cabinet that I put together to organize my audio-visual equipment. My wife likes simple, clean lines so this is about as simple as it gets. It is made using 3/4" maple plywood and incorporates metal hair-pin legs. Currently, the right-hand compartment houses all the electronics. The other two compartments are being used for miscellaneous storage. The flush compartment doors have push-to-open latches. Behind the slats at the top of the cabinet are speakers.



Music Stand : My music "shed" is actually a remodeled 8' x 12' garden shed that is getting very packed with musical instruments, stereo equipment, desks, 2 chairs, file cabinets, computers and printers. I had a music stand that stood in the middle of the floor but it was always in the way. I found an articulating arm for a microphone (\$27.50 on Amazon) so I made this music holder from 1/4" birch plywood that slips into the mic fitting. Now I can collapse the arm and holder against the wall (out of the way) when not in use. The graphic design was done with a CNC. The graphic lines are 1/8" wide by 1/8" deep and filled with epoxy loaded with iron filings. The intention was to use magnets to hold sheet music to the iron filled lines. However, this version didn't have enough embedded iron to hold magnets to most of the graphic. However, it works just fine if I make sure the magnets are placed over the heavier lines on the graphic.

*Nelson*

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*Susan Settle*



Here are some pictures of the sorting boards I showed at the January Zoom meeting. They are made using Bamboo cutting boards, mass produced I'm sure. I was completely wrong when asked about the size during the meeting (they're about 13x18). On one side I collaged pieces cut from a catalog and mounted them using Book Binding glue and

then finished that side with a good 4 or 5 coats of polyurethane. One picture shows some lines created in coat 3, when it was 47 degrees out, too cold to be poly-ing. 50 worked, but not under! The opposite side is bordered on 3 sides with Purple Heart to make it a perfect sorting board for beads, buttons, or playing cards, dice games, etc. Make it really easy to pour little things back into their original containers when finished. This was a fun little project!

*Susan*



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## Ron Sexton



Okay this is my 3rd attempt at woodcarving. I believe my first 2 turned out better than this one. However, that's not the point of my doing them. It's like my great granddaughter would say when she would fall when learning to ride. She would get up and say "I try again" and so that's what I'm doing. I would love to take some carving classes but at my age I'd probably just fall asleep in class. Even though I'm not pleased with my work, however I think I am improving and learning how to use the rotary carving tools and my carving knives, including sharpening them. I am learning many new disciplines and I am having fun learning

new carving skills. So when you look at my work don't be too critical and view from at least 10' away. I do know this; if I was still working I would not quit my day job as a refinisher and take up woodcarving for living.

The wood I used for the wolf carving in the pictures is Willow wood and is not a good wood to use as it tears even though the knives are sharp. But this was just a practice piece so I went ahead and used it knowing I could re-saw it off and reuse for pyrography. I haven't decided yet what I will do, but the point is "I Try Again". I'm starting to make some progress on my carving and I'm getting more comfortable with the tools and how to proceed. If I am unsure about a certain aspect of what I'm doing I stop analyze it then go back at it again. I do know that I don't have anywhere near enough variety of carving tools but at this point in my life I'm not going to start investing in more tools. The biggest thing I have learned is to move slowly, because it's hard to put wood back on.



Editor: OK, which picture is the example and which one is the finished relief carving?



Ron

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## Gail Cone



Here are my latest turnings that were shared at the January Zoom meeting.  
1) The first vase (left) is 15”H x 5”D and the wall thickness near ¼”. The woods used are from bottom to top Maple, Purple Heart, Ash, Purple Heart. The top/lid is Maple, with a Jacoba finial. I spent a good deal of time defining and perfecting the vase shape before committing to the hollowing. The primary wood, Ash, got kicked around the lathe area for some time before a form concept was defined. The finish used was a water based

MinWax gloss polycrylic. This was my first time using a water based finish on a one of my turnings. The primary reason I chose to use a water based product was that I did not want to change the natural color of the vase wood (Ash) much. It has 3 coats of finish and was lightly sanded between each coat. After curing a couple of days the vase was polished and buffed to the desired sheen. Main issue I found with the polycrylic is that it dries too fast and does not flow well, making it hard to apply.

2) The center vessel is about 4.5”H x 6”D. The woods used bottom to top are Rosewood, Maple, and Curly Maple. I finished this one using MinWax tung oil finish.

3) The challis is 5”H x 5”D and incorporates Walnut, Redwood Burl, and Spalted maple. It was finished using spray lacquer.

Take care and stay safe.

*Gail*



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## Nick Pesola



Back in 1975 I bought a live edge piece of Circassian Walnut 7' 8" long and at the widest 2'. I made a long coffee table with it. It took a twist as it hadn't cured long enough. I hung it in the rafters and it's been there all these years. Ron Sexton came over and I gave him the table legs which were also Circassian. I was going to bring the top to his shop to re-saw for different uses, however, when I got it on the bench I saw a gun. I looked up flint locks and found one that had characteristics similar to the live edges. I used an overhead projector to get the proportions correct to save as much of the

live edge as possible. Then I made a pattern and transferred it to the walnut and cut it out. The trigger guard and trigger were cut out of one of the cutoffs and added on. It is now a 6' 9" long and 2" wide pistol from butt to muzzle. It's only sanded to 80 grit for now. It's now back hanging from the rafters until the weather gets better to dial it in. I don't think I'll wait 45 years this time!

*Nick*



## Rich Schwerin



Here is a "what not" Box I made using Hard Maple with mitered splines. I added some Black Walnut strips and then a polished stone as a handle for the lid. The finish is satin lacquer spray.

The Kreg-system table was built for our small Christmas tree. It was completed the day after our December Zoom meeting. The tapered pine legs were cut on a table saw jig. The oak top was stained and finished with gloss lacquer spray.

Best wishes to all and stay safe. I am looking forward to meeting again in person, at least to share cookies!

*Rich*



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## Roy Carter



Editor: I stopped by Roy's shop a few weeks ago and found him working on yet another totem pole masterpiece. For the last 3 years or so Roy has been delving into the world of totem poles. He has invested much time researching and has become quite knowledgeable on Indian lore and the reasons for their totems. We have seen a number of Roy's totem poles presented at our regular meetings. Roy has been carving for some time and it is usually centered on a bird theme. He continues to use birds for his main theme for the totems he has carved. The one he is working on now is bigger than he is, as can be seen in the above pictures. Just to get the log out of his truck,

into the shop and onto a stand was a project in itself. The log measures approximately 6'x 21". The picture bottom left shows the object of this current totem pole carving, a "raven". It represents a custom by Northwestern Indians of carving a persons or family totem (usually an animal) on large poles. He estimates that he has completed about 30% of the work on this one, top right picture. I'll have to visit Roy's shop gain soon to get more progress pictures. We find that Roy will once in a while just create a fun/ whimsical carving. Meet "Nelly" as he calls her/it, pictured lower right. As with a good number of Roy's projects the raven is destined to be donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Placerville for fund raising auctions. It's not uncommon for his work to bring in several thousand dollars. Some go for over \$6,000. For some reason people want them for their front yards. We look forward to seeing the completed totem pole.

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

**Membership Dues: (No dues required until further notice)**

**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:** (When we can) 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



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

**GCW Web site: [goldcountrywoodcrafters.com](http://goldcountrywoodcrafters.com)**

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