

# GOLD COUNTRY WOODCRAFTERS

Newsletter March, 2019

Vol 53

## GCW NL Brief:

The March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was well attended with 37 members plus a few guests in attendance. We gained 3 new members: Brian Halkett, Don Lawson and Frank Fantino. Welcome Brian, Don and Frank, we hope you all enjoy being a member of the Gold Country Woodcrafters. Ron Sexton gave a presentation on the Shellac, how it is obtained, and its many uses. The night's Show-N-Tell had 6 members sharing numerous projects and describing their features. The club hats are here and are going fast. Check out the Member Contribution from Jerry Preston. Information for addresses and directions for the Spring 2019 GCW Shop Tours are provided at the end of this newsletter.

## Presidents Message:



Gold Country Woodcrafters

March's meeting was highlighted by an informative presentation on everything related to Shellac; from production of Shellac to its many uses as a finish and repair material. Ron Sexton did a great job explaining and demonstrating its capabilities. Thank you, Ron, for another valuable contribution!

Club hats are now available for those interested. They will be available at regular meetings while they last. Steve Cabrol can hook you up.

Spring is in the air and we are all undoubtedly looking forward to getting out of the house. Why not start with the Spring shop tour on Saturday, May 11 from 8:00 am to noon. Three local, interesting shops, Nelson Exum, John Roberts and Basil Borkert are on tap. This has always been an enjoyable event and this year should be as well. I hope you all can make it.

Tim Bynon and Mark Butzler have a great calendar of presentations coming up, so mark your calendars now for upcoming meetings every second Tuesday.

Until next time, happy and safe woodworking!

*Jim Hunt*

*GCW President*

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## March Presentation, Shellac by Ron Sexton:



At the March meeting Ron Sexton gave a presentation on Shellac, its origins, and many uses. Starting off Ron showed a short video covering some history, the origins and processing of Shellac. It was notable how the processing of Shellac has remained, by today's standards, primitive, with most still being done by hand.

Much of the Shellac production occurs in India. The Shellac resin is created when insects feed on the sap of specific trees and then secrete the Lac resin as a protective shell in which the female lays her eggs. The Lac hardens and is harvested, by hand, crushed, separated, sifted, and washed. It is further process into flakes which are sold and subsequently used to create the products we use for finishing, etc.

Here are a few facts noted during the presentation: Shellac is nontoxic and edible (common coating for hard candies), it is compatible with all types of finishes, it is cut using alcohol and it can be tinted using alcohol soluble dyes. It has many uses: as a finish, a sanding sealer, and as filler for repairs. It comes in many product forms including flakes, liquids and as burn-in sticks. Some common products it is found on include floors, musical instruments. It was brought out that liquid Shellac products have a relatively short shelf life. Most liquid Shellac products are marked with a date code that can be referenced to determine its age.

Ron demonstrated the use of Shellac sticks that can be used to touchup and make repairs to our projects. He used a small spatula heated (with a torch) to cut and melt Shellac onto a project. He then used a felt pad soaked in alcohol to remove the excess and even out the repair. Using these techniques he is able to make excellent long lasting repairs.

**Waxy Shellac:** Wax content provides some flexibility and moisture resistance. Waxy Shellacs are a good choice when the finish will be Shellac only.

**Dewaxed Shellac Flake:** Dissolved in De-natured Alcohol makes a universal sanding sealer/primer/under coater between dissimilar finishes. Used for extra water & alcohol resistance when the top-coat, will be a varnish, lacquer or urethane.

**Shellac Wash coat:** Shellac thinned about 50% with Denatured alcohol before staining helps prevent blotching and can be used to seal a knot, etc.

**Shellac Burn in sticks:** Are made from Shellac flakes that are softened with De-natured Alcohol and formed into sticks and used to fill defects.

Link to video shown at the start of Ron's presentation: [Shellac Origins and Manufacture](#)

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## Announcements and News:

- 1) **Neil Knutsen memorial:** The March GCW newsletter included a memorial for Neil Knutsen, a dear friend and early member of our GCW club. A celebration of Neil's life will be held at the Placerville Shakespeare Club April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
- 2) **Executive Committee Member Needed:** Get involved and participate in guiding club activities going forward. There is an open position on the committee that remains to be filled, 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.*
- 3) **Shop Tours:** The 2019 shop tour event is scheduled for Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>. 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. Addresses and details are included at the end of this newsletter.
- 4) **GCW Hats:** Hats anyone? The cool GCW hats arrived in time for the March meeting. Many members have already grabbed up theirs. There are a few left so be ready to get yours at the April meeting. The price is only \$12.
- 5) **From the floor:**
  - a. Woodcraft will be hosting their Spring Swap meet April 7<sup>th</sup>, 8AM till 12.
  - b. Jim Hunt brought in a Sewing Machine to be auctioned off in a blind auction. I believe Rich Schwerin won it.
  - c. John Roberts showed the members a unique dado blade he has been using that does not require shims, adjustable in .004" or .04" and steps. The manufacture is Freud. [Dado Blades](#).
  - d. Dave Boutcher showed a special doweling jig he has been using. It is designed for doweling corners and can be used to create unique corner designs. He said the drawback is that it is not very stable and requires lots of clamping and experimentation to make it work. [Doweling Jig](#).
  - e. Jerry Preston described a new Box Joint Jig he acquired from Rockler Woodworking Supply. It was intended to be used on a router table having an integrated miter slot. Jerry's table was not equipped with a miter slot so he created a jig to adapt it. For more information, refer to the Member Contribution Section following the Show-N-Tells.

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## 6) Meeting Topics for 2019:

**April 9<sup>th</sup>:** 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 14<sup>th</sup>:** 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](mailto:steamglidertim@yahoo.com) or at March meeting.

**June 11<sup>th</sup>:** 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 9<sup>th</sup> & August 13<sup>th</sup>:**

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

**September 10<sup>th</sup>:** Topic to be determined

**October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Fall GCW Project Challenge. The project focus is to be determined.

**November 12<sup>th</sup>:** Topic to be determined

**December 10<sup>th</sup>:** 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](mailto: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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Show-N-Tell (6 members, numerous projects):

*Victor Larson*



Victor continues to show us his wide range of talents. Here are a number of spoons he has carved along with the tools he uses to create them. He learned how to create spoons from a Swedish craftsman. When looking for materials for his spoons he must consider woods with continuous fibers as in the crook of a limb. Having end grain in a handle would make it very weak. The main trick when carving he says is to use leverage and maintain the bevel of the cutting tool on the wood. Asked if he ever slips when carving his spoons, he replied that his pieces have been known to have blood stains on them. Why does he like to carve, hand tools are quiet.

*Don Lawson*



Don just joined our GCW club and is already showing us his work. Here he showed us wooden balls he turned. Why did he turn these balls, well the challenge, of course? He described his method for turning a sphere starting with a cylinder turned to a consistent diameter and progressing through a number of steps to create the primary shape. Don was guided by a set of instructions in an 8 pg document. He brought in the document so it could be

shared. The instructions can be found on our website with the following [Wooden Balls](#).

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## Harvey Myers



Here Harvey shows his latest turnings. He used Poplar, Eucalyptus and Camphor woods. The question is, how did Harvey manage to not give in to the urge to add facial features to “ET” in the above bowl?

## John Cope



A guest, John Cope, brought in this plaque showing his foray into the realm of CNC woodworking. His machine has a 14” capacity. We look forward to seeing future work from John.

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## Bill Meronek



Bill showed us his completed chair based on a Danish Modern theme. We first saw the chair in December. At that stage it was still not glued up. The construction incorporates dowel joinery “no hardware” and is made of Cherry. He used a self centering doweling jig to do the doweling. He made his own templates based on a chair

he had seen somewhere. He ordered the cushions online. For the finish he used Tung Oil. While showing his project Bill started a discussion among the members as to which is the strongest joinery technique: doweling or mortise and tenon. In the end, Bill indicated that tests have shown that they are about the same at 600 ft-lbs pull. For shear strength it was felt that mortise and tenon would fare better.

## Jim Terrill



Jim used some 20yr old Walnut he had around to create the 2 bowls. They finished up great using his Beall Buffing system finishing techniques. While cleaning up his shop, at the request of his wife, he found 2 pen kits and decided to make use of them.

The woods used were Spalted Tamarind (light one) & double dyed stabilized Buckeye (dark one). He finished them using his CA application process.

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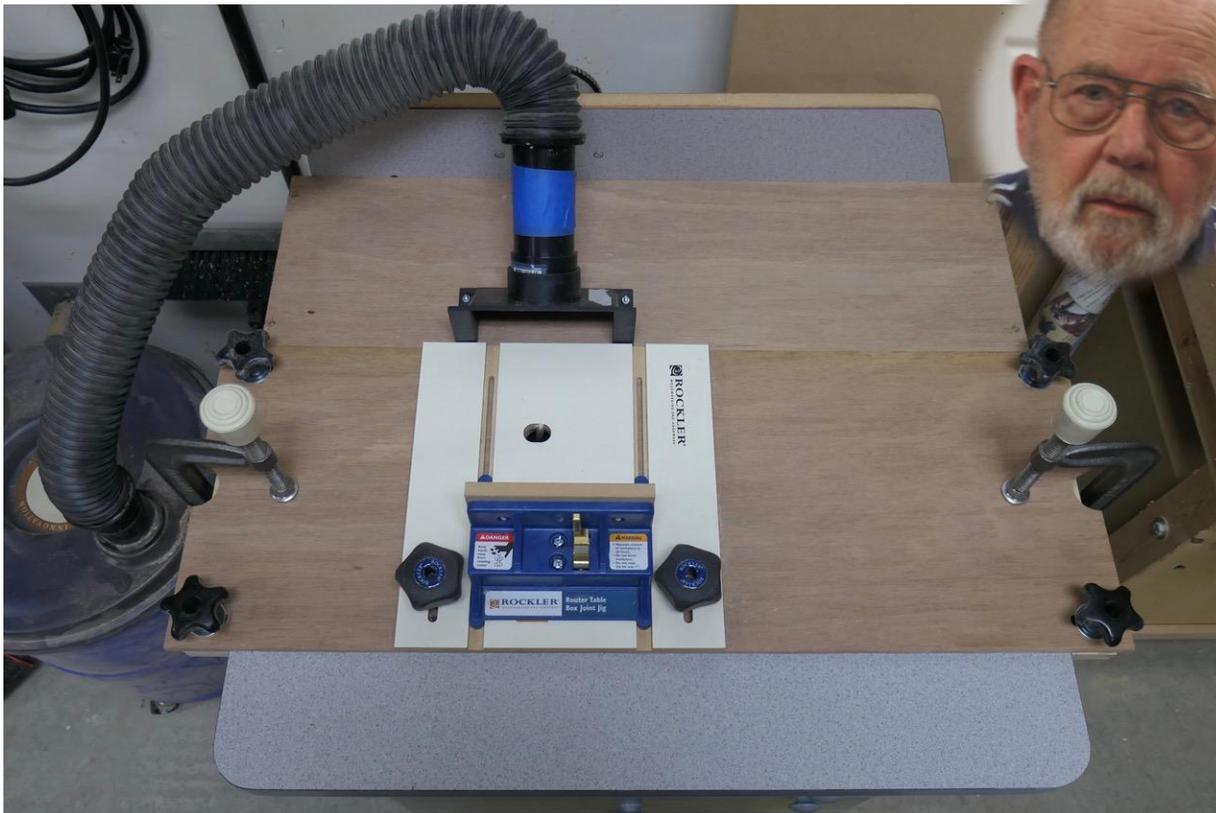
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## Member Contribution, Jerry Preston:

### Adapting a Rockler Box Joint Jig

The Rockler Router Table Box Joint Jig is made to work with a miter slot. Rather than adding a miter slot track to my shop made router table, I decided to mount the Rockler jig onto a piece of plywood that is wider than the router table. I then added adjustable boards to the plywood base that clamp against the edge of the table and provide fine adjustment for the space between the router bit and the brass indexing key of the jig. Card stock inserted between a clamp board and the table edge can be used to provide fine adjustment of the router bit to indexing key space. [Link to Rockler Box Joint Jig.](#)



**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.

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**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 the newsletter each and every month. Believe me it makes a real difference.*

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

If you have any comments or suggestions please send them to me via an email. If you wish to unsubscribe so you no-longer receive GCW newsletters just send me a reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject.

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2019 GCW Spring Shop Tour  
Saturday, May 11 8:00am to Noon

	Time	Location	Directions (from start to finish)
STOP 1	Meet at 8:00 am to 9:00 am	<b>Nelson Exum</b> 4065 Sayoma Lane, Placerville (530) 344-1213 nelsonex@pacbell.net	Hwy 50 East to El Dorado Road Exit North on El Dorado Road to Echo Lane Immediate Left on Echo Lane to Sayoma Lane Right on Sayoma Lane to 4065 Sayoma Lane
STOP 2	Meet 9:30 am to 10:30 am	<b>John Roberts</b> 1036 First Right Road, El Dorado (530) 626-4730 Johnroberts1946@yahoo.com	Hwy 50 to El Dorado Road Exit South on El Dorado Road to Pleasant Valley Road Left on Pleasant Valley Road to Hwy 49 Right on Hwy 49 to China Hill Road Left on China Hill Road to First Right Road. Turn Right to 1036
STOP 3	Meet 11:00 am to Noon	<b>Basil Borket</b> 3509 La Canada Drive, Cameron Park (530) 391-3620 helenabasil@aol.com	Hwy 50 West to Cameron Park Drive Exit North on Cameron Park Drive to La Canada Drive Right on LaCanada Drive to 3509 La Canada Drive