

GOLD COUNTRY WOODCRAFTERS

Newsletter March 8th, 2016

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GCW Meeting Brief:

The March 8th meeting lasted just under 2 hours. There was a great turn out with 38 members and 6 guests. Our featured presenter for the evening was Mr. Robert Thresher. Robert heads an organization that focuses on helping at risk individuals rebuild their lives, develop skills and build self confidence through woodworking training. The woodworking focuses on the design and fabrication of unique heirloom solid wood chairs. For the Show and Tell we had a whopping 11 members showing their latest craftsmanship. There are no items listed in the exchange corner this time around.

Presidents Message:

By initial tally, the March meeting appeared to be a record turnout! And what great timing, as we were treated to a very heartfelt presentation by Mr. Robert Thresher on creating fascinating and unique furniture, specifically, rocking chairs. What was even more interesting was how he accomplishes these projects through a “second chance” program, teaching those in need how to create high quality projects. It was a lesson in humanity that we should all learn from.

Of course, the show and tell was as entertaining and educational as always. Our members are amazing!

Thanks to all of you who attended and participated in the events for the evening. I’m looking forward to seeing you all next month.

Happy Easter!

Jim Hunt



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Presentation by Robert Thresher:



Once in a while we are reminded of how woodworkers can give back to the community. Robert Thresher's (pictured top left) efforts are a very fine example and he is not new to GCW. He was one of our very early members. That was a time when Robert was developing his ideas on how to give back to the community using his faith and his love of woodworking. To improve his woodworking skills he attended the Chidwick School of Fine Woodworking in Montana. He subsequently founded the organization, GW4M "God's Work for Man", a nonprofit.

His organization now offers individuals a new chance at life by giving them a place to develop skills, gain self confidence and rebuild their lives. The primary, but not the only, skill area GW4M offers is woodworking. Specifically Robert teaches the craft of designing and fabricating fine chairs with a focus on unique heirloom rocking chairs and porch rockers. To date, he has had several clients who have benefited from his program, have rebuilt their lives and gone on to successful employment.

Potential clients are referred to GW4M and include military, the homeless, and those from the jail system. The fine products from this effort are for sale. Proceeds go to support the work of GW4M.

Robert gave us a very inspiring presentation on the objectives of his organization and its many successes. He went on to share with us the process used in creating the fine furniture items. For the presentation Robert brought 2 chairs from the GW4M workshop, center picture. On the left is a walnut chair (work in progress) and the one of the right is a completed black oak rocker. A rocker like the one pictured requires about 290 steps and takes about 210 hours. All components except the runners are hand shaped. No steam bending is used. The stays (back pieces) are not glued and are allowed to rotate so they can somewhat conform to a person's back. The runners are laminated using 9 layers and are formed using a clamping form with a 50" arch. Projects are sanded to 1000 and the finish of choice is called Tried & True "Original Wood Finish". This is an environmentally friendly product

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made from beeswax and polymerized linseed oil. He applies 4 coats with the first being a heavy coat. He does a deep buffing after each coat. The result is a very durable finish that repairs easily. For the porch rockers he uses NeverWet, a 2 part spray on product for long lasting element protection.

If you are interested in obtaining more information on the work that GW4M does, make a donation or just see the shop, contact Robert at 530-313-5503, email: rthresh@gw4m.org. You can also find GW4M on Facebook by searching "God's Work for Man". The GW4M shop is located at 1390 Broadway Ste. B214 in Placerville. *If you know anyone that may be interested in one of these fine chairs, they are for sale.*

Link for for Chidwick School of Fine Woodworking is <http://chidwickschool.com/>.

Link to Tried & True products: <http://www.triedandtruewoodfinish.com/products/>

Announcements/news:

1. **Executive Committee Report:** The quarterly GCW Executive Committee meeting was held just prior to the regular club meeting. The following are results from that meeting.
 - a. The committee confirmed the 2 year terms extension for Ron Sexton and Homer Rail.
 - b. The shop tour activity was discussed and the date was set as Saturday May 7th.
 - c. Ron Sexton proposed that a committee be created to support the efforts to find presenters/topics for club meetings. It was suggested that we ask for volunteers at the night's club meeting. All agreed.
 - d. It was suggested that pictures from our GCW project challenges be added to the website. Gail (the webmaster) agreed to make it happen.
 - e. The topic of "Club Incorporation" was discussed. It was determined that the club was not in a position financially to undertake this effort at this time. It was suggested that a budget account be setup and be added to periodically. All agreed. The amount and timing will be determined at a later meeting.
 - f. The idea of having a Spouse night club meeting was discussed. It was agreed that December would be the appropriate month. Actual commitment to have the event will be discussed at a later meeting.
2. **Planned Shop Tours:** Jim Hunt reported that the schedule for shop tours has been set. The date is Saturday May 7th from 8AM-12. There will be an effort to have a demo of some type at each of 3 shops. The plan is to allow an hour for each shop plus allow a half hour for travel between shops 1-2 and 2-3. Refreshments will be available at each shop plus shop 3 will provide a few snacks. Details listing the specific shops and directions will be published in early April.

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3. **April 12th Project Challenge:** Just one month left to get you project done. Publicized since December there are 3 project options to choose from. They are: 1) birdhouse, 2) cutting board, 3) trivet (An item to be placed under a hot dish to protect the counter surface). Simple rules: must be made of wood and must be made within 6 months of the challenge date. All members with 1 or more entries will be given a special raffle ticket for a drawing for a single \$50 prize.
4. **Toys for Tots program:** Dale Gamble (the project chairman) reported that the inventory has been completed. He is now starting the planning to determine the type and number of toys be created. It won't be long before the request for volunteers will be going out.
5. **Presentation Committee:** Ron Sexton (presentation chairman) asked the members for volunteers to be part of the Presentation Committee. Dave Boutcher, John Brideson and Paul Velk volunteered to be on the committee. Thanks guys for offering to help Ron out.
6. **Display Case for Churchill Hardware:** Jim Hunt asked for help to have a display case built for Churchill Hardware so they can display GCW projects. John Churchill is very interested in displaying our clubs projects and would like a display case for that purpose. The dimensions are 20x20x60". Glass 4 sides and glass shelves. Ron Sexton and Harvey Myers volunteered to build the case. Robert Thresher (the night's presenter) offered black oak material, plus he offered to help with the dimensioning of the wood.

GCW supporters: The Paint Spot, Churchill Hardware, Woodcraft Supply, Pro Builders, Aura Hardwoods (they offer GCW discounts), and the **Rockler Woodworking** Store in Rocklin (offers 10% discount). Be sure to visit these establishments for your supplies and services and be sure to thank them for supporting the Gold Country Woodworkers club.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

April 12th 2016 This is our spring GCW Project Challenge Month. Don't forget to create your masterpiece to showoff and possibly win \$50 in the process.

May 10th 2016 The current plan is to have an open Q and A session driven by our members. So start thinking on what topic you would like discussed to get those answers you have been looking for.

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Show and tell (11 presenters)

Jim Hunt



Jim showed off his new shop toy. He said it's called a Router Duplicator". This router accessory allows Jim to create unique legs and columns for his projects. We won't forget Jim has this handy Router Accessory.

Ed Woodard



Ed has a real interest in vintage aircraft. Here he shows a picture from a book of a WWII Royal Air Force Spit Fire. He decided to create a Intarisa project using the Spit Fire as the subject. It has at least 35 pieces of various wood spices. Ed is a master at creating parquet crafted projects and now he has yet another fine example of his craftsmanship. He plans to build a frame for this project so it can be displayed. The only paint used is for the plane identifier.

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James Terrill



Here Jim shows some of his latest masterpieces. The walnut bowl was made from a block obtained in February's raffle. Then there is a eucalyptus bowl, an English walnut bowl w/Birdseye Maple top w/dear antler. He used the Beall Buffing system to apply the finishes. Jim's trade mark is the snug fitting lids. The pen is walnut and has 7 coats of cyanoacrylate (CA, superglue) finish and is wet sanded up to 20,000 for that extra shine.

Paul Velk



Here Paul shows an entertainment center. The primary wood is cherry. You can see that it is a relatively large unit so how was he able to bring it in for the Show N Tell? Well he designed it so it breaks down. You can see the top is removable from the inset picture above left. Then the R and L storage sections lift out from the base. During the project somehow the top was damaged with dents, scratches, and a snipe. Paul consulted with Ron Sexton and with his help was able to completely restore the top by using the iron & moisture raising technique. Ron demonstrated this procedure during the meeting break.

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Bill Meronek



This was definitely a night for large projects. Bill brought in his latest challenge, a dining room table. It is made of solid and veneer cherry and features 2 leaves, leaf storage and seats up to 10 people. It is finished with 2 coats of tung-oil and 2 coats of wipe on polyurethane. He showed a test board (upper left) he used in determining the finishing products and the methods to be used in applying his finish. Through this process he determined that he had the best control and results using the wipe on finish.

John Brideson



Like the rest of us John finds great satisfaction in solving problems for his wife, especially when it involves woodworking. So here we have another WIF (Wife Inspired Project). His wife was struggling with a wire fabricated chair in her work area. So John made her this sturdy oak chair with a nicely padded seat. Bet he chalked up some points with this one.

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Dale Gamble



Dale showed us 2 items. On the left he describes a cutting board he had to modify so juices from cutting would not flow onto the cupboard. For the cutting side, not shown, he machined a channel within all 4 edges. On the right is a nice end table made of cherry. It features shaped legs and a deep drawer with dados for drawer slides/guides. Dale used a cherry stain and spray urethane as the finish. Yep, he likes the can as it is quick, simple and does a good job. Looks great!

Basil Borkert



Basil shows the cutting board he created. The woods are cherry, maple, walnut, with purple heart. Bet he plans to bring it to the competition in April.

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Hank Wilson



Hank shows off the bandsaw jig he created to enable him to slice slabs from logs. The log is attached using large wood screws through the upright into the log. The Jig is guided by the miter guide.



Ken Welsh



As you may know Ken, by trade, is a saw sharpener from way back by trade. He did and still does sharpen saws for sawmills. Here he shows a picture from about 1913 to 1928 of the El Dorado Northern sawmill yard. It still exists and Ken still does work for them. He says the yard still looks much the same minus the vintage work vehicles. Still lots of mud in the winter and he gets stuck in it. He spent time describing many of the vehicles in the picture their usage and their genesis.

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Ron Sexton



Ron shoes off the entertainment center he crafted using hickory. He finished it using a satin lacquer. In fabricating the cabinet Ron had forgotten to drill a pivot hole for the door swivel insert. Ron showed a short video clip on how he went about resolving the problem. Because it had to be precise, he needed to hand drill the hole. So he engineered a system to maintain vertical alignment of the drill bit and at the same time apply downward pressure to the drill bit. The picture on the right shows a rope with a weight and lever assembly as it was applied.

Raffle Results:

We now use the “raffle per item” method for distributing raffle prizes. Members put raffle stubs in a receptacle associated with a specific prize they are interested in.

- Woodcraft Gift \$25 certificate
- Delta Sharpening Center
- Brush Assortment
- Floor Mat Set (2)
- Gloves “nitride” & magnetic holders (2)
- Parts Bin rack “30 bin”
- Walnut boards (4)
- Walnut boards (4)
- Walnut boards (4)
- Walnut boards (4)

Ron Sexton	
Mick Dupper	Donated by Gail Cone
Paul Velk	
Jim Salmon (guest)	
Ed Woodard	
John Brideson	
Bob Sherwin	Donated by Aura hardwoods
?	
Gail Cone	
Jim Higbee	

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Businesses that support GCW: *Be sure to stop by Pro Builders, The Paint Spot, Churchill Hardware or Woodcraft Supply, Tortilla Flats Restaurant, and Rockler Woodworking Store and please let them know how much Gold Country Woodcrafters appreciate their support.*

Membership Dues: For those members wishing to renew their membership for the 2015-2016 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.**

The GCW Exchange Corner:

No items this month.

Regards and happy woodcrafting.

Gail Cone

GCW Newsletter editor

GCW Web site: goldcountrywoodcrafters.com



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