

SFWW

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FEBRUARY 2022



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are *normally* held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM, at the Balboa Park Sports Complex, Gym Building, at 17015 Burbank Blvd, Encino.

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

Committee Reports:

Finance: Jeff Bremer presented the 2021 Financial Statement to the Club Members. One interesting item is that, despite making more toys this year, we spent considerably less on the toy project than in the past two years. The main reason for this is that a few generous Toy Committee members did not turn in invoices for their purchases and donated the amount to the Club. As of the date of the meeting, 25 Members have paid their dues. It would be appreciated if all current Members would do so. The three methods of payment currently available were presented in the December newsletter.

Jeff is concerned about the lack of fund-raising opportunities. The Quilting Club has not, and probably will not soon, have their trade show in which we have participated. He had high hopes for the Club's Etsy shop, however it was not well supported and has been closed.

We do have a [Club Store](#) where members, or anyone, can purchase T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and mugs. The Club does earn a commission on these sales, but it is not a significant amount.

Toy Committee: After a spectacular year of toy production, the committee recently made predictions of what will be produced this year and the current estimates are over 1300 toys for production.

See "Minutes" on page 2

Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

I spent most of my career in IT doing Project and Program Management. As a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), I often had to either create project plans or review others' plans. As has been pointed out previously, building something through woodworking is a project. Whether it's taking a simple picture frame or building an ornate hutch, it all breaks down into project steps.

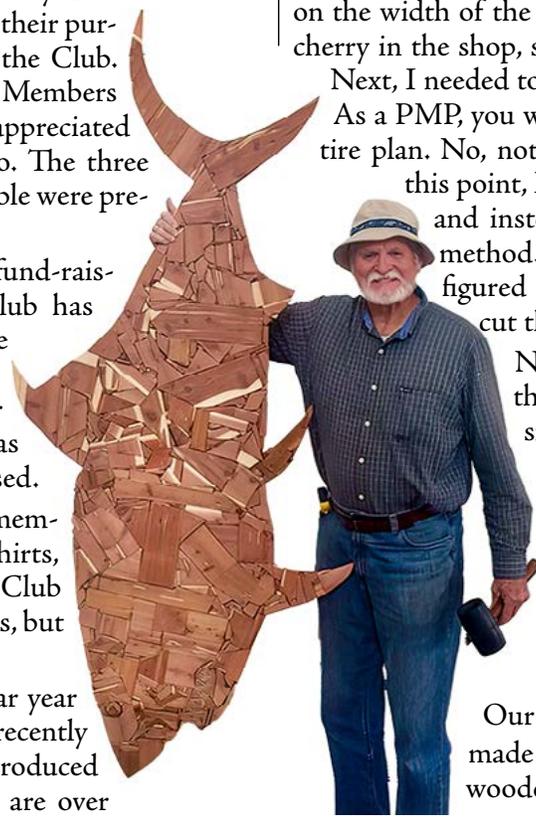
My wife had purchased a couple of beautiful photos from a friend of hers that were already matted but not framed. I decided to go ahead and make a picture frame myself. The first step was to get all the measurements and then decide on the width of the wood frame. Luckily, I had some nice cherry in the shop, so it didn't require a run to a supplier.

Next, I needed to plan the steps to complete the frame.

As a PMP, you would think that I would create an entire plan. No, not for me on such an "easy project." At this point, I decided to fly by the seat of my pants and instead use the "What is the next step?" method. I got the stock close to size and then figured out the exact dimensions needed and cut them to length (with a 45° angle).

Next, I set up the router table to route the rabbit for the glass and picture to sit in. After running all four pieces

See "President" on page 2



Maybe Dave McClave got this shark with a rubber mallet? Read the story on this on page 5

February Presentation:

Turning wood into Pens

Our new President, Stefan Dusedau, made a video of the steps to turn a pen, from wooden blank selection to turning, to applying finish. He will go into greater details and answer questions about the process as well as the video.

Who We Are

The club was formed in 1988 for the purpose of enhancing skills, providing information and sharing the joys of working with wood. The membership reflects a cross section of woodworking interests and skill levels - both hobbyist and professionals. Annual dues are \$35. Full-time student dues are \$15.

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through the router, I did a glue up using the blue tape clamping method. I decided to test fit the glass and picture in the frame, and of course, the rabbit was not correct. Back to the router table I went! Unfortunately, I had the frame already glued, so it was a little bit difficult to get an accurate cut this time. A great reminder that doing a "dry fit" is always a good idea! Finally, I got it close enough and put a varnish finish on the frame. Once the frame was dry, I went to install the glass and picture, only to notice that the rabbit was too deep, and I needed to add a second cardboard backer. I breathed a sigh of relief once the photo, backing, and glass all fit in the frame.

Oh, wait! There's a second photo! I need to do it all again, and I didn't write down all the steps, so I can't wiz through making the next frame.

So, what is the moral here? Whatever project you approach, get your plan together. You can use some of the software available like SketchUp, MacDraft/PC Draft, or EZ Wood Designer, or just take a moment to write down the steps you will need to take and document all your cuts manually. And if you decide to use the "What is the next step?" method, take notes as you go on all the steps. Planning is a real timesaver, should make the project go more smoothly, and most importantly, be repeatable.

Happy Woodworking,
Stefan

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Program Committee: The program committee is on track to have a guest speaker throughout the year (February will be our very own President). More details in the next newsletter.

Show & Tell:

Ed Sheanin displayed his serving tray made from "end grain" plywood.

Gary Hersch showed three ukuleles he made, using a variety of woods, including walnut, ebony, spruce, mahogany, and



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Club Officers

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Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal	818-653-4847	sheiladeee@yahoo.com
Refreshments:	Open	(626) 666-6666	needone@needy.com

Indian rosewood.

Jeff Bremer offered to lead another wooden plane making workshop.

Gary Coyne showed a trivet made from scraps laid out in a herringbone pattern.

Ed Sheanin noted that it can be challenging to clamp this pattern when gluing, but Gary said he had



just used hand pressure to put the pieces in place. Marc Collins noted that when cutting such a pattern to the final size, you need to be careful identifying the center line of the herringbone pattern. Gary pointed out he solved that problem ahead of time by making a computer drawing of all the pieces needed for any given size trivet. Gary also mentioned that he fumed this trivet and some in the group wanted to know what fuming is. Here is an article on fuming that Gary wrote: <https://tinyurl.com/4h3uccww>.

Marc Collins showed a "negative" tape measure made by Lufkin in which the background is black and the numbers

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From the web

❁ Steam Bending: How to Make a Traditional-style toboggan
<https://tinyurl.com/ycksam5b>

❁ This clever little device saves woodworkers' fingers!
<https://tinyurl.com/3by6mkbs>

❁ Wall-Hung Hinged-Frames Storage System For Your Shop
<https://tinyurl.com/muxkz33a>

❁ The wonderful secret I found in an old dresser
<https://tinyurl.com/yckjn39x>

❁ Dealing with Wood Movement
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9bhkmz>

❁ 7 Steps to Organizing Your Small Shop
<https://tinyurl.com/yckr6ynb>

❁ Dyeing – An Introduction
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9xfuwy>

❁ How To Select The Best Grain From Your Lumber
<https://tinyurl.com/2p95tyrt>

❁ How To Choose Lumber For Your Project - WOOD magazine
<https://tinyurl.com/34hv2c8k>

❁ I Built This From A 1957 Popular Mechanics Magazine. Does It Work?
<https://tinyurl.com/2p95mvtv>

❁ Simple trick = 4X longer bit life! [this deals with Forstner bits]
<https://tinyurl.com/ybahzys7>

❁ Plans for a Master Cabinetmaker's Bench
<https://tinyurl.com/3a2tbnz8>

❁ Plans for a Easy Shaker Carry Box
<https://tinyurl.com/bddajfk5>

❁ 6 Quick Subscriber Workshop Tricks - Episode #29
<https://tinyurl.com/bddtf8ub>

Hey Folks, Dues Time is Coming up

We may still be having our meetings in the Zoom desert but we do have expenses for toys and parts.

Annual dues are \$35. Full-time student dues are \$15.

Pay via Venmo - @Jeffrey-Bremer-2

Pay via Zelle - 310-740-6892

Make a check to Jeff Bremer and mail it to:
3381 McLaughlin Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90066

❁ Make A Flat-File Coffee Table (Video and PDF plans)
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ptsuw>

❁ The end of glue, epoxy and superglue (how to tell when glue is at End of Life!)
<https://tinyurl.com/y4dcrarp>

❁ Building the Oldest Japanese House in California (at the Huntington)
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8mp2zm>

❁ Tips and Tricks Every Woodworker Should Know - Vol. 2
<https://tinyurl.com/4pk76uu8>

❁ Easy(er) Use of Double Sided Tape
<https://tinyurl.com/yc5r3rph>

Editor: I recently purchased a new Miter Gauge, then I saw this review by the Marc Spagnuolo (aka the Wood Whisperer). I was curious if he included my new Miter Gauge and if so, how well did it fair amongst many other. The good news is that it fared very well for Miter Gauges under \$200. But, there were two Premium Miter Gauges, he gave negative reviews to (with many qualifications).

Then, about a week after Marc's review was released, Stumpy Nubs (aka James Hamilton) gave a contrary review on this one premium Gauge and speculated what might have caused the bad experience that Marc had.

❁ The Ultimate Miter Gauge Review [This review is just shy of an hour, so settle back]
<https://tinyurl.com/4mn7d5v4>

❁ And here's James's comments about one of the Miter Gauge's that Marc was not strongly positive about.
<https://tinyurl.com/3vp7fkam>

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are a light color.

Brian Oken showed off some of his recent work, including turned pens, boxes, cabinets, and shop furniture. He said that he joined the club to get inspiration from other members' work. He hopes to someday build a wooden canoe. There was a discussion about where to source plans or guidance for building wooden canoes and kayaks.

Levon Gogonian showed a Christmas wreath he made with plywood and small electric lights.

Stephan Dusedau showed two pens he made from manzanita burl and cast blue resin.

January Program:

Sharpening Techniques, from Jeff Bremer and Chuck Nickerson

Jeff Bremer spoke about his sharpening methods. He uses honing guides and other jigs to be able to repeat blade an-

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Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following events and announcements were found in the November – February 2022 issue of Woodworker West and may be of interest:

Woodworker West is a great source of events, sources, and items of interest for woodworkers of all types and abilities focusing on places in the Western US. For more information go to <http://www.woodwest.com>.

Thru April 3: Palm Springs Museum of Art is showing The Modern Chair exploring the design of chairs throughout the 20th century. More information at: www.psmuseum.org.

January 7 – February 25: Escondido Arts Partnership Municipal Gallery hosts its 12th annual Wood: A Furniture Show. More information at www.escondidoarts.org.

February 19: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at: www.andersonplywood.com.

February 19 – 20: The Southern California Turners Expo is taking place at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim. More information at: www.socalturnersempo.com.

March 1 – 31: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, presents Turned and Sculpted Wood. Entry deadline is February 25; Inside the Box, June 1 – 30, entry deadline May 15; Small Treasures, September 1 – 30, entry deadline August 15; and Art of Giving December 1 – 31, entry deadline November 15. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com.

April 5 – 7: National Hardware Show will return live in Las Vegas. More information at: www.nationalhardware-show.com.

June 3 – 5: National Association of Music Merchants will hold the 2022 NAAM Show at the Anaheim Convention Center. More information at: www.namm.org.

June 8 – July 4: The Design in Wood exhibition will return to the San Diego County Fair. More than 350 entries are expected. The entry deadline is April 29. More information at: www.sdfair.com or www.sdfwa.org.

June 23 – 26: After two years of virtual gatherings, the American Association of Woodturners is planning an in-person 37th Annual Symposium in Chattanooga, TN. More information at: www.woodturner.org.

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gle settings. There are many different honing guides that all hold a plane or chisel blade square and parallel to the sharpening surface. If you have Fine Woodworking online access, Jeff recommends watching Bob Van Dyke’s video on honing guides, including how to modify them and make them more useful. Jeff mostly uses the Veritas Mark II guide, which allows you to set different angles and get back to those angles when resharpener. It accommodates various blade widths. To put a camber on a plane blade, Jeff recommends pressing on either corner of the plane blade for about 5 passes, rather than getting the camber roller for the Veritas guide.

Jeff used the Worksharp system for several years and recently swapped out the sandpaper disks for diamond wheels, which dissipate heat better and last essentially forever. He said that building a platform to support blades on top of the machine is very helpful, otherwise, you insert the blade on the underside of the wheel. He also uses the Worksharp to flatten the backs of chisels and plane blades. Jeff uses the Worksharp to grind a primary bevel and goes up to 1200 grit. He only uses finer grits if he is going to use the Worksharp to also grind the secondary bevel. Usually, to hone the secondary bevel, he uses diamond stones at higher grits. Jeff got diamond stones and a strop kit from Trend. His final step is to raise the bevel by a couple of degrees and strop the blade on flat leather – 20 strokes by hand on rough leather and 10 strokes on smooth leather.

Chuck Nickerson also spoke about sharpening plane and

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chisel blades. He laid out 4 basic principles:

- 1) All systems work – you just need to practice and get the techniques down.
- 2) Sharpen with the eventual tool use in mind – what should be the bevel angle? Is it a straight or curved blade?
- 3) In a multi-step process, the first step (grinding) should rarely be needed – don’t let your blades get to the point of needing that.
- 4) Jigs and fixtures help you get there quicker (but doesn’t help you develop steady hand skills).

Chuck explained that he uses a vertical wheel grinder, which yields a hollow grind, whereas the Worksharp is a horizontal wheel grinder, that yields a flat grind. The hollow grind results in the bevel angle across the tips of the curve, which can help you feel and maintain that angle when freehand sharpening on a stone. Stefan said that he had learned that hollow grinds are better on chisels and flat grinds better on plane blades.

Vertical grinders can range in price from cheap (Harbor Freight) to more expensive (several hundred dollars). Slow-speed grinders run at about 1750 RPM and are generally more expensive, but the slower speed results in slower heat build-up in the tool edge, which can damage the steel if overheated. Jigs and similar accessories can make the grinder more useful and enable the user to get consistent and accurate results. The Tormek system (and clones by Jet and Grizzly) are very slow-speed, wet wheel grinders.

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Not Sharknado, it's Sharkwood

by Dave McClave

(To see this great creation, go to page 1.)

Like all of you, I hate to waste wood, in this case my scraps of Aromatic Eastern Red Cedar. My sister Catherine is an artist. While she was here for Thanksgiving, I unfolded a packing carton and asked her to draw a great white shark for me (she's a retired marine biologist). Within minutes I took scissors and cut out this seven-footer. I had my pattern.

In the body, unbeknownst to everyone who doesn't know German, is the word for shark: "HAI." There's a musical instrument as well—the Russian guitar, a balalaika. Wing-ing her way, on my makeshift work bench in the garage is a life-size pelican of redwood scraps. She should arrive in time for next month's newsletter.

If Exact Height is Necessary, EZ-Check It!

review by Gary Coyne

When setting the height of a saw blade, just making sure the gullets are just above the wood is "good enough." Similarly, when setting the height of a router bit on a router table, a setup block can provide sufficient accuracy.



But there are times when it's important to be exact. For example, if you want to set the exact height of a dado blade to provide a dado that is JUST deep enough to receive the edge of a board.

Or, if you need to know the exact height of a tool's table, that's got to be dead on and the EZ-Check is perfect for this need.

The EZ-Check (from iGaging) is another one of their digital tools that's great if you need dead-on accuracy. At a price of \$39, it's not going to break the bank.

The base is weighted (10 oz), with rare earth magnets on the bottom to help hold onto steel surfaces. The display can show decimal inches, fractions, and millimeters at the push of a button. You can press the "Hold" button when moving the EZ-Check to keep the display from changing.



The crenulated bottom of the measuring foot lets you locate the center of a router bit (1/4", 3/8", and 1/2" shafts) against a router table's fence. The EZ-Check can lie flat on its back

I can think of other digital tools that are more important

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The Tormek jigs are very good and can be adapted to use on standard grinders by mounting a Tormek bar. Chuck demonstrated using a simple honing guide that he modified to use with narrow chisels on a Tormek bar. He also made a set-up board that lets him quickly set blades at the proper protrusion from the jig to get the desired angel.

Chuck spoke about the "unicorn bevel", which is the process of putting an extremely narrow (1/128") tertiary bevel on low angel chisel blades to help maintain the edge. He puts a 50 degree unicorn bevel on chisels and less than 40 degree unicorn bevel on bevel-down plane blades. On bevel-up plane blades the unicorn bevel can be higher. This tertiary bevel can be done using a stone or a strop. There was a link to this method in the January 2022 Plane Talk. [<https://tinyurl.com/2p82hs9a>]

Chuck explained that sharpening a skewed blade is harder because the grind needs to match both the skew angle and the bevel angle. Here, a jig to hold the blade is almost-essential. To do this, Chuck cut angled pieces of thin plywood (thinner than the blade) to insert against the tang of the blade and the right-angle stop of the Tormek jig. Chris Schwartz's Crucible Tools makes a "resultant angle calculator" that helps with these compound angle measurements.

Sharpening curved blades to match the sole of a curved body plane is particularly challenging. It needs to match very closely. Chuck showed the example of a Veritas pull shave. He made a plywood jig to hold the blade using rare earth magnets and a curved guide to ride on the bar of the grinder. You need to calculate the curve of the guide, but it doesn't exactly match the curve of the blade. He shaped it manually, but you could use CNC to cut it exactly. Chuck said he has a DVD that he'll loan to club members that talks about sharpening profiled plane blades, such as on a wooden ogee plane.

in the shop, but if you need "dead-on" accuracy for these kinds of measurements, I can't think of a better tool than the EZ-Check. Get it here: [<https://tinyurl.com/2h333faw>]

[Warning: Turn the power off when setting a SawStop's blades height when using the EZ-Check. When the SawStop's light is green, there's a small electric current in the blade to help detect skin. This current plays havoc with the display. Nothing serious will happen but you will need to pull and replace the battery to fix the display.]



Disclaimer: It's a bit of a story but I now write the instructions and some of the ad copy for Chipsfly.com, the company that sells iGaging items. If I'm writing positive words about a product, it's because I like the product. If I do not like the product, you'll see that in future reviews as well.

Clamping Delicate Items

By Tom Ferkel

Complete this sentence with the best choice; You can never have too many _____?

- A. Tools
- B. Beers
- C. Both of the above choices
- D. Neither of the above choices.

The answer of course is D.

When I buy a clever new tool that I know I'll really use a lot, get it home, and find I already have one just like it, I know that I have too many tools. When I remember that I'm no longer an irresponsible teenager or frat boy, I also remember that there really is such a thing as too many beers. Therefore the only possible answer is D, and every woodworker knows that the correct answer, had it been offered, would have been "clamps."

Every woodworker also knows that there are times when you need to clamp something and none of your clamps meet the task. This was my challenge when my wife needed to find a way to hold the canteen gourd in the picture. The gourd measures about 9 inches around, 5 inches tall, and the surface is smooth and very slippery. My wife wanted to wood burn a design on the surface, which unlike paint or ink requires some pressure to the surface of the gourd.



She found that she needed three hands. One to hold the tool, and two to adequately steady the gourd. Of course I knew that none of my clamps would work so I tried to imagine something that would.

My challenges were to create a clamp that would steady and hold the gourd, while at the same time not limit the ability to move the gourd around while working on it. I also wanted to design something that would be adaptable to other

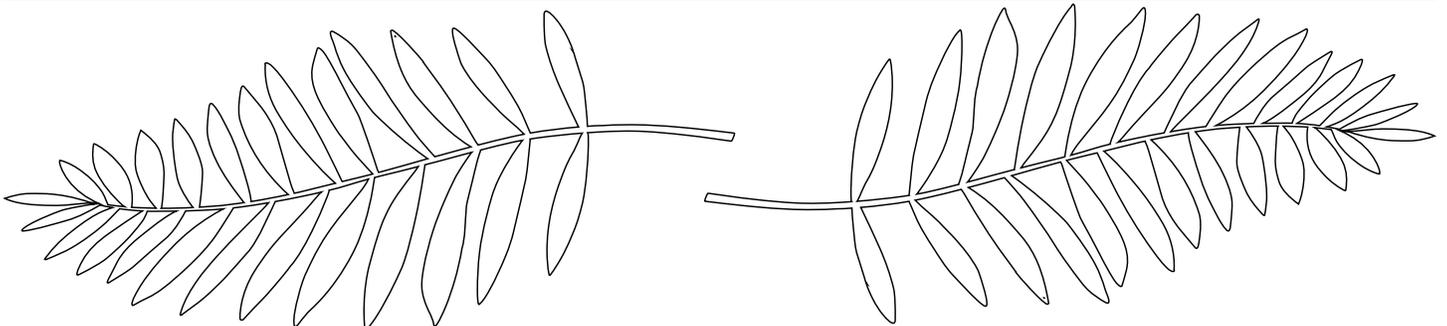


shapes and sizes of gourds. After much thought, I came up with something remarkably simple. The second image shows the gourd placed in the clamp that I came up with.

The clamp is nothing more than a base made of 1/2" plywood (this piece from the cutoff pile happens to be 11.25 inches by 12.75 inches) with cork glued to the top surface, and a piece of 1/2 inch plywood, cut to length so as to span from corner to corner, used for the clamping bar. There is also cork glued to the underside of the clamping bar. The clamping bar rides on two lengths (these are 10 inches) of 1/4-20 thread stock inserted into two T-nuts (not visible in the photo) that sit in the underside of the base. The T-nuts rest in a shallow pocket created in the base with a Forstner bit. A washer and nut are added and tightened at the base of the thread stock for added stability and to prevent the thread stock from migrating and protruding out of the bottom of the T-nut over time. The knobs that hold down the clamping bar are 1 inch round knobs, available at Rockler. (Other knobs will work as well, as will wing nuts.) There is a washer between the bottom of the knob and the clamping bar. The holes in the clamping bar are drilled oversize to provide a rocking feature for the clamping bar. This is needed in order to accommodate the inherent difference in the dimension and height of the gourd lip so that a snug contact is achieved.

For different shapes of gourds, other clamping bars can be fashioned. For instance, a bar with a suitable size hole, correctly placed, will hold a pear or bottle gourd. For taller gourds, longer thread stock can be used.

I imagine that a clamp like this, or based on this with variations, might be useful for other clamping applications as well. I don't think I'd trust it where extreme holding pressure is needed, but for freeing up your hands to be of use elsewhere, this works really well. Note also that the base can be clamped to a table if you don't wish to maintain the ability to reposition as you work.



2021 Toy Distribution, Part 2

by Sheila Rosenthal

As an addendum to January's letter, we would like to thank Gloria Cabernach and Lynn Pedersen for their efforts this past holiday by sewing beautiful dolls and clothes for the cradles.

In addition, here is a letter from Rose Gonzalez, Director, Development & Communications from the Family Resource Services (and some photos):



On behalf of Our Saviour Center and the community we serve, thank you for the generous donation of exquisitely hand-crafted wooden toys. These beautiful works of art were distributed to the children who attend our Dorris Dann Kids Campus's after school programming. As you can see in the attached photographs,

the children were absolutely thrilled to receive the

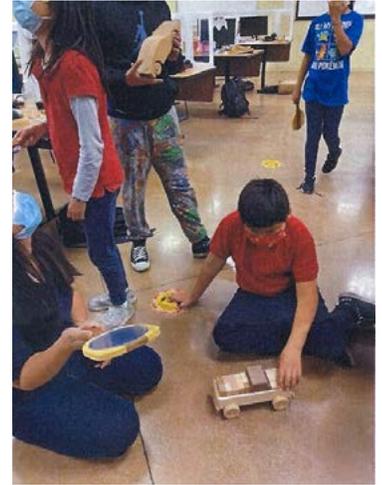
yo-yos, trucks, airplanes, buses, mirrors, treasure chest, chess games, and race cars.

For over 36 years, Our Saviour Center has provided a warm embrace of critically needed services to our neighbors in need. It is through the generosity of organizations like the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers that our organization can serve families and individuals who come to us in crisis. This year, we are particularly honored receiving these gifts, as our dear friend Bill Peplow is in our hearts.

The beautifully hand-crafted toys provided an extraordinarily special treat to many children again this year and we are deeply grateful for a partnership that continues to touch the lives of underserved children in our community.

Sincerely,

Rose J. Gonzalez, MA, MAM, CSPG
Director, Development & Communications



Wood — by Web or by Book or Both, it's a Must Have

The Wood Database Website
(by Chuck Nickerson)

This recent find (<https://www.wood-database.com>) by Gary Coyne is a wonderful free resource. Started and run by Eric Meier this extraordinary piece of work has been years in the making.

The quality of the work has led people from around the globe to contribute samples resulting in an incredibly deep source of information. For the average woodworker the power lies in the WOOD FILTER page. There are at least 15 criteria for sorting and/or selecting wood. The work and scholarship represented here is just stunning. HIGHLY recommend.

The Book is also Highly Recommended
(by Gary Coyne)

"Wood, Identifying and Using Hundreds of Woods Worldwide," by Eric Meier, is a rather long title of a book who's value only increases the more you use it. The book does have just about all of the same information as does the web. But the question of, "why one would want both?" must be put into the frame of what a book offers versus the web site (and vice versa).

On one hand, it' might be easier to find specific species

on the web than in the book as the book's wood listings are in order of the wood's Latin Name, not their common name (there is an index). On the web, one can search for either. Thus it can be easier to find various species on the web but not necessarily as efficient.

On the web, there are many linked pages for you go to if there's related information on the subject and/or wood. For example, if you go to red or white oak, you can click on links that will take you to a grouping of many red or white oaks. But in the book, these links are adjacent to the wood in question. I prefer that better approach.

One mark against the book is that on limited access/use woods, such Southern/Northern Silky Oak (from Australia), there is limited information. But, on the web, the full complete information list is there.

I found, as companion pieces, both are strongly recommended.

Available on Amazon, the book is \$34.99

