

SFVW

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JULY 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

SFVW – Minutes June 16, 2022 meeting

Club president Stefan Dusedau welcomed speaker Gary Swaner of Swaner Hardwood company and noted the many contributions of lumber by Swaner for the club's toy builds.

He also noted that Eagle Tools on San Fernando Road was recommended as a source for bandsaw blades.

June Program: Logs to Lumber

Gary Swaner thanked the club members for their toy production and the joy they brought to children. Gary's father founded Swaner Hardwood in 1967, and it is still a family business.

Gary noted the difference between hardwoods and softwoods and said North American hardwoods are wonderful to work with and sustainable and available. He said that alder is an undervalued wood right now. He explained that woods from different regions of the US have other qualities relating to light, soil, and climate, which could result in tighter or looser grain, varying or more consistent color, etc. For example, hard maple from Michigan has a whiter color, while maple from West Virginia has a more cream color. Right now, American cherry is a relatively good deal because of a slowdown in demand from the Chinese commercial furniture market.

Swaner buys lumber directly from American sawmills, which rotate and cut logs to get the most significant quantity of clear-graded boards. In Europe, they cut a log as a boule, which results in a series of slabs kept in order. Green lumber is stacked and stickered to allow air to circulate.

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Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

How do you pick a new project? When there is nothing on your bench and you don't have any idea of what to do next, there are many sources that can help to inspire you.

The internet is full of videos and project plans of things people have done. It's great to search through YouTube for "woodworking projects", which will bring up a list of popular searches that can help you narrow down your interest. If YouTube is not your thing, you can go to specific woodworking sites such as Woodsmith.com and PopularWoodworking.com, which will have project plans and ideas. I have used many of these myself and find them valuable resources.

Club members share their projects at our meetings and on our Facebook page. If you're interested in recreating one of these projects, just ask our members for their source or tips on how to make it. Our members are always willing to share their plans and help out with alternate ideas.

Our website, SFVW.org, is always a good source of ideas. Looking back at older Plane Talk on the Newsletters tab is one place to look. Other tabs on our website like the Members Gallery, Plans page, and the Links Page, have some great ideas from club members and can point you in the right direction.

When you're asked to do a project for a

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July Presentation:

David Tillson
(from Rockler)

David will introduce folks what can be done with epoxy resins and provide information to those who are already using it. He will cover how to tint, castings for turnings, epoxy pours for river tables, and how to stabilize wood using epoxy.

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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Wood is generally dried first to 30% moisture content, then put in a kiln and dried to 6-8% moisture. Lumber is then loaded into containers and shipped to a lumber yard.

A lumber yard inspects wood and then "blanks" it, which means surfacing each board to take off about 1/16" of thickness. The wood is then re-inspected and graded. Depending on the customer base and needs, the wood is then prepared, which might mean planning it to a certain dimension, or having one straight cut made along the length, or molded for architectural use. Swaner can make custom molding knives and save the specs on the computer to reproduce the molding if needed at any point in the distant future. He said that much of the wood donated for the club's toys comes from architectural offcuts.

Jeff Bremer asked why jatoba (Brazilian cherry) is more expensive on the east coast versus the west coast. Gary said that shipping costs are always a significant factor, and even more so nowadays. There are also other variables particular to any given lumber vendor. However, Swaner doesn't bring in anything out of Brazil or the Congo basin nowadays.

Gary explained that while they do mainly wholesale sales, they are a very retail-friendly operation and offer club members a discount. They are opening a new space near the Burbank Airport that will offer more wood species and provide better displays. 90% of their lumber is from the United States. They carry a little African mahogany from a certified mill in Ghana and some ipe from South America.

Jim Kelly asked if Swaner carries black locust. Gary said there isn't enough demand for them to carry it. Black locust is more of urban-harvested lumber.

Gary Coyne asked what was happening with the production of Baltic birch due to the wartime restrictions on Russian commerce. Gary said the Russian sources had been closed off, but some substitutes were available. Much of what is available is going to flooring underlayments and cabinet shops.

Committee Reports:

President: Stefan Dusedau said there were no new members at this meeting and welcomed returning member Cliff Johnson.

Finance: Jeff Bremer reported that we are doing fine fi-

Club Officers

President:	Stefan Dusedau	(201) 310-4877 sdusedau@gmail.com
Program Chair:	Glen Dresser	(818) 980-34932 gombd@aol.com
Secretary:	Eitan Ginsburg	(818) 469-8939 eitan.ginsburg@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Jeff Bremer.	(310) 740-6892 jabremer@msn.com
Photographer	Calvin Sov	(714) 457-8910 calvin_sov@yahoo.com
Publisher:	Gary Coyne	(626) 799-4196 gary@thecoynes.com
Librarian:	Grant Christensen	(818) 240-6767 gwc7@att.net
Web Master:	Ed Sheanin	(818) 346-6732 ed@sheanin.com
Toy Chair:	Jim Kelly	(323) 254-0837 jimkelly@earthlink.net
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal	818-653-4847 sheiladeee@yahoo.com
Refreshments:	Open	(626) 666-6666 needone@needy.com

nancially. The quilter's show will not happen until next year, but they will do a smaller boutique sale in October.

Toy Committee: Jim Kelly said production is moving along well. Sheet goods are picked up from Anderson Plywood, poplar, and mahogany from Swaner Hardwood. We are aiming to have the group build at El Camino High School on October 15-16.

Program Committee: The July program will be Dave Tillson from Rocker. The August program will be Ed Sheanin and Eitan Ginsburg on building a bandsawn box.

Questions, Tips, Tricks:

Brian Oken asked if anyone from the club is attending the SoCal Turners show in Anaheim. Stefan said he is going and thought the show last year in Glendale was very good.

Jeff Bremer offered a tip that the small acid-free brushes are good to use for applying shellac on small items.

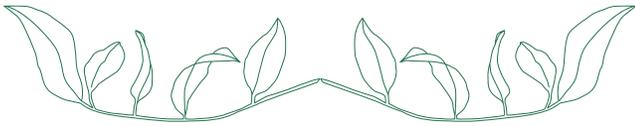
David Feiner asked what could be used to make boiled linseed oil (BLO) dry faster. Chuck recommended Japan driers. Ron said that these could be mixed into the BLO, but amounts should be tested on a sample.

Stefan said that lacquer sticks, available in many different

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From the web

- 📌 Flattening A Plane Sole, Part 1
<https://tinyurl.com/25vm63f5>
- 📌 Flattening A Plane Sole, Part 2
<https://tinyurl.com/yc5wb6a5>
- 📌 Flattening A Plane Sole, Part 3
<https://tinyurl.com/44yjr39x>
- 📌 Flattening a Plane Sole, Part 4 – Lapping a Levian than
<https://tinyurl.com/2y6sv58v>
- 📌 The No. 1 Plane - It sure is cute – but is it useful?
<https://tinyurl.com/2k5r6pmy>
- 📌 Turned Tool Handles
<https://tinyurl.com/3zpvb2>
- 📌 3 simple (yet essential) shop-made router jigs
<https://tinyurl.com/4u6bj43y>
- 📌 How to Install Knife Hinges | Perfect Every Time!
<https://tinyurl.com/ydtddmkv>
- 📌 Working with Shellac
<https://tinyurl.com/2uyftcvc>
- 📌 Almost-Forgotten Handsaw Tricks
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8s3bjv>
- 📌 How to Turn a Live Edge Bowl
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8cxede>



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friend or family member and need more time to work on a skill for it, or are too busy at the time, this may just be the perfect time to tackle it. Keep a list by your bench of these personal requests for when the time is right.

Occasionally there’s a project that you feel would be a stretch of your skill level. This may be the time to practice the new skill using scrap wood. For advice on the needed skill, speak with a club member, bring it up during Q&A in a meeting, or go back to the internet for a demo.

You can always join us at one of the many toy builds that we do during the year. This is a great way to have fun and advance your woodworking skills with the support of your colleagues. Oh, and if you stumble upon a toy you think would be a great addition to our donations, be sure to try it out and show us, or bring it to our attention at our next meeting.

Happy Woodworking
Stefan

- 📌 Stanley 358 Miter Box [a lot more interesting than you’d think]
<https://tinyurl.com/4prc4bwh>
- 📌 Handplanes for Beginners
<https://tinyurl.com/2yyepdhx>
- 📌 Make flush-trimming a breeze with this Super Cool Bandsaw Jig
<https://tinyurl.com/bdfnh82n>
- 📌 Flush Trim plans for free from above video (this is to get you on his mailing list, use at your own discession)
<https://tinyurl.com/48znjdyr>
- 📌 Make and Mount Super-Simple Drawers
<https://tinyurl.com/3hf4p4b4>
- 📌 Top 5 things you can do with a router table
<https://tinyurl.com/y7bd5x7f>
- 📌 A Thinly Disguised Lecture on Safety
<https://tinyurl.com/psrehh38>
- 📌 Horizontal Drill for Lathe Work
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9yz845>
- 📌 Largest Sandpaper Test EVER Done - Top 19 brands Tested using Robots for Unbiased Data
<https://tinyurl.com/3ydkm5vu>
- 📌 How to Flatten Lumber with the DeWalt DW735x Planer [Note: the first half of this is an ad for the DeWalt planer. But, starting at 1’40”, there are several good tips on planing.]
<https://tinyurl.com/y67y6jz9>
- 📌 What’s the Best Wood Joint || Insanely Strong Joinery! [Ed. the winner will surprise you]
<https://tinyurl.com/3mkzbajs>
- 📌 Woodturning - Mind-blowing Results With Scrap Plywood
<https://tinyurl.com/4wjt3tsd>
- 📌 Robertson, Phillips, and the History of the Screwdriver
<https://tinyurl.com/233m4ffy>
- 📌 7 tools that can change your workshop.
<https://tinyurl.com/tj3bd8h4>
- 📌 Our 20 Best Router Tips and Tricks
<https://tinyurl.com/8rhsb5tf>
- 📌 Make cleaner jigsaw cuts (info on blade options and suggestions on techniques)
<https://tinyurl.com/yx3kc5t7>
- 📌 Great Finishes for the Great Outdoors
<https://tinyurl.com/4zejm8a4>
- 📌 5 Tablesaw Jigs from 1/2 Sheet of Plywood
<https://tinyurl.com/45hhtrdv>
- 📌 How To Ebonize Wood
<https://tinyurl.com/3j9pb7vk>
- 📌 Soap as a Wood Finish
<https://tinyurl.com/j3ywcenzx>

Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following items of potential interest were found in the July – August 2022 issue of Woodworker West.

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>.

Note: As the pandemic and wood prices have been easing, Russia invaded Ukraine and now the EU and the US soon have banned wood products from Russia and Belarus. Pre-invasion they supplied about 10% of the US's hardwood.

The Ventura Woodcraft store has closed due to various issues. However, the Orange County store is still doing well. Otherwise, it looks like Rockler (in Pasadena) is now the closest woodworking store for many of us.

September 1 – 30: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, presents Small Treasures, entry deadline August 15; More information at: www.woodsymphony.com.

July 15 – August 14: 32nd annual Fine Arts Woodworking Show takes place at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa. Entry deadline May 27. More information at: 2022-Woodworking.pdf (amazonaws.com).

August 20: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at: www.andersonplywood.com.

September 10: The Bay Area Woodturners will have a virtual/in-person demo with Alan Lacer. More information at: www.bayareawoodturners.org.

September 26 – 30: 3D Basecamp, SketchUp's biennial user conference, will take place in Vancouver, B. C. More information at: <https://3dbasecamp.sketchup.com>.

October 3: The Bay Area Woodturners will have a virtual/in-person demo with Alan Stratton. More information at: www.bayareawoodturners.org.

October 12 – 13: The Design 2-Part Show takes place in Long Beach, featuring new tech in 3-D printing, CAD-CAM, CNC, laser cutting, multi-axis machining, and more. More information at: www.d2p.com.

December 1 – 31: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, presents Art of Giving, entry deadline is November 15. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com.

My Continued Carvings By Dave McClave

On June 12, 2022, my son Stuart premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York his first full-length documentary film On the Line: The Richard Williams Story. He produced and directed the film. So I took a slab of white oak, turned it into a tennis court, put two racquets on it to represent Venus and Serena Williams, and added folk art representations of Richard on the left and Stuart on the right. The squares are left to put photos like the one here of him and some of his production crew. You just wouldn't believe how much goes into making a film. In the background is my cabin in Pine Mountain Club clad in cedar siding

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colors, can be used to match and repair finishing errors.

Show & Tell and Announcements:

James Baldrige said a friend is selling a 3HP Craftsman table saw for \$100 and a Delta router shaper for \$20. His name is Vince, he is in La Crescenta, and his phone number is 213-248-7137.

Jim Kelly recommended Ridge carbide tables saw blades. Chuck Nickerson also recommended Tenryu brand blades.

Stefan welcomed guests Kate Harrow of Bow & Harrow Bullseye Turning Supply. She is organizing the SoCal Turners expo. She said that the class schedule is still getting firmed up, but there will be a lot of hands-on offerings.



Product Review: Model Maker's Thickness Sander

by Gary Hersch

I've wanted to add a Drum Sander to my shop for a year or more. However, whenever I put any serious thought into it, I always ran up against the same three obstacles:

1. **Space** - Most machines, even if they're on wheels, can take up a lot of real estate that I wasn't necessarily willing to give up
2. **Dust Collection** - My limited research told me that effective dust collection for a drum sander was beyond the capabilities of my shop vac and
3. **Cost** - These start at about \$1600 and go up. I wasn't sure if I was willing to go to the boss (you know, the wife) and



make a case for this type of spend. There are used ones available occasionally, but, well, ...they're used...

Then one day, when trolling around in a guitar maker's forum, I stumbled upon a couple of posts about the Model Maker's Thickness

Sander (<https://www.byrnesmodelmachines.com/sander5.html>). This is a benchtop machine with a 6" drum that works with a shop vac and is available for \$425. I thought, "Hey, this sounds too good to be true!"

So, I did some more searching and found several reviews and "box openings" on YouTube featuring this machine, and all were positive.

Jim Byrnes builds the thing in Florida. Jim is a machinist by trade and (more importantly) a model maker. As he transitioned from building kit models to models from scratch, he found the commercially available tools didn't quite do the job, so he put his engineering skills to work and built his own, starting with a 4" table saw. Word of mouth spread quickly about his products, so Byrnes Model Machines was born.

I ordered my drum sander about two months ago, and it

took about two weeks to arrive. It's pretty compact, 9"x10" base, and about 13" tall, so it will sit easily on a shelf when not in use and won't take up your whole bench when you pull it out. Also, it's light enough that you won't kill your back moving it around, yet heavy enough that it doesn't dance around when used (no clamping to the bench necessary). So that's checkbox 1. The dust hood has a 1.5" ID hose connection, so it mates up with my shop vac without issue. Box 2, Check. The total cost, including shipping, was \$505 (\$425 for the sander and \$80 for shipping), so a little bit pricey but very manageable. I bought the "luthiers" version, which comes with one 6" wedge (drum) and fences on the side. The "standard" model comes without the fences and two each 3" wedges to accommodate two grits of paper at once, and that is available for \$350 + shipping. And there we have it: Check, Check, and triple Check.

This thickness sander is a bit different than its larger cousins. For one thing, the drum takes standard abrasive sheets (as opposed to the roll of paper).

It came with 80 grit paper installed, so while I haven't had to change the paper, I understand it's a breeze. The drum works on a 1/3 HP motor, so not much power, but remember, because of its size, you won't be thickening large boards, and it is available in 120v or 220v.

Another big difference is that it's a manual feed, so you must push the material through. Don't let go, and don't stand directly behind the machine while using either (don't ask me how I know that).

The table is aluminum, and it's the table that adjusts up and down (instead of the drum). A flywheel adjusts the table with hash marks, and each mark represents an adjustment of 0.002", so it's easy to get to the precise dimensions you're seeking.

As I said, I've only had the sander for a month or two now, so limited use so far. But the work I've done has been as easy and as accurate as promised.

