

SFVW

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San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

A Commentary by Your Editor, Gary Coyne

Monthly Meetings

This month, after three years in the Zoom Wilderness, we return to Face-to-Face meetings.

Zoom did offer us some unique opportunities, both by having presenters from anywhere join us, and we had some new members, who were not local, able to join us. With Face-to-Face meetings, those will be cut short. I will miss that and I will miss them.

But, nothing can fully match the better education opportunities and interpersonal relations that one gets when interacting with others. Simply, Zoom is a distant 2nd best.

So, I encourage you join us for our return to LIVE meetings this April 20th, 7 PM, at Highland Hall Waldorf School Woodshop, 17100 Superior Street, Northridge, CA.

For more complete directions, please see our web page [here](#).

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes March 16, 2023 meeting

Club President Stefan Dusedau welcomed members to the meeting. He reminded everyone that we will be returning to in-person meetings in April and to complete the online liability waiver for Highland Hall School.

Presentation

Eitan Ginsburg introduced Burl Wheaton and Jack Giles from the Historical Carousel & Museum of Albany, Oregon, who came to us via Zoom. Burl is the President of the museum, and Jack is their Master Carver.

Jack and Burl began by showing us the carousel that is the centerpiece of their \$8.5 million facility. The carousel was built entirely by volunteers using a 1909 carousel metal

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Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

To continue our safety discussion, here are some suggestions for using the drill press.

Using a drill press can present various safety issues. Here are some of the precautions to consider:

1. Always wear protective equipment, such as safety goggles and ear protection.
2. Avoid wearing loose clothing, jewelry, or anything that could get caught in the drill press. Long hair should be tied back.
3. Make sure that the workpiece is securely clamped or held in place so it does not move during drilling. Use a vice, clamps, or other suitable holding devices.
4. Use sharp drill bits, and avoid drilling with dull or damaged ones, as they can break or cause the drill press to kick back.
5. Be sure that you understand the speed and depth control settings of the drill press and use the correct speed for the type of material being drilled.
6. Always turn off the drill press and unplug it from the power source before adjusting the table or belt or performing any maintenance.
7. As with most tools, using a drill press in a poorly ventilated area can produce carbon monoxide. Ensure that the workspace is well-ventilated, and take regular breaks to avoid breathing in too much carbon monoxide.

Overall, it is essential to read and understand the manufacturer's instructions for the drill press and take the safety measures outlined to avoid accidents and injuries.

Happy Woodworking and be Safe,
Stefan

March Presentation: Cleaning and Sharpening your Blades

The April presentation will be by Dave Tilson from Rockler

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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mechanism that was donated by the William Denzel family, a family of carousel makers. Everything else has been built, carved, and painted by volunteers. Each carousel animal takes several years to make. There are 51 spots for animals on the carousel, but there are 42 animals on the carousel now. They also have made some special "holiday" animals, which they rotate in and out seasonally. It takes about half an hour to mount an animal on the carousel.

They took us downstairs to show historic carousel animals displayed in the museum. Most are about 100 years old. They noted that American carousels turn counterclockwise while European carousels turn clockwise.

The process of creating a new carousel animal starts with a conversation between the sponsor and the carver. Sponsoring an animal costs about \$25,000. The sponsor chooses the animal and discusses with the carver about the details (fancies) that should decorate their particular animal. Then a full-size, two-dimensional color drawing is made. Jack draws straight lines on the drawing to lay out the cut lines for how to cut out the block segments, which are then glued and screwed together. Some parts are joined with one-inch diameter dowels. Then less experienced carvers rough out the pieces, and master carvers finish the last 30% of the detail carving. (Some carvers at the museum have art school experience while others do not.) Some of the fine details are carved separately and then glued on. Where parts are joined, they'll carve a V-groove along the joint and fill that with auto-body filler.

The animals are built from basswood, which is also known as linden. It is a straight-grained wood that is easy to carve and takes detail well. There are 14 animals in progress right now. Most are made from dried 8/4 stock and then laminated to make larger blocks. The animals have a hollow center to reduce their weight (the carousel needs to balance the weight of the animals and riders around the carousel to keep it running smoothly). Some animals have time capsules inside. They used Titebond III glue in most circumstances. They used to use Gorilla glue but found that it foamed too much.

The painting process starts with primer, which is brushed, stippled, and sanded. They use 80-grit sandpaper on primed surfaces to knock down the raised grain and then use finer grits to smooth everything. It is re-coated three times, and then color is added. The animals are painted with oil paints, a process which takes 9 to 12 months, and then another three

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to six months for the paint to cure fully. Then they are topped with an autobody clear coat.

Each weighs about 100 to 150 pounds on average. The whole to mount the animal on the pole in the carousel is drilled when the animal is still in block form. They showed the carved bird that is going to be mounted on the mirror panels.

The Museum has a program to teach high school students how to carve. They are given a set of Flexcut palm tools and their first project is a two-dimensional carving of a flower. More advanced carvers often buy their own tools. Other tools used for carving include a mallet to tap the carving gouges and a strop to keep the gouges sharp. Carving tools with a shoulder can be hit with a mallet. Sometimes they use a rubber mallet which can be made from a boat rubber (bumper), PVC pipe, and bolt. A wooden mallet is better because it doesn't bounce

To sharpen carving tools, drag and rotate them on the strop. Pull and rotate the tool along the strop, keeping the bevel flat. Do this five times left to the right and then five times right to the left. The tool only rarely has to be reground. For sharpening, stropping with compound is usually enough. A molded strop can be used to clean interior burrs. Lee Valley sells strops for different sweep numbers. Flexcut is a good

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Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following items of potential interest were found in the March – April 2023 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>.

Events

Now through October 3: The Maloof Historic Residence presents Larry White: Equilibrium, showing the work of Sam Maloof's long-time assistant. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/4yr9rcra>

April 13 – 15: The National Association of Music Merchants holds its 2023 NAMM Show at the Anaheim Convention Center. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/4yr9rcra>

[com/45w4uwud](http://www.woodwest.com/45w4uwud)

April 14 – 16: Society of American Period Furniture Makers hold their annual seminar at Cerritos College. Registration includes refreshments, two lunches, and Saturday dinner. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/3wbefy77>

May 20: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. For more information: www.andersonplywood.com/.

June 7 – July 4: The San Diego County Fair hosts the 40th annual Design in Wood Exhibition. The entry deadline is April 28. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/5n96kjr2>.

July 14 – August 13: The Orange County Fair hosts Fine Arts Woodworking Show. Entry deadline is May 26. More information: www.ocfair.com.

July 25 – 28: the Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers will host their AWFS Fair at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Information at: www.awfsfair.org.

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brand of carving tools, but the blades do (as you might guess) have some flex. Pfiel Swiss-made chisels are better but more expensive. Basswood is commonly used for carving, but other woods which are good to carve include sugar pine and yellow cedar. Small sanding sticks are good for detail sanding, or you can use diamond riffler files.

When starting out, easier projects include flowers, spoons, and love spoons. And you can use beginner tools for these. Three-dimensional carving is mostly done by eye, not off-measured drawings. For three-dimensional, you want to carve both sides in tandem, working slowly from rough to fine all around the piece.

Reports::Upcoming presentations

will be held at our new location in the Highland Hall School woodshop:

- **April:** Cleaning and sharpening by Dave Tilson from Pasadena Rockler.
- **May:** Dust Collection by Marc Collins
- **June:** Crosscut sleds by Chuck Nickerson, Eitan Ginsburg, and Jeff Bremer.

Finance:

Jeff Bremer said that memberships continue to come in. Our finances are OK. He encouraged people to consider buying shirts, hats, and other club gear at our online store. We will be participating in the October quilting show, selling things that we make to raise money for the club.

Toy committee: Jim Kelly said that we are on track. We will be getting lumber for the toys once the rain has passed. We will have a club toy build at El Camino High School in October.

Q&A

Levon said that he has a desk and table that is finished with tung oil and wax, but the finish is not holding up well. He asked if people have feedback on Rubio Monocoat, which seems to be an oil-wax finish. Several members said that varnish holds up well, particularly Waterlox.

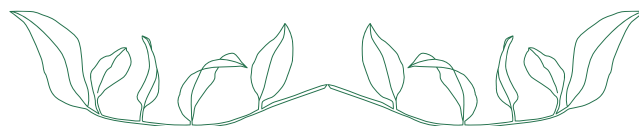
Tips & Tricks

Jeff Bremer said that when he changed the thickness of the lumber that we use for the treasure chests from 3/4" to 5/8", not only was it lighter, but it looked better. He suggested considering something other than 3/4" stock when you are building projects.

Show & Tell

Eitan showed a bird feeder that he made recently, just from scrap that he had in the wood shop. It's painted, so it will hold up better to the weather.

Calvin Sov showed a tissue box holder that he made using a laser cutter. It is embossed with a cactus design, and the sides are pressure fit, not glued.



From the Web

- 📌 George and Jimmy's Glue Tips
<https://tinyurl.com/4x6mkk84>
- 📌 Gluing strategies
<https://tinyurl.com/4ps2yuad>
- 📌 Great Finishes for the Great Outdoors
<https://tinyurl.com/yc3k8pw8>
- 📌 Carving texture into veneer
<https://tinyurl.com/2w88td38>
- 📌 Phone charging station
<https://tinyurl.com/2m97ceks>
- 📌 Make a Bookmatched End Grain Cutting Board
<https://tinyurl.com/4y4sjhmp>
- 📌 Build a Veneer Lid Box
<https://tinyurl.com/y2wuzrr4>
- 📌 The BEST UPGRADE You Can Make to Your BANDSAW
<https://tinyurl.com/3sj6s9uk>
- 📌 This Setup Can Benefit Anyone with a Table Saw (see the one below next)
<https://tinyurl.com/5e7kyndu>
- 📌 Woodworking's Perfect 1-2 Punch? (see the one above first)
<https://tinyurl.com/4ack23z8>
- 📌 Top 10 Wood Species For fine Woodworking
<https://tinyurl.com/y8s2477a>
- 📌 Quick Tip: Don't Make This Common Hand Saw Mistake
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8aeepy>
- 📌 Beginner's Cutting Board From the Woodworker's Point of View!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZI-p-YLd8Y>
- 📌 Making & Using Drill Bit Guides | Paul Sellers
<https://tinyurl.com/eu6fxuka>
- 📌 For maximum strength, try the double mortise-and-tenon joint
<https://tinyurl.com/2ckeknvt>
- 📌 The mighty mallet
<https://tinyurl.com/4yhjva2m>
- 📌 Turning a tulip
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9ym9dr>
- 📌 Who will speak for the humble scroll saw?
<https://tinyurl.com/3zd3vaje>
- 📌 You Don't Need as Many Clamps as You Think
<https://tinyurl.com/yavvc9fd>
- 📌 Thin Rip Guides [Note: this is an advertisement for a Woodpecker product. Products like this are sold by many companies. I'm including this because I thought the presentation on how to use one of this fixture was very good. I'm not endorsing THIS product, but you

may like it.]

- <https://tinyurl.com/226v7abw>
- 📌 Easy! Cut Thin Strips On Your Table Saw!
<https://tinyurl.com/mr3fxa8y>
- 📌 How to Make a Thin Strip Ripping Jig
<https://tinyurl.com/y6ax4uv4>
- 📌 CLEVER idea turns scraps of wood into \$\$\$\$
<https://tinyurl.com/ycxeju9z>
- 📌 The Most Comprehensive Sharpening Test Ever Done
<https://tinyurl.com/3x5wx92y>
- 📌 Repairing a Cracked Table Leaf
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8wsthv>
- 📌 The Issue I Have with Most Parallel Clamp Reviews
<https://tinyurl.com/zwmfevxh>
- 📌 Are more expensive drills really worth it?
<https://tinyurl.com/yc5x2xzn>
- 📌 Why you should get chisels WITHOUT HANDLES!
<https://tinyurl.com/yc88f56s>
- 📌 About Hand Saws
<https://tinyurl.com/3d2v36u7>
- 📌 Making a 3 in 1 Sander Machine || Disc Sander || Drum Sander || Belt Sander
<https://tinyurl.com/459b7wfs>

Would Works

"Would Works" is a non-profit project in Los Angeles that helps to teach those without skills (and who are homeless) in woodworking.

This came to us via Lee Valley in one of their Emails. They have short videos on this project and how they are helping those who are learning. Currently, two of five videos are up for viewing. <https://tinyurl.com/33kx43je>. This is worth a look.

Special Offer!!!

FREE (and if you are so inclined, a donation to the club treasury would be appreciated):

Wood Magazine Volume #1 (Sept/Oct 1984) – Volume #248 (Sept 2017)

and/or Woodsmith Magazine: Volume #1 – Volume #235

And yes, magazine holders and binders are included.

Contact Ed at 818-346-6732

