

Saswathin Quinn, Scott S. Page

photo by Michael Bry

## THIRD THURSDAY PREVIEW – Thursday, 1/20/83, 7:30 p.m.

Saswathan Quinn will help B.A.W.A. members bring in the New Year by hosting our next meeting at his East Bay shop. It is located at 1515 Sherwin, Emeryville (658-1976). See the map on page 3 for directions. At this meeting B.A.W.A. members will get to welcome into office the members elected to the new Executive Committee (see "ASSOCIATION OFFICERS" box).

New members would also be welcomed at this time. If you have already attended meetings, you know they are very well worthwhile. So if you have not yet joined, please participate in the only chance to share in an abundance of knowledge with other local woodworkers. Plus you can take advantage of all of the exciting events being planned for 1983

**SPOTLIGHT** this month will be on a bent-laminate oak and glass table designed/built by our host Saswathan Quinn. He would like to let us in on the techniques he used to realize his design. Steam-bending and tapered laminations, along with some nice joinery, are incorporated throughout the table. Once again come prepared to learn something new.

Our first **DEMONSTRATION** will be by member Scott Page. He will be showing us his method for sharpening the Japanese hand-saw. This will be followed, appropriately enough, by a demonstration on honing Japanese chisels and plane-irons. Offered by Mike Laine, he was quick to point out that his technique is a "western cabinetmakers adaptation" simply using the fine tools and stones developed by Japanese woodworkers.

## Health Effects of Wood Dust

Throughout history, man has had contact with plants and has learned to recognize and avoid the harmful species. The first reference of adverse skin reaction to a pokeberry plant was in the 28th century B.C. in China. Up to 1900 A.D., there were almost 300 references in literature to adverse reactions from plants. Most of these reactions were caused by flowering plants, not trees or wood.

The adverse effects of wood dust are less commonly noted in literature. Dermatitis from the Japanese lacquer tree, also caused by varnish, was known in China as early as the 7th century A.D. In the 17th century French soldiers reportedly became ill after eating foods that were cooked on spits of oleander woods and there are references to similar reactions among barbecuers in California and Florida.

The first occupational reference to wood dust which caused nose and eye irritation in pit sawyers was reported in the 18th century. In 1902 there were reports of throat and eye irritation from African boxwood. Another troublesome African weed is Ireke, which resembles teak. It is often substituted for teak and can cause epidemics of severe dermatitis, particularly during hot humid weather or when the wood is wet. In general, the adverse effects of exotic woods are more severe than those of woods that grow in temperate climates. One possible explanation is that their extractives which serve to protect the tree against bacteria, fungi, insects and other animals are also toxic to man.

The adverse health effects which have been shown to be associated with wood or wood dust can be categorized into:

- systemic effects (i.e., headache, nausea and sleepiness)
- irritation, leading primarily to dermatitis
- sensitization (i.e., allergic contact dermatitis, rhinitis asthma)
- cancer

Systemic effects are not linked to any commercial North American species. Asthma has been confirmed in three North American species (oak, redwood and western red cedar); dermatitis is

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## EDITORIAL

I'm the new editor . . . I'm not really sure how I got talked into this (maybe coerced is a better word). I do know though that I would not have done it except that B.A.W.A. is important to me; and the newsletter is an important part of B.A.W.A. The newsletter is a call to meeting, a means of reaching out, and in general, some pretty good information. It promotes us and our work as well as providing us with contacts and resources. As new editor I didn't have any big changes in mind, and for those of you at the last meeting I was only kidding about using crayons. Marty, Ed, and crew did an excellent job of establishing a very solid format and I think we'll stick with that format.

I do want to take this opportunity though to enlist everyone's help with the newsletter. B.A.W.A., like the Bay Area, is a diverse group and as editor I want that to be reflected in the newsletter. From carpenter to cabinetmaker, refinisher to restorer, and amateur as well as professional, B.A.W.A. is for all of us; and regardless of skill or career many of us have stories to tell and information to share. Even if you're not ready to write about the microstructure of woody plants you can perhaps share an amusing anecdote or technique for finish work. If you are convinced that you can't write and you were thrown out of English 1B for burning Miss Rogers at the stake — hire a ghost writer. Tim, George and I can do the proofreading and editing — that's a big part of what we're here for. Drop us a line or call and keep us informed so that we can keep you informed and maybe even entertained.

———— Dave Dempsey

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## DECEMBER REVIEW

The December meeting was important in that it completed the first six month terms as planned for in our by-laws. We had a fun although awkward ti electing new officials — the honesty — outgoing officials as to the amount of responsibility and work involved shied some members away from accepting nominations, however we were able to fill all the positions and even provide for a three person newsletter team (. . . as the clock now reaches midnight with many more pages still to be typed, I'm real glad we could arrange to have an extra person on staff . . . What are professional woodworkers doing as amateur journalists anyway?) For a list of the present officers see the "ASSOCIATION OFFICERS" box.

Host Larry Borsian presented a hasty demonstration on his steam-bending process which really made the point that it is not something to be rushed. He had a nice simple set-up consisting of an electric steamer — he mentioned his kerosene unit worked better — and a long plywood box for prolonged steaming. Larry uses a form with which to clamp or compression-band his stock to while cooling. He claims his success rate is typically much higher than at the meeting — patience is the key — and has been able to produce some pleasing architectural ornamentation for local restoration projects. Gary Carter was n with a demonstration as smooth as u resulting joinery of the Lamello Plate Joiner. He produced a series of common cabinet joints — miter, edge-to-edge and edge-to-face — with very little effort and great precision. It could be a very effective timesaver for those who do a lot of case-work and it comes highly recommended by Gary and others who have used it.

The last demonstration was from Brian McLachlan who showed us a home-made (shopmade) circle cutting jig for the bandsaw. Special note should go to the easy adjustment of his jig . . . after all if they're not easy they're not jigs. He used a fixed platform fitted with a sliding carriage and indexed with pre-drilled holes to space his work to be rounded the proper distance from the bandsaw blade . . . pin it in place, clamp for safety and zip, you have a round board. It was a fun meeting and some new faces were present. With over 50 people attending it looks like B.A.W.A. has successfully promoted its cause of uniting the Bay Area woodworkers.

**From the Show Committee**  
**WOODWORKING SHOW**  
**REPORT**

*Working With Wood Show — April  
 22, 23, 24, Fort Mason, Pier 3*

Our display space at this predominantly trade-oriented show has been secured. Although the emphasis of this three day event is on catering to those of us who are actually in the business of woodworking, the producers of WWW Show '83 thought it would be appropriate to feature a Fine Woodworking/Design Show as well, for the general public. The Woodworkers Foundation has invited us, along with other regional associations, to participate.

B.A.W.A. has sent to Jan Cadwallader a check for \$540.00 (representing a 50% deposit at 60 cents per square foot) for 1,800 square feet of exhibition space in the April show. B.A.W.A. Members will have on display about 50 to 60 individually crafted pieces. Our presentation will be coordinated with the other woodworkers' associations, but not merged with them. This reservation is for a separate strip of space no more than 20 feet deep and with an eight foot cloth backdrop.

Members participating in the show met on January 5 to discuss the items to be presented to the show promoters and other woodworking associations in a meeting with them on January 7.

The members participating are: Elliot Apatov, Peter Benenson, Larry Borsian, Serge Bouyssou, Lewis Buchner, Ray Cash, Dave Dempsey, Donald Dupont, Martin Freedman, John & Carolyn Grew-Sheridan, John Grubb/Mike Salter, David Halpern, Tim Kennedy, Michael Laine, Brian McLachlan, Douglas T. Nash, Kent Odell, Scott S. Page, Saswathin Quinn, George Rezendes, Rose/Carter Co., Steven Savtich, Robert Schneider, Al Wengerd

On Wednesday, January 5th, the B.A.W.A. participants in the April Woodworking show met at Mike Laine's shop in Oakland to begin to plan for the event. Mike and John Grew-Sheridan, co-chairs of the Show Committee, led the discussion.

Because of various deadlines it was necessary to hold the meeting on short notice after notifying everyone who had signed up at the December general meeting or who subsequently had contacted the Show Committee. Those 26 B.A.W.A. members who sent in checks by January 5 are in the show. Approximately 60 pieces will be shown by the group.

The meeting went quickly with most of the time given over to the problems of advertising and promotion. Because of our limited funds it was decided to

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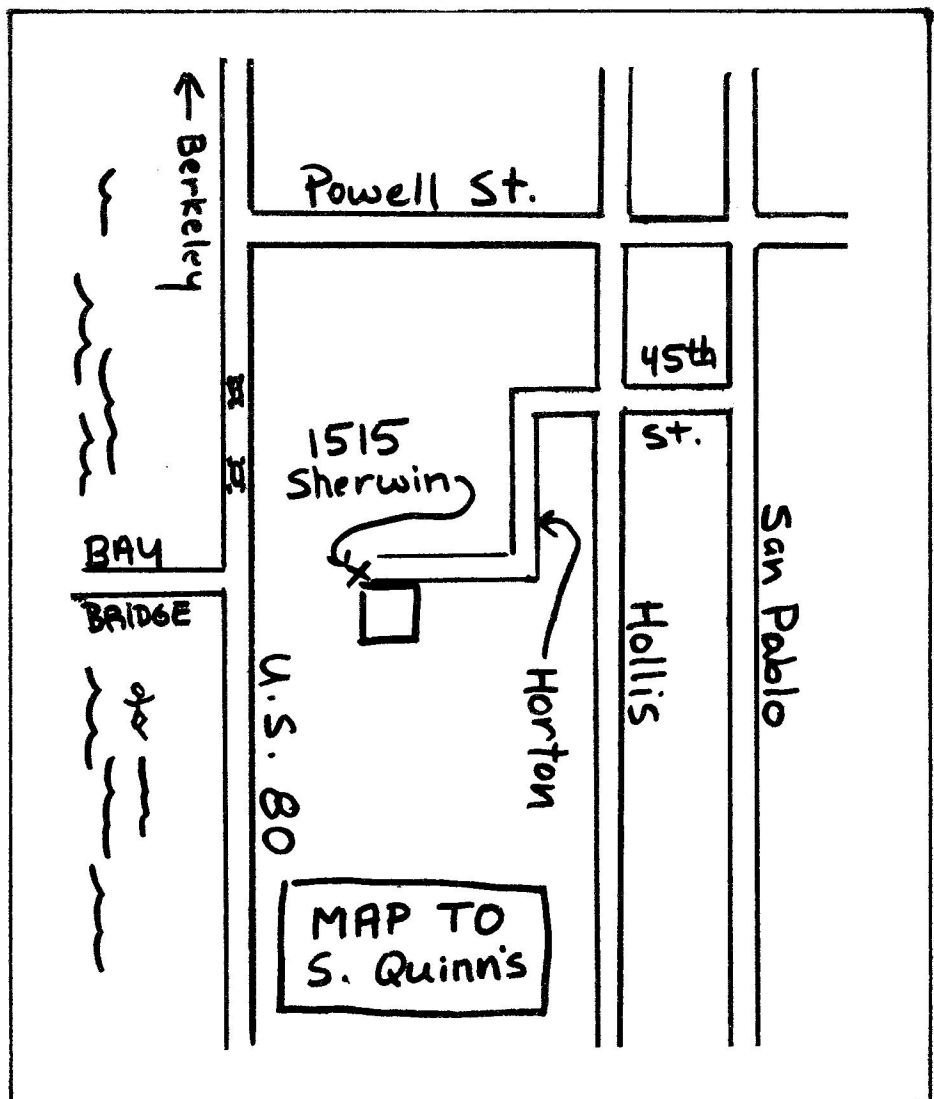
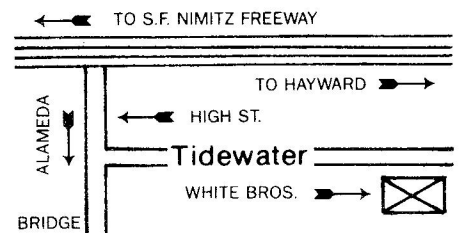


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## Regional Shows & Demonstrations

*Italian Re-evolution: Design in Italian Society in the Eighties.*  
(Thru Jan. 30, 1983 at S.F. Museum of Modern Art.)

"From fettucine to Fiats — this exhibition takes visitors through a typical Italian's day."

To give you an example of what gets "DESIGNED" in Italian culture today, the exhibit starts out with a rather large collection of coffee paraphernalia. All, no doubt, designed to get the typical person up and on the way in the most efficient manner possible. The exhibit makes a point of noting that a large majority of the population utilizes the objects on display, thus typical, and most of the objects, such as door handles, window shutters, light fixtures, are very functional as well as highly stylized.

This is an unusual show for a museum to present in that these objects don't normally stand on their own as "Works of Art". It may be an indication that the design and construction of commonplace objects can have inherent artistic value in modern society, as it once might have been when artists (i.e., deVinci) were designers, builders and inventors as well. I can't help but think it might have been the intention of the show's curator and designers (it was independently curated) to instill some pride back into our craft heritage.

## Executive Committee Footnotes

★ Much of this month's Executive Committee meeting concerned the orderly transfer of duties and responsibilities. The status of old business was discussed in depth; and the old members present gave their reports.

★ New board members talked about their goals and plans for the upcoming 6 months and it was decided that some presentations are much more interesting than others. This will be brought up at future B.A.W.A. meetings.

★ In order to expedite billings it was suggested that the newsletter staff handle the invoices and that all advertising be prepaid. In addition it was suggested that the newsletter staff be allowed to write checks as the newsletter is one of B.A.W.A.'s largest and most consistent expenditures.

★ Agenda and upcoming events were discussed but to date nothing was confirmed. Tentative are field trips, barbeque, February swap meet and perhaps some very informal Saturday Workshops.

## CONSIDER THIS!

Our world wood source may be depleted by rapid de-forestation. I have been told by different people that indiscriminate clear-cutting is ruining man-forests around the world. From a professional as well as ecological stand-point, it would behoove us to become more educated as to what exactly is going on. What we need are some facts. Who has information to be researched and what can we do with that information? I propose we put some energy into this matter. Please send any bits of information to the newsletter for publication and create some awareness about this very important topic.

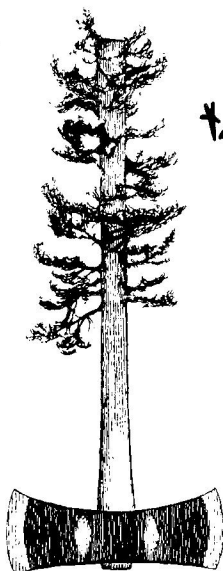
## Miscellaneous — Important Notices

*Members:* Please mention to our advertisers that you saw their ads in the newsletter! It would help them know if it's effective, help us support this costly journal and help you in the long-run . . . . At least one advertiser is offering a 5% discount to B.A.W.A. members who speak up.

Send any information you come across regarding Bay Area shows and demonstrations . . . . also Sources/Resources, Shop Tips, feature articles (double-spaced, typed), Comic Strips(?) and we'll publish it . . . . Send it to our P.O. Box no later than the 27th of the month preceding the month to be published and address it "Newsletter Staff".

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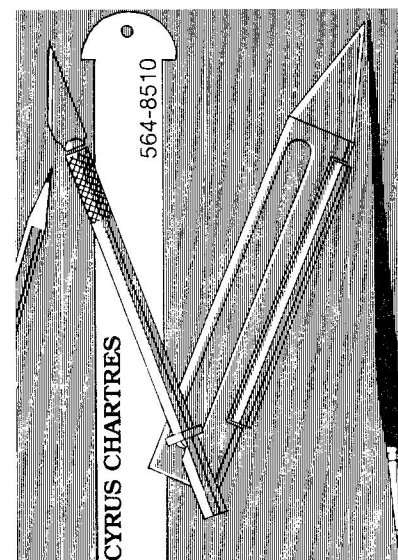
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## Shop Tips

▪ Scott Page suggests Formula 409 to clean saw blades. It isn't a caustic like lye.

▪ Easy Off oven cleaner works on stubborn build up on those same blades, by the way. —M. Wilshire

▪ Did you buy one of those expensive abrasive belt cleaners? Save your money because the sole of an old crepe shoe works just as well. —M. Wilshire

▪ Lewis Buchner suggests that if you mix a lot of glue, try using an old blender.

▪ Dave Dempsey says to try a full 180° on your round nose scrapers and turning gouges. It gives you that much more cutting edge and the corners (what corners?) have less of a tendency to catch.

▪ For quickie chair repairs use an old nylon stocking to snug up the joints. Old restorers trick.

## Sources/Resources

• Gurian Guitars is a major source of high quality musical instrument woods and hardware. If you're considering building a guitar or just need a select cut of fine wood for a showpiece cabinet (book-matched panels are readily available in mahogany, rosewood, figured maple, etc.) write them for more information at: Box 595, West Swanzey, New Hampshire 93469. (And don't be put off by buying through the mail . . . they are an efficient outfit that will send you what you ask for.)

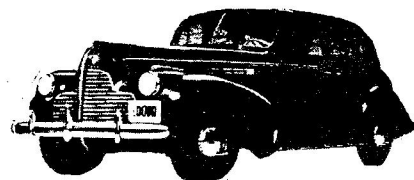
• J&M Fasteners, 181-D Mayhew Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, (415) 932-4482, carries a selection of tap-inserts and other fasteners.

• Robert Sharpe Custom Iron Works is a one-man blacksmith/welding shop in the East Bay and can often do specialized fittings and brackets.

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certain for seven species (Douglas fir, pine, white fir, hemlock, eastern and western red cedars and popular). The association between wood dust and cancer needs further study.

The above is a summary of the article "Small Plants and Their Medical Problems—The Furniture Industry," by John F. Gamble. A copy of this article can be obtained from the University of California Cooperative Extension at a cost of \$1.50.



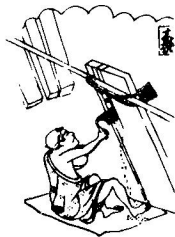
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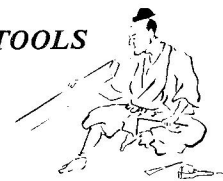


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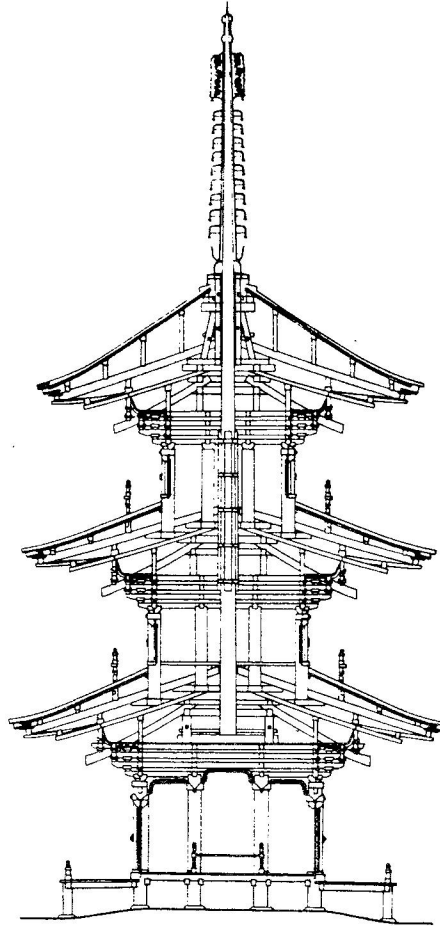


The Cutting Edge is running a special on the Makita wet-grinder. Bring in a dull chisel or planer knife, and give our demo-machine a workout. This \$224 machine is now on sale at \$190.

5% discount to B.A.W.A. members.

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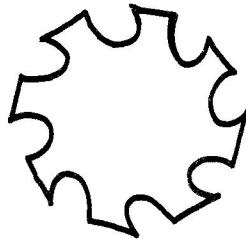
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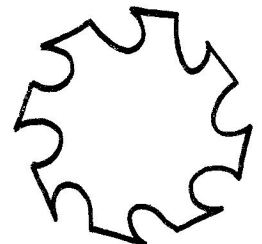
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supplement the advertising of the show promoters by developing a press packet for distribution to the media to try to generate free coverage.

A Show Promotion Committee, composed of Carolyn Grew-Sheridan, Lewis Buchner, Scott Page and Donald Dupont, will determine what each B.A.W.A. exhibitor should prepare for the press packet. The materials will probably include, in addition to our press release, a collection of black and white photographs, resumes and background information. The promotion committee will work with each person to compile the papers.

Also, some of the B.A.W.A. participants will try to extend the impact of the show by developing an Open Studio program for the following weekend of April 30 and May 1. A separate flyer for that event will be prepared in the coming weeks.

The appearance of the display is not yet decided and there is still work to be done on the layout. The promoters will be providing neutral cloth backdrops and Chip is investigating renting a carpet for our display area. In addition, all of the B.A.W.A. participants will contribute an additional \$10.00 to cover

phone calls and other minor expenses. Insurance coverage is still to be obtained.

On Friday, January 7th, Mike Laine and Scott Page represented B.A.W.A. at the meeting at Ft. Mason of all of the woodworking associations of Northern California and the promoters of the April "Working With Wood" Show, the Woodworkers Foundation. The decisions made at the afternoon conference will be presented at the next monthly B.A.W.A. meeting.

Various items were covered at the gathering. Among them were the need to make a final list of show exhibitors, estimated to be about 60, organize a coordinating committee, and focus the advertising effort. The promoters would like to get the names of woodworkers who would like to demonstrate techniques at the show and are looking for leads.

As part of the promotion, work will be done on compiling regional and Bay Area media contact lists. Tied in with that will be a raffle for the public of woodworking items purchased by the promoters. The promoters gave specific information about their advertising budget.

The associations and the promoters determined the layout of the woodworking show and the display format. The security aspects of the exhibit were also discussed.

— John Grew-Sheridan

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Chair & Co-Chair  
Mike Laine / John Grew-Sheridan

Secretary & Assistant  
Joel Grossman / Chip Galusha

Treasurer & Assistant  
Isaac Khelif / Brian McLachlan

Newsletter Editor & Assistants  
Dave Dempsey/George Rezendes/Tim Kennedy

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor	Dave Dempsey
Asst. Editor	George Rezendes
Asst. Editor	Tim Kennedy
Tech. Asst.	Amanda J. Smith
Photog.	Michael Bry
Contrib.	John Grew-Sheridan

## Classified Policy

In order to help relieve some of the chaos around here we have instituted a new classified policy. All classifieds must be prepaid with copy in by the 27th of the preceding month. Include your full name and phone number and please write legibly.

\$\$\$ — The price is \$5.00 for 7 lines, but call Tim Kennedy at 952-6043 for more up to date information.

## Apologies and Explanations

Our apologies for the abbreviated form on this particular newsletter. With the holidays and recent elections the new staff had very little time to put the newsletter together ... Talk about trial by fire!

**We, at MacMurray Pacific wish the Bay Area Woodworkers Association and its members continued success.**

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