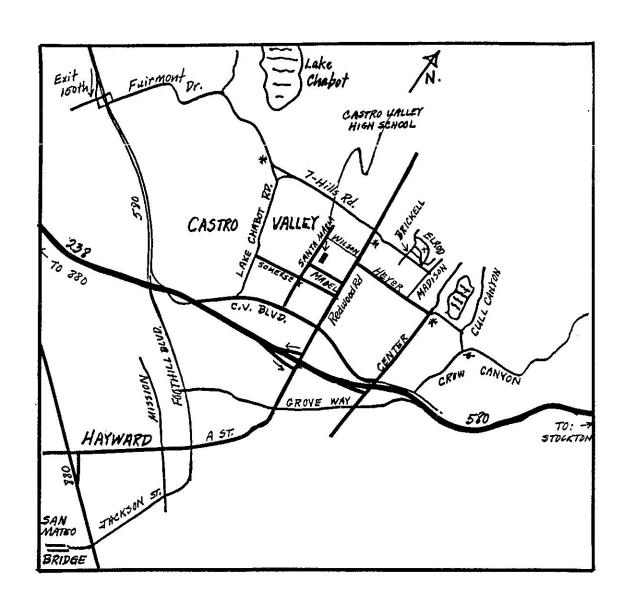
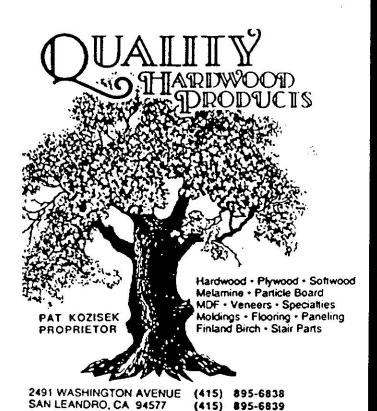


APRIL, 1989, VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4, P.O. BOX 774, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94101

#### THIRD WEDNESDAY PREVIEW

Yes, we are again having our "Third Thursday" meeting on a Wednesday. Your opinion on this matter may be expressed on the questionaire on page 11 of this newsletter. Please return it by mail or bring it to the next meeting.







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# **WOOD CONFAB**

# August 9-13 in Claremont

"A Celebration of Wood" is how co-director FLO BISHOP describes the plans for the fourth annual Southern California Woodworking Conference to be held August 9-13, 1989, on the campus of Harvey Mudd College in Claremont. This five-day unique event brings together many of the most talented woodworkers in the country to share their skills and enthusiam through over 30 hours of demonstrations, hands-on workshops, slide presentations, gallery displays, and informal interactions.

The format of the conference is multiple rotating sessions, allowing attendees to sample all the exciting offerings or to stay with one artist for the duration. The sessions are conducted in an informal manner, encouraging participation and discussion with the audience. Hands-on workshops also allow attendees the rare opportunity to get pointers from the experts.

"We've continued to broaden the scope of the conference by inviting some new faces, while maintaining consistency with a core of returning conference veterans," explains Flo. "A wonderful facet of this conference is the mixing of the 'big names' in woodworking with some of 'the rising stars."

#### WOODTURNERS, FURNITURE-MAKERS & MORE

A most notable addition to this year's conference is Master Turner RICHARD RAFFAN of Australia. The most prominent woodturner today, Richard expertly turns everything from bowls to boxs to spindles. He complements the other participating woodturners including legends RUDE OSOLNIK and BOB STOCKDALE and contemporaries TODD HOYER, CLEAD CHRISTIANSEN, and MAX KRIMMEL. Also, DON WEBER will be returning with his spring pole lathe.

After missing last year, GARRY KNOX BENNETT will be returning to demonstrate his latest furniture designs combining wood with metal. MARTHA RISING-ROSSON will share her secrets of making bent-wood laminated furniture, while DON BALDWIN will build a pencil post bed using antique tools. Among the returning furniture artists are ART ESPENET CARPENTER, BRIAN BOGGS, KELLY MEHLER, and PETER TARBOX.

Other highlights of the upcoming conference will be broommaker RODGER MASON, joining and hands tool demonstrator ALLAN BOARDMAN, boat builder ANDY ERICKSON, finishing specialist RON ASHBY, and carving demonstrations by members of the California Carvers Guild. Tool-making will be discussed by JERRY GLASER, while JON SOINI will offer hands-on instruction in blacksmithing. Also returning will be SHELIA DAWSON, teaching woodworking to children and teaching adults to teach children.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS & COLLEGE CREDIT

Ten scholarships to attend the conference will be awarded to promising high school and college woodworkers, along with cash awards. Applications must be submitted by May 15, 1989. Also, conference attendees can earn 2 units of college credit from Cal. State L.A. Contact S.C.W.C. for details

#### **COSTS & REGISTRATION**

The cost to attend the 5-day conference is \$275, or \$80 per day. For those reistering by May 1, 1989, the full conference fee is only \$225, and by July 1, 1989, \$250. Meal and housing packages are also available. For a brochure, contact S.C.W.C. at 3825 W. 19th St.. Hawthorne. CA 90250 or (213) 679-2485.

Now, on to the meeting which will be held at the Castro Valley High School wood shop at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19. Dick Taylor will host the meeting and show us several special items from this well equipped shop.

The bulk of the meeting is up to the membership this time and the success of this meeting depends on your participation. We'd like everyone to bring in at least one item (in the friendly spirit of BAWA we won't turn anyone away who comes empty handed) Bring along: a shop made or purchased jig, or a project old or new, or a favorite book or informative article, or a tool for a swap or the favorite that you wouldn't part with at any price. You may also bring something that is a real lempn.

The idea of this meeting is sharing the good and bad of your woodworking experience. No idea is too small. For instance I heard on a TV show that the common match stick inserted in a screw hole with a little glue makes a great filler for those sagging kitchen cabinet hinges that need a face lift. I wondered why I never thought of that before.

Or you can come with a question you'd like answered. We look forward to seeing all of you in Castro Valley this month. Follow the signs when you arrive at the front of the school on Santa Maria St.

#### REVIEW OF MARCH MEETING

The March general meeting at Western Plastics was a very informative one. Jim Heaphy, general manager of Western Plastics, gave us a superb overview of their operation and an excellent introduction to Corian and similar products in the acrylic family of plastics. Jim proved to be an expert in the area of Corian fabrication for countertops, tabletops, shower pans and a wide variety of other uses. This high end material is similar in many ways to wood and employs many of the same tools and techniques used in woodworking. Western Plastics also does an extensive amount of plastic laminate fabrication and is highly knowledgeable in this area. I was particularly impressed by the versatility and workability of these products when handled in the proper way by people who are skilled and know what they're doing. Jim was an excellent speaker and we learned a lot. He was also a very fine host and set a dangerous precedent by supplying us with a more lavish array of refreshments than we're accustomed to. Maybe we can get Western Plastics to cater our other meetings! A big thanks to Jim Heaphy and Western Plastics for making our March meeting something special.

We also had a short presentation by our own Woody Woodward, master of jigs and machine technology, who demonstrated yet another of his marvelous and original devices, a jig for making finger joints. Woody has a talent for designing and building gadgets that let us reach new heights in woodworking ease, accuracy, speed and safety. Thanks, Woody. I think you should write a book on jigs.

Finally, we held our annual 2x4 contest. There were a variety of fine entries which displayed the originality and diverse talents of our members. First prize went to Dan Dale for his beautiful oak coat rack, and Carl Johnson came in with second prize for his portable folding stool. All of the pieces were excellent and demonstrated that we have a lot of creativity and fine woodworking ability in our group. Congratulations to all who participated.

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#### ON THE ROAD

#### #4: Tales of the Southeast

I recently did a couple of woodworking shows at the other end of the country; one in Richmond, Virginia and one in Miami. I also did Richmond last year, so I knew what to expect and there were no surprizes. Woodworking is semi-comatose there, however, drugs are doing quite well and when I was there the top news story was the city's high murder rate. Miami, on the other hand, was new to me, so I had no expectations. It would be safe to say that woodworking in Miami, like Richmond, appears to be in something of a developmental stage. No, that's not it. Actually, they bypassed the developmental stage, and the refinement stage, and went straight to the particleboard stage. In a certain technological sense, you could say that they're in an advanced stage of woodworking. There's another type of woodworking going on in south Florida that I call hunter-gatherer woodworking. Apparently, quite a bit of wood washes up on the shores of that area and a certain segment of practicing woodworkers use the water's edge as a source of supply. I guess moisture content isn't a big concern.

As far as wood from the lumber company goes, folks in south Florida go for what they described as "light" woods. At first, I connected this with light beer and other insipid things, but it was explained to me that they meant wood that was both light in color and weight, not low in calories. We're talking poplar and white pine, a species which thrives in the east.

Strangely enough, in the midst of all this particleboard and light wood, I found, when I took a drive out to Key West, that lignum vitae and cocobolo grow wild in the Florida keys. The keys, by the way, are quite beautiful if you like chains of islands, and the vegetation is very different from what we see in most other parts of the land. Mangrove seems to be the predominant green growing thing. It's hard to say what it is, however. It's too small to be a tree and doesn't look like a bush. It's somewhere in between and has no principal trunk or stem. Instead, all the green part is supported by a massive tangle of aerial roots that grow directly into the water. Actually, mahogany grew in abundance at one time in southern Florida, but thanks to unbridled commercial harvesting during the last century and the early part of this one, the trees have basically been wiped out. On a side trip which I took through the everglades, I ran across a small protected area about the size of a baseball infield, in which was exhibited, sadly, the largest living mahogany tree in the United States, a rather pathetic specimen of unnoteworthy proportions. It also appeared to be about the only one left. Actually, the notion that the everglades is a protected area is rather ludicrous, since much of the water that made the place what it once was, a vast, lush subtropical swamp teeming with all manner of life, has been permanently rerouted to serve the expanding nearby agricultural areas and to quench the thirst of the burgeoning population of Miami, about two thirds of which doesn't speak English and the remaining one third speaks it with a New York accent.

I had a very nice visit, however, with Tom Wahlgren, a fellow who does woodworking on Big Pine Key, one of the islands out near the end of the chain. Tom's shop consists of two bays in an industrial building, of which there aren't many in the keys. The woodworking done in this area is primarily residential and includes a lot of straightforward cabinetmaking. Plastic

laminate work is popular and seems to blend well with the area's casual, low maintenance way of life. High humidity is a big problem here, not only from a comfort standpoint, but also because the moisture-laden air, combined with temperatures that never drop below 40° (it was in the 80's when I was there, the first week in March) takes a heavy toll on wood that isn't well protected, and the generous amount of sun proves to be an effective natural bleaching agent.

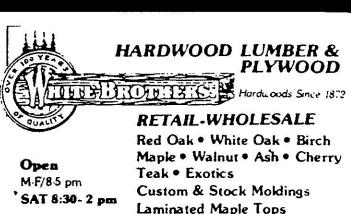
Woodworkers are casual folks in south Florida. Shorts and tee shirts are pretty much the uniform of choice and it's quite common to not work during the hottest part of the day. The typical client of a woodworker is someone who is moving down from the north, often the newly retired, and before moving, engages a local contractor to build them a house. Much of the work, therefore, is done through contractors, rather than directly with the owner. Tom explained that much of the bread and butter jobs are the result of having a good subcontract arrangement with one or more local contractors.

In general, woodworking hasn't been fully discovered in Florida, which is understandable since the primary activities seem to be fishing, going to the beach and dodging the Federal narcotics officers, not necessarily in that order. In the "secured" parking lot of the Howard Johnson (yuk!) hotel where I stayed in Miami, the primary activity was theft. Alligator hunting also seems to be popular, which may explain why there are hardly any of the creatures left. Environmentally, Florida performed a lobotomy on itself long ago and is missing some major areas of consciousness. Fortunately, there are 49 other states where they have no jurisdiction. Richmond, Virginia, on the other hand, which I was in a week later, is quite a different situation from a woodworking standpoint, but that's another story for another time.

Peter Good

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Northern California Woodworking Show has come and gone. I would like to thank all the members who volunteered their time manning the BAWA booth at the Show-- we had a good show.

I had been mentioning the upcoming March show since our first meeting in January, and I thought I was not going to have an easy time sollicting members to do some "duty". Well, fool me! A handful of members first volunteered back at the February get together, others made note of it upon sending in their dues, and then, and alot of you approached and volunteered at the March meeting. By the end of that night, a good half of the schedule had been set. And, with a few more calls here and there through the following weekend, the schedule came out pretty full.

Participation was the key. I, myself, have participated in four Woodworking Shows, including this one, and each time I had one heck of a good time. This one was no different. I did alot of talking— more than my usual self (if you can believe that!), and as such, I met and spoke with alot of nice people. BAWA, undoubtably will be seeing some new faces it the upcoming months, and with it, some new members. Again, many thanks to you all.

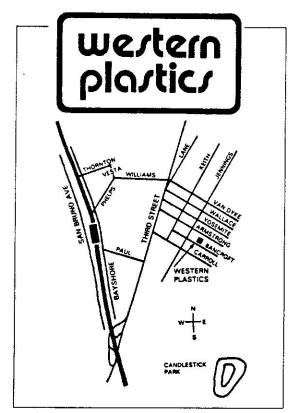
Not to let a good moment slip by... if you did have a good time, don't hesitate letting me know. It's never to late to put your name in for the next show that will be coming up in the Fall! I would also like to thank the Northern California Woodworking Show folks for allowing us such a fine opportunity again. Where as most of the exhibitors pay quite a hefty fee for their booth space, BAWA gets it free— and not just one, but three. Without this freebee, BAWA could no where afford to do the shows. And although our newsletter reaches out to the woodworking community, the show is a means for even more exposure.

Now that the show is over with, are you wondering, "what's next"? Well, needless to say, the Programs Committee has been working away in putting together some good "Meetings". Word has it that the Exploratorium event is coming together and may be finalized by the time the newsletter goes to press. That surely will be one meeting no one will want to miss! Other than that, there's nothing special cooking until the next Tool Show in the Fall.

Unless, anyone is interested in something like a Bar-b-que or a Field Trip, or is anyone interested in seeing us put-on-a <u>BAWA</u> "Show"-- an exhibition of member's works. I guess I'm thinking like at a mall or maybe a park. Any thoughts out there?

As a final note, I would also like to once again recognize the members who found the time to participate in BAWA's "2x4" contest. Dan Dale, by popular vote, was our first place finisher with his oak coat rack, and Carl Johnson was a very close second with his easily portable, folding stool. In addition, Woody Woodward entered a slanting bookrack, Glenn Krueg gave us a turned mallot and striker (grasiously donated to the BAWA Board), and last but not least, Fred Sotcher for his ten-set shoe tree. The contest was quite informal and it was alot of good clean fun. Is there any interest in any more contests? Or, how about some "show and tells"— bringing in something that you have recently worked on? Almost anything is possible.





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Bay Area Woodworkers Association was formed early in 1982 by a small group of dedicated people who felt the need to strengthen the woodworking community by holding regular meetings, establishing an informal forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, sponsoring shows, and meeting others in woodworking and related fields. Since then, this non-profit organization has grown to many members. Meetings occur in the third week of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are generally held in San Francisco or Oakland/Berkeley area. Meetings usually have a specific tools area.

Oakland/Berkeley area. Meetings usually have a specific topic such as router techniques, finishing, turning, business aspects of woodworking, or focus on a distinguished guest speaker who will give a presentation in their area of expertise. Most meetings are held in members shops, or the place of business of a guest presenter. Members receive a monthly newsletter. Dues are \$30 per year payable in January, \$22.50 payable April -June, \$15.00 payable July-September, \$7.50 payable Oct.-December. Mail your check and the information below to: BAWA, c/o Norma Brooks, 4973 Elrod Dr. Castro Valley, Ca. 94546. NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS CITY\_\_\_\_\_STATE\_\_\_ZIP\_\_\_ WORK PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_HOME\_\_\_\_\_HOME\_\_\_\_\_ SPECIALITY?\_\_\_\_ WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A FUTURE MEETING?\_\_\_\_\_ \* PLEASE CIRCLE - - I DO / DON'T want my name, address, & phone no. on a list circulated to other organizations. PLEASE INDICATE WHICH COMMITTEES YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN A. PROGRAM: Coordinate monthly meeting subjects and locations, field trips, and Saturday workshops. B. SHOWS: Coordinate participation in Trade shows and Exhibits of BAWA members, work. C. HOSPITALITY: Handle refreshments, sign in, name tags, and greeting people at the monthly meetings. D. Historical/Library: Maintain binders with past newsletters, publications, slide collection, and video tapes. E. COMMUNTIY OUTREACH: Coordinate an annual project such as the Larkin St. Center or several smaller projects. F. PUBLICITY: Submit information to area newspaters about upcoming meetings, shows, etc. G. SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Coordinate events like the folf tournament, baseball games, ski trip, and whatever.

H. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Select possible candidates for offices to be elected at the November meeting. I. NEWSLETTER: Several staff are needed to divide up the job of print-the monthly, newsletter. This is a vital part of BAWA both through the ing the monthly, newsletter. This is a vital part of BAWA both through tincome from the advertisers (without their support dues would be doubled) and the communication link to the members. COMMENTS:\_\_\_\_\_

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