

BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

February

2001

THIS MONTHS' MEETING

February 15th 3rd Thursday
Starts 7:00pm Sharp!

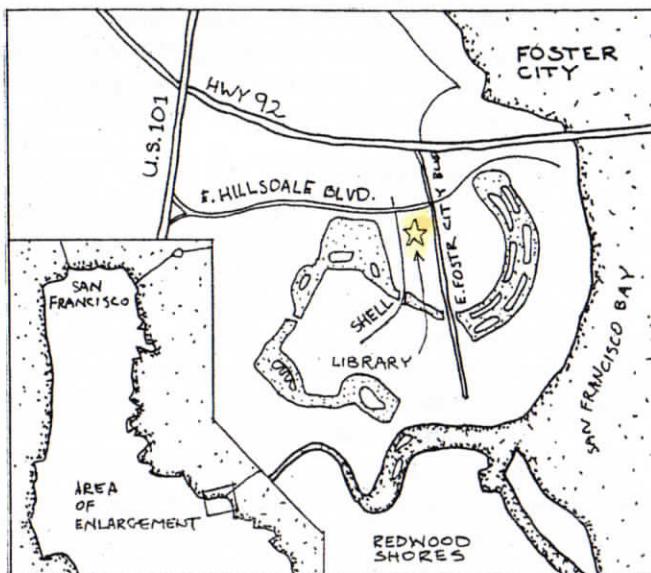
Our February 2001 BAWA meeting will be in Foster City. However it will **NOT** be the same building we had the Christmas Dinner in, so read the Directions carefully!

Starting promptly at 7p.m. there will be a 20 minute **Techniques Talk** entitled: "5 Minute Shop-Drawing". This will be a bare bones, practical talk by our own **Mike Bray** on how to quickly get your project dimensioned and ready for making.

For our main program **Jimmy Reina** will talk about antique wood-working tools. Jimmy is the owner of **Tools, Tools, Tools** in Berkeley and a member of the **Early American Industries Association**.

His focus will be on the evolution of tool making e.g. There was a period when the Industrial Era was upon us here in the US, but in England when the village blacksmith was still there custom-making woodworking tools, while here....well, let him give us the story. He will help us think about the impact of those changes to things like plane irons and the tools that resulted on both sides of the ocean. This should prove an interesting evening - it will focus our minds to think about the evolution of toolmaking and how we eventually got to where we can look in the catalog and buy tools without discussions with a blacksmith. Our speaker will discuss tell-tale signs that let us know when, where and how a tool was made. With his current tool business and his love of antique tools this should be a very interesting and lively time. He will also entertain our questions, suggest books and talk a bit about collecting antique tools. He will have only a few tools for sale. Check out his website before the meeting: www.toolx3.com

The details of the meeting location are: We have the Port Room from 7 to 10 PM. It is upstairs from the Foster City Library. The stairway up is at the north end of the building. There will be large "BAWA" signs guiding the way.



Port Room,
Library Community Center,
1000 E. Hillsdale Blvd,
Foster City

Directions:

From 101, take the East Hillsdale exit. Drive a mile plus toward the Bay. Turn right on Shell Blvd.

From the East Bay, take the San Mateo Bridge (92 west-bound), take the Foster City Blvd exit, and head southeast. Turn right on East Hillsdale Ave and left on Shell Blvd. Get in the left lane, go down past the library, and hang a U-ee, then turn into the parking lot that goes behind the library. The stairs to the community rooms are at the north end of the building.

From 92 eastbound, exit onto Foster City Blvd, turn right on Hillsdale, turn left on Shell, and do the U-ee thing.

From Our President: *Linda Salter*

Heard I missed a great meeting and am in jeopardy of being replaced by the vice president. Let me finish this year and then vote **Mark Rand** in for next year (don't thank me now Mark). Have you been in your shops yet this year? **Brrrrr!** Every power tool has a cold table top to rest your hands on - and when you turn them on there's a breeze added to it. Then there's the air filter, it circulates the air blowing it around the shop (nice in the summer). Is a dust mask sufficient protection in the winter? At least it keeps your face warm. To top things off there's the power outages. You have to really love woodworking to put up with it all. Maybe this is a good time to work up some plans-in the warmth of your house, by the light of a window. Our **Box Contest** is coming up and you can plan what you're doing this year. I'm wondering if I should do another weird one like the bird box, or get serious? I tend to lean towards weird-even if I don't win I'm sure to get noticed. Let's see how many boxes we can get this year.

Last Months Meeting

By Craig Mineweaser - Secretary

Last months meeting was held at the **Thomas Moser Cabinetmakers** show-room in San Francisco. Our host was the sales manager **John Walker**.

Techniques Presentation

Long time BAWA member **Don Naples** did one of our new 20-minute **Technique Talk** presentations at 7:00 PM, on steam bending dried hardwood. He shared with us how he steam bent long pieces of solid, kiln-dried hardwood for the top rails and baseboard of a new staircase he's building in his house. This is a "they said it couldn't be done" kind of story. He passed around photos showing both the steam box he built plus the massive jig he designed and constructed to clamp the piece while it dried. Each piece requires a different jig. He worked through this entire process with a trial-and-error approach. When it's finished, we think this will be a mind bending staircase.

Business Meeting

There were no **'Silent Auction'** items this time. (Be sure to bring some for the next meeting.) Our new Vice President, **Mark Rand** chaired the meeting. Newsletter Editor **Mike Bray** said if you want to receive the newsletter via email, to email your request to him at m.bray@ix.netcom.com. This will save the club postage and get you the newsletter quicker. Also, if you have info you want in the newsletter, get it to him no later than the first Friday of the month. Our new Program Chair **Jay Perrine** discussed our upcoming meetings (see list elsewhere in this issue.)

New Memembers And Guests

John Steiner, botany teacher and neighbor of **Stan Booker**, is taking a cabinetmaking course at **Laney College** in Oakland. He would be interested in giving us a scientists view of wood at a later meeting. **John Whalen**, retired, likes to build planter boxes, and other projects. John has very generously donated a collection of woodworking books and magazines to the club, as well as a sharpening machine. Thanks John! **Ron Slayen**, is retired but has shop space in Berkeley. He took courses at Laney and from **Yeung Chan** and others.

Announcements

Several classes of interest to members were discussed. See next column for details of those and other classes.

Show And Tell

Al Semenero brought a picture his daughter had matted and framed in cherry for him as a gift. It was one of the woodworker posters passed out at the recent meeting at **Hafele**. **Arnie Champagne** showed a mock-up of a leg system he's designing for a slate-topped, curved front table. **Bill Mannix** passed around his second wooden plane that he had made after taking **Arnie's** plane making class. It is a beautiful tool made of cocabola.

Main Program (notes by editor)

The main presentation that night was by **John Walker** talking about **Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers**. With a large room filled with some of their beautiful furniture, John told us how **Mr. Moser** got started, and how family members have contributed to the evolution of the company.

Most of the presentation centered on what the company does now, and how their methods have changed over the years. They are moving towards more contemporary styles, since their traditional niche is crowded with competitors. They are also getting away from the bench-built furniture making process. Still, even though they are moving towards a manufacturing philosophy, John gave several cases where the special talents of individual craftspeople still strongly affected the quality of the work.

The meeting ran pretty late but I think we all had a good time. **A big THANK YOU to John for being an excellent host!**

Classes

Yeung Chan will be teaching this summer at the **College of the Redwoods** in Fort Bragg. His class will be on **Joinery and Tool Making**. It will run from July 9th thru 13th. Sign up by March 1st.

Yeung Chan is a very exacting craftsman, who can teach us all something about the achievements we can make if we try. If you are a recent BAWA member, its possible you don't know about **Yeung**. With great courage and hardship he made his way to America and made the American Dream real. It sounds comy but is absolutely true. He came here with nothing. Now he is a nationally recognised master craftsman, with a son attending **MIT**.

If you want to learn about the quality of work that it is possible achieve, take this class!

Arnold Champagne is offering his famous woodworking seminars again. **Arnie** is not planning to offer these well-regarded and well-attended courses after those listed below, so don't hesitate if you are interested. Call **Arnie** at (415) 282-1704.

January 20th - 21st **Planemaking**

February 24th - 25th **Dovetails**

March 10th - 11th **Marquetry**

Jay VanArsdale is teaching classes in Japanese joinery and hand tools at **Laney College** (www.peralta.cc.ca.us). The classes are both held on Saturday, and cost a whopping \$24.00 each per semester. Ouch!

The **Beginner** class focuses on basic tools (what you need, how to care for them) and basic joints (what they are and how to lay them out). If you already have western tools thats ok. If you have been searching for an excuse to pick up a few Japanese tools, well, this is your big chance. This class was overcrowded this semester, demand being high so sign up early to get a spot for next semester!

The **Advanced Project** class in the afternoon may still be open. In this class you make an item using the tools and skills introduced in the Beginner class.

City College in San Francisco is offering an evening course in **Shop Training and Cabinetry**.

Mike Bray is offering one-on-one instruction for those who have specific skills they want to learn, or design problems they want to solve. (510) 595-8168.

News Items From Hither and Yon

From the Program Director

"We will be using the Port Room in Foster City this month and April. **Robbie Fanning** did the leg work and deserves a big round of applause from the membership. Also, I need to make reservations for the Fall very soon and will be seeking your comments on whether to continue renting this meeting room. So, during the break let me know whether you want more meetings here, and then tell Robbie you appreciate the work in finding the site and making all the initial reservations including for the Holiday Party across the street."

Bawa Library

At our monthly meetings the Librarian brings the video tapes. From 7:00pm to 7:30 and during the break you can select the videos you want to rent. We are also building a collection of books and magazines. **BAWA** is 'between Librarians' right now - we need a volunteer to take on this important job.

**PLEASE HELP
VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

March Meeting

Our March meeting will be hosted by longtime **BAWA** member **Per Madsen** at his shop in San Francisco. He will focus on his **RACKIT** storage system and how he set his shop up for production.

Paul Cumes of **FESTOOL** will provide a 20 minute Technique Talk about using their tool system.

Silent Auction

This is a fun way to help the club. Donate extra tools or whatever (1902 manual dishwashers; 7" floppy diskettes etc...). Before the meeting and during the break you can enter your bid and find out before you go home if that cool old doohickey is yours! Proceeds go toward funding the newsletter, which is an important part of helping us all keep in touch. Please donate an Auction item!

The Museum of Woodworking Tools is a virtual one—it exists only on the Web at www.antiquetools.com. In addition to exhibits about: an 18th-century planemaker (and former slave); woodworking in Vietnam; 10 important tools, and others, the Museum sells books and reproduction tools and has many links to other woodworking sites.

Christmas-in-April.

On the last Saturday in April armies of volunteers descend on chosen private houses, public schools etc and fix them up.

Every year we provide our skills (and brute strength) to help. It is a ton of fun. We will be signing up volunteers right up to the April meeting, but it really helps them organise if we sign up early! Contact **Bill Henzel** or **Bill McCracken** for more information (see back page for contact info).

April Meeting

This will feature the 2nd Annual Box Contest. This competition allows all woods of any quantity. The only restriction is the format: the entry must be a box. There will be a Beginners, an Intermediate and an Advanced category, as well as (possibly) amusing categories made up on the spot. Last year we had great participation. This year we expect even more entries. And remember: if you don't make a box we may bring back the 2 x 4 Contest! So get cracking on those boxes! There will also be a slide show by Craig Mineweaver about a visit to the Veneer Factory and the Lumber Mill of MacBeath Hardwoods. This visit was very exciting for Craig, and his slide show promises to be a highlight of the year!

FOR SALE

Delta Sanding Center with 12" Disc and 6 x 48 Belt. Barely used, still has original disc and belt on the machine, VERY CLEAN. Asking \$649. **Jay Perrine** (work 408/367-8227) since he bought a MAX 16" and he needs to make room.



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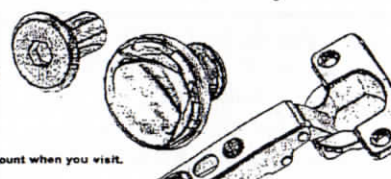
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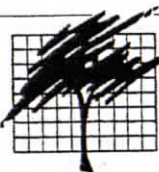
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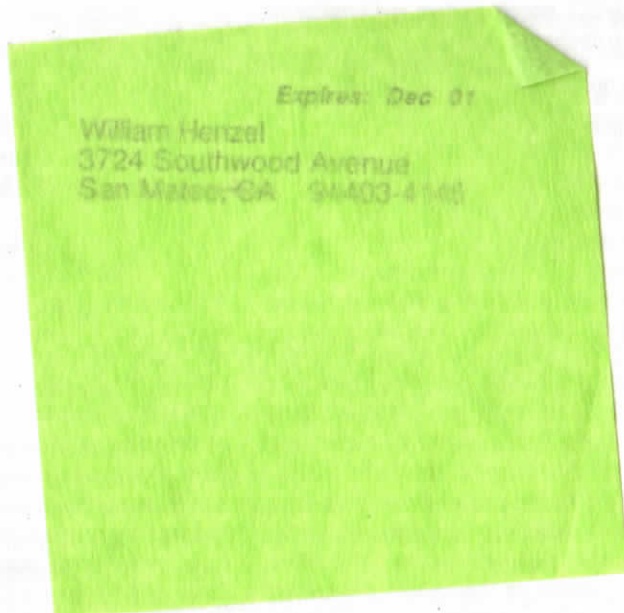
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BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 5481
San Mateo, CA 94402-5481



Important Dates

February

15th - BAWA meeting in Foster City:
Technique Talk "5 Minute Shop Drawing"
Main Program Antique tool seller Jimmy
Reinna on the evolution of tool making.

March

15th - BAWA meeting in SF:
Technique Talk Demo by Paul of Festool.
Main Program Per Madsen on how to
design and jig up for production.
17th - Toy Workshop at Linda Salter's
24th - Open Shop at Bill Henzel's

April

19th - BAWA meeting in Foster City:
Main Programs Box Contest plus slide
show by Craig Mineweaser of his visit to a
veneer mill.

Submission Deadline:
first Friday of every month.

Mike Bray,
4134 Gilbert Street,
Oakland CA 94611
E-mail: m.bray@ix.netcom.com

BAWA Newsletter - February

BAWA CONTACT

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Treasurer: Don Stern 510-548-5361 d
Newsletter: Mike Bray 510/595-8168 m
Program Director: Jay Perrine 408/367-8227

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Membership: Robbie Fanning 650/323-11
Show: Al Semenero 650/
And: Don Naples 707/433-5234 d
Outreach: Bill Henzel 650/349-306
And: Bill McCracken 650-365-7266
Librarian: Please Volunteer

For any questions or information about
please contact Jay Perrine