

## March presentation

The March 20<sup>th</sup> 7 PM Presentation will feature a presentation by Rubio Monocoat representative Mike Bennett on the uses, application and maintenance of Rubio Monocoat finishes.

## Meeting Minutes

by Emily Lichtman

SFVW – Minutes February 20, 2025

Club President Jim Baldridge welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

### Presentation

We started with the presentation first since Brian Miller drove from Palm Springs to join us in person for the meeting. Brian is an expert in painting and finishes with a background in color theory and restoration experience from the Gamble House, Huntington Museum, and Blacker House. He also teaches finishes at Cerritos College and has 40 years of professional experience in the paint, finish, and restoration industry. One of his specialties is color matching finishes on wood. He brought several examples of different finishes to show the group and shared tips and tricks about the different types of finishes with which he has worked. Brian also shared insight on different methods for finishing wood, making custom finishes with dry earth pigments (his preferred pigments), recommendations for the tools and techniques for spraying paint or finishes, and sanding tips between finish coats. The presentation was engaging and incredibly informative, and Brian took time to answer everyone's questions. He also brought a copy of his book, "The Art of Coloring Wood" (available on Amazon). The club will award the book later this year as a prize in a related challenge to be announced. Brian promised

## Our President says...

By Jim Baldridge

Ask the average person for the description of a woodworker. More than likely, the answer will be that person

who remodeled their kitchen. The cabinet maker is probably the most common response. But the answer to that simple question is just a bit more complicated. We, the woodworker, are more than that cabinet maker.

### Dues are now Due!

If you haven't paid yet, it's time. Our dues are \$35 per year (\$15 for students), and our esteemed Treasurer, Gregg Masini, can take your dues via check, cash or Venmo. [Now: @san\_fernando1]

If you need to contact Gregg for any questions, his email and phone number are on the next page in the Club Officers.

We create sculptures, turn pieces on lathes, create beautiful furnishings, intricate structural components in buildings, toys, etc. I would venture to guess that just as many pieces of art are created in wood as are painted on canvas and boards. Our limitation is our imagination.

At our March meeting, we will judge some of those pieces of art. I am anxiously waiting to view the creations represented by salvaged holiday trees and driftwood. This should inspire all who attend to bring an item to share with us. I urge everyone to challenge themselves, take a leap of faith, and create something spectacular!

Keep the sawdust flying,

Jim Baldridge



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## 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.



**Balboa Recreation Center Location**  
Map courtesy of Google Maps

## Club Officers

President:	Jim Baldridge
Vice President:	Emily Lichtman
Secretary:	Eitan Ginsburg
Treasurer:	Gregg Massini
Photographer	Luke Wyatt
Publisher:	Gary Coyne
Librarian:	Grant Christensen
Web Master:	Jan Min
Toy Chair:	Jonathan Nail
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal
Refreshments:	Greg Golden

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to send several hand-outs with summaries and How To's for some of the items he discussed. We will be sure to share those with the membership when we receive them!

#### **Finance**

Gregg shared that we received a good cash bump from the wood sale and some donations. Dues are \$35 for

the year and are now due. Please contact Gregg to pay or find him at a meeting (cash, check, and Venmo are accepted).

#### **Programs**

Emily Lichtman shared that Rubio Monocoat representative Mike Bennett will present on the uses, applications, and maintenance of Rubio Monocoat finishes at the March meeting. Other upcoming presentations include a Mortise & Tenon presentation by Eitan and Gary C.

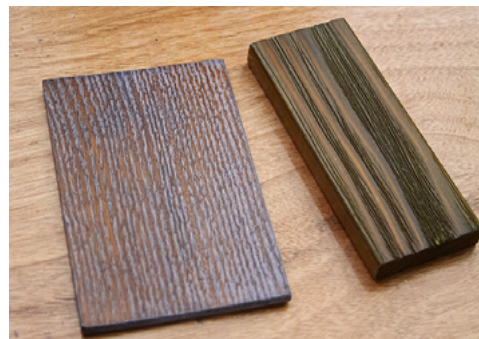


(April), Tips on buying old and used hand tools with Steve Sampietro (May), Windsor Chairs with special guest speaker Jason Gallagher (June), Card scrapers and planes with Luke and Stefan (July), and The Science of Wood with Bob Behnke (August).

#### **Toy Committee**

Jonathan Nail received several donated items from a toy maker, including small toy parts and dozens of toy plans. All were free to take home and members were encouraged to take anything that piqued their interest.

The 2025 Toy Build is scheduled for October 18 and 19. He is still looking for someone to take the lead on build-



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# From the Web

## ----- Tips, Tricks, and How-Tos -----

### How Tool Boxes are Made

- The speaker is annoying, and I suggest you skip the first 1'30". After that, it's mostly very interesting. At least until the 18'50" mark, which can also be skipped.

<https://tinyurl.com/3r5dbsne>

### Don't Build a Table Saw Sled — Do THIS Instead

- I was ready to discount this, but it's actually a reasonable approach. Worth checking out.

<https://tinyurl.com/45448jbz>

### Don't make a cross cut sled. Do this instead.

- This is partly some good ideas and partly selling his plans, but most are simple enough to figure out anyway. If you do 3D Printing he has some handy plans (for sale).

<https://tinyurl.com/4z9unykx>

### This Weird Clamp Will Save You HUNDRED\$\$\$

- Again, I was ready to discount this one as well, but he has some creative approaches. Also, it's fun to watch him develop his tools.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc74bakd>

### 21 Drum Sander Tips

- This is a really good collection of tips. The biggest one is to put wood into the sander at a 30° angle if possible; any angle is better than straight on.

<https://tinyurl.com/4xbjtuf>

### We Are Being Lied to! Tool Companies are Not What You Think They Are!!

- A good summation and guide for what tool company owns all the other tool companies.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n72zh75>

### Woodworking Tip: Preventing Tearout From Your Jig Saw

- Some good tips for good Jigsaw results

<https://tinyurl.com/bdf8pk3r>

### Small But Mighty: 5 Woodworking Tools You Didn't Know You Needed!

- A general review of small hand tools

<https://tinyurl.com/mkbgdzcsx>

### You've never seen a Table like this before! Fun with Wood & Epoxy inlays

- Making a table with resin and wood inlays. Lots of good detail info.

<https://tinyurl.com/mv7vysym>

### Cutting Perfect Circles On A Bandsaw With No Holes and Making A Jig In Less Than 5 Minutes

- Not a new one, but always good to bring these up again.

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3kvuuf>

### 13 Things You Can Do With Sawdust You Haven't Thought Of

- I'm sure you've thought of some of these, but, I'll bet, not all

<https://tinyurl.com/fm56f5f>

### How Men Make a Sandwich

- Hint: it's in the shop

<https://tinyurl.com/4c82n2at>

### The Truth About Buying Hardwoods

- A good introduction about buying hardwoods from a lumber yard.

<https://tinyurl.com/2s4abz3k>

### 4 Ways to Resaw a Board - Essential Skills in Woodworking

- Well, it's actually three, but they are all good.

<https://tinyurl.com/3dhbcf87>

## Reviews

### Cordless Compact Router Review - DeWalt vs. Bosch

- If you're interested, this will help

<https://tinyurl.com/237aenmj>

### Comparing Festool's cheapest and most expensive RO Sander

- As it says

<https://tinyurl.com/5ubmu323>

### Router Plane Review | Woodpeckers & Blue Spruce

- This is a review of one plane made by both Woodpeckers and Blue Spruce

<https://tinyurl.com/3zb29vzt>

### Small But Mighty: 5 Woodworking Tools You Didn't Know You Needed!

- A general review of small hand tools

<https://tinyurl.com/mkbgdzcsx>

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## Shop Classes are making a resurgence.

Greg Golden shared this Wall Street Journal article on how shop classes are returning as a hedge against AI. Note I was unable to access this article with Safari, but I had no problem when I used Chrome.

<https://tinyurl.com/t67hxrxc>

Besides this Editor, he has shared it with other friends, Ed Sheanin and Michelle Liu (from Would Works). Michelle wrote back:

Thank you for sharing this article with us Greg! What perfect timing as Would Works is currently working on public facing communications around why hands-on work is vital to our economy and how a career pathway like this can help divert and/or prevent an individual from becoming chronically unhoused. I will share this with my team!

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ing the piggy banks, please contact him if you are interested. He thanked Luke Wyatt and Emily Lichtman for taking on the treasure chest toy build for the year. He is also looking for new toy ideas and encouraged members to submit suggestions for consideration. Jeff Bremer mentioned that he was looking for help with a workday at his shop for the race cars and set out a sign-up sheet for anyone interested.

### General Notes

The June meeting will be moved to the 4th Thursday of the month — June 26th, because of the Juneteenth holiday — Don't forget to update your calendars!

Greg Golden is looking for someone to handle snacks for the May meeting, March and April are covered.

Alan Boardman, the person who supplied all the unique and exotic wood from the wood sale, is selling his tools on March 15th at his shop in Woodland Hills. We will send out an announcement with details and pictures for anyone interested, prices will be reasonable, and you must be able to haul away the tool that day.

The club suggests a voluntary tool donation for Steve Kalb, a member who lost his home and shop in the Palisades Fire. If you have duplicates of any tools you want to donate to him, please contact Jim Baldrige for more information.

Member Rich Benson had a work light and an old Dutch country chair

(some assembly required) that were free to a good home. The work light was spoken for, but the chair might still be available. Contact Jim Baldrige if you are interested.

Member Patrick Phelps can host a tour of JPL for about nine people on Friday, May 16th. You must be a US



## Review of Harbor Freight's hex-shaft Countersinks

by Gary Coyne

I made a very shallow drawer and needed to countersink the inside hole for the handle's screws. I thought, "No problem, I have a right-angle attachment for a hand drill; I'll use that." Then I realized my countersink bits have a round shaft, while this right-angle attachment relies on a hex shaft. At first, I wondered if there was a Jacob's chuck with a hex shaft. There are, but it was too long. Then I googled hex-shaft countersink, and Harbor Freight popped up with one for \$9.99. That's a 15-minute drive for me, so off I went.

Results: The good and the bad: It worked, and I was able to drill my countersinks. The bad is that it doesn't cut that readily, so it requires a LOT of force to use.

For my purposes, I am happy, but using this will be one of those rare, under-duress-because-nothing-else-can-do-it situations.



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citizen (there is a small background check) and able to handle a two-hour walk around the facility. Details will be provided in the newsletter. Depending on interest, they might also try to add lunch and a shop tour in the area.

Jeff Bremer is hosting another hand plane class in March. Reach out to him if you are interested.

Greg Rogers had several large chunks and stumps of crepe myrtle at this house. If you are interested, contact him.

Jim Baldridge proposed widening the March challenge to include driftwood (several pieces were brought to the meeting by Member Dave McClave), instead of just Christmas tree stumps, as well as any wood that was purchased from the club wood sale. Be sure to have your challenge entry ready for the March meeting!

### Q&A/Tips & Tricks

Someone was looking for tips on bending veneer around corners and Chuck Nickerson shared that veneer softener was the way to go to achieve tighter bends.

### Safety Talk

Bob Belieu shared some general shop tips: Keep your shop clean, well lit, and well ventilated. Keep dust out of the air with filtration or dust collection and never take your eye off a cutter or blade—mind extension



cords on the ground and/or sticking out from walls. Calvin also shared this tip - Never rush the last cut – always treat it like the first cut and give it the same time and attention to avoid a mistake or injury.

### Show & Tell

Luke Wyatt shared pictures from a beautiful custom credenza he built from sapele. Jeff Bremer shared several gorgeous hand planes he built with the body made of ebony and the sole made of Jatoba (because ebony can smear black on the wood you're planing). Jonathan Nail shared a "spwand" he made for his daughter (a combination spoon-wand)!

## Review: Stoploss Bags

by Gary Coyne

When finishes are exposed to oxygen the reaction starts. If you keep the finish away from oxygen, they will stay viable for much longer. The nitrogen from Bloxygen displaces the oxygen, and this helps a lot. The concept of the Stoploss Bags is that you squeeze out all of the air, and your finish will survive for long periods of time.

An ad from [Woodsmith for a Stoploss kit](#) costing about \$24, led me to give it a try. They had a good video on how to use it, but all the internet for



reviews of the product sold it to me — I ordered the kit (four bags, four extra caps, a funnel, and a simple "holder" that supports the bag while you pour your finish into the funnel).

Directly under the cap are two "washer" like projections that receive the small wooden support. This snugly supports the bag when everything is clamped on a bench or table.

To fill the bag, first blow into it, then place the silicon funnel onto the cap (push the funnel's neck over the cap's threads to secure it). Then pour. (My finish was not new, so I placed filter paper into the funnel).

The final part is the trickiest: you need to squeeze from the bottom of the bag to push the liquid up, into the cap, then screw the cap on. Look out for air bubbles, and maneuver them to leave. Yes, it's tricky. Yes, it can be done.

The biggest catch of these bags is that you cannot use liquids with certain solvents. A list can be found toward the bottom of this page under "Material Compatibility," <https://stoplossbags.com/how-to-use/>.

I poured finish into a clean tin can to use, and when done, I re-poured excess back in and closed it up — I'm sold.

