

Next Meeting

May 2022 Meeting

6:30 PM Wednesday May 25th

This will be a Hybrid Meeting - in person and Zoom
at [Our Mother of Confidence Catholic Church](#)
3131 Governor Drive, San Diego, CA 92122
[Zoom Link](#)



I'm really excited about our May General Meeting speaker, Anne of All Trades, and encourage all of you, especially those who don't normally attend, to come to the meeting. We will be also streaming this General Meeting on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

As the name suggests, Anne is involved in many things from farming, woodworking,

blacksmithing, blogging, her own YouTube channel, building her own School of All Trades - and more!

Anne has an infectious, heartwarming personality and inspirational story that will leave you thinking about your life and passions in a renewed way. Along with her story, Anne will be presenting a talk / demonstration called something like "How Spoon Carving Can Make You a Better Woodworker". The concepts touch on recognizing the inherent characteristics of wood, grain direction, thinking 3-dimensionally, shaping, form and functionality - all things that apply to many woodworking projects.

This will be a different kind of presentation that I believe will not only provide woodworking education but inspire us in many ways.

One of my passions is to help build connections within our woodworking community to further our skills and inspire each other. Some of my best friends have come from connecting with other woodworkers. I believe there's something special about this community and the people in it.

So why don't you all come to the meeting on Wednesday May 25th to connect, get inspired, learn, and have some networking and social time? I'd love to see you there!

Here's a [link](#) to the Anne of All Trades website and her YouTube channel for more information about her many projects

A couple of Anne's woodworking builds:

[Tea Table Build](#)
[Dining Room Chair](#)

Jeff Romek
[President](#), SDFWA

Raffle

Raffle

Lie-Nielsen No. 60-1/2 Rabbet Block Plane

Ideal for cutting small rabbets or trimming tenons to fit. Based on the Sargent No. 507, this low angle, fixed-mouth block plane has open sides with a blade that extends the full width of the body.



You must be present in person to win

Member Spot Light



The following article appeared in the San Diego Union Tribune on Monday May 16, 2022

Woodworking was a salvation for him and has led to a friendship with a former U.S. president

BY JAN GOLDSMITH
MAY 13, 2022 11:11 AM PT

Woodworking brought Russ Filbeck widespread recognition for his exceptional skills and a former president's friendship. It also provided a salvation from an abusive childhood. Born in 1944, he was brought up on a Missouri family farm along with three siblings. After his mother passed away when Filbeck was 5, his father raised the children and ran the farm.

Filbeck said his father became physically abusive, beating him and his brother. They were worked on the farm continuously with few interruptions other than school. They wore work overalls to school. Entertainment such as television and radio were banned.

"I envied my classmates for having normal lives," Filbeck said. "I was full of rage and turned to lying, stealing and running away."

At 15, he was sent to a boys ranch in lieu of reform school. He learned the value of accomplishment when he saved the lives of three calves and was placed in charge of the barn. Although he had planned to run away, he didn't.

After returning to high school, he enrolled in an introductory woodworking class. He learned the basics, making entry-level pieces.

"That class made a lasting impression," he said. "It made me proud to make something with my hands."

"And, it was an escape from the things that made me angry."

Five days after graduating high school in 1962, Filbeck joined the Navy where he spent 23 years and served in the Vietnam War.

He also met his future wife, Carol. The couple married in 1967.

Carol encouraged her husband to take up woodworking. A skilled artist in various mediums, including the making of porcelain dolls,

Carol needed display cabinets for her work. Recalling his high school woodworking class, Filbeck purchased a table saw and built them.

He progressed at woodworking by following designs detailed in Woodsmith Magazine. He even took his table saw with him while on shore duty in Hawaii.

After leaving the Navy in 1985, Filbeck earned undergraduate and master's degrees from San Diego State in industrial arts. He expanded his woodworking skills and learned to draw plans.

After graduation in 1990, he spent 22 years teaching Fine Woodworking at Palomar College in San Marcos to between 60 and 90 students annually. While teaching at Palomar, he developed a specialized skill in Ladder Back and Windsor chairs. Prompted by his students, Filbeck published a book, "Making Ladder Chairs With Russ Filbeck." He even got former President Jimmy Carter, a formidable woodworker himself, to write a page for the book. Filbeck had called the Carter Center in Atlanta and asked if he could talk to Carter about chairs. The request actually reached the former president and he enthusiastically agreed to chat.

Carter and Filbeck have since become friends, sharing their common interest in fine woodworking.

"I made him one of my cherry rocking chairs and a set of cherry Shaker boxes for Mrs. Carter in the fall of 2004," Filbeck said. He delivered them to the Carter Center in June 2005. A picture of Carter sitting in the chair was taken in his office after Filbeck presented it to him.

"He took the chair to his home in Plains, Ga. Over the past 17 years, Carol and I have made and donated many of our wooden and fabric creations to President and Mrs. Carter for their annual fundraising auction to support the Carter Center's world health initiatives." Filbeck has received widespread recognition for his work, speaking to groups and receiving honors in the U.S. and abroad.

Those who attend the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar have probably seen his work. Filbeck submitted entries for 23 straight years, receiving upward of 50 mostly first-place ribbons and Craftsman of the Year awards. Some of his favorite pieces have been a spalted curly maple rocking chair, a cocobolo rocking chair and a curly cherry rocking chair.

The Filbecks, married 55 years, have two children, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Annually, he returns to the Missouri boys ranch and teaches a woodworking course. He espouses the value of accomplishment, something he also learned at the ranch. "I have them build Shaker boxes for someone who has helped them."

He encourages beginners to take up woodworking and experience what he calls the "joy of creativity." He suggests woodworkers at all levels join San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association, the largest of its kind in the nation. Filbeck, a former association president, says members are eager to share ideas and guidance.

"Get excited," he said. "See a bunch of sticks and then, when done, enjoy the sense of accomplishment."

Filbeck's website can be found at russfilbeck.com

Design in Wood



We have received 269 entries this year. Down from previous years, but considering all the negative news in the press, I think it is great. We did not get many entries in the digital tools categories, but we did get a lot of furniture, carvings and turnings.

Now what we need are volunteers from the association to walk the floor and explain the woodworking. Telling fairgoers how the pieces were made; what it takes to start and finish a woodworking project.

Explaining what makes a good

woodworking entry. What the judges might look for. You all know much more about woodworking than the general public and it is our chance to educate the public on fine woodworking and the San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association. You will get more out of it than the fairgoers! As I review the online volunteers sign up, there are quite a few open spaces for floor walkers, while the Chair Shop is nearly full. It is past the deadline to receive tickets by mail, but you can pick them up from Will Call at the front gate. This is your chance to brag about SDFWA and tell the public about your Design In Wood exhibition, one of the finest woodworking exhibitions on the planet. Volunteer for a shift or

two and bring your family to the fair. Two tickets per shift, four if you sign up for the evening shifts. It's easy! Just go to <https://sdfwa.org/volunteer-schedule-design-in-wood-2020/> and pick a slot and sign up.

Ed Gladney
Design In Wood Coordinator

Toy Program

The toy group has been busy. They have built 53 Rolling Rattles and 52 Tractors pulling Wagons this year. Brought a lot of smile too,



Summer Class Schedule

SDFWA's Education Team: Summer Class Offerings Will Be Limited

The SDFWA Education Team, like many educational entities, will limit its offerings for the summer session. The summer slow down will give the team's volunteers, many of whom interact with students, instructors and/or the Punchpass scheduling system on a daily basis, a well-deserved breather before ramping up again for the fall session. The team also noted that the number of registrations fell and the number of last minute cancelations increased during last year's summer session.

During the summer session, SDFWA's high-demand *Introduction to Woodworking* series will be offered. The registration links for July classes will be released in early June. As always, those people on the waitlist will be given the first opportunity to secure a summer spot in the *Introduction to Woodworking* classes.

Look for registration information about our expanded selection of fall classes in early September.

Look for an Upcoming Education Survey

As the Education Team begins planning for the fall and winter sessions, it has drafted an SDFWA member survey that will be distributed next month. Your responses will help the team shape the classes it will offer, and help them consider which classes they might add to better serve members. In the meantime, think about the classes you've taken, or ones you'd like to take, to help us shape next year's offerings



Holiday Gift Sale

As I sit here writing this article, it occurs to me that exactly six months from today we'll be holding the final day of our 2022 Holiday Gift Sale.

The good news is that we're well on our way to filling the Shop with great gift items that will make the event successful for all. But we still need lots of additional items. The further good news is that we've never had so many Members actively engaged in making new items. Now we simply need to bring those of you not yet involved, into the fold!

As you'll see in these photos, it's fun! It's also gratifying to see customers "Ooh" and "Ahhhhh" over something you've created. But most importantly, it brings our Members together and helps fund our Club!

Please get involved! You don't need to build a "master piece", just something that will sell. If you can't come up with an idea, have questions or need materials, stop in at one of our Friday "Builds" and we'll be glad to assist. We meet every Friday morning, 8am – noon and every other Friday evening from 5 – 9 pm. Or, email us for more information

If you're a new Member and/or beginning woodworker, our "Builds" are a perfect way to get involved, make new friends and hone your skills. SDFWA needs your support. So....get ready.....get set.....BUILD!



Darcy puts the final touches on a Star that will top one of the many Christmas trees being built.



New Members Pitch In
Len finish sands a "Spurtle" while
Susan shapes a Cheese Knife



Jim and Jennifer put the CNC
through it's 'paces' while Peter
turns Sushi bowls

San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association

SDFWA.org

