

Member Benefit Reminder: Who doesn't like saving money? Your SDFWA membership entitles you to many discounts. Ever shop at Rockler? Ever buy wood from TH&H? How about get turning supplies from Penn State? [Click here](#) to see all suppliers who offer discounts to SDFWA members. Review all your member benefits, [click here](#).

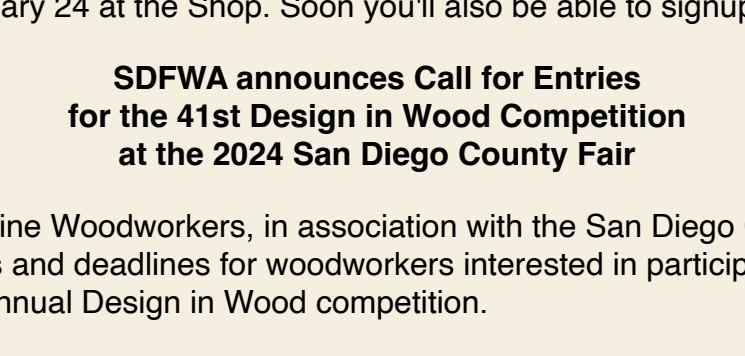
President's Message



I'm happy to present this first edition of the SDFWA quarterly newsletter. **Jean Eichenlaub** and **Tom York** are our volunteer editors. The newsletter provides information about all activities available to SDFWA members. Eventually, the Index will provide direct links to the individual topics. That feature requires links to website URLs and will be implemented after the new website goes online. Support this newsletter by submitting inputs of SDFWA events and NEWS to **Newsletter Editor, Lou Adzima**

SDFWA Ongoing Activities

Design in Wood



SDFWA hosts the woodwork section at the San Diego County Fair. Our members are responsible for all operations. Volunteers set up before the fair opens, walk the floor, act as hosts to visitors, and in the end help with tear down.

You can volunteer to work in the Chair Shop or to Walk the Floor at the next Eye Opener on February 24 at the Shop. Soon you'll also be able to signup online.

SDFWA announces Call for Entries for the 41st Design in Wood Competition at the 2024 San Diego County Fair

The San Diego Fine Woodworkers, in association with the San Diego County Fair, has announced dates and deadlines for woodworkers interested in participating in this summer's 41st Annual Design in Wood competition.

The event is one of the premier woodworking exhibits in the nation and draws entries from around the globe.

The Fair in Del Mar, CA, will run from **June 12 to July 7, 2024**.

The competition is not restricted to SDFWA members. Anyone can enter.

Chairman Jim Strawn says more than \$20,000 in prizes will be awarded, including a \$1,000 prize for this year's Best of Show entry.

The **deadline to submit entries is 8 p.m. April 30**. So, mark your calendars!

Participants will be notified that their projects have been accepted on Friday, May 3. The deadline to deliver the entries is Tuesday, May 21.

The annual DIW competition features 26 categories including Contemporary Furniture, Contemporary Accessories, Scroll Saw Fretwork, Wood Carving, and many more categories.

- For a list of entry categories and learn how to enter, visit [the SDFWA website](#).

- For additional information about the fair, visit [San Diego County Fair](#).

- Want to see pictures of prior entries, visit the [Design in Wood Photo Gallery](#).

Children's Chair Shop

Woodworking for a Cause:

2,000 Chairs and Counting at San Diego Fair's 19th Century Children's Chair Shop

The SDWFA's **19th Century Children's Chair Shop** has been a standing feature at the San Diego County Fair's Design in Wood Exhibition for more than 40 years.

Chair Master **Bill Thompson**, who has managed the program for the past dozen years, estimates that volunteers at the booth have built more than 2,000 chairs over that four-decade stretch.

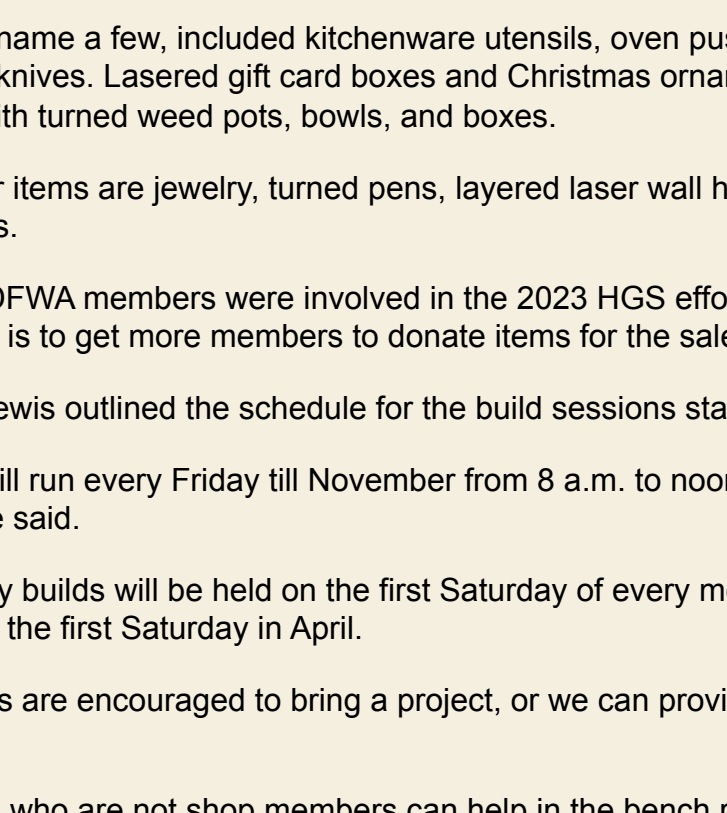
The association donates the finished chairs to a wide spectrum of nonprofit organizations serving children in Southern California, including agencies serving young children in Tijuana. The program is straightforward. Each summer volunteers in the booth build more than 50 chairs using hand tools.

No experience is needed. The chair master and his assistants provide sharpened tools, templates, and ample directions. The shop runs three two-hour volunteer sessions each day when the fair is open.

During the three-week run of the 2023 fair volunteers built 54 chairs, including four chairs with hand-woven caned seats woven by SDFWA member **Kevin Deal**. The process is straightforward, according to Thompson. Six months ahead of the Fair, **Strata Forest Products** of El Cajon donates the Oak boards, which, last year, for example, totaled more than 400 board feet of 4/4, 5/4, 8/4 red oak and popular.

Using power tools at his home shop, Thompson cuts all chair parts, including the seats. He delivers the parts as needed during the fair.

At the booth, Thompson and Assistant Chair Master **Mike MacNamara** direct the volunteers in the proper use of traditional chair-making hand tools, which may be unfamiliar in a modern wood shop, such as chisel scrapers, scorps and travishers, to sculpt seats, crest rails and legs.



Mike and Bill show off a Chair

Holiday Gift Sale

After posting a successful 2023 two-day run, the organizers behind SDFWA's annual Holiday Gift Sale are preparing for the 2024 sale scheduled for **Nov. 23-24 2024**.

At the 2024 organization meeting held on Jan. 5, HGS Managers Alan Lewis and Jennifer Young said the sales of products last year grossed \$48,019, which was better than the previous years and set the record for gross sales.

Lewis said: "This year we invested in improving the sales and inventory system. By purchasing a Point of Sale (POS) system and getting real shopping baskets to replace the box lids we used in the past,"

After taxes, credit card fees, and expenses, Lewis said **\$37,327 was donated** to help underwrite the Member Shop.

The best-selling items include layered Xmas trees, cell phone stands, Lazy Susans, sleds with personalized Initials, bandsaw deer, scroll/bandsaw trees large, turned Snowman, putters, acorn boxes, mimic boxes, cutting and charcuterie boards as well as cheese boards.

Popular items, to name a few, included kitchenware utensils, oven push sticks, toaster forges, and butter knives. Lasered gift card boxes and Christmas ornaments were also favorites, along with turned weed pots, bowls, and boxes.

Still, other popular items are jewelry, turned pens, layered laser wall hangings, and hand-carved items.

More than 100 SDFWA members were involved in the 2023 HGS effort.

Our goal this year is to get more members to donate items for the sale, said Lewis.

Looking ahead, Lewis outlined the schedule for the build sessions starting Jan. 12.

"The HGS build will run every Friday till November from 8 a.m. to noon, except the first Friday in April," he said.

He noted Saturday builds will be held on the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., except the first Saturday in April.

"All shop members are encouraged to bring a project, or we can provide one for you," he said.

SDFWA Members who are not shop members can help in the bench room with finishing and sanding. However, they may not use the power equipment in the shop.

Alan challenges everyone in the SDFWA organization, "Build one item and donate it to the sale." The money made from the sale goes to support the shop, which helps support SDFWA.

Shop Tours

Shop tours are scheduled for the second Saturday of the month.

Tours are not scheduled for June, November, and December.

Weather impacted scheduling for the first two months of 2024. Currently, tours are being organized for a wooden boat construction project, an Escondido custom door and cabinet shop, a small one-man custom wood shop, and a multi-craft shop. Trips involving chartered transportation will be rescheduled when liability issues are resolved.

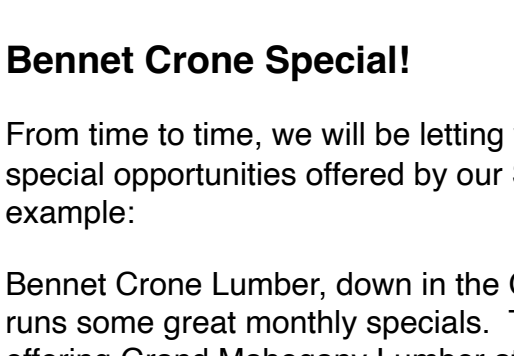
Special Event:

Navy Chiefs paint the Shop

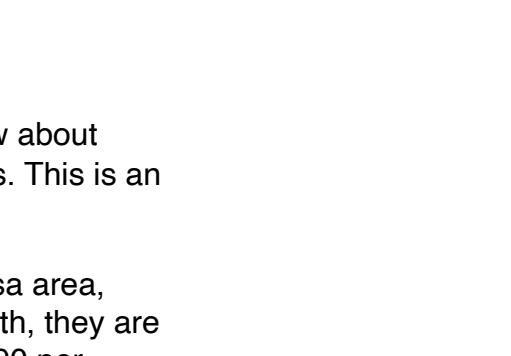
When a Navy Petty Officer passes the test for Chief Petty Officer they must carry with them at all times a "Charge Book". This book is for any current Chief to record lessons for the new "Chief" to use in his new roll and is part of a long-honored hazing tradition.

Association members made the wood boxes below to hold these "Charge Books".

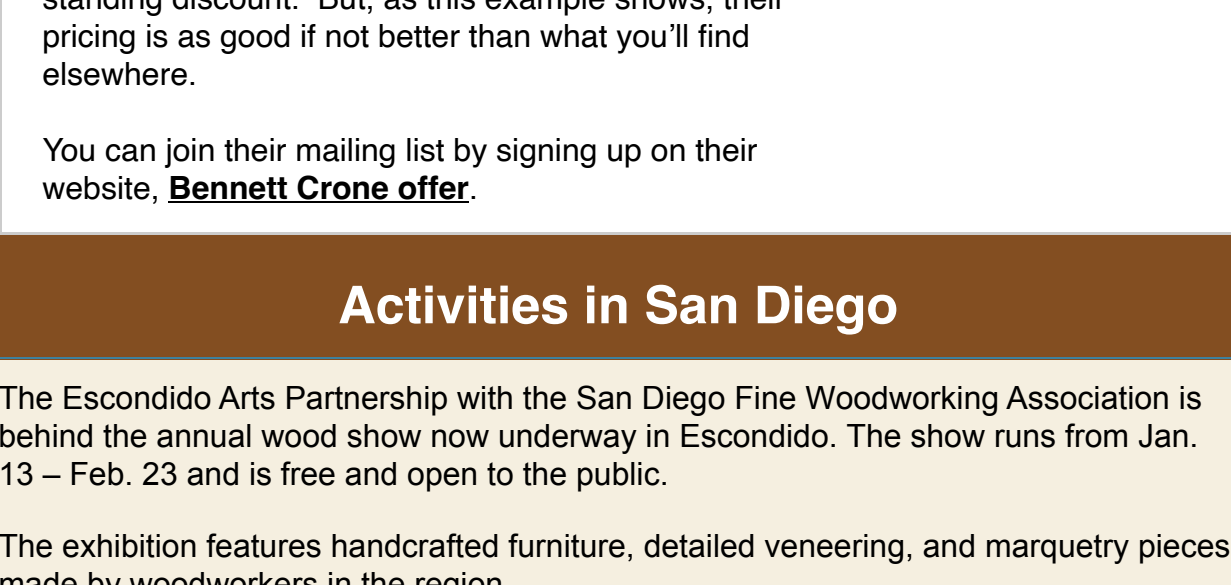
In exchange, the new chiefs painted the machine room, floor to ceiling. Thanks!



Painting



The Books



Women Woodworkers

The Women Woodworkers met February 9. A dozen women were present. After introductions, we discuss projects, past and future. Show-and-tell pieces included Kumiko trivets and exquisite gift boxes for turned pens. Sasha Bunyak and Bonnie Alexander are taking the lead organizing future activities.

Send any suggestions to the **Newsletter Editor**.

Miscellaneous Activities

Eye Opener: Last Saturday of the month and open to all association members.

Board Meeting: Last Wednesday of the month and are open to all members.

Shop Classes: Open to all members and the general public.

Sponsor Update

Rockler Discount Alert!

As most of you know, Rockler has been a valued and supportive sponsor of SDFWA for decades.

One of the things they do for us is offer all of our Members a 10% discount on all regular-priced items.

More recently, they have been able to enter your membership, once they've verified it, into their system so that you no longer have to present your SDFWA Membership Card each time you make a purchase.

They have just advised us that while that this policy will continue, there's one important change. They just converted to a new computer system that does not have those verifications in it. The **FIRST** time you ask for a discount, **you will have to present your SDFWA Membership card** for them to verify and enter you into their new system After first time, their system should retain your status and ensure your discount.

Please do not make a fuss about this with the Rockler employees. It's not their doing and not a big deal to begin with. Let's do our part to build on what is a great relationship with a great sponsor.

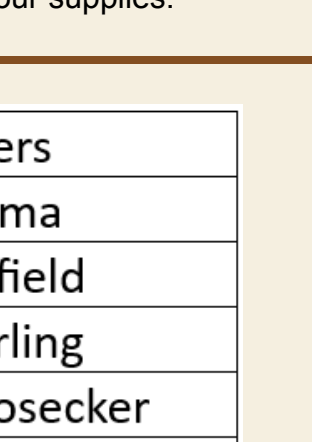
Bennet Crone Special!

From time to time, we will be letting you know about special opportunities offered by our Sponsors. This is an example:

Bennet Crone Lumber, down in the Otay Mesa area, runs some great monthly specials. This month, they are offering Grand Mahogany Lumber at just \$2.90 per board foot!

They do not offer cutting services and do not offer a standing discount. But, as this example shows, their pricing is as good if not better than what you'll find elsewhere.

You can join their mailing list by signing up on their website, **Bennett Crone offer**.



Gary Anderson

Our Sponsor Liaison

Activities in San Diego

The Escondido Arts Partnership with the San Diego Fine Woodworking Association is behind the annual wood show now underway in Escondido. The show runs from Jan. 13 – Feb. 23 and is free and open to the public.

The exhibition features handcrafted furniture, detailed veneering, and marquetry pieces made by woodworkers in the region.

The show is at 262 E. Grand Ave., Escondido, and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays through Saturdays; 11 am – 4 pm.

Question and Answers

This Q&A section is intended to facilitate information exchange among members.

A private **Facebook Group** was created to make timely interaction easy. Since it is a private group, you will be prompted to request to join the group the first time you access it.

We have our **Discussions Forum**.

Wants & Disposal

Want a good deal on used equipment?

Perhaps you want to get rid of old tools?

Another benefit of being a member of the SDFWA is our **Wants & Disposal** service.

Check out **our web page** which lists current offerings by members. Get lucky and find something there that's free!

Use **this form** post your supplies.

2024 SDFWA Board Members

President	Lou Adzima
Vice President	Paul Duffield
Treasurer	Pete Sterling
Secretary	Nancy Bosecker
Shop Representative	Dallas Keck