

WHO'S GONNA FILL THEIR SHOES . . .

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James Krenov 1920 — 2009

This year saw two legends of woodworking world pass away. All the adjectives in the language fall short to describe their talent, their art, their legacy. And so we call them legends and gurus and such.

You want to write about their life, their work and the revolution they brought about in the craft, that they did it over decades, how do you do that. Seasoned and experienced folks in woodworking may have known about them. I just learnt about Sam Maloof a

few days ago in a story I heard on NPR. Today I picked up Fine Woodworking and he's on the cover and all over inside pages. I told Denis about it and he told me about James Krenov. I went online to learn about him and found him virtually all over the (un)place.

James Krenov was born in Siberia, spent early years in China and Alaska, did his growing up in Seattle and in his twenties, in 1947, ended up in Europe. Got married, travelled to France and Italy and settled, sort of that is, in Sweden.

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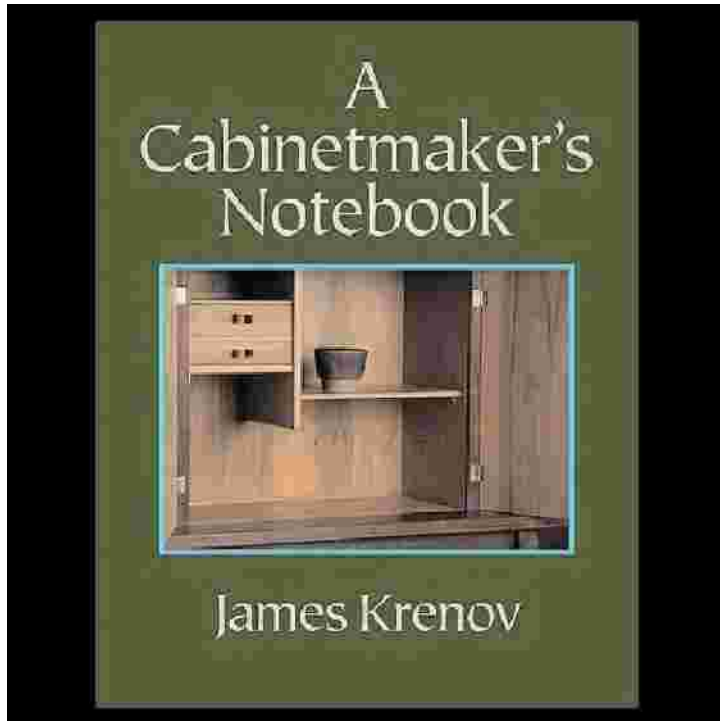
Sam Maloof 1916-2009

Dubbed "Hemingway of Hardwood" and "Americas first contemporary furniture craftsman", Samuel Soloman Maloof was son of Lebanese immigrant parents. He was born on January 24, 1916 in California. He was recognized very early in his life as having extra ordinary skills. He had very fine handwriting and he had taken wood working class in school that's when his talent was recognized by his teacher. He was drafted into the army in 1941. He left the army in 1945, got married and started his own wood-working shop in his garage in 1948. Out of necessity he furnished his own home and that lead to commissioned work, a lot of commissioned work. In 1953 he relocated to Alta Loma, California and set up a Studio to continue the craft of fine furniture making.

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Who's gonna fill their shoes . . . Cont'd

He had taught himself to carve wooden toys very early in life when he lived with his parents in Alaska. In Seattle, working as a Ship Chandler, he fell in love with boats, especially, the way they were built. In Sweden, through a friend, he got into building wooden architectural models for a restaurant designer.



While in Sweden Krenov went to Stockholm Design School and the famous Malmsten School. He went to work for himself and worked hard for a number of years before he began getting recognition and attention for his work, the simplicity of his designs. He began sharing his knowledge and expertise. His design philosophy was in demand and he was frequently asked to document his work.

Krenov was already an accomplished writer. He had written numerous articles and a novel documenting his travels. In 1976 he wrote his first book about woodworking and his design philosophy. The response was so enthusiastic, he ended up writing four more books. He traveled the world teaching and lecturing in Austria, New Zealand, Japan, New York, Boston, UC Santa Cruz and Colorado, etc.

In 1981 he started Fine Woodworking Program at the College of the Redwoods in Fort Bragg, California. Woodworking enthusiasts from all over the world visited College of the Redwoods. He retired in 2002 but continued to work from his shop. His work adorns the homes of many a royal families and is displayed in museums in the United States, Sweden, Norway and Japan,

Krenov died in [Fort Bragg, California](#) on September 9, 2009. He was 88 years old.

Sam Maloof's work is owned by Presidents (Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter, himself and woodwork enthusiast) and Royals and displayed as part of their collections in museums such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, etc.

In 1985 he was awarded a MacArthur Genius grant. Sam Maloof lived in Alta Loma, California. That's where he had his home, his furniture shops and the offices of the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts.

Smithsonian Institution called him "America's most renowned contemporary furniture craftsman" and People magazine called him "The Hemingway of Hardwood." But his business card always said "woodworker." "I like the word," he told a Los Angeles Times reporter, "It's an honest word."

In 1985 Mr. Maloof became the first craftsman to receive a [MacArthur fellowship](#); and despite such recognition, he declined to identify himself as an artist. His autobiography was titled *Sam Maloof: Woodworker*.

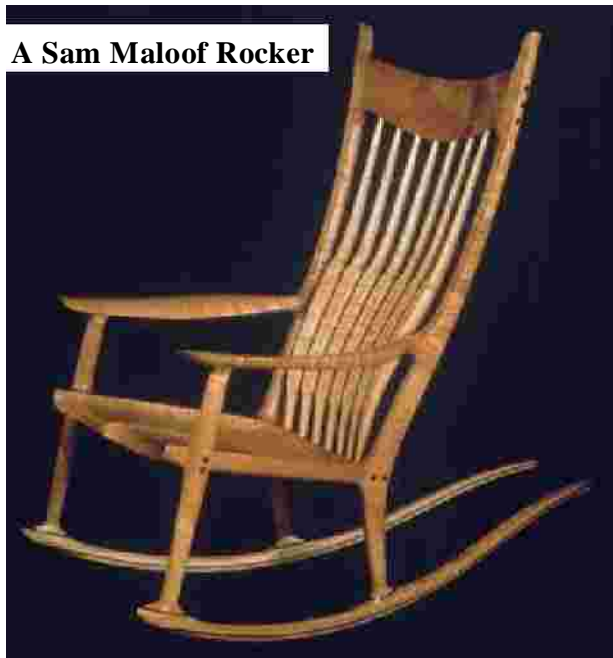
Source: Various websites, particularly Wikipedia.

FINISHED PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHY

The September Club meeting was moved from the usual second Saturday to the third—on the 19th. The reason: A presentation and demonstration on how to photograph woodwork projects of various sizes and nature. Bill White spoke to club members about various ways of getting the desired results. Among them: the proper equipment, background, lighting, etc. To recap here briefly, Bill told the members to avoid point and shoot cameras, to keep the background simple and functional so it does not distract from the project, and to how best to use the flash indoors and the available sun outdoors. Bill photographed several projects for members explaining his techniques as he went along. Bill was assisted by Cliff Bishop.



A Sam Maloof Rocker



SHOW 'N TELL



Happy Halloween says Steve Wavro and it takes three pairs of hands to hold up everything. Steve used his intarsia skills to make walnut, wenge, poplar, yellowheart and aspen artistically stand out.



Ken Kooser showed club members his "quilt" which was inspired by his visit to the Quilt Museum in Kentucky. Ken crafted this out of "junk" wood.

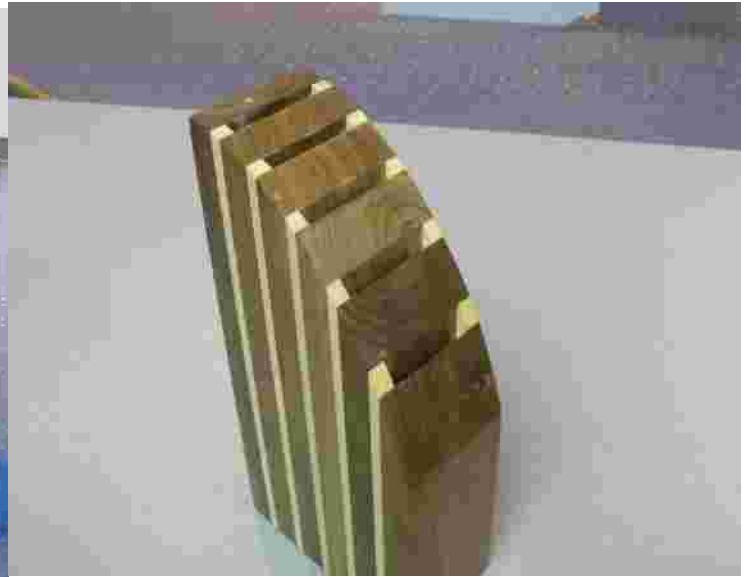


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Show and Tell



Too fancy to be a tool box, Dan Smith crafted a blanket chest out of birch plywood, walnut plywood and red oak.



Strategically placing walnut and poplar together, Mark Sweigert managed to assemble a slick looking knife block.



This intarsia horse and colt was skillfully crafted by Charles Volek. Walnut, cherry, satinwood, wenge, aspen, mahogany, bloodwood, and ebony were the woods Charles chose. Will his next project be a Budweiser beer wagon?



Clark Kellogg showed members the insides of his very well done keepsake or jewelry box. Clark used rosewood, novra, ebony and ivory.....hmmmm does that remind you of a Paul McCartney song?

I am told Clark and his chairs are featured in the current issue of Fine Woodworking.

Lie-Nielson Hand Tool Session



The Lie-Nielson Hand Tool Session at BC Woodwork was a great success. Deneb Puchalski from Lie-Nielson was demonstrating sharpening techniques mainly for plane irons. He made reference to a simple technique that places a very minor bevel on the back of the iron but makes the blade extremely sharp. He then placed the iron back in the plane and showed how effective the plane worked by taking very thin shavings off of highly figured woods. Deneb says the event was a success and they plan to be back in Houston in the Spring.

Basic Plane Blade Sharpening

We get a lot of questions about sharpening. Woodworkers have strong, often conflicting, opinions about right way to sharpen. We've taught many beginners to get a razor edge in minutes, using a simple method that gives reliable results. Here it is.

A sharp edge is the intersection of two polished surfaces, so you need to work the both the bevel and the back of the blade.

For this method you will need:

- 1000 & 8000 grit stones, or equivalent.*
 - Side Clamping Honing Guide.
 - 6" Ruler, approx .020" thick.
 - Protractor.
 - Wet/Dry Sandpaper - 120-220 Grit.
- *Stones must be flat. If your stone is used, please refer to the "To flatten your stones" section.*

Basic technique (with blade in decent condition)

Lie-Nielson Blades are delivered ground flat, with a bevel of 25 degrees. Other blades, especially old ones, may need work on the back and bevel on coarse stones, first to establish a flat, straight surface.

1. Set blade level down in honing guide at 3 degrees using a Protractor.

Note : If you record the length the blade projects from the front of the honing guide, then you can reset it next time to the same angle without the use of the Protractor. An easy way to do this is with a simple stop block attached to a small piece of plywood or MDF.

2. Hone on 1000 grit until wire edge/burr forms on back of blade, about four strokes pulling blade towards you. Distribute wear evenly by using the full surface of the stone.

If the edge of the blade is square and your finger pressure is even, this secondary bevel will be parallel to the edge. Use a strong light to see this.

Sharpening the blade Cont'd

Note: The 30 degree angle will result in a 5 degree 'microbevel' or secondary bevel. This secondary bevel concentrates all of your sharpening energy on the very edge of the blade - this is the only part of the blade that does the work.

3. Repeat on 8000 grit stone - 4 to 5 strokes, pulling blade towards you.

4. Polish the back using the Ruler Trick - 10 passes on and off stone.

The Ruler Trick - Place a thin ruler along one edge of your 8000 grit stone. Place your blade across the stone and ruler. Doing so raises the blade a bit (less than 1 degree) and concentrates your honing force on the very tip. Hone by stroking the blade on and off the stone (distribute wear by moving up and down the stone while honing). About 10 passes should remove the wire edge and polish the edge.

Note: By honing on and off the stone you avoid the risk of rounding the front edge of the blade which can occur if you stop short of the stone's edge. A slightly concave surface is better than a convex one.

PICNIC AND BOX-MAKING CONTEST is here!

**Saturday October 17
at Bayland Park
Catagories: Heirloom and Art**

**Other Skills Contests
Screw Driving
Nail Driving**

A Page from the WWCH website

Greater Houston Area Woodworking Resources*

**Lessons in Cabinetmaking
Individual Instruction
From a master cabinetmaker
Your shop or mine
Jack Hutchison 281-493-2633**

Non-Houston Area Woodworking Resources

**Center for Essential Education
School of Woodworking
P.O. Box 869 Elm Mott, Texas 76640
Phone 254-799-1480
www.cfeeschool.com**

Kelly Mehler's [School of Woodworking](http://www.cfeeschool.com) is designed to give skilled and hobbyist woodworkers the focused attention and encouragement needed to build their skills, comfort level and repertoire of woodworking techniques.

*The Woodworkers Club of Houston, Inc. does not endorse or recommend any school of instruction.

These postings are for your convenience only.

Show n Tell Change

If you bring an item for Show n Tell to a monthly meeting, please sign in on the new sign-in sheet to let us know you have brought your project. This will help us run that part of the meeting more efficiently. Thanks!

Material for Newsletter

Enjoy writing about wood? Have some ideas of topics you'd like to see covered?

Contact Denis Muras
at 713-876-0087

Box Making Contest

This year's contest will be part of the Picnic meeting. Boxes will be judged in two categories:

Beginner & Expert.

Build your box out of any material (but remember, this is a WOOD-workers club!) and it will be judged by two standards:

Heirloom—judged on finish, joinery, practicality.

Art—anything goes!

Employment Standards determined a small woodworking shop owner was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an agent out to interview him. "I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the agent. "Well, there's Jake my finisher who's been with me for 3 years, I pay him \$900 a week. The apprentice Tom has been here for 6 months, and I pay him \$500 a week.

Then there's the half-wit that works here about 18 hours a day. He makes \$10 a week and I buy him a case of beer every Friday," replied the owner. "That's the guy I want to talk to; the half-wit," says the agent." The owner says, "That would be me."

Thank you Hugh Poland

In the previous issue of the newsletter we all learnt that Hugh Poland has decided to devote more time to home and family and therefore will not be able to continue as the Editor of the WWCH Newsletter.

Hugh has been a member of the Club since February 2009 and has brought out the fine Newsletter for the past 18 months.

On behalf of us all I would like to thank Hugh for his devotion and dedication. Hugh, we hope to continue to see you at the meetings and wish you and your family all the best. Thank you.

WELCOME NEW WWCH MEMBERS!

Mark Berry
Marge Furge'
Jim Nichols
Jon Sears



Dallas TX Oct. 23-25
Costa Mesa CA Oct. 30-Nov.1
Portland OR Nov. 6-8
Sacramento CA Nov. 13-15
Denver Co Nov. 20-22
Twin Cities MN Dec. 4-6
Chicago IL Dec. 11-13
Baltimore MD Jan 8-10
New England Jan. 8-10
Columbus OH Jan. 15-17
Indianapolis IN Jan. 22-24
Atlanta GA Jan. 29-31
Milwaukee WI Feb.5-7
St. Louis MO Feb. 12-14
Kansas City KS Feb. 19-21
Somerset NJ Feb. 19-21
Detroit MI Feb. 26-28
Reading PA Mar. 5-7
Fredericksburg VA Mar. 12-14
Tampa FL Mar. 19-21
Chantilly VA Apr. 9-11
Houston TX Apr. 16-18
Huntsville AL Apr. 23-25

WWCH Purpose

Promoting woodworking by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, helping members improve their wood working skills and techniques, and promoting safe wood working habits and conditions.

The Woodworkers Club of Houston is a group of men and women of all ages and skill levels who promote, educate, and share the craft of woodworking. The club meets the second Saturday of every month from 9-11:30 at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet at Hillcroft. Guests are always welcome at no charge. Membership dues are \$24 a year, or about the price you'd pay for one good clamp!

BOX-MAKING CONTEST: It's here!

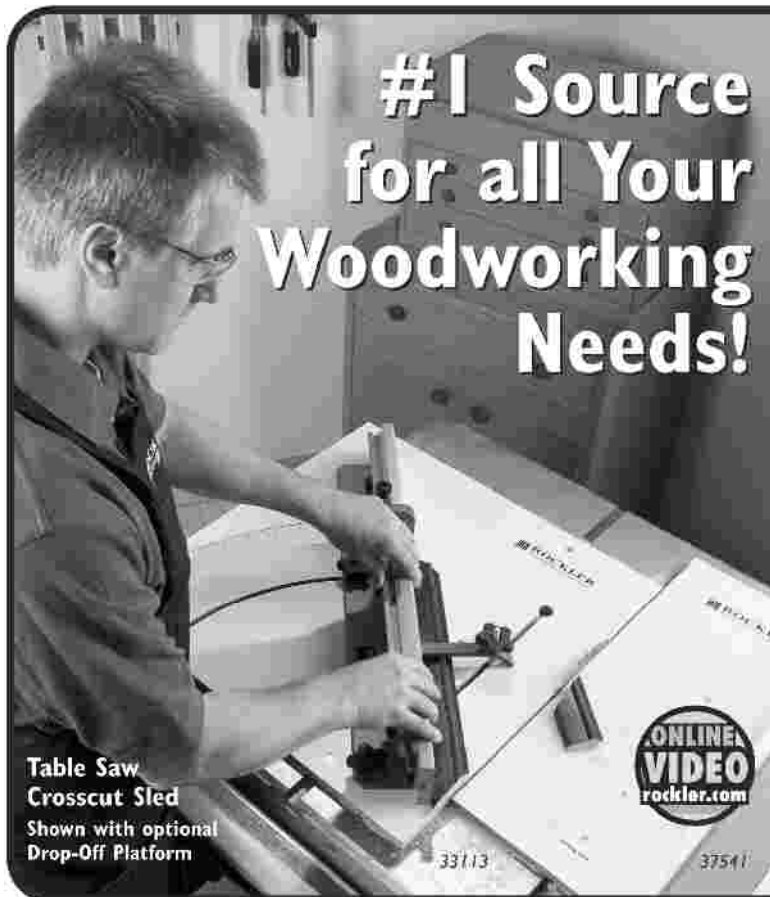
WWCH Officers

President	Denis Muras
Vice President	"Doc" Cotton
Secretary	Steve Wavro
Treasurer	Roslyn Hager
Publications	Noor Ali Narsi
Webmaster	Gary Rowen
Mentor	Lon Kelley
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To contact a WWCH officer, email wwch@wwch.org

Woodworkers Club of Houston

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