



Chatter and Catches

The Newsletter of the Carson Valley Woodturners January 2009



President's Gouge

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and are planning for a Happy New Year. Our Christmas party was a huge success and needs to become an annual event! It is time to renew your dues for our club which costs \$50 for the year or \$5 per meeting. Also please remember to renew your general membership to the (AAW) American Association of Woodturners at a cost of \$45. All CVW Local Chapter Officers and Directors must be members of AAW. If you renew your membership before December 31st, your name and all pertinent information will appear in the 2009 AAW Resource Directory. It is easy to renew memberships online. CVW local dues help defer costs for guest presenters, munchies and drinks at our meetings, DVD blanks, video equipment, wood for our presenters to demonstrate on, ink and other supplies for our newsletter, holiday party, and a number of other things which I cannot remember at this time. AAW membership allows us to hold meetings at my house or anyone else's house and feel confident that we are protected in case of an accident or someone gets injured. The only people who can try turning or demonstrate at a meeting are AAW members. For example, at our January 3rd meeting I will be demonstrating along with Ron Burdug various ways of hollowing out a object. Current members (CVW and AAW) will be the only individuals allowed to try the various tools. Please bring your AAW membership number to the meeting.

Please bring a recently turned item for our show-and-tell which will be held prior to our demonstration. We will also be raffling some teak which was donated by Earl McKie who is both a CVW and AAW member for many years. Please make a note that this month's meeting will be held on the first Saturday vs. the second Saturday. See the last page of this newsletter for details.

What would you as a member want to see demonstrated or talked about at our meetings? Are we missing something? A new technique? Would you like to be a demonstrator? Please email me at drich1944@yahoo.com or call me at 265-3099.

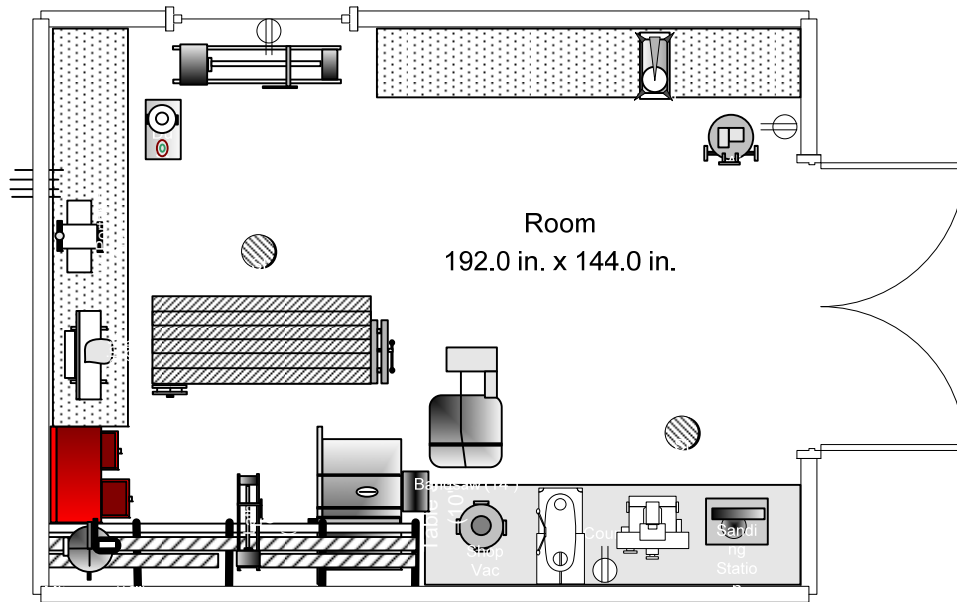
The Dynamics of a Small Shop

Some of us have the challenge of a small shop and we must make the best of it. I have found that I have most of the normal equipment needed to tackle most projects i.e. planner, jointer, drill press, band saw, scroll saw, table saw, chop saw, router table, grinder, two lathes, air compressor, shop vacuum and dust collector. I have purchased smaller portable items that I can store on the shelf until needed in place of larger floor models i.e. jointer, planner, drill press. In order to be able to utilize the space more efficiently I have shelving units along two walls, a lumber shelf and a stationary work bench, and have installed wheels on the wood working bench, dust collector, table saw, and band saw.



In order to insure that once I start a project I can finish it, I pay special attention to planning. As space is limited I cannot have too much laid out waiting for the next step. Each step must be planned in order to have the right equipment available to accomplish the task. If the tool you need is hidden behind another

piece of equipment or behind the project itself you can find yourself damaging the project in order to be able to move to the next phase of the project.



Cleanliness is an issue in any shop and we tend to let things build up until we have to clean up. In a small shop this is even more critical. I find that if I am in my shop for several hours I attempt to clean up several times to keep the mess to a minimum. If not, I find that tools I need are covered and before I know it I have dust, chips, scrap, and tools everywhere. This is also an issue when many of my tools are movable and I must move them to use them. If I have not kept up with the cleaning I find that I am pushing my mess from one location to another. Besides the inconvenience of working with the mess, it becomes a safety issue with regards to dust buildup and the possibility of slipping on chips or tripping over scrap that may be lying around.

Safety is always an issue, and in a small shop you must insure that you have sufficient clear space around whatever tool you are using. The placement of power tools i.e. table saw, band saw must be considered to allow sufficient area to work with the size of wood piece you are trying to cut. You don't want to be partway through a cut and find that the outer end of the piece being cut is bumping up against another tool, work bench, shelf, or wall. This goes back to the planning of the project and the steps needed to accomplish the task. The other issue is to return the tool to the designated storage area as soon as you are done using it, or to move it to an area that is not going to interfere with the next phase of your project.

As my shop is not insulated temperature becomes a problem with regards to storage of finishes, glues, and wood. I am able to store my glue and some finish materials in my house, as well as, some smaller items of wood. I have a portable heater, swamp cooler, and fans that I use to regulate the temperature while working in the shop. When not in use I store them under the stationary work bench along with my shop vacuum, saw horses and trash container. My chop saw, tool box, small lathe, and table saw are stored under my lumber rack. As you can see in the diagram I have a window and double doors. When the temperature permits, I open the window and doors to improve ventilation and the double doors allow for longer items to extend from my shop into the yard.

Lighting can also be an issue. I have an overhead florescent light along with two portable halogen lights, one on a stand that I can move around where needed and one with a clamp that I have clamped to the wall above the window and lathe. I have placed my lathe in front of the window to make use of the natu-

ral light and along with the halogen light above the window provides for adequate lighting to work on most projects. I also have a florescent light with magnifying glass that can be mounted to the wood working bench for use on fine detail carving.

Even though there are challenges working in a small area there are also some advantages as you find most everything you need within arm's length. As we all know we make the best with what we have and enjoy the time we can spend doing what we love. - John Compston

From Trees to Turning Blanks

What woodturner can drive by a downed tree without thinking, "Hmmm, turning stock?" In this article you'll learn how to cut up and preserve such finds for bowl blanks.

While experienced turners use features such as knots and eccentric growth rings of branches to great advantage, those features can cause blanks and finished turnings to crack or warp excessively. So when selecting wood for turning blanks avoid limb wood and look instead for trunk logs with minimal knots. Because the ends of a log start to dry immediately after cutting, seal them right away to avoid checking. Use a commercial green-wood sealer. (Available from Packard Woodworks. Call 800/683-8876, or go to www.packardwoodworks.com.) These sealers clean up with water, are transparent, and are superior to paraffin which can flake off, and paint which may require several coats for a good seal.

If there is checking on an old unsealed end, make a fresh crosscut to expose an unchecked surface and seal it immediately. Leave the logs in long yet manageable lengths until you are ready to cut them into turning blanks. This limits potential checking (and waste) to just the two ends of the log rather than both ends of multiple blank-length sections. Leave tight bark in place. Bark slows moisture loss, helps prevent checking, and leaves the option of using the stock for a natural-edge vessel.

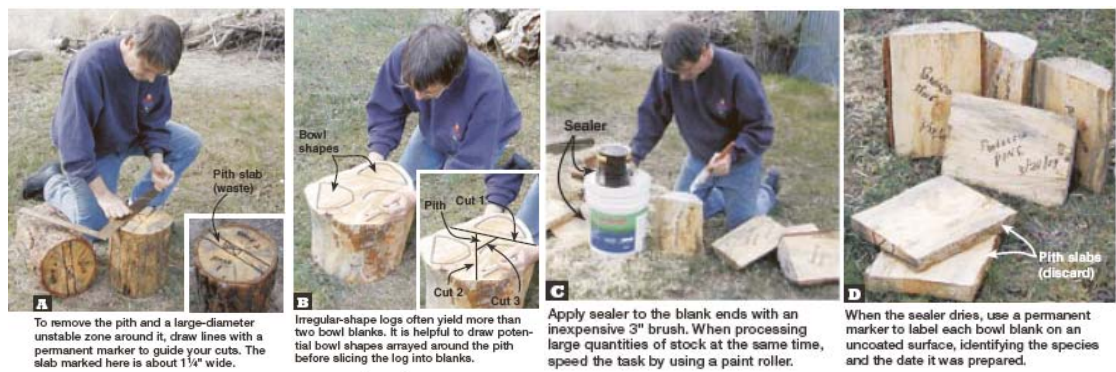
When ready to cut blanks, saw the log into sections about 4" longer than its diameter. This way, if you find any checking after sealing and storing the blank, you'll have ample stock to trim from both ends, exposing check-free surfaces. When chainsawing a log section lengthwise to form bowl blanks, lay it on its side and support it to prevent rolling. Cut along the grain. Do not stand the section on its end and cut across the end grain. Doing that takes longer and can overheat and dull the chain.

At the center of a log is the original tree stem, called the pith, surrounded by a zone of very unstable wood. You'll usually be able to recognize this unstable zone by a change in wood-grain color. The size of this zone varies more with wood species than log diameter. Because this unstable wood may cause uneven drying and splitting, remove it. When slicing log sections with a small-diameter unstable zone (1" or less) into

turning blanks, make your cut through the pith. For log sections with a larger diameter zone, remove additional wood adjacent to the pith, as

shown in **Photo A**. To guide you when removing the unstable zone from a log section of irregular shape, draw potential bowl shapes on its end, as shown in **Photo B**.

Not all log sections must be sliced lengthwise to make bowl blanks. You can leave some log sections whole for turning end-grain bowls, which allows you to get the largest possible bowl from a given di-



To remove the pith and a large-diameter unstable zone around it, draw lines with a permanent marker to guide your cuts. The slab marked here is about 1 1/4" wide.

Irregular-shape logs often yield more than two bowl blanks. It is helpful to draw potential bowl shapes arrayed around the pith before slicing the log into blanks.

Apply sealer to the blank ends with an inexpensive 3" brush. When processing large quantities of stock at the same time, speed the task by using a paint roller.

When the sealer dries, use a permanent marker to label each bowl blank on an uncoated surface, identifying the species and the date it was prepared.

ameter log. Be warned, end grain is more difficult to turn than face grain, and end-grain bowls have a greater tendency to crack than face-grain bowls. Seal the end grain of blanks, as shown in **Photo C**. If the wood is particularly prone to drying stress, such as some fruitwoods, coat the entire piece. When the sealer dries, mark each blank, as shown in **Photo D**. Because the sealer leaves a waxy surface, mark blanks that will be completely coated before applying the sealer. Store blanks off the ground in a dry, well-ventilated area. – Wood Magazine, February / March 2006

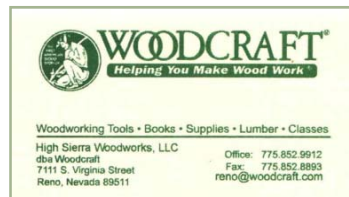
Woodturner's Web Sites

[Wood Magazine Woodturning Videos](#) – This section of this overall great web site contains a number of videos of interest to woodturners. Some of the topics include sharpening, bowl turning, skew chisel techniques, and projects such as a top finished with a chatter tool, and a toothpick holder.

[Woodturning in Hawaii with Soren Berger](#) – This is a short video showing a *really* large vase being turned with some very sharp and very large tools. The 'shop' appears to be outdoors under a tent. A mongoose underfoot could be a shop hazard.

Resources

The Carson Valley Woodturners wish to express our appreciation for the support provided by generous vendors. Please visit their stores and web sites for your woodturning and woodworking needs.



Craft Supplies USA

Phone Orders:
1-800-551-8876

Web Orders:

www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Dates to Remember

The Arizona Woodturner's Association will hold its third Desert Woodturning Roundup on February 6, 7, & 8, 2009 at the Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, AZ. Visit www.desertwoodturningroundup.com.

The Utah Woodturning Symposium will be held May 14th through May 16th, 2009. Details are still being worked out, and will be posted on their [web site](#) when available.

The 23rd Annual AAW National Symposium will be held in Albuquerque, NM on June 26th through June 28th, 2009. Details are posted on the [AAW website](#).

The Nevada Woodchuck's Lathe Special Interest Group meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Their Beginner's Lathe Group meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at the same time. Visit <http://www.nevadawoodchucks.org> for more information.

Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to Bill Draper via cvwnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next meeting. The submission deadline for the February newsletter is February 2nd.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Dave Rich's shop on January 3rd at 9 a.m. The address is 665 Rocking Horse Road in the Ruhenstroth area of Carson Valley. We all appreciate Dave's willingness to hold CVW meetings in his shop.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: Dave Rich – 775-265-3099

Treasurer: Wayne Porter – 775 265-7887

Vice President: Wayne Allen – 775-841-5561

Secretary: John Compston – 775 782-3542