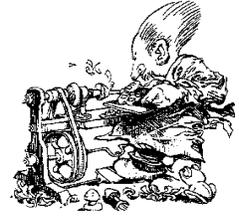




Chatter and Catches

The Newsletter of the Carson Valley Woodturners February 2009



President's Gouge

Many thanks to last month's presenter Ron Burdge, who demonstrated his new hollowing tool. I have used mine several times in the last few days. What a blast . . . however it does take away that fear of the "catch." My vocabulary has also improved in that I have fewer "Oh, bleeps" due to fewer catches.



Our February 14th meeting will highlight an in-depth demonstration by our own Mel Swingrover. Mel showed us his highly decorated bowls at the last meeting. I asked Mel to go thru the process after several of us were talking during the week and trying to understand how he actually did what he did.



I just returned from 10 days in Florida and will try and call a board meeting before February 14th. Each meeting we have a raffle which helps are treasury. However, it is getting harder to acquire raffle gifts. The board will be considering the idea of asking members to donate raffle prizes once per year. The raffles provide funds to the club for the purchase of supplies and equipment. These funds will also be used to subsidize guest presenters when there is a charge. You would be able to donate something you made: a book, a tool, a gift card from a local merchant, or anything you think will be of interest to your fellow members.

I will be traveling to Reno to visit Mike Phillips who turns alabaster and other stone. We probably will have a future meeting at his shop which will likely involve car pooling. He has some specialized equipment that I do not have. His work is beautiful!! Visit his [web site!](#)



Per our discussion at the last meeting, I have reserved six rooms at the Hampton Inn in Orem, Utah. The Woodturning Symposium is May 14th – 16th, and Craft Supply puts on an all-day workshop on May 13th. It is worth attending. Please contact me if you want one of the rooms.

Pretzels

I thought for the longest time that the wood species I was turning must be called "Pretzelia bendifolia", because my bowls always seemed to take the shape of a pretzel a week or two after I applied the finish to them. Of course it was only that I was not letting the wood dry enough before final turning and finishing. Because my fingers, eyes, ears, and nose (and I have been told I have a really big one), can't seem to determine the moisture content in my "Pretzels", I was in the market for a really good pin-less moisture meter. I decided on the Lignomat brand.

On the Internet the price varied from about \$200.00 to \$250.00 for the Model D, until I checked a site called Tyler Tools where it was \$168.00, but back-ordered. What I also found was the information and instructions for the use of the Model S, D, and SD scanners. Here is some information you may want to mull over if you are in the market for a meter or scanner:

Lignomat pin-less scanners:

Scanners measure capacitance.

Model D measures ¾" deep, but cannot be used on wood thinner than ¾".

Model S measures ¼" deep, but cannot be used on wood thinner than ¼".

Model DS will measure ¾" or ¼".

All three models measure the average moisture content from the surface to the full depth of that meter's range, not the moisture content at a specific depth.

The moisture content near the surface has a greater effect on the average reading than the content at the end of the meter's depth range.

The scanners have sensor plates measuring 2 ½" L. by 1 ½" W. and the entire surface of both plates must be in full contact with the wood. The wood must smooth and flat in the area where the plates make contact.

Scanners have 71 wood groups for specific gravities between 0.3 and 1.0.

The scanner models seem to be a great choice for people dealing with dimensioned lumber, but not too practical for my rough-turned "pretzels in the making."

For myself, I've decided on a pin-type meter from Lignomat. These "meters" measure resistance. They come with two sets of pins for measuring to a depth of ¼" or 7/16". I believe I will be getting the Lignomat Mini Ligno DX moisture meter (\$159.95) which allows for 20 species of wood. There is an optional set of pins (Model EL) which can measure logs up to 4 ½", although I visualize a sledgehammer being needed to drive in these larger pins. Lignomat also sells other meters ranging from about \$100.00.

I specialize in Madrone Pretzels, so if any of you are having difficulty manufacturing one, just contact me at the next meeting and I'll be glad to sell you everything you need to produce a totally acceptable Pretzel. All you will have to do is add salt, find a demographic fort with beavers, and they will sell like hotcakes. Get on the Pretzel wagon and "Make the Big Bucks"! – Wayne Porter

Message from Malcolm Tibbetts

January 2009 AAW Board Letter - Happy New Year from Board Member Malcolm Tibbetts.

How quickly a year flies by. With the passing of '08, your AAW board looks to the future with the same economic concerns that everyone seems to have. These are scary times for sure, but we are very fortunate to have a strong association, filled with very dedicated and passionate members. Our future remains rock-solid; we don't need a "bail-out".

With the New Year, there are many changes. We say goodbye and extend a big thank you to out-going board members Corey Anderson, Al Hockenbery, and our past president Angelo Iafrate (it's not really a goodbye, for I'm sure they will all continue to contribute to the AAW mission). And we welcome newly elected and very qualified board members, Dale Larson, Binh Pho, and Cassandra Speier. In addition, Betty Scarpino has taken over the editorial duties of our journal and this will be Mary Lacer's first full year as our executive director. Board member Bill Haskell has "stepped up to the plate" and by unanimous board vote, taken the reins of our association presidency; we are in very good hands.

We're going through almost as much transition as Washington, but without nearly as much controversy. The future looks very bright indeed. In February, the board will be visiting the Albuquerque facilities. The '09 symposium is shaping up to be another "not to be missed" event. Hotel rooms are already starting to fill up, so don't delay in making your plans. Even if you can't make it to Albuquerque, you can still participate; consider submitting an entry into the "Spirit of the Southwest" exhibition. The submission deadline is right around the corner on February 7th, so get busy. For more information about this exhibition, visit our website www.woodturner.org.

Speaking of submissions, how about contributing a good story for the 25th anniversary book that is being created? This is going to be a fantastic publication, to be published prior to our 25th symposium in 2012. John Kelsey has been hired to oversee this project and he would love to receive short stories or essays from AAW members. Tell a funny story or recognize someone who has made a difference and try to include a photo or two. Send your best stuff to John at editorkelsey@gmail.com.

By the time that you read this, the annual EOG (Educational Opportunity Grant) submission deadline of January 15th will probably have passed. As chairman of the EOG committee, I'm very proud of this aspect of our organization. Each year, the EOG committee has the responsibility of selecting grant recipients and it's never an easy job. I wish we could approve all applications, but we do not have unlimited funds available – best of luck to all that have applied.

A bit of a personal note: At the conclusion of the first “segmented symposium” held in November 2008, attendees expressed a desire to form an association. I am involved with the creation of a new “specialized” AAW chapter of segmented turners. I invite all ‘segmenters’ to consider joining this new group. You can sign up at <http://www.segmentedwoodturners.org/>. If you haven't yet renewed your AAW membership, then I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. You can be assured that we'll put your hard-earned dollars to good use.

Wishing everyone the best for the New Year,
Malcolm Tibbetts, AAW Vice President

→The AAW is sponsoring group health insurance for members. [Click here](#) to learn about the program.←

Bandsaw Blade Tensioning the “Flutter” Way

The "flutter" method for setting tension is simple and recommended by blade and saw manufacturers. We've seen various methods for setting bandsaw blade tension, from fancy gauges to plucking the blade like a guitar string. But the "flutter" method for setting tension is simple and recommended by blade and saw manufacturers. Here's how to do it:

- Unplug the saw.
- After installing the blade, set the upper and lower blade guides as far out as they can go (or remove them), and remove the throat plate from the table.
- Center the blade on the wheels, adjusting tracking while turning the top wheel by hand. Close the wheel covers.
- Turn the tensioning handwheel until the tension gauge is at or a little above the recommended tension for your blade width.
- Plug the saw in and turn it on, making any final adjustments to blade tracking.
- With the saw running, slowly release the tension — about 1/2 turn of the tensioning wheel at a time — until the blade starts to flutter, as shown above.
- Gradually increase the tension until the fluttering just stops, then turn the tension wheel another 1/4 - 1/2 turn tighter.
- Power down the saw, and reset the upper and lower blade guides. You're back in business.



Use this method each time you change blades, and remember to de-tension the blade with the quick-release tensioner when not in use. (If your bandsaw doesn't have a quick-release lever, make it a habit to relax the tension by a specific number of turns — 10, for example — at the end of each day you use the saw. Next time you need the saw, just tighten the wheel 10 turns to return to the correct tension.) – from the Editors of Wood Magazine at WoodMagazine.com

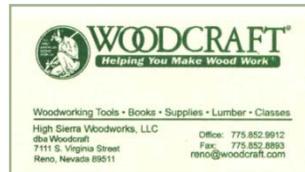
Woodturner's Web Sites

[Homemade Woodturning Lathe](#) – If you can't afford the latest and greatest lathe, and happen to have a few cinderblocks, a motor, and scrap lumber lying around, you can build your own lathe using the instructions provided on the site.

[Woodturning on Wikipedia](#) – If you have never explored Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, this entry on woodturning may be a good place to start. Overall, there is a wealth of information here, and it is all written and reviewed by the public.

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 Carson Valley Chili Cook-off and Craft Fair will be held at the Carson Valley Inn from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 25th and 26th, 2009. The CVW will have a booth to demonstrate woodturning and sell items to the public.

The Utah Woodturning Symposium will be held May 14th through May 16th, 2009. Details have been finalized, and are now posted on their [web site](#).

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 Woodturners of Olympia, WA 2009 "Creativity in Woodturning" Symposium will be held Saturday, July 25, 2009 in Lacey, WA. Eric Lofstrom will demonstrate on woodturning basics. Eric will be followed by Jimmy Clewes who will demonstrate design, shape, form & aesthetics, oriental boxes, turning a twist and long stem goblet, and colorings. For information or registration see <http://www.woodturnersofolympia.org>.

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 March newsletter is March 2nd.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Dave Rich's shop on February 14th at 9 a.m. The address is 665 Rocking Horse Road in the Ruhentroth 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