



# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



## President's Gouge

The July meeting is postponed until the third Saturday of July, the 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a one-time change. See page four for meeting location and directions. Final call!!!! Any member who did not get some of the Carob Wood needs to contact me (Dave Rich) at 661-733-0415 for your share of the FREE wood. I need to get the wood out of my barn to make room for more livestock. The remaining wood will be sold to other woodturning organizations to help recover the cost of fuel, sealer, and slabbing. The Carob Odyssey started with an email from a woodturning club in central California which told of some 30-plus carob trees being removed from a park. Al Mason, Mel Swingrover, Paul Cote, and I made the 13-plus



hour round trip to California with my truck and trailer. Several days later, I

was able to locate a person who would slab our wood. It saved us all a lot of time and grief. Paul, Al, Bill Draper, and I helped the sawyer cut and slab the wood. The final part of the Carob Odyssey was cutting the carob into manageable pieces, and sealing all the wood. Thanks to all members who helped with the sealing!! A special thanks to John Compston for operating the chain saw. We distributed roughly \$7,000 of carob wood to members. Al Mason and had I purchased a \$100 piece of wood in Utah and it was not as big or nearly as nice as any of the wood we gave away. — Dave Rich

## Ceratonia Siliqua

**Common Names:** Carob, locust bean tree, St. John's bread

The genus name *Ceratonia* derives from the Greek *keras*, horn, referring to the hard, horn-like textures of the seeds. The species name *siliqua* is from the Latin for a pea pod. The common name Carob is cognate with the weight measure 'carat', and refers to the use of the seeds (which are very uniform in size) as weights for measuring gold and precious stones. The other names locust bean tree and St. John's bread, were derived from the Bible; St. John the Baptist is said to have sustained himself on fruit of the "locust" tree when wandering in the wilderness. The word locust is also used for other trees with pinnate leaves and oblong pods such as North American natives *Gleditsia* and *Robinia*.



## Stewardship Summary

*Ceratonia siliqua* is native to the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East and is commonly cultivated in California. Spanish missionaries first introduced the carob tree into Mexico and southern California. In 1856, seedlings were distributed from Spain to the southern states of the US. In 1859, more seeds were brought from Israel. Many carobs were planted as ornamentals and street trees during this time in Texas, Arizona, California, and in Florida. The trees are also used for erosion control and the pods for stock feed, human consumption, commercial thickeners, pet foods, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals.

*Ceratonia siliqua* has recently been reported escaping from cultivation in California. *Ceratonia siliqua* rarely invades undisturbed habitats but escapes easily along washes and other moist areas. This species has escaped in Los Angeles Co., the San Jose Hills in Pomona, in San Bernardino Co., and is one of the worst weeds on the University of California, Riverside Botanic Gardens. The impacts of this new invader are unknown. However, *Ceratonia siliqua* has the following characteristics:

1. resprouts when cut;
2. adaptable to different soil types (rocky, sandy, heavy loam);
3. has no serious disease problems;
4. is extremely drought-tolerant;
5. common in cultivation, which increases the chance of escape into wildland areas.

## **Description**

*Ceratonia siliqua* L. (Fabaceae, the bean family) is a slow growing evergreen tree. *Ceratonia siliqua* attains a height of 10-17 m and can have a trunk 85 cm in diameter by the time it is 18 years old. The leaves are 12-30 cm long, pinnate with 6-10 (rarely 12) opposite leaflets and usually no terminal leaflet. The leaflets are oval and rounded at the apex, 2-8 cm long and 1-4.5 cm broad, dark green and leathery. The red flowers are small and borne in clusters. Flowers bloom from July to November on older wood in the Mediterranean. Separate trees are male, female, or hermaphroditic. The fruit is light to dark brown, 10-30 cm long, and 1.5-3.5 cm wide. Fruit shape is oblong, flattened, straight or slightly curved and with a thickened margin. Ripening late in the summer, during bloom, the fruit is shiny, tough, and fibrous. The fruit contains a soft, sweet glutinous pale brown pulp and 5-15 flattened hard seeds. When the pod is fully ripe and dry, the loose seeds rattle. The ripe fruit can be eaten (avoid the seeds) and has a taste similar to chocolate.

## **Reproduction**

Coyotes frequently consume carob fruit and disperse the seeds in their scat. In urban areas, carob seeds in mulch made from *C. siliqua* street trees readily germinate. In Israel, the fruit are fed upon by fruit bats that eject (spit out) the seeds in pellets, which disperses them away from the tree. Ejected seeds germinate as readily as the seeds taken directly from the fruit.

## **Range**

*Ceratonia siliqua* is native to the Mediterranean and Middle East. It grows best in Mediterranean-type climates with cool winters, mild springs, and hot summers with little to no rain (USDA zones 9-10). This tree is extremely drought tolerant and readily withstands temperatures up to 50 °C. It is hardy when mature to -7 °C. Young trees or shoots and flowers of mature trees are susceptible to frost damage at temperatures at or below -4 °C. The tree grows well on rocky hillsides, deep sands, or heavy loam, but is not tolerant of acid or wet soils. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed.

## **Carson Valley Woodturners and American Association of Woodturners Membership**

There are many benefits to becoming a member of both the Carson Valley Woodturners and American Association of Woodturners.

As a local club member you have the benefit of a monthly meeting with a number of turners with different skill levels and expertise. Not a meeting goes by that I do not learn something that helps me improve my skills. Our club took advantage of an opportunity to acquire carob wood that was distributed to our members free of cost. This opportunity would not have presented itself were we not affiliated with the AAW.

Besides the benefits listed below, the club can also take advantage of AAW membership by becoming a Star Chapter. The Star Chapter program through the AAW recognizes those chapters where all local chapter members are also members of the AAW. These chapters are designated as “AAW Star Chapters” and will receive a 5 video set of the Masters of Woodturning, a plaque recognizing the AAW Star

status, a listing on the webpage, a listing in the Resource Directory and AAW Star designation on their listing in the Local Chapter list of the RD.

Currently the Carson Valley Woodturners Chapter has 15 active members, 13 of which are also members of the AAW. If you are a member of our chapter and not yet a member of the AAW, please contact me for information on joining the AAW. I can be reached on my cell phone at 775-883-6610 or email at [John@Conwayco.com](mailto:John@Conwayco.com).

Let's see if we can become a Star Chapter of the AAW and received the recognition that we deserve. There are many benefits of membership in the AAW. Following is a brief description of some of the benefits:

- 300 AAW Chapters in North America and around the world which are a great place to meet other woodturners, to share ideas, and to learn. They have monthly meetings with demonstrations and many other activities.
- AAW Journal: *American Woodturner*, the Journal of the American Association of Woodturners, is a high quality, full-color publication with a wealth of information for woodturners with articles on all aspects of woodturning, and is published quarterly.
- AAW Resource Guide: Lists all AAW members with contact information and lists all local chapters, with addresses and meeting times; information on Chapter Best Practices; the AAW Member Web Site; Star Chapters; 20th Anniversary Chapters; AAW bylaws; AAW Board of Directors; educational materials such as books and videos; lathe safety guidelines; and a host of other things, This is an annual publication.
- AAW Symposium: World's largest gathering of woodturners with approximately 60 world-class demonstrators; a trade show with every major manufacturer of lathes, tools, and turning supplies and accessories in the world; an instant gallery with hundreds of the world's best wood turnings; a Youth Training Program with complementary lathe/equipment given to participants; a banquet and auction of selected woodturnings from the Instant Gallery; and much, much more.
- [AAW Website](#): A great source of current information about the AAW and contains contact information for every AAW member world-wide, contact information for demonstrators, a guide to all local chapters, meeting times, locations, and contacts. It has current events, a gallery of current work, membership information, and much, much more.
- [AAW Forum](#): An interactive forum for AAW members where you can interact with woodturners from around the world. It is a great source of current information where you can post your questions, comments, information about your woodturnings, photos, etc. and seek information about woodturning resources, such as:
  - Machinery, tools, and supplies
  - Wood
  - Publications
- Educational Opportunity Grants: Almost \$100,000 in grants given away this year for individuals, clubs, and schools. They are for any qualifying educational opportunity. See the AAW web site for details.
- AAW Liability Insurance: Liability insurance for Chapter sanctioned events. See the AAW web site for details

Anyone who wishes to join the AAW may become a member simply by visiting the [AAW web site](#) and signing up. – John Compston, Secretary, Carson Valley Woodturners

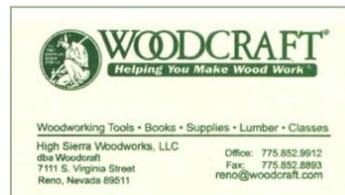
## Woodturner's Web Sites

[From Old Barns to Bowls](#) – This video is on Wood Magazine.com. As you can guess from the title of the video, the demonstrator discusses recycling old barn siding into bowls. If you try this, we suggest checking the wood with a metal detector to look for nails, tacks, BB's, bullets, etc. Embedded gravel and grit may be harder to find.

[Woodworking With SketchUp: Start at the End](#) – If you have experienced frustration trying to learn *Google SketchUp* from the beginning by creating shapes then assembling them into more complex objects, this article may be for you. It suggests that downloading a completed model then working backward through it to see how it was done. What does this have to do with woodturning, you may ask? Well, perhaps not much except for segmented turners. But for those who also build furniture, for example, this program could be of great use. *SketchUp's* best part? It's free!

## 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](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com)

## Dates to Remember

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 and 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Their Beginner's Lathe Group meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cvwnews@charter.net) no later than Monday of the week before the next meeting. The submission deadline for the August newsletter is July 27<sup>th</sup>.

## CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Wayne Ferree's shop on **July 18<sup>th</sup>** at 9 a.m. The address is [991 Stephanie Way](#). We all appreciate Wayne's willingness to hold a CVW meeting 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