



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



President's Gouge

During our last meeting we had a great turnout and a new person visit. He took an application with him and he felt he would be joining. We had three lathes set-up so that club members could turn. One of our members said his first reaction was there was not enough participation by members, however, he also realized that some members just like coming to the meetings. He indicated that he personally picked up a tool technique from Wayne Porter and that made it all worthwhile. I felt that the meeting went well and hope that all who wanted to try something new got the chance, or they may have learned something from one of the individuals who were turning.



As was discussed during the meeting, the Chili Cook-off Craft Fair is coming April 24th and 25th at the Carson Valley Inn. As we also discussed, I would like every club member to commit to turning at least one (1) item for sale at our booth. If you want to turn more than one item it would be greatly appreciated.



As we get closer to the craft fair, we will be compiling a list of members who will staff the booth. I spoke to Wayne Allen and he has agreed to build a second shield so that we can have two lathes available for demonstrations during the craft fair.

During Wayne Ferree's first presentation, he and Dave Mills discussed a safety issue that I was not aware of regarding acceptable speed range for your turning. Wayne provided the following safety reminder:

Always determine the acceptable speed range for your turning before you start the lathe. A good rule for selecting an acceptable speed range is to divide 6000 and 9000 by the largest diameter of your turning measured in inches. For example, a normal range of speed for a 6-inch diameter bowl or spindle would be 1000 to 1500 rpm. **WORK SAFELY.** Always start your lathe near the low end of the computed operational RPM.

I appreciate Wayne's safety reminder and would encourage other club members to send me any safety tips so we can include them in the newsletter. I look forward to receiving your input and would like to include at least one safety tip in each newsletter.

A reminder regarding being an AAW member: All members who wish to use any equipment during a meeting must be a member of both the CVW and the AAW. If you are not an AAW member, you should strongly consider becoming a member. At this time we do not have 100% membership in the AAW. If we attain 100% membership, I will notify the AAW so that we can be recognized as a Star Chapter with inclusion in the annual membership publication as well as recognition on the AAW website.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the March meeting. As of now, this meeting will be held March 13th, 2010 at Wayne Ferree's residence at 991 Stephanie Way, Minden. For this meeting, each member

is requested to bring at least two items they have turned and we will discuss the turning. i.e.. type of wood, tools used, and finishing techniques used. - John Compston, President

Tools for Beginners

As wood turning has become more popular, in recent years the manufacturers of woodworking tools have developed a bewildering array of tools for the wood turner. This already bewildering array has become even more confusing for the beginner than for the experienced turner who has a few special tools that are used all the time. Beginners have yet to discover what direction their turning will take them and what tools to use on the journey.

Wood turning is split into two general fields, spindle, and face plate turning. While most lathes come supplied with the rudimentary holding devices for the wood, they rarely come with cutting tools. A good, general, beginner's set would include:

- 3/4" or 1" roughing gouge for making spindles round
- 3/4" or 1" skew for making those round spindles smooth
- 3/8" or 1/4" and a 1/2 " spindle gouge for beads and coves
- 1/8" parting tool for separating work
- 1/2" to 1" round nosed scraper for some finish cuts
- 1" straight scraper for facing off some work
- 3/8" bowl gouge for face plate work

Most beginner sets on the market will have some combination of the above although they seldom have a bowl gouge included. Again, most beginners start with spindle turning and become proficient at it before attempting bowls. There is no particular reason for this and a basic bowl is no more difficult to turn than is the typical candle stick. While a 3/8" bowl gouge may cost as much as some beginner's sets, an Oland tool suitable for the beginner and advanced turner alike is easily made in the home shop and a simple on-line search will bring up the directions for construction and use.

One of the greatest changes in wood turning tools in the last hundred years or so has been the metal used to make the tools. Unfortunately it has also become a source of confusion for inexperienced turners. There are three main groups of steel used for the tools; carbon, high speed, and powdered. The best buy for both beginners and experienced turners is M2 high speed steel, usually written as M2 HSS. Since this is also the most common type available it is easy to buy and a good deal. Carbon steel is harder to sharpen without losing its temper and powdered steel is likely overkill at a premium price.

The important thing to do is to get the tools and start making shavings. Some experience will develop a preference for certain tools in certain settings and will also develop a lot of enjoyment. - Darrell Feltmate, <http://aroundthewoods.com>, Around the Woods, used by permission; submitted by John Compston

Thanks to Club Members

We have members of varying levels of experience and what I have found that sets us apart from other type of crafters is that there is a desire to share information. More experienced members are more than willing to bring a newcomer under their wing and get them started woodturning. There is a camaraderie that extends beyond the woodturning and I have developed friendships that I would not have were I not a member of the club.

Most of our meetings have a program which is presented during the meeting, many of them presented by club members. However, I see that such a large amount of information is shared during the show-and-tell, and we often have a hard time cutting this portion short so that we can get to the scheduled presentation. It does not matter the level of the turner. Even the most experienced turners are interested in what tools and techniques were used by the individual presenting his or her project. Comments are always positive, making even the novice turner unafraid to bring in their projects for the show-and-tell.

I look forward to each month's meeting to spend time with new friends I have made, and to discuss woodturning projects and issues that I may be contemplating or working on. There is not a meeting that goes by that I do not learn something I can incorporate into my projects, or use to improve my skills. Were it not for this club, I would not have found a true passion for a new hobby. It has provided me with a skill that I have used to create many gifts for family and friends, many of whom had no idea that I had an interest in woodturning or could produce objects of beauty from my wood pile. My involvement in the club has provided me with many hours of pleasure that I would not have attained were I not a member. - John Compston, President

Ulmus Americana

Ulmus americana, generally known as the American Elm, is a species native to eastern North America, occurring from Nova Scotia west as far as British Columbia. It is an extremely hardy tree that can withstand winter temperatures as low as -44°F . Trees in areas unaffected by Dutch elm disease can live for several hundred years.

The American Elm is a deciduous tree, which, before the advent of Dutch elm disease, commonly grew to >100 ft tall with a trunk >4 ft. The crown forms a high, spreading canopy with open air space beneath. The leaves are alternate, 3 – 7 in long, with double-serrate margins and an oblique base. The tree is hermaphroditic, having perfect flowers, (i.e. with both male and female parts) and is therefore capable of self-pollination. The flowers are small, purple-brown, and, being wind-pollinated, are apetalous; they emerge in early spring before the leaves. The fruit is a flat samara 3 in long and 2 in wide, with a circular wing surrounding the single seed.



As in the closely related European White Elm, *U. laevis*, the flowers and seeds are borne on 0.4 – 1.2 in long stems. American Elm is wholly insensitive to daylight length, and will continue to grow well into autumn until injured by frost. The tree reaches sexual maturity at around 150 years of age. However, nowadays it is uncommon for the tree to reach over 100 years of age because of its susceptibility to Dutch elm disease. The American Elm is the state tree of both Massachusetts and North Dakota.

In years past, the American Elm was used widely as a shade tree and as a street tree, because of its graceful, arching, vase-like growth form and its tolerance of most stress factors. Furthermore, the cross-grained wood imbues the branches with great strength, and breakages were rare. The species has been planted well beyond its natural range. It also survives low desert heat at Phoenix, Arizona. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.

Wants and Disposals

FOR SALE: Wayne Porter and Dave Rich have large and small walnut blanks for sale. Contact them at the next meeting or call Dave at 775-265-3099.

FREE ELM: This is the final reminder to contact Wayne Porter to get some of the free elm the club obtained from the City of Gardnerville. Hopefully it hasn't turned into firewood!

Woodturner's Web Sites

[Malcolm Tibbets: A Segment of Woodturning](#) – This is an on-line article about Malcolm Tibbets and his work. It is on the *Woodworker's Journal eZINE* web site, and was written by Joanna Werch Takes. It's an interesting read.

[A Laboratory Course in Woodturning](#) – Beginners take note! Have you looked for projects that are within your comfort zone and that will also build your skills? The linked book is a textbook originally pub-

lished in 1897. It discusses the basics (which haven't changed much) and contains many exercises to practice basic skills and also to turn useful items such as goblets.

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.



www.hartvilletool.com
800-345-2396

Craft Supplies USA

Phone Orders:
1-800-551-8876

Web Orders:
www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Exotic Woods USA

Phone Orders:
1-631-651-8651

Web Orders:
<http://www.exoticwoodsusa.com>

Dates to Remember

Super Wednesday at Craft Supplies USA will be held May 5, 2010 at their location in Provo, Utah. The sale opens at 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit their [web site](#).

The Utah Woodturning Symposium, which will be held May 6 – 10, 2010, is the longest-running woodturning symposium in the world. The year 2010 marks the 31st anniversary of the event. Participants can select from over 100 demonstrations given by some of the best woodturners in the world. For more information, visit the [symposium's web site](#).

Nick Cook, a nationally known woodturner, will be at the Nevada Woodchucks club for demos and hands-on instruction May 11 – 13, 2010. The costs for the full-day demo and hands-on session are unknown at this time, but will be announced when finalized. Check out Nick's work on his [web site](#).

The AAW 24th Annual Symposium will be held June 18 – 20, 2010, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. For more information, go to http://www.woodturner.org/sym/all_symposia.cfm.

The Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild is presenting the 2010 West Coast Roundup, An international Woodturning Symposium featuring world renowned instructors & authors, in Vancouver, B.C., on September 10 – 12, 2010. Alain Mailland, Art Liestman, Nick Cook, Michael Hosaluk, Graeme Priddle, Marilyn Campbell, Jason Marlow, Dale Larson, will give demonstrations and lectures on all aspects of woodturning. More information is available on the [Guild's web site](#).

The Woodturners of Olympia (WA) are presenting the Creativity in Woodturning Symposium 2010 at the Komachin Middle School, 3650 College Street, Lacey, WA, on July 24th, 2010. The packed one-day program includes demonstrations and discussions by Alan Lacer, Bill Luce, and Dave Schweitzer. More information is available at <http://www.woodturnersofolympia.org>.

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 April 2010 newsletter is March 29th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and discussions will convene in Wayne Ferree's shop at 991 Stephanie Way, Minden. We all appreciate Wayne's willingness to hold this CVW meeting in his shop.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: John Compston – 775-782-3542

Vice President: Dave Rich – 775-265-3099

Treasurer: Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887

Secretary: Dave Mills – 530-694-2565