



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



June 2010



President's Gouge

Sorry I missed the Malcolm Tibbetts presentation. I was in Atlanta visiting my grandkids. I am sure that it was an excellent presentation from an outstanding turner. It shows what great diversity of turners we have in our area. (See photos below.)

The last several months have been very exciting for our club. We have brought on-line our website, www.carsonvalleywoodturners.com, had an excellent showing at the annual Chili Cook-off craft fair, and a demonstration by internationally known segmented turner Malcolm Tibbetts. For a small club with a short history I feel that we have come a long way. We acquired two new members after the craft fair and had others show interest in our club. We have a diverse group and it is very exciting to see members improve their skills. I for one know that were it not for this club and its members I would still be trying to figure out how to mount a piece of wood to my lathe. Our members are outstanding in their support of other members, whether they are new to turning or veterans. Our meetings are always positive with very supportive comments regarding other turners work. When I brought my first items to show-and-tell I was very apprehensive, and within minutes I was put at ease by the support and comments from the other members. After that meeting I felt that I could bring whatever I had turned. I found that I was my own worst critic, and that other members have thanked me for little pointers I have been able to provide that they say helped them in their turning.

Don McRoberts has added the Photo Album to the website and is now accepting photos of your work. Paul Cote has already provided pictures, so please get some photos of your work to Don and we will get them in the gallery. We have already had several inquiries through the website. This site is an excellent medium to let other turners in our area know that we exist, and that we are willing to assist in any way to help them in their turning efforts. If you have not yet checked out the website please do so. I know you will find it very informative.

The Chili Cook-off craft fair was such a great success that we need to start now preparing for next year. As we found in previous craft fairs, and again this year, small items priced at \$10.00 or less sell the best. This is not to say that higher priced items do not sell, however, the hot items are those with a smaller price. I want all of you to start now making items for next year. We also had a great turnout of members who helped man the booth. Several participated by turning items at the booth. I spoke to numerous people after the fair that said they had a hard time getting close to our booth because people were lined up a few rows deep watching our turners and checking out our items. - John Compston, President





Vice President's Addendum

I think that the demonstration and discussion given at our last meeting by one of the greatest segmented turners worldwide was one of our finest presentations. What was even better was the fact that Malcolm Tibbetts lives here locally at South Lake Tahoe. His work is outstanding and he is willing to share his methods and ideas. So many outstanding turners are unwilling to share, and if they are, cannot effectively communicate. Several members asked that we increase the length of our meetings when we have presenters ... and that is what we will do. Malcolm probably will be joining our club in the near future. WELCOME!

For our June meeting, we will be visiting several of our local member's shops. We will car pool due to limited parking and hard-to-find locations. Everyone should meet at John Compston's shop on Saturday, June 12th, at 9 a.m. Directions are at the bottom of page four. This will be a great opportunity to see how others have laid out their shops and what different types of tools they use. Hope to see you there! - Dave Rich

Some People Have (No) Trouble with Commitment

After watching the video found at the YouTube link below, you may think that the SawStop designer is committed to his product. Others of you may think he should be committed. If this video doesn't convince people that the technology is worthwhile, nothing will. Perhaps some of the saw manufacturers such as Ryobi that are being sued because they didn't want to license this safety feature will reconsider. http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=E3mzhvMgrLE&NR=1

Safety Tip of the Month

Fine particles from a grinder and wood dust are harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask, air filtration helmet, proper ventilation, dust collection system, or a combination of these to deal with this serious issue. Be especially mindful of dust from many exotic woods, spalted woods, or any wood from which you notice a skin or respiratory reaction.

In the past after spending a day in my shop, I found myself trying to clear my sinuses. I had previously purchased a small portable dust collector but found that this did not prevent me from feeling the effects of my work. I have since purchased a Trend Airshield Pro helmet. I can now spend the day in my shop without the side effects of inhaling all of the dust. Please take necessary precautions to protect yourself from harmful dust. – John Compston



Lignum Vitae

Lignum vitae is a trade wood, also called guayacan or in Europe known as pockenholz, from trees of the genus *Guaicum*. This wood was once very important for applications requiring a material with its extraordinary combination of strength, toughness, and density. The wood is obtained chiefly from *Guaicum officinale* and *Guaicum sanctum*, both small, slow growing trees. All species of the genus *Guaicum* are now listed as potentially endangered species. Demand for the wood has been reduced by modern materials science, which has led to polymer, alloys, and composite materials which can take lignum vitae's place.

"Lignum vitae" is Latin for "wood of life", and derives from its medicinal uses; lignum vitae resin has been used to treat a variety of medical conditions from coughs to arthritis, and chips of the wood can also be used to brew a tea. Other names for lignum vitae include palo santo (Spanish for "holy wood") and greenheart; lignum vitae is also one of the numerous hard, dense woods referred to as ironwood.



Lignum vitae is hard and durable, and is also the densest wood traded; it will easily sink in water. On the Janka Scale of Hardness, which measures hardness of woods, lignum vitae ranks highest of the trade woods, with a hardness of 4500 lbf. The heartwood is green in color leading to the common name Greenheart. In the shipbuilding, cabinetry, and woodturning crafts, the term greenheart refers to the green heartwood of *Chlorocardium rodiei*. In the early 2000s the Dogfish Head brewery commissioned a 10,000 gallon brewing barrel made of the latter after hearing that locals used this wood for wine production. The wood also has seen widespread historical usage in mortars and pestles and for wood carvers' mallets.

It was the traditional wood used for British police truncheons until recently, due to its density (and strength), combined with the relative softness of wood compared to metal, thereby tending to bruise or stun rather than simply cut the skin. The belaying pins aboard the USS *Constitution* are made from lignum vitae. Due to its density and natural oils, they rarely require replacement, despite the severity of typical marine weathering conditions. Due to Lignum Vitae's toughness, it can also be used as a lap in the process of cutting gems. The wood is covered with powdered industrial diamond, attached to a spindle, and used to smooth rough surfaces of gems. Master clockmaker John Harrison used lignum vitae for the critical parts of his early and nearly all-wood clocks, since the wood is self-lubricating.

For this same reason it was widely used in shaft bearings. Commonly used in ship's propeller stern-tube bearings, until the 1960s with the introduction of sealed white metal bearings. According to the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association website, the shaft bearings on the WWII submarine USS *Pampanito* (SS-38) were made of this wood. The after main shaft strut bearings for USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) the world's first nuclear powered submarine, were composed of this wood. Also, the bearings in the original 1920's turbines of the Conowingo Hydroelectric Plant on the lower Susquehanna River were made from lignum vitae.

After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the urgent need to rebuild the streetcar system and the inability to obtain regular composition, porcelain, or glass insulators for the electrical feeders fast enough, a significant number of insulators were turned from this wood as a 'temporary' solution. Many of these lasted into the 1970s with a small number remaining in service as of 2009.— From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.

Woodturner's Web Sites

[Malcolm Tibbetts Web Site](#) – *Tahoe Turner: Segmented Wood Turning by Malcolm J. Tibbetts*. This is an extremely well-produced web site. It contains a gallery of Malcolm's works of wood art, general and specific information, tools for segmented turning, and a how-to section that contains a link to *Seggy's Dream: a Woodturning Story*.

Sharpen This!

If you are considering the purchase of a sharpening system, please check with Wayne Ferree first. He recently purchased a new Sorby ProEdge Sharpening System and loves it. He will be demonstrating it at the July meeting.

Wants and Disposals

Wanted: Gene Choquette is looking for a Powermatic lathe for his shop. Call 775-856-2050

Dates to Remember

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 San Diego Wood Turners will hold their annual mini symposium on July 17, 2010 at the East Lake Middle School in Chula Vista, CA. The featured turner will be Mike Mahoney. See our web site(www.sdwat.org) for additional details. Contact Ken Rayburn berrybear37@earthlink.net.

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 24, 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>.

The Honolulu Woodturners are having their 2nd Annual Honolulu Symposium October 16 & 17, 2010. Demonstrators include Jimmy Clewes and many of Hawaii's top demonstrators. For more information visit <http://honoluluwoodturners.org> or call Andy Cole at 808-778-7036.

The 2nd Segmented Symposium will be held November 11-14, 2010, at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN. Everyone interested in segmented turning, from novice to accomplished, is welcome and will benefit. Visit www.segmentedwoodturners.org for online registration and further 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 regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the July 2010 newsletter is June 28th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW activity will be a member's shop tour beginning at John Compston's shop on June 12th at 9 a.m. His address is 1318 Toiyabe Avenue, Gardnerville (behind Raley's). Call John at 775-690-6011 for assistance if needed.

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

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