



# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



August 2010



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## President's Gouge

The Carson Valley Woodturners keep moving forward. We have developed and activated a web site, [CarsonValleyWoodturners.com](http://CarsonValleyWoodturners.com), and since the Craft Fair, we have gained five new members. Additionally, three prospective members attended our July meeting. The meeting was well attended, and we were treated to a photo tour of the AAW National Symposium presented by Paul Cote. Paul and Dave Rich attended the Symposium and enjoyed it very much. They both said that they came away with a large amount of information, and we look forward to them sharing it with us over the coming meetings. I would like to give a special thanks to Wayne Ferree for the use of his shop for the meeting and to thank him for his insight into sharpening. I am sorry I had to leave the meeting early because I have heard some very positive comments regarding the presentations. During the meeting Dave Rich discussed several nationally recognized turners who are willing to give demonstrations to our club. Dave will be working closely with them to set up future programs. I would like to call upon all of our members to suggest possible programs, and consider being a presenter. I know each of us have skills, that when shared with other club members, will improve all of our turning skills. I know this to be a fact. All you have to do is listen to the discussions prior to the meeting when everyone is looking over the show-and-tell items.

I know I have mentioned this before: our web site has a photo gallery, and we need to get photos of our turned items posted on the web site. As of this time, we only have one member who has submitted photos to the web site. If you don't already have photos of your work, please consider taking photos and uploading them to the web site. It is an excellent medium for displaying your work and letting people know that the Carson Valley Woodturners is an excellent resource for anyone interested in becoming a turner, or for those who want to improve their skills. In order to facilitate posting photos on our web site, we will set up a session at one of our future meetings to provide quality photography services for members who would like to display their work. I feel one of the strongest benefits of our club is the outreach we provide to anyone interested in woodturning. If it were not for the club and its members I would not be turning today.

Remember it is not too early to start thinking about next year's Chili Cook-off Craft Fair. As was confirmed again this year, items that sell are priced in the \$5.00 to \$10.00 range. We did sell some items between \$10.00 and \$20.00, though I do not believe we sold any items over \$20.00. Please consider turning smaller, lower priced items that we can sell at the next craft fair. - John Compston, President

## This Month's Program

Our August 14th meeting will start at 9AM and will be held at Wayne Porter's shop, 759 Gansberg Court, in Gardnerville, and the topic will be "Pyrography". In other words, Wayne will be demonstrating the art of wood burning. If you have a burner please bring it. Hopefully we will have enough burners available to try the different types. If you have done any burning, please bring your work! Even your Cub Scout stuff! The presentation will deal with equipment, work area, and safety. Dave Rich also will demonstrate how to make and transfer patterns as well as making your own nibs. From Minden, go south on Highway 88, right on Fairview Lane, then take the first left onto Fredericksburg Road, the

second right onto Gansberg Court and you're there. (If you need additional directions [or end up in California], contact Wayne or Maggie at 775-265-7887.)

In the next few months we are considering bringing in Alan Batty, Jimmy Clewes, Allan Lacer, and possibly Dale Nish (you can check these people out on Google). Our own Mel Swingrover is planning a demonstration regarding the set-up, safety, jigs, etc., relating to the bandsaw. Mel was a Industrial Arts teacher for many years, so we had better pay close attention or risk being sent to the Office!

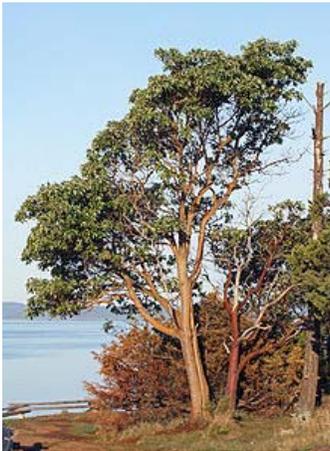
## **Woodturning Workshop TV Show**

Several weeks ago, I was reprogramming my DVR and discovered a heretofore unknown (to me) show named the *Woodturning Workshop*. It is hosted by [Tim Yoder](#), is sponsored by [Rogers State University](#), and is carried on the [Create Network](#). The series is shown on Tuesdays and Thursdays by [KNPB Reno](#) on Charter Digital Cable channel 225, and over the air on 5.2.

The shows I have watched thus far have demonstrated segmented vessel turning using a glued-to-plywood, layered approach (different from Malcolm Tibbetts methodology), and turning a banksia pod box with an ebony finial. The schedule of future shows includes a captive ring goblet, a desktop water fountain, and surface decoration with Trent Bosh.

Because of restrictions built into Charter DVRs, it is very difficult to record shows for posterity and inclusion in libraries, but they are certainly worth watching. Disappointingly, the University's Web Store wants \$19.95 for a DVD containing ONE episode, not for all of the episodes within one of the show's four seasons. – Bill Draper

## **Arbutus Menziesii**



The Pacific Madrone is a species of *Arbutus* found on the west coast of North America, from British Columbia (chiefly Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands) to California (mainly in the Puget Sound, Oregon Coast Range and California Coast Ranges but also scattered on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains). It becomes rare south of Santa Barbara County, with isolated stands south to Palomar Mountain in San Diego County, and northern Baja California, Mexico. It is also known as the Madroño, Madroña, Bearberry, or Strawberry Tree. In British Columbia it is simply referred to as *Arbutus*. Its species name was given in honor of the Scots naturalist Archibald Menzies who cataloged it during George Vancouver's voyage of exploration in the area.

### ***Morphology***

Madrone is a broadleaf evergreen tree with rich orange-red bark that peels away on the mature wood, leaving a greenish, silvery appearance that has a satin sheen and smoothness. The exposed wood sometimes feels cool to the touch. In spring, it bears sprays of small bell-like flowers, and in autumn, red berries. The berries dry up and have hooked barbs that latch onto larger animals for migration. It is common to see madrones of about 10-25 meters in height, but in the right conditions the trees reach up to 30 m. In best conditions, madrones can also reach a thickness of 5-8 feet at its trunk, much like an oak tree. The leaves are thick, oval, 7-15 cm long, and 4-8 cm broad, and arranged spirally; they are glossy dark green above and a lighter, more grayish green beneath, with an entire margin. The leaves brown during the fall season and detach from the branches.



## *Uses*

Native Americans ate the berries, but because the berries have high tannin content and are thus astringent, they more often chewed them or made them into a cider. Many mammal and bird species feed off the berries, including American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Band-tailed Pigeons, Varied Thrushes, Quail, Mule Deer, Raccoons, Ring-tailed Cats, and Bears. Mule Deer will also eat the young shoots when the trees are regenerating after fire. It is also important as a nest site for many birds, and in mixed woodland it seems to be chosen for nest building disproportionately to its numbers. The timber distorts during drying and is not much used, but an attractive veneer can be made from it. Recently, it has become more popular in the Pacific Northwest as a flooring material, due to the durability of the wood, and the warm color after finishing. Mostly the wood is sought for its heating capabilities since it burns long and hot in fireplaces. Woodturners also prize the wood for their creations.

## *Conservation*

Although drought tolerant and relatively fast growing, the Pacific Madrone is currently declining throughout most of its range. One likely cause is fire control: under natural conditions, the madrone depends on intermittent naturally occurring fires to reduce the conifer overstory. Mature trees survive fire, and can regenerate more rapidly after fire than the Douglas-firs with which they are often associated. They also produce very large numbers of seeds, which sprout following fire. Since the arrival of Europeans in North America, fire suppression has resulted in a reduction of the range of the Pacific Madrone. Increasing development pressures in Pacific Madrone habitat have also contributed to a decline in the number of mature specimens. This tree is extremely sensitive to alteration of the grade or drainage near the root crown. Until about 1970, this phenomenon was not widely recognized on the west coast; thereafter, many local governments have addressed the necessary protection of Pacific Madrone by stringent restrictions on grading and drainage alterations when madrone are present. The species is also affected to a small extent by sudden oak death, a disease caused by water mold.

## *Cultivation*

The Pacific Madrone is difficult to transplant and a seedling should be set in its permanent spot while still small. Transplant mortality becomes significant once a madrone is more than one foot (30 cm) tall. The site should be sunny (south or west-facing slopes are best), well drained, and lime-free. Pacific Madrone needs no extra water or food in its native range once it has become established. Water and nitrogen fertilizer will boost its growth, but at the cost of making it more susceptible to disease. . . – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Edited, and references removed.

## **Woodturner's Web Sites**

[Ring Shake Defects](#) – Shakes are wood defects caused by wind. They are separations at the annular rings that can be hazardous to woodturners if a wood blank comes apart at speed. If a wood blank displays darkening at the rings, it may have been damaged by wind. The link attached to the title goes to an AAW Forum discussion of the issue. There is more, but somewhat limited information on the web about shakes in wood. If someone offers you some free wood, your first question perhaps should determine whether the tree was downed by wind rather than what kind of wood it is.

[Woodturning Videos.com](#) – This web site has organized and linked a large number of woodturning-related videos from the YouTube web site. It surely beats scouring YouTube for them. The site also offers turning blanks, pen kits, pen blanks, tools and supplies, and books for sale.

## **Safety Tip**

Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors. Also, use a full face shield for bowl, vessel, or any turning involving chucks and faceplates. You should never turn on the lathe without some type of eye protection. As many of us have discovered, there is a great danger from small particles flying off of our work. This does not mean that large particles or pieces are any less frequent or danger-

ous, and this is why we should always wear face protection. I do not rely on safety glasses alone. Always think safety first and you will be able to enjoy you turning for years to come. – John Compston

## Wants and Disposals

For Sale: **Oneway Removable Wheel System.** Complete set of wheels and bars which allow you to move your Oneway lathe around the shop. \$150 OBO. Call Dave Rich (661) 733-0415 or send him a message at [dreich1944@yahoo.com](mailto:dreich1944@yahoo.com)

## Dates to Remember

The Turn-On! Chicago 2010 woodturning symposium will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Conference Center at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL. There will be a “stellar roster of demonstrators” including Malcolm Tibbetts, Cindy Drozda, and Jimmy Clewes, hands-on events, a great trade show, and more. News of this event came late to northern Nevada, so quickly visit their [web site](#) or contact [Jan Shatola](#) if you are interested.

The Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild is presenting the 2010 West Coast Roundup in Vancouver, B.C., on September 10–12, 2010. Alain Mailland, Art Liestman, Nick Cook, Michael Hosaluk, Graeme Priddle, Dale Larson, will give demonstrations and lectures on all aspects of woodturning. More information is available on the [Guild’s web site](#).

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:cvwnews@charter.net) no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the September 2010 newsletter is August 30<sup>th</sup>.

## CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month’s CVW meeting and program will convene in Wayne Porter’s shop on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at 759 Gansberg Court in Gardnerville. Details are printed above on page 1. We all appreciate Wayne’s willingness to hold CVW meetings in his shop.

### Carson Valley Woodturners’ Officers

**President:** John Compston – 775-782-3542

**Treasurer:** Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887

**Vice President:** Dave Rich – 775-265-3099

**Secretary:** Dave Mills – 530-694-2565

### Resources

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