



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



December 2010



President's Gouge

Our November meeting was well attended and those who were there were treated to an excellent presentation by Bob Drotos. Bob has been teaching classes for 14 years at the Woodcraft store in

Sacramento and provided valuable information on finishing our turned products. Special thanks to Dave and Ruth Rich for hosting the meeting and providing lodging for Bob during his visit.

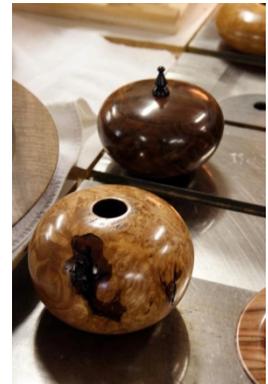


Election of officers was held during our November meeting. The current officers were re-nominated and were affirmed for another year. The officers are John Compston, President; Dave Rich, Vice-President; Wayne Porter, Treasurer; and



Dave Mills, Secretary.

We will not have a regular meeting in December. Instead, we will have the annual CVW Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12, 2010 starting at 5:00 PM. It will be hosted by Dave and Ruth Rich at their home. There will be a gift exchange (not a white elephant) with a \$15.00 limit on the



gift. We also will be auctioning off some of the items that have been turned for the club by individuals who have provided demonstrations over the years.

During the first two Fridays in November, Dave Rich, Dave Mills, Wayne Allen, and myself went to the Silver Stage High School in Silver Springs and conducted four three-hour workshops for the advanced shop class. During the two days we had a total of 15 students take part in the workshops. The students were very excited to be able to complete a small project during the workshops, giving them something to take with them. Students turned mushrooms, toothpick holders, Christmas trees, Christmas ornaments, and one turned a pen. His grandmother had sent him some pen blanks and he wanted to make a pen to send to her. During the following week he turned one on his own.



All of the students were very appreciative of our helping them learn something about the use of the lathe. One student I assisted had never turned on the lathe and was very excited when he completed a toothpick holder.



While we were there we established that their turning tools were in very poor condition. We sharpened several of them, but determined

that the students would not be able to do this in the future. We also discovered that the shop had a new grinding system that had not been used. Because three of our presenters were board members, we decided that as a club we would see if we could find a sharpening system similar to the wolverine to give to the class. We were unable to obtain a tool donation, but Ralph Benson from The Woodworking Source had a similar system that he would sell to the club. I purchased this system from Ralph, and he split the cost of the system with the club. A special thanks to Ralph for stepping-up and working with us on this project. Dave Mills and I will mount the grinder and sharpening system on plywood for the class, and we will be providing a demonstration to the shop class. Ralph offered, and I accepted, to provide one of his staff



members the day we give the demonstration to provide a training session on the use of the sharpening system. Again, thanks to Ralph for his assistance.

During our November meeting I discussed what we had accomplished, and several of the members indicated an interest in assisting in future workshops. I also discussed the needs of the class for additional lathes and turning tools. One of our members, Rich Sheldrew, will be donating a Delta lathe to the class along with a set of turning tools. Ron Burdgd also donated a wheel dresser for use on the new grinder. We will deliver it when we present the class with the sharpening system. Any members who have tools they are no longer using and would like to donate them to the class, it would be greatly appreciated. I have donated two scrapers and I also have a bowl gouge that I will be donating.

Patrick Peters, the principal of the school, would like to set up several more workshops and have the students turn pens that can be given to the School District Office who will then present them to district teachers who reach tenure. I am working with Mr. Peters and Dick Mesna, the shop teacher, on identifying what the students will need to complete this project. The school is contemplating the purchase of an additional mini lathe which would give the students three lathes to work on. When we hold the next workshops, Dave Rich and I will again take our mini lathes to the school with the hope of producing approximately 50 pens for the school district. If anyone who would like to donate pen blanks for this project, please contact me. I will let you all know when the next workshops are scheduled and will be checking to see who wants to participate. - John Compston, President



Gift Exchange Rules: Each person who desires to participate must bring a gift, and put their gift in “the pile”. Gifts must be wrapped, but should not be labeled to identify a sender or recipient. Gifts should be inexpensive (< \$15), and should be considered “useful” and not “white elephants”. All participants will draw a number (from a hat, perhaps) to determine their order. The participant holding #1 will select and unwrap any gift from the pile and then show it to everyone. Each successive participant, in the order determined from the drawing, can either “steal” an already opened gift (if there is one they really like) or be adventurous and choose a wrapped gift from the pile. If the participant chooses to steal, the person whose gift is stolen now repeats their turn and either steals another person's gift (they cannot immediately steal back the gift that was just stolen from them) or unwraps a new gift. This cycle of stealing can continue, but will end after any one gift has been stolen three times. Since items can be stolen, the item in your possession is not yours until the game is over (a food item cannot be eaten until the game is over). The game will continue until the last gift has been opened.

Safety Tip

Before operating your lathe, make sure that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly are securely tightened. As many of us have discovered when we do not tighten the tool rest assembly, it can move when we apply pressure while turning. This has the same effect as moving the tool rest while the lathe is on, often resulting in the tool rest coming in contact with our work with disastrous results. It only takes a second to make sure all is secure, and if not, it only takes a second for disaster. Be a safe turner. - John Compston

Woodturning Shop Tip

This is a shortcut for shaping the interior of a segmented bowl. My last project was a series of four small bowls that I created as prizes for a family contest. Cutting the center out of a segmented bowl is always more difficult than shaping a solid wooden bowl because of the series of flats created by the individual segments. For a small diameter project, it becomes even more difficult because of the larger ratio of segment angles to the interior diameter. If the segments are staggered (running bond) the relative roughness between segments doubles, finally, with a small bowl, any eccentricity from a perfect center alignment of the individual rings further compounds the difficulty in shaping the interior.

After fighting the interior of two of my four bowls (having the glue block of one bowl actually shear because of a sudden catch), I knew there had to be a better and less time consuming process. The simple answer is to rough-carve the irregular sides before using a bowl gouge, or in my case, Ron's "Snake". The carving is easily accomplished using a large diameter Kutzall sphere. The one I used is a one-inch diameter coarse carbide coated ball.



Mount the turning on the lathe and with a pencil, mark a circular line on the face of the turning that will eliminate most of the flats. Then rotate the bowl slowly by hand as you grind off the high ridges of the segments. This is a surprisingly fast and easy task, but wear a dust mask or sealed helmet, because the process does create a mound of fine shavings and dust.

I believe I purchased my sphere from Lee Valley, but carbide burrs are also available from Woodcraft. A large 1-inch sphere will cost about \$21, but the savings in time and anguish is worth the price. - Wayne Ferree

Has Anyone Tried the New Wood Sealer?

I was at the Woodworking Source in Reno a couple of weeks ago, and Ralph informed me that he has a new type of green wood sealer. He says it is better than Anchorseal and a little cheaper. It is supposed to dry clearer and with a thicker seal. I haven't tried it because I still have a gallon of Anchorseal. If anyone has tried it please give a report at the next meeting. - Wayne Porter

Woodturner's Web Sites

[How to Coil a Bandsaw Blade](#) - An acquired skill that seems to periodically escape some of our memories is how to safely coil a bandsaw blade. There are two different methods demonstrated in the above-linked YouTube video which was prepared by Laguna Tools. The hand-and-foot method seems to be the easiest to remember.

[Wood Handbook](#) - The Centennial Edition of the *Wood Handbook - Wood as an Engineering Material* is available as a [free download](#) from the US Department of Agriculture, [Forest Products Laboratory's web site](#). The use of the word "handbook" would lead one to believe the document is small.

Well, it isn't - the file size is 15.1 MB, and it is 510 pages in length. That is one-half a ream of paper when printed on both sides. Fortunately, the document is in PDF format and you can view it on your computer - and there are many reasons why you should. The document is brimming with information on wood, its properties, microscopic images, uses, fasteners, adhesives and so much more that it's impossible to encapsulate in just a few sentences. This handbook would be a great addition to anyone's wood reference library.

Dates to Remember

The Desert Woodturning Roundup will be held February 18th – 20th, 2011, at the Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, AZ. Scheduled demonstrators include Mike Mahoney, Lyle Jamieson, Christian Burchard, Mark Sfirri, Stephen Hatcher, Don Ward, Al Stirt, Ron Goble, and special guest Betty Scarpino. Events include an Instant Gallery, vendor area, and panel discussions. For more information and updates, visit www.desertwoodturningroundup.com.

The 2011 Idaho Artistry in Wood Show will be held Saturday, February 26th and Sunday, February 27th at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 3300 Vista Ave. Boise, Idaho. Competitors of all skill levels, from beginners to experts are invited to have their art displayed and judged. The show will include turning and other wood art demonstrations, seminars, vendors, auction, and banquet. Registration will take place on Friday, February 25, 2011 from 12-6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. Information and prospectus can be found at <http://swiwt.wordpress.com> or emailing jswagsinc@aol.com or fglench@cableone.net.

The 25th Annual American Association of Woodturners Symposium will be held June 24th – 26th at the St. Paul RiverCentre in St. Paul, MN. Demonstrators currently include Dixie Biggs, Jerome Blanc, Alan Carter, Nick Cook, David Ellsworth, Russ Fairfield, Clay Foster, Dick Gerard, Steve Hatcher, Michael Hosaluk, Todd Hoyer, Alan Jensen, John Jordan, Jerry Kermode, Ray Key, Bonnie Klein, Alan Lacer, James McClure, Dale Nish, Pascal Oudet, Hayley Smith, Al Stirt, Chris Stott, and Malcolm Tibbetts. Visit the [AAW web site](http://www.aaaweb.org) for details and updates.

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 January 2011 newsletter is December 27th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

There will be no regular meeting this month. Instead, the club will hold its third annual Christmas party at Dave and Ruth Rich's home on Sunday, December 12th at 5:00 p.m. The address is 665 Rocking Horse Road, in the Ruhenstroth area of Carson Valley.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: John Compston – 775-690-6011

Treasurer: Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887

Vice President: Dave Rich – 775-265-3099

Secretary: Dave Mills – 530-694-2565

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.

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