



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



March 2011



President's Gouge

Our appreciation goes to Dave and Kathy Mills for hosting our last meeting, and a special thanks to Donna Dimmick for bringing snacks. We had a good turnout and the weather cooperated. (I was at Dave's house on February 18th and he had a little over two feet of snow at his shop.) I also want to thank the members who donated items for the raffle. We raffled off six prizes and still have more for the next several meetings. Ron Burdug brought all of the turning items he manufactures and gave a brief presentation on each item and its use. I didn't win at the raffle - too bad because Ron had two \$25.00 gift cards as raffle prizes, and I could not leave without picking up a couple of his products.



Gunter Kaiser recently purchased two carbide tools from Ron. Gunter turned handles for the tools and brought them to the meeting. During the meeting, he demonstrated the use of these tools while turning another tool handle. We also had a large number of items for the show-and-tell which displayed the skills of our members. In addition, we discussed possible programs for future meetings.



Our next meeting will be held March 12th in Wayne Porter's shop. Stephen MacLean will demonstrate the turning of an earring holder and finials. Stephen is an outstanding turner and turns at The Woodworking Source every Saturday. If any of you make it into Reno on a Saturday, stop by and check out some of his work.



It appears that we will be hosting Jimmy Clewes for our April meeting. Dave Rich indicated that Jimmy will be available for our demonstration, and will also hold a workshop. We will be getting more information relating to the cost of the demonstration and the workshop(s), and how many participants we will be able to accommodate. If you are interested in the workshop(s), please let Dave know.

We have been invited to participate in one of the Minden craft fairs by a local businessman. I will be working with whoever organizes their fairs to determine the dates and cost to the club. I believe that they hold one in the spring and one in the fall. The fall fair may be a better choice because spring weather in Nevada can be a little unpredictable. Once we have a date we can get to work preparing small items that we can sell during the fair.

I spoke to the principal at the Silver Stage High School and he indicated that the shop class has begun turning pens. He brought me a pen that was turned by one of the students which I will bring to the next meeting. They are producing pens to be given to teachers in the district as they reach tenure. I will be talking with him again about returning to the school to work with the students on a bowl turning workshop. I will keep you posted. - John Compston, President

Salvaging a Tree for Turning

I've learned a great deal from this club since I started turning a few years ago. Although we don't call ourselves professionals, there is a vast amount of combined knowledge available to us all from other members. It seems every meeting I learn something new, or that I have been going about some portion of the turning process in the wrong way. Note: "something new" usually translates to, "I want to do that, but I *need* that new tool first".

One area that I am still surprised I was so ignorant about was how a bowl blank should be cut from a tree. Having felled untold numbers of trees and turned them into cord wood, and working in and around carpentry my whole life, did little to prepare me for creating a bowl blank from a section of tree. I'm sure there is much I still don't know, but at least I now feel confident I can cut a blank that is not as likely to split on me before I can get it turned.

I like to cross cut a section of tree that is about 20% longer than its diameter. This allows for some splitting and checking at the ends where it is likely to happen. Then remove the pith, (the center of the tree where the first few years of growth occurred). If you don't remove this area, splitting and warping will nearly always occur. At first I thought I could just cut the log in half vertically and then remove the pith while turning the bowl. Not so. It will likely split before you get around to turning it. I've learned that if I remove about 8% of the diameter of the log on each side of the pith I am in a safe range for preventing splitting from the early growth rings out. For example: In a 20" diameter log I would remove *about* 1 - 1/2" from both the left and right side of the pith. This leaves you with a slab about 3" thick. Remove the pith area from this slab and you have a 3" x 3" pith section that can be used for spindle work or lidded boxes, etc., and two 3" thick pieces that can be used for shallow bowls or platters. You will also have the two bowl sections that will become bowl blanks.

Sealing should be done as soon as the green tree is cut. All end grain should be sealed. I like to seal the first 1" or 2" of side grain adjacent to the end grain. This seems to reduce the likelihood of splitting. Some people seal the entire back, but this will slow the drying process somewhat. If you are going to finish preparing the wood for bowl blanks, it is best to seal it when cut and again when all cutting operations are complete.

If you own a chain saw or if you are using a borrowed saw, you should be familiar with their safe operation. Chain saws are dangerous and should not be used without proper attire and knowledge of its use.

Let's not let a discarded tree's death be a useless one; turn its life 'round. Good hunting! - Wayne Porter

Safety Tip

When using a faceplate to mount a blank, make sure that it is securely mounted to the faceplate with #10 or #12 sheet metal screws as a minimum. **DO NOT USE DRY WALL OR DECK SCREWS.** I use a faceplate primarily for those larger and heavier pieces of work that I do not feel comfortable using a

screw chuck for the initial turning. Because the items are larger and heavier, if they are not secured properly, they become a larger and heavier missile when they come off the lathe, resulting in greater damage to you or your shop. . – John Compston

Ryobi Recalls Cordless Drills Due to Fire Hazard

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Ryobi Model HP 1802M Cordless Power Drills.

Units: About 455,000

Importer: Ryobi Technologies Inc., of Anderson, S.C.

Hazard: The switch on the cordless drill can overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Ryobi has received 47 reports of the drills overheating, smoking, melting, or catching fire, including 12 reports of property damage to homes or vehicles. Two of the incidents involved minor burns from touching an overheated switch.

Description: The Ryobi Model HP 1802M cordless drill is powered by an 18 volt rechargeable NiCad battery. The drills are blue and black in color with "Ryobi" appearing in red and white on the left side. The model number can be found on a white label on the right side of the drill.

Sold at: Home Depot from January 2001 to July 2003 for about \$100.

Manufactured in: China.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled drill, remove the rechargeable battery, and contact Ryobi to receive a free replacement drill.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Ryobi Customer Service at (800) 597-9624 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's website at www.ryobitools.com.

Woodturner's Web Sites

[Got Wood?](#) – This South Carolina small business with a staff of two (low overhead) has a large selection of *very* reasonably priced domestic woodturning blanks. Their inventory includes wood not seen out west very often such as ambrosia sycamore (gorgeous), chinaberry (beautiful), and rainbow poplar (spectacular). They have an ironclad satisfaction guarantee, too. Check them out and report back to the club if you order from them!

[The Woodturning Center](#) - The Wood Turning Center is an arts and educational institution whose mission is leading the growth, awareness, appreciation, and promotion of artists and their creation and design of art in wood and wood in combination with other materials. The Center is a Philadelphia-based not-for-profit international arts institution, museum, and resource center. It supports and develops the



field of lathe-turned and wood art. Through education, collection acquisition, preservation, and promotion, the Center encourages existing and future artists worldwide, and cultivates a public appreciation of the art of woodturning.

Dates to Remember

The [Utah Woodturning Symposium](#) will be held May 19th – 21st in Orem, UT, at the McKay Events Center. Engage with today's top professionals and up-and-coming woodturners in a friendly, informal learning environment. With over 80 demonstrations to choose from and a full schedule of special events, there is something for everyone! Demonstrators currently include Bonnie Klein, Dick Sing, Katherin Kowalski, and Richard Raffan. More information is available on their [web site](#).

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](#) for details and updates.

The Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers (AWFS) will hold their bi-annual fair at the Las Vegas Convention Center on July 20th through 23rd 2011. A large number of suppliers and manufacturers will showcase their latest products and supplies. Many companies are of interest to woodturners. A list of the companies, other information, and registration can be found on their [web site](#).

The 2011 Creativity in Woodturning Symposium will be held by the Woodturners of Olympia (WoO) on July 23rd, 2011 at the Komachin Middle School, 3650 College Street, Lacey, WA. Featured turners are Mike Mahoney and Stephen Hatcher. Mike Mahoney will also host two full-day workshops on the 24th and 25th of July. Additional information and registration can be found on the WoO [web site](#).

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 April 2011 newsletter is March 28th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on March 12th at 9 a.m. The address is 759 Gansburg Court, just off Highway 88 in Carson Valley. If you find yourself in California, you went too far. We all appreciate Wayne's willingness to hold a CVW meeting in his shop.

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

www.carsonvalleywoodturners.com

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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