



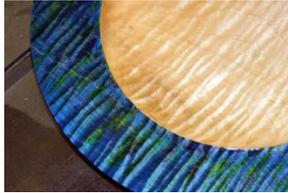
# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



## President's Gouge

I would like to start off with a special thanks to Dave and Ruth Rich for hosting our April meeting. They also lodged Jimmy Clewes in their home for the weekend and transported him to and from the Reno airport. For those of you that were able to attend on Saturday, you were treated to excellent demonstrations. It was too bad that we had a power outage in the middle of the demonstrations, but we were able to make do with a mini lathe. Due to the lost time, however, Jimmy



was not able to demonstrate the natural edged vase. Those who attended the Sunday hands-on were treated to an outstanding instructor. I told Jimmy that he was an excellent

turner, however, I felt he was an even better instructor. (It is apparent that several others thought the same thing as four of our club members have already booked a three-day training session with Jimmy in September at his shop in Las Vegas.)



During the demonstration, Jimmy turned a goblet with a very thin stem, a lidded box with inlaid silver, and a colored platter. During the hands-on on Sunday, all of the

students did a colored piece. Jimmy assisted the students with sharpening their gouges, which I took advantage of. I especially appreciated the assistance in

sharpening my bowl gouge and his instruction on its use. It never fails to amaze me that one or two little things can have such an impact on your turning, and it doesn't have to be from someone like Jimmy. I have learned so much from watching our club members while they were turning at craft fairs, and from listening to them during the show-and-tell.

Now I want to talk a little about safety. I had seen on the news a story about a student back east who had died in a university shop accident. Bill Draper forwarded an article regarding this incident to all of the club members. In reading this article it was apparent that this young woman did not follow some of the most basic safety rules regarding the use of the lathe; i.e., pulling her hair back so that it would not get caught in the lathe. The article stated that her hair got caught in the lathe and she was strangled. She was alone at the time and there was no one there to save her. The same situation of being the only one there happens all of the time because when we are turning we are usually alone. This in itself is not the problem - the problem is that when we are turning, we must make sure we follow all of the safety rules. One small lapse in following the rules can have enormous consequences, as was demonstrated in this tragic incident. Always remember to follow appropriate safety rules so that we can see your smiling face at the next meeting.

The CVW board needs some assistance from the other club members in identifying possible programs and persons to do demonstrations for our meetings. I know we have some individuals who possess special skills and would ask you to bring these skills to our club members by being a presenter. Please give it some thought and if you have something you would like to share, let one of the board members know so that we can take advantage of your talents.

Our program this month will be held in Wayne Porter's shop. We will hold a business meeting to discuss Wayne Ferree's letter which was forwarded to the membership on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Please be prepared to talk about it and share your ideas. Also, Wayne Porter will demonstrate maple burl turning and decoration. Additionally, we will hold a show-and-tell which will give everyone an opportunity to showcase their latest creations.

Lastly, please consider writing an article for the newsletter. It can be as simple as an article regarding your favorite tool, or a technique you enjoy. We need your input! - John Compston, President

## Acacia Koa

Acacia koa is a species of flowering tree in the pea family. It is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands, where it is the second most common tree. The highest populations of the trees are on the islands of Hawai'i, Mau'i, and O'ahu. Its name in the native Hawaiian language, koa, also means brave, bold, fearless, or warrior.

### Description

Koa is a large tree, typically attaining a height of 49–82 ft and a spread of 20–39 ft. In deep volcanic ash, a koa tree can reach a height of 98 ft, a circumference of 20 ft, and a spread of 125 ft. It is one of the fastest-growing Hawaiian trees, capable of reaching 20–30 ft in five years on a good site.



### Leaves, Flowers, and Fruit

Initially, compound leaves with 12–24 pairs of leaflets grow on the koa plant, much like other members of the pea family. At about 6–9 months of age, however, thick sickle-shaped "leaves" that are not compound begin to grow. These are phyllodes, blades that develop as an expansion of the leaf petiole. The vertically flattened orientation of the phyllodes allows sunlight to pass to lower levels of the tree. True leaves are entirely replaced by 2.8–9.8" long, 0.20–0.98" wide phyllodes on an adult tree.



Flowers of the koa tree are pale-yellow spherical racemes with a diameter of 0.31–0.39". Flowering may be seasonal or year round depending on the location.

Fruit production occurs when a koa tree is between 5 and 30 years old. The fruit are legumes, also called pods, with a length of 3.0–5.9" and a width of 0.59–0.98". Each pod contains an average of 12 seeds. The 0.24–0.47" long, 0.16–0.28" wide seeds are flattened ellipsoids and range from dark brown to black in color. Seeds are covered with a hard seed coat, and this allows them to remain dormant for up to 25 years. Scarification is needed before koa seeds will germinate.

### Habitat

Koa is endemic to the islands of Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Mau'i, Lāna'i, O'ahu, and Kaua'i, where it grows at elevations of 330–7,500 ft. It requires 33–200" of annual rainfall. Acidic to neutral, well-drained soils are preferred. Its ability to fix nitrogen allows it to grow in very young volcanic soils. Koa and ōhi'a lehua dominate the canopy of mixed forests. It is also common in wet forests.

## Uses

The koa's trunk was used by ancient Hawaiians to build dugout outrigger canoes and surfboards. Only bodyboards and alaia surfboards were made from koa, however, the longest surfboards were made from the lighter and more buoyant wiliwili. The reddish wood is very similar in strength and weight to that of black walnut, with a specific gravity of 0.55, and is sought for use in wood carving, wood turning, and furniture. Koa is also a tonewood, often used in the construction of ukuleles, acoustic guitars, and Weissenborn-style Hawaiian steel guitars. Fender made limited edition koa wood models of the Telecaster and the Stratocaster in 2006. Commercial growing of koa is difficult because it takes 20 to 25 years before a tree is of useful size.

## Conservation

The koa population has suffered from animal grazing and logging. Many wet forest areas where the largest koa grow, have been logged out, and it now lumber comes largely from dead or dying trees or farms on private lands. Although formerly used for outrigger canoes, there are few koa remaining which are both large and straight enough to do so today. In areas where cattle are present, koa regeneration is almost completely suppressed. However, if the cattle are removed, koa are among the few native Hawaiian plants able to germinate in grassland, and can therefore be instrumental in restoring native forest. It is often possible to begin reforestation in a pasture by disk harrowing the soil, as this scarifies seeds in the soil and encourages large numbers of koa to germinate. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.

## It's Not Koa, It's a Challenge

The picture at the right is a bowl blank cut from a tree you may be familiar with. When the bark is removed, rather annoying spikes are revealed. This is a contest to guess the type of wood the blank is made from. Be the first to correctly identify the wood to John Compston at the next meeting and receive one free raffle ticket. Good luck!



## Woodturning Shop Tip

Sharpening our turning tools is a challenge for many of us. Having a sharpening system we understand and can use efficiently goes a long way toward improving our turning. One of my early frustrations was to chuck up a turning blank, apply a turning tool to the wood, and make fine sawdust. I then kicked myself for not sharpening the tools before putting them away from the previous project. I have now developed the discipline to, at a minimum, place the tools I used on the completed project next to my grinder as a reminder to sharpen them before returning them to the rack to await the next turning opportunity. Ribbons are better than sawdust any day. – Bill Draper

## Woodturner's Web Sites

[Global Wood Source](#) – Do you need an eight-foot diameter root ball to turn into your latest grand project? How about a 10-foot book-matched walnut crotch slab for a new dining room table? This company, which is just over the hill in Santa Clara, may be just the one you've been looking for. They carry flooring, lumber, slabs, turning blocks, and burl. They also carry supplies for luthiers. Road trip, anyone?

[How to Set Up a Bandsaw](#) – This is a ten minute video demonstrating how to set up a 14-inch bandsaw similar to a Delta or a Jet. Also on the same page of this Fine Woodworking web site are several other links covering bandsaw jigs and tips. It's worth a visit for any bandsaw owner.

## Dates to Remember

The [Utah Woodturning Symposium](#) will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> Annual American Association of Woodturners Symposium will be held June 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 *Camping and Turning Rendezvous* will be held in Ellensburg, WA July 8<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2011. This is an unstructured camping and outdoor turning get-together where like minded folk can relax and share experiences. Bring your own mini lathe and come for as long as you wish during these dates. Contact Julian Lee: [julian.s@comcast.net](mailto:julian.s@comcast.net) - Telephone 360-299-2900 to confirm your reservation.

The 2011 *Creativity in Woodturning Symposium* will be held by the Woodturners of Olympia (WoO) on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cvwnews@charter.net) no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the June 2011 newsletter is May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on May 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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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