



# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



## President's Gouge

Thanks to Wayne and Maggie for hosting the July meeting. Sorry I was not at the meeting; however I hear that Dave Rich was able to easily fill my size 13 shoes. As was voted on in the meeting, the club will purchase two midi lathes with the related equipment to be used for demonstrations and for hands-on sessions. I am in the process of trying to find an enclosed trailer that I will loan to the club for storage of our equipment. The trailer can then be taken to the meeting site and all of the equipment will be available. I thank the club for voting to pay for the insurance and registration. If any of you know of an enclosed trailer, minimum of 10'X6', please let me know.



Dave Rich also had Shannon Montana, a member of the local 4-H, make a presentation regarding the club getting involved with providing assistance to 4-H club members. If we want to be involved with the 4-H we will need to get a commitment from members other than the four board members. The board is planning another meeting to discuss this presentation and our involvement. Ralph Benson from The Woodworking Source wants to partner with the club if we become involved with volunteer work with local groups. We are still planning to make several trips to Silver Stage High School during the coming school year.



Several members have been providing information on lathes that they have researched. I appreciate all of the help we have received. There are numerous lathes out there and the board will be discussing each in relation to their capabilities and cost. If any club members have gouges, scrapers, chucks or any other turning tools that you are not using and would like to donate to the club, please let one of the board members know so that we do not purchase something that may already be available within the club.

We have four club members attending a three-day class from Jimmy Clewes in September, so hopefully at our October meeting, we will be able to get some additional turning tips from those who attended.

Our August meeting date has been moved to August 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at Dave Rich's shop located at 665 Rocking Horse Road, Gardnerville, NV, Saturday August 20, 2011 at 9:00 AM. The presenter will be Joe Donohue of the Woodchucks. He will be demonstrating a very unique hollowing tool made by Ron Burdg. He will also be demonstrating the use of a chemical which hardens punky or soft wood within minutes.

It is getting harder and harder to come up with ideas for topics at our meetings. Please give some thought as to topics you would like to see covered, and the name of someone who may be able to make the presentation. If there was a presentation in the past and you would like to see it re-visited, please let us know what it is and who made the original presentation. Any help will be greatly appreciated. - John Compston, President

## Other July Meeting Notes

The club unanimously agreed to the following: Members in good standing may sell their works for profit at club events with the understanding that 30% of total selling price is payable to the club. Members selling these types of work may only display one or two items at a time. Members may replace displayed items as they sell. It is encouraged that members donate all proceeds from items sold if possible, e.g., pens, bottle stoppers, yo-yos, etc.

It is possible that the club may receive a donation of walnut. We will need people to help cut and seal the wood. Dave Mills will notify us when the wood arrives. – Dave Rich

## Pictures from Show-and-Tell

Once again there were a large number of wonderful items on display that were crafted by our members.



It is hard to appreciate the quality of the work they produce from these pictures only, so if you haven't been to a meeting recently, stop by and have a look in person.

## Midi-Lathe Purchase Update

As most of you know, the Board has been considering various lathe brands for purchase by the club. At the last meeting the members authorized the purchase of two mini lathes and some related equipment. The decision on which lathes to purchase was to be made by the Board.

I had no idea it would involve so much time to research the lathes. I spent time with Gunter Kaiser looking at his Delta midi, and had seen Bill Draper's older Delta. I also made a trip to The Woodworking Source in Reno and talked with Ralph Benson, who indicated he believes the Delta is a good lathe. Ralph was trying to arrange an educational discount from Nova on their upcoming midi model, but the Board felt it was wiser to go with the Delta. A big thank you to Ralph for the offer. (Don't forget to stop in at The Woodworking Source when you are in Reno).

After spending 10-to-12 hours on the internet researching various lathe prices and reviewing lathe reliability as posted by customers, I narrowed the selection down to the following midi-lathes:

1. Nova (Nova people are "hoping" to have one for sale sometime "late fall". Their rep said it will not have indexing as the lathe is too small, and may not have a locking pin. And of course there will be no reliability history on the new model).
2. General (checked Reno, Sparks, Las Vegas, and Sacramento ... could not find one to look at).
3. Delta.
4. Jet.

The CVW Board met and I relayed to them the information I had gathered. I also expressed my concerns, as well as other member concerns, about various brands. The Board discussed the issue at length

and decided on the Delta as the best overall choice. Dave Rich is in charge of acquiring two Delta lathes with stands.

The Board also discussed applying for a grant from AAW, and Dave Rich will apply to them this fall for the purchase of two additional lathes. They will be used for the purpose of teaching at the local schools, recreation department, craft fairs, etc. The hope is to get more people, young and not so young, interested in woodturning.

If the lathes are acquired and arrive before John Compston gets his trailer; we will transport the lathes via pick-up trucks as we have done in the past. I am looking forward to having those new lathes and the learning opportunities they will provide our members and others as well. – Wayne Porter

## Tree Burl

A burl is a tree growth in which the grain has grown in a deformed manner. It is commonly found in the form of a rounded outgrowth on a tree trunk or branch that is filled with small knots from dormant buds.

A burl results from a tree undergoing some form of stress. It may be caused by an injury, virus or fungus. Most burls grow beneath the ground, attached to the roots as a type of malignancy that is generally not discovered until the tree dies or falls over. Such burls sometimes appear as groups of bulbous protrusions connected by a system of rope-like roots. Almost all burl wood is covered by bark, even if it is underground. Insect infestation and certain types of mold infestation are the most common causes of this condition.



In some tree species, burls can grow to great size. The largest, at 26 feet occur in Coast Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and can encircle the entire trunk; when moisture is present, these burls can grow new redwood trees. The world's second-largest burls can be found in Port McNeill, British Columbia. One of the largest burls known was found around 1984 in the small town of Tamworth, New South Wales. It stands 6.4 feet tall, with an odd shape resembling a trombone.

Burls yield a very peculiar and highly figured wood, prized for its beauty by many; its rarity also adds to its expense. It is sought after by furniture makers, artists, and wood sculptors. There are a number of well-known types of burls (each from a particular species); these are highly valued and sliced into veneers for furniture, inlay in doors, picture frames, household objects, automobile interior paneling and trim, and woodturning. The famous birdseye maple of the sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) superficially resembles the wood of a burl but is something else entirely. Burl wood is very hard to work with hand tools or on a lathe because its grain is twisted and interlocked, causing it to chip and chatter unpredictably. This "wild grain" makes burl wood extremely dense and resistant to splitting, which made it valued for bowls, mallets, mauls and "beetles" or "beadles" for hammering chisels and driving wooden pegs.



Some burls are more highly prized than others, including ones from rural areas in central Massachusetts, northeast Connecticut, and as far south as Philadelphia. Some resemble an explosion in which the grain grows erratically, and it is these burls that the artist prizes over all other types. These spectacular patterns enhance the beauty of wood sculptures, furniture, and other productions. Burls are harvested with saws or axes for smaller specimens and timber felling chainsaws and tractors for massive ones.

Several things can hinder harvesting burls. One is the physical size of the burl which may require heavy equipment. Another is the act of removing a burl could kill the tree. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.

## Woodturner's Web Sites

[Woodturners America](#) – “Woodturners America is not so much about turning as it is more about the turners themselves. Our community is not just a composite of turned pieces of wood. Our community is about the people who express themselves with those pieces of wood. It is about the desire to provide information, help the beginner, marvel at the master, and share an interesting story or two about absolutely nothing. Woodturners America is an online magazine about us.” Membership is free.

[Gilmer Wood Company](#) – This company started business in 1978. They are a small company with six employees and just three doing all the milling and wood selection. Between the three, they have over 75 years of experience which allows them to search and find wood that will meet the most stringent standards. They can select wood for a certain color, grain, size, and/or figure. They are firm believers in well-seasoned wood and can offer material that has been aging in their warehouses for up to 30 years. Their principle aim is customer satisfaction and we all take pride in fulfilling this goal. Ever hear of curly madrone? Check out their web site.

## Dates to Remember

A Woodturning Master Class will be held at Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO on August 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. Advance your skills in bowl and vessel making guided by an internationally recognized master. Use advanced tool methods and turning techniques to experience the uniquely dynamic, body-mind process of woodturning. Concentrated studio time is combined with lively discussions of craft and design issues to inspire a deeper understanding of this distinctive creative process. Faculty: David Ellsworth. [Click here to learn more.](#)

An Open Bowls and Hollow Forms Workshop will be held at Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO on August 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. Turning wood is a centering process,” says David Ellsworth. “It can help focus and growth while reawakening self-expression.” Explore the process of centering while working on the lathe, liberating the process of making. We emphasize low-tech turning with a wide range of woodturning techniques and consider concepts of good design in making bowls and vessels. Faculty: David Ellsworth. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## 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 2011 newsletter is August 29<sup>th</sup>.

## CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will be held in Dave Rich's shop on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. The address is 665 Rocking Horse Road, in the Ruhenstroth area of Carson Valley. We all appreciate Dave's willingness to hold this 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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