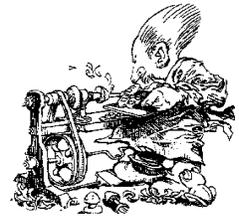




Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



President's Gouge

I would like to thank Dave Mills for hosting our October meeting and Frank Miller for presenting our program. We had a good turnout with 22 members in attendance, and an excellent show-and-tell with a whole table full of items. It is exciting to see what other members have turned and to watch their skill levels improve.



The *Touch of Class Craft Fair* is over. A special thanks to all of you who helped with the sign placing; setup and taking down of signs, tents and displays; and to those of you who stood around in 4-hour shifts during the show assisting guests. It was hard for me to tell how well we



were doing because I was relegated to assist in the tasting room. "Imagine that!" We will be discussing the show at our November meeting, and will have a recommendation to the club whether we should participate again next year. The organizers of this show relied heavily on our club due to the number of members, and Dave Mills' inability to say no. Donna Dimmick spent a whole day assist-



ing at the show, and Wendy James gave us a hand taking down everything on Sunday afternoon. Thank you both for your help.

Our November meeting will be held at Wayne Porter's shop on the third Saturday, **November 17th** at 9:00 a.m. This is not our normal meeting on the second Saturday. Our meeting date was adjusted to the 17th to fit the schedule of our guest presenter, Jack Wayne, who will be visiting family in the area on this date. Jack will be discussing the grinding of tools, "Bored Turning", "Turn a Board", and "Hollow Christmas Ornaments."



He is an excellent instructor and teacher, and has demonstrated for a large woodworking chain for a number of years. We are all looking forward to his presentation. Read more about Jack at <http://jackwayne.com/index>.

Also at this meeting we will be holding our annual election of officers for the CVW. As previously disclosed, John Compston, Wayne Porter, and Dave Mills will again run for their current offices, and Gary James will be running for the open Vice President position. If others wish to compete, please announce your intentions to John Compston prior to the meeting so you can be included on the slate of candidates.

Our 5th Annual Christmas Party will be hosted again at the home of Dave and Pat Colon. Donna Dimmick is once more coordinating the party and will be touching base with our members to organize the food. We will be finalizing the date and details of the party and will let you know the particulars at the November meeting, by email, and in the December newsletter.

In June we tried to make contact with the organizers of the Christmas Craft Fair at Douglas High School and did not hear anything back until last week. Dave Mills got a call from the organizer, and thought they were contacting us because of our valley-wide recognition as premier crafters, only to find out she was returning his call from the summer. After some consideration, we have decided to participate in the Fair. We have the items that did not sell from the Minden Street Fair and *The Touch of Class Fair*, which are already priced and repackaged by Wayne Porter. The Christmas Craft Fair is a one day event held at Douglas High School in Minden on December 8th. The items that sold the best at *The Touch of Class Fair* were the small to medium bowls in the 6"-to-16" range. Anyone who would like to assist us turning bowls to expand our inventory, please contact Dave Mills or Wayne Porter. We still have roughed out blanks that we can give to you to complete. – John Compston, President [Photos by Paul Cote.]

The Story of the Big Ash Burl Root Ball

It was a nice day and I was content just minding my own business when a friend (Rich Sheldrew, who shall remain anonymous) called me with the news that he had access to a Big Ash Burl Root Ball. "That's nice," I said, "It probably has some really fantastic grain patterns in it." (Wood turners are always looking for really fantastic grain patterns.) "I'll bet you will get some great turnings out of it", I said. "That's just it," he said. "I'm so busy building an outhouse so the club can have meetings at my shop that I don't know where I could find the time to deal with it, so I thought you might like to have it. I've already power washed 'most' of the rocks and dirt off of it. It still has a little debris on it but, hey, you have a power washer, and a chain saw, and that big band saw so — Oh, and I'll even deliver it to you — first chance I get."

Well that did it. How can any self-respecting woodturner refuse a scrounged Big Ash Burl Root Ball? The "first chance" Mr. Anonymous (let's just call him Rich) got was a few weeks later during the Minden Craft Fair where I was helping staff our club's booth. Of course he showed up when I was away on a lunch break, so another friend who was there, Dave Mills, suggested they put the prize in the back of Dave's truck. Somehow it slipped Dave's mind to tell me he had my Big Ash Burl Root Ball in the back of "his" truck. But later in the day, Rich informed me of Dave's decision on which truck to put it in. Now Dave is an honest man, and being the only person in the Club who is a bigger wood scrounge than I am, there should not have been cause for any worry on my part. However, Rich and I thought it would be fun to steal the prize from Dave's truck and put it in mine; which we did. I covered the coveted Big Ash Burl Root Ball with a tarp, so that Dave didn't notice when he helped me load my truck at the end of the day.

The next day, Dave called me and told me all about the Big Ash Burl Root Ball and how someone had stolen it from the back of his pickup. He couldn't figure out how it was done because he had backed his truck up against a concrete wall so no one could even open the tail gate. It was big and heavy - about 3 1/2' by 5' with roots attached - but two determined pranksters couldn't be deterred. Dave said he was considering calling the sheriff but figured they would just laugh if he reported someone stealing a Big Ash Burl Root Ball from the back of his vehicle. I told Dave it had to be some other woodturner, because anyone else would pay to have something like that hauled away. Before Dave got to his third apology for losing the wood, I told him, "You know Dave, I'll bet it was someone we know." In fact the only two people I know of who would do something like that are you and I. (Long silent pause.) "You stole it," he said. Many expletives followed, but all was forgiven in the end.

Well, that root ball was strategically placed inside my shop so that I would have to step over it every time I went out the door or into my wood room for another turning blank. This was a smart move be-

cause about three weeks later I got tired of stepping over it and decided to make some nice Big Ash Burl Root Ball turnings.

The first step was to make sure that Rich had sufficiently cleaned the root ball. I learned that "cleaned" is a subjective term meaning an effort was made to change the overall appearance of the root ball, and that various areas actually had less dirt on them than when he started, resulting in a degree of cleanliness in certain areas, with some success in removing a few of the larger boulders that had been imbedded within the structure of the roots. I started up the power washer and proceeded to turn myself into a dripping ball of mud. I like mud and have always had an affinity for it and my wife will attest to this.

Next step: Get Dave Mills involved. I convinced Dave to come over and help me with chain sawing the Big Ash Burl Root Ball into bite size chunks suitable for the lathe. We started by using screw drivers, chisels, hammers, pry bars, and various other tool to remove a box full of rocks that Rich had somehow overlooked in the cleaning process. It was discovered that a few roots needed to be cut in order to get to some of the rocks and dirt which two "cleaning" processes had missed. To accomplish this we proceeded to destroy several jig saw and reciprocal saw blades with limited success. I brought out the hatchet. This only took a few hours, and we got the added benefit of a really good work out. Being "men" we like to sweat and took full advantage of the task. Once we had all the rocks, large and small, removed, it was time for the chain saw. Make that chain "saws." We discovered that if we started with a freshly sharpened chain, we could cut a whopping two inches before we had to re-sharpen. Note: A chain saw works as an excellent "divining rod" for finding rocks that are buried six inches deep in wood. Three hours, four additional rocks, and two chains later, we were set to move on to the band saw. Yes, several rocks later, I needed a new band saw blade.

Well, my huge Big Ash Burl Root Ball was finally reduced to turning blanks – well, "a" turning blank - but it was a good sized one: 7" deep by 22" in diameter. I admit I did drool over it a bit while I mounted it to my Ron B. Special 10" x 1,000 lb. faceplate. After securing it with 16 screws, I was ready to turn.

I touched the gouge to the wood (hmm, thought I sharpened that gouge). I re-sharpened the gouge and made another cut about two inches long — dull again. Did you know that wood grows around sand, imbedding it within every millimeter of wood below the surface of the ground? I thought it just pushed it aside. Well, I wasn't going to give up at this point, so I sharpened about every 30 seconds of cutting, except for those not so few occasions when I found additional rocks that somehow snuck past all the ruined saw blades. Don't be discouraged I tell myself, it's starting to take shape on the outside. Uh-Oh: I've discovered a bark inclusion right smack in the center of where the foot of the bowl will be. No way to chuck it with that there. I'll just remove it and the bowl will be a half inch shorter. No big deal. The inclusion is getting larger with every inch I remove. Seven inches deep; six inches; five inches; four inches deep and the inclusion starts to get smaller. Just like my gouge. I think I can still get a medium size bowl out of this thing. Three inches; two-and-a-half inches; one-and-three-quarter's inches and I'm set for a really great shallow platter. I cut in the foot and remounted it to remove the screw holes from the faceplate. Great, I have enough room to get rid of the holes and am left with a small Big Ash Burl Root Ball Plate which I can't re-turn after it dries because there isn't enough wood left. Rich had said the wood was really dry, so that won't matter. Rich is not always 100% correct. This process has taken me four entire days, and I wound up with a really beautiful warped plate about 11" in diameter. Well, that's not quite all. I have to pay to get rid of the three garbage cans of wood waste.

I truly bear no ill feelings, but beware of friends bearing gifts – and – if a friend tries to sneak away with one of your Big Ash Burl Root Balls — HELP HIM!!

Hey Rich? Got any more free wood??? . - © Wayne Porter

Web Site for Woodturners

[Creative Woodturner](#) is software for woodturners who want to get the most out every piece of wood. You simply draw the outline of your woodturning using the mouse, and instantly a photo-realistic 3D view of your woodturning appears. You can rotate the 3D view, making sure that your woodturning design looks great from all angles. The innovative 3D viewer is at the core of Creative Woodturner. It is the first woodturning design software that shows a real-time, photo-realistic view of your woodturning. Download and try the software for 21 days free! Let the rest of us know what you think.

Dates to Remember

The **5th biennial Desert Woodturning Roundup** symposium will be held at the Mesa Convention Center on February 22nd-24th, 2013. The symposium is hosted by the Arizona Woodturners Association. Featured presenters are Richard Raffan, Malcolm Tibbets, Michael Hosaluk, Molly Winton, David Marks, John Lucas, J. Paul Fennell, Matt Monaco, and Rex Burningham. The event includes a pen turner gathering, live and silent auctions, a vendor area, an instant gallery, and door prizes. Following the symposium, Richard Raffan will teach a hands-on workshop. Further information is available at <http://www.desertwoodturningroundup.com>, or call 480-650-5185.

The **2013 Utah Woodturning Symposium** will be held May 16-18th, 2013. Make plans to be part of the highly acclaimed Symposium. 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. The 2013 demonstrators will be announced soon. Registration opens December 1st, 2012.

The **27th AAW International Symposium** will be held at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL, June 28-30th, 2013. The AAW is now calling for entries for the Juried Exhibition. Entries will be accepted online beginning November 1st, 2012 through February 3rd, 2013. All applicants will receive email notification by March 31st, 2013. Eligibility, fees, commissions, and other details are discussed on the AAW web site. Registration information will be posted by the end of November 2012.

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 December 2012 newsletter is November 26th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW get-together will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on **November 17th** 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 CVW meetings in his shop.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: John Compston – 775-690-6011

Treasurer: Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887

Vice President: Mel Swingrover – 775-783-3299

Secretary: Dave Mills – 530-694-2565

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