



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



July 2014



President's Gouge

A big thank you to Wayne Porter for hosting our June meeting. We had a fair turnout considering it was Carson Valley Days and the beginning of summer. John Nikakis demonstrated off-center turning, turning a 3-sided goblet and did an outstanding job. Thanks, Nik, for demonstrating.



Turn Here for Safety

Be aware what turners call the "red zone" or "firing zone." This is the area perpendicular to the workpiece where the workpiece is most likely to travel if it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to stand outside of this zone when turning on the lathe while keeping your hand on the switch in case you need to turn it off. When observing someone else turn, stay out of this zone.

Some of you may not be aware that Ron Burd is downsizing his business and has generously donated a large amount of materials to the club. Included in these materials is racking that the club will be using to construct more wood storage. We also will be building an enclosure to protect the wood from the elements. Thanks again Ron for your support of the CVW and all of our activities.

During the meeting, the members were informed that we are going to purchase an additional lathe for our hands-on sessions. These sessions have been a big hit and we continually have 10 to 15 members in attendance. With the addition of the new lathe, this will give us seven lathes to use. During the meeting, Joel Flamenbaum donated \$100.00 toward the purchase of the lathe. Joel, many thanks for your generous contribution.

A reminder that our regular July meeting will be the annual BBQ which will be held Saturday, July 12th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Dave Colon's residence at 231 Laura Springs Circle just off of Foothill Road near Kingsbury Grade. A big thanks to Dave and Pat for hosting the BBQ, to Donna Dimmick for coordinating the BBQ, and to John Drown and John Ebel for preparing the meat.

Andy Chen, who will be visiting in July, has graciously agreed to put on demonstrations for our club while he is here. More information is available on pages two and three. You can visit Andy's website and check out some of his work: <http://andyscustomcraft.artistgalleryonline.com>.

We will be participating in the Carson City High School annual Christmas Fair and we will need to build up our stock. If you are willing to turn something for the fair, please get with Dave Mills and the club will provide the wood for any items turned for the fair. We had a good show in Genoa and sold a large amount of our stock. Anything you turn will be greatly appreciated. – John Compston, President [All photos by Paul Cote]

Pictures from the June Show-and-Tell



June Hands-On Report

I got to the shop at 7:30 a.m. and Wayne Porter was standing there with his coffee cup waiting for me to unlock the door. Guess I need to show up at 7:00 a.m. for the 9:00 a.m. hands-on.

You know how it is — the older we get the more time flies by. Well, the hands-on are on steroids times three. Between shooting the breeze, getting things the members need (tools, chucks, sandpaper, etc.), helping with sharpening, turning, trips to woodshed, keeping that Zuni blend coffee flowing, zip it is over.

Besides turning and sharpening goings-on, Frank Miller was putting on a tool-making clinic. The majority of the people attending walked away with new tools. All it cost the members was the cost of the steel: \$4.00 to \$6.00 each. Frank even had copper ferrules available for a buck for the members to use when turning their own handles. The tool-making table was definitely the hit of the day. The club purchased the torch and gas needed for making the tools so for the next two or three hands-on, it will be available to members. I have a feeling many of these tools will be gifted to the spouses of the members, a typical dumb male thing. Some of them are razor sharp!

John Drown brought a mesquite crotch piece to the meeting to turn. He said he wanted to turn it to look like some of the burl apricot and maple natural edge turnings some of the members turned. He and Wayne Porter worked on it, and when the meeting ended, they had it roughed out ready for drying and seasoning. John has a good eye for design, and has the makings of being a very good turner. Cannot wait to see the finished product.

Zuni Pines looks like a scaled down version of Ron Burdg's Sierra Mold Corp. Wayne Porter and I spent three, maybe four, days helping Ron relocate his shop as most of you know. Every time Ron said, "Can't use this, anybody want it?" one of us raised our hand. Therefore, the next time you are here at Zuni and everything you see has gray paint on it, you'll know where it's from. Ron even got a guided tour from my Kathy showing him the improvements to Zuni thanks to him! Thanks buddy!

Speaking of Kathy, thanks to the best cook on planet earth for the pork, bean, and corn spicy soup - to die for. Wayne Allen will be sorry he missed it.

The meeting actually wrapped up around 12:30 p.m. so I had some time to mess up the shop after members had cleaned it up. Got to the house at 4:30 p.m. with no missing dogs, and still no room for me on the couch. Life is good. – Dave Mills

Andy Chen Demonstration

Andy Chen is from College Station, TX. He is a self-taught wood enthusiast and has been woodworking almost his entire adult life. Early on, he built furniture entirely with tight-fitting joinery (without nails and screws). This provided him with the knowledge of cutting wood accurately that is the foundation for the

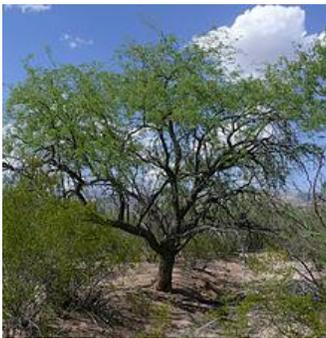
segmented turning that he started in 1992. He is a well-recognized turner and has demonstrated at numerous turning clubs, regional and national symposia, and internationally. His segmented turnings are in many private collections.



Andy has agreed to teach a full day session for Carson Valley Woodturners on July 26th. It is a Saturday and will be held at Wayne Porters shop starting at 9:00 a.m. He will be covering segmented turning with Corian and small vessel hollowing. For those members who saw him at this year's AAW symposium, he will be doing even more, and will be available to answer questions during and after. There will be several breaks during the day. Please bring a lunch if desired, as it is some distance to any restaurants. Wayne has a refrigerator in his shop if needed.

It is unusual for us to be able to host an all-day event, and with someone of Andy's talent, it will be a great opportunity for us. – Frank Miller

Mesquite



Mesquite is a common name for several species of leguminous plants of the *Prosopis* genus found in northern Mexico through the Sonoran Desert and Chihuahuan Deserts, and up into the Southwestern United States as far north as southern Kansas, west to the Colorado Desert in California, and east to the eastern fifth of Texas, where average annual rainfall is more than 40 in. Several species are found in arid to semi-arid regions of southern and western South America.

Description. These deciduous trees can reach a height of 20 to 30 ft. although in most of their range they are shrub size. They have narrow, bipinnately compound leaves 2.0 to 3.0 in long, of which the pinnules are sharply pointed. Twigs have a characteristic zig-zag form. Some common species of mesquite are honey mesquite, velvet mesquite, creeping mesquite, and screwbean mesquite. New growth of mesquite has needle-sharp thorns up to 3.0 in long. The spines are tough enough to penetrate the soft soles of sneakers or similar footwear, and can easily puncture tires.

Effect on water table. Mesquite is an extremely hardy, drought-tolerant plant because it can draw water from the water table through its long taproot (recorded at up to 190 ft. depth). It can also use water in the upper part of the ground, depending upon availability. The tree can easily and rapidly switch from using one water source to the other. Many people, especially ranchers, consider the tree a nuisance because it competes with rangeland grasses for moisture. In many parts of Texas, particularly West and Central Texas, the proliferation of mesquite is blamed for lowering of groundwater tables. However, salt cedar has had a greater effect on water consumption in riparian areas, in some cases even displacing existing mesquite.

Environment. Mesquite trees grow quickly and furnish shade and wildlife habitat where other trees will not grow. Being a legume, it fixes nitrogen in the soil where it grows, improving soil fertility. Mesquite is a phreatophyte, which means it has deep roots and transpires efficiently. For this reason, one method of managing water loss in arid areas is the removal of mesquite.

Wood. Mesquite wood is hard, allowing it to be used for furniture and implements. Wood from several varieties is used for decorative woodworking and woodturning. It is highly desirable due to its dimensional stability after being fully cured. The hard, dense lumber is also sold as "Texas Ironwood" and is rather harsh on chain saws and other tools. As firewood, mesquite burns slowly and very hot. When used to barbecue, the smoke from the wood adds a distinct flavor to the food. This is common in the Southwest and Texas-style barbecue. Mesquite-wood roasting or grilling is used to smoke-flavor steaks, chicken, pork, and fish. Mesquite smoke flavoring can be added to vegetable stir-fries, scrambled eggs, soups, and even ice cream. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.

Dates to Remember

The **SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT)** will hold their annual symposium in Waco, TX, on August 22nd - 24th, 2014 at the Waco Convention Center. Registration starts March 15th. The symposium will feature 54 rotations with 6 internationally recognized turners and 14 regional turners from the 27 chapters of the AAW comprising SWAT. The Symposium features an Instant Gallery, a Saturday night banquet with a raffle of more than 30 pieces, Sunday lunch and raffle with a full-size lathe, and more. There will be about 39 vendors, SIGs, hands-on pen turning, tool sharpening area, and spouse activities. Lunches will be provided for those attending the event. Visit [SWAT's web site](#) or contact [Wayne Furr](#) for more information and a list of demonstrators.

The **15th Annual Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium** will be held September 12th – 14th at the Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds in Loveland, CO. Participants can select from over 42 rotations. Featured demonstrators are David Ellsworth, Kip Christensen, Kirk DeHeer, Jason Schneider, Michael Blankenship, Rick Orr, John Giem, Dale Bonertz, Allen Jensen, and David Nittmann. There will also be vendors and a hands-on woodturning area. For more info, visit their website at www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com.

The **4th Segmenting Symposium** will be held October 16th – 19th at the Drury Plaza Hotel in San Antonio, TX. This symposium will address all aspects of segmented woodturning, from decorative vessels to sculptural art. There will be 36 sessions led by John Beaver, Jerry Bennett, Robin Costelle, Dennis Daudelin, Ray Feltz, Lloyd Johnson, Bill Kandler, Dennis Keeling, Craig Kirks, Alan Lacer, Tom Lohman, Wayne Miller, Jim Rodgers, and Malcolm Tibbetts. For more information, visit their website at www.segmented-woodturners.org.

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 August 2014 newsletter is July 28th.

CVW All-Day Demonstration Location and Directions

The Andy Chen demonstration will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, July 26th at 9:00 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 activities in his shop.

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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