



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



President's Gouge—Call of the Wild

Summer is in full swing—seems like it was just February. Remember when you were young, seemed like winter went along at a snail's pace taking forever. School started in the fall and everybody had new clothes for a week or so. It was still like summer when school let out. Then the days got shorter. Christmas vacation. Washington's Birthday. Easter. Is this school year ever gonna end? I have been 10 years old for what seems like two years. Then summer starts and seems to fly by! Nowadays the things-to-do list gets longer, and I cannot ever seem to get organized or get anything done. I wake up in the morning with three things to do and by days end, none seem to get completed. Same with CVW: Didn't we just have the Christmas party? It's July already and we are having our summer picnic! By the time this Gouge comes out in August, the picnic will be in the history books.

Turn Here for Safety

Never start the lathe before checking to make sure the spindle speed is correct for the size of work being turned.

What is ahead for Carson Valley Woodturners the rest of the year? Lots. We have the craft show in Markleeville the 1st weekend in October. It has been extended to two days on Saturday and Sunday. The sponsors of the event, Markleeville Art and Soul, want to advertise what types of demos we will be doing and promote our club. We are going to be situated right out in front of the gallery on the street, the best spot in town. Should be a lot of fun and a great fundraiser for the club. We are looking for volunteers for demos with a little special twist—something different. Put on your thinking caps and I bet we can come up with some really good demos. Demos really create a lot of interest and sales in the booth. They are planning on have 45 booths for the fair and night security. The booth cost for two days is about \$60.00 total, though not yet set in stone. I put out a challenge at our monthly meeting to everyone that I am committing to turning 20 to 30 bowls and platters for the two craft shows in the fall and challenged everybody to try and top it, telling the membership the winner gets the grand prize, Wayne Porter's motorhome. It was all a big ploy to get the membership to donate turnings to raise money for our kitty. Seriously, I am going to try to reach my goal. We will see how I do. We do need turnings for the club—anything from tea lights, lidded boxes, bowls, platters, pens, bottle stoppers, you name it we can use it. If you are new to turning, or have a small lathe, we don't expect you to turn 20" platters and bowls. Small items make up a big part of our sales; anything you can do will be really appreciated. And remember that big motorhome of Wayne's, you never know. If you can donate one turning or five, small or big, it's all appreciated. Craft shows are what raise most of our money to run the club for the entire year. The monies enable us to sell wood to our members dirt cheap, and helps pay for outside presenters that we try to bring in twice a year. And new tools and equipment like Mama Bear, our newest lathe, and our new wood storage containers.

Some of the other things on the agenda for 2015: Mike Mahoney 2nd or 3rd week in October. All Day Demo. Mike's one of the best around. Details to follow. Carson High School Craft show in November. Two days. We will end up our 2015 with the annual Christmas party. It's always a hoot.

Our monthly meeting was held July 11 at Wayne Porter's shop. We had 40 members in attendance. One visitor, John Fitzgerald from Oregon, is a fellow turner and a friend of Joan Wilder's. The first 20 minutes were taken up with club business with nothing out of the usual to report. Our Treasurer Mel (first count)

Swingrover used the lame excuse that he lost the checkbook on his vacation to the Dead Sea, so no Treasurer's report. Now Mel is a retired teacher. You would think he could reach back in the school archives of student excuses for not doing their homework and come up with something better than that. Our former Treasurer, Prince Porter, bailed Mel out, informing the members we have 5k to 7k on hand. He just pulled those numbers out of the blue, the same way the government does.

Our demo on coring bowls was performed by Wayne (Prince) Porter. He did a bang-up job. Wayne always does a great job on demos, and as usual, he did not disappoint. Wayne had called me two days prior to the



demo and ordered, yes, ordered me to cut up two wood blanks for the demo. I asked what size, he said 20", so I cut two at about 18 inches. Then the day of the demo I give him the blanks and he



goes, wow, those are really huge! Some people you can NEVER make happy. Wayne was able to rough one large cottonwood bowl and core two additional bowls out of that for the demo. Cottonwood is hard to work with as it is very stringy when wet but Wayne came through with flying colors, hitting all the points showing what to do and not to do. Coring is a little scary but you can really cut down on wasting wood. Big thank you to Wayne for a great demo.

Had some really nice turnings for show-and-tell. Wayne (dumpster diver) Allen had his usual array of excellent turnings; one segmented platter was really unique. That's the only one he did not donate to the club. Wayne's significant other Sally saw it first: end of story.



The good news Wayne promised to make one for the club. Annette Anderson had a new finishing idea she showed off on three small bowls she turned using Kiwi shoe polish for the finish.

Might be a good article for the newsletter there. We are always looking for newsletter articles from the members on new ideas they come up with or better ways to do old tricks. [Editor's note: Who wants to write them?] John (Nik) Nikakis had a very interesting piece where he hooked up electric current to a bowl that etched lines around the bowl. From a distance looks like it is spalted wood. Really interesting. Ken Crosby had some nice dye work on a tea light made out of figured maple if memory serves me. He is doing good stuff with dyes lately. The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m. Thanks to the members that helped with cleanup and loading all the equipment.

One more item of club business. Now that the membership is closed to new members, we all have to be on the lookout for assassination attempts and military takeovers. As you all know the only way you can get in the club now is if someone does not renew their membership or they depart the planet. You get where I am going? We have to keep our eyes peeled and be vigilant. Ricky and Lucy have enrolled in Navy Seal training in San Diego, so that's a start. Wonder what the uniforms will cost? Ricky wanted to go to TSA School but that was nixed in favor of something that might work. Ricky likes the seal uniforms better anyway. I believe the biggest threat is to the regular membership. The board members are irrelevant and nobody wants the job. Especially the president! Just be on the lookout. If a new meter reader comes to the house or the milkman's cousin shows up in his place, be wary. Loose lips sink ships. BOLO (be on the lookout). All the old catch phrases apply.

Call of The Wild: I was presented with a new handmade whistle made by Joan Wilder for crowd control. Joan told me any President worth a lick needs a decent whistle. She said it was for club meetings only; I could not use it on my Kathy. Probably smart. Thanks, Joan, I love it!

The next meeting is 9 a.m. on August 8 at Wayne Porter's shop. Dale Pappas will be doing our demo on inside-out turning.

That's all folks. Make shavings not sawdust. – Dave Mills, President [Photos by Paul Cote]

Annual CVW BBQ

This year's BBQ was fantastic! We had about 50 people turn out for good food, good conversation, and a beautiful day. John, Matt, and Janet did a great job with the BBQd chicken and pork. The side dishes were



more than enough to make to make a wonderful meal by themselves, such as several salads and Larry's beans. It will take me weeks to work off the desserts. Several members brought pieces for a show-and-tell. Now my wife



wants me finish everything like Dave Mills does. Dave and Pat Colon's lovely home and park-like yard were the perfect location, and that shade tree was large enough for all of us. If you didn't get a tour of Dave's shop you missed what is most likely the cleanest shop in the club, maybe in Nevada. John Drown really had to dig to find a single shaving in the corner of Dave's tool tray. All-in-all a most fun and well-done event. Thanks to Dave and Pat for opening their home to all of us. Thanks to John, Matt, and Janet for slaving over the BBQs. Thanks to all who loaned BBQs. Thanks to our president and his sidekick and all those who helped with the setup and cleanup. In addition, a very special thanks to Donna for coordinating the event and all her work. – John Nikakis [Photos by John Nikakis and Paul Cote]



[Editor's Note: There was interest in sharing recipes for the delicious dishes and desserts. Larry LeMahieu has agreed to collect the recipes and arrange them into a single document. If you would like to contribute your recipes, please send them to Larry at LL1540@yahoo.com not later than August 14, and we will publish them with the September newsletter.]

How to Tell Birch, Beech, and Maple Apart

“Birch, beech, and maple are very similar in appearance, and have approximately the same weight. Hence, it is comparatively easy to mistake one of them for another. A method, which anyone can use to distinguish them, is suggested by the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory. The method makes use of the relative width of the pores and medullary rays in the three woods.

If the end grain of birch, beech, or maple is cut smooth with a sharp knife and examined with a hand lens, the pores will be seen as tiny holes distributed fairly evenly over the surface, and the medullary rays will appear as narrow lines of a different shade running at right angles to the growth rings. In beech, some of the rays are very distinct even without a lens. The large rays are fully twice as wide as the largest pores. In maple, the rays are less distinct, and the largest are about the same width as the largest pores.

In birch, the rays are very fine, invisible without a lens. The pores are several times larger than the rays, usually being visible to the unaided eye as minute holes on the end grain and as fine grooves on dressed faces of the board. The pores in birch are considerably larger than the pores in beech or maple.

The appearance of the medullary rays on a "quartered" surface is also distinctive. Here they appear in beech as distinct "flakes," the largest being between 1/16 and 1/8 inch in height when measured along the grain of the wood. In maple, they are considerably smaller, rarely attaining a height of 1/16 inch. In birch, they are comparatively inconspicuous." – From Forest Products Laboratory Technical Note 116 of 1920.

Dates to Remember

The Texas woodturning clubs will host their **24th Annual SWAT (Southwest Association of Turners) Woodturning Symposium**, August 21-23, 2015, in Waco, TX, at the Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Avenue. This event features demonstrations, vendors, an instant gallery, raffles, and a banquet. Lead demonstrators include Dick Gerard, Joe Hermann, Kurt Hertzog, Ed Kelle, Malcolm Tibbetts, and Derek Weidman. For more information, including a list of regional demonstrators, vendors, and spousal activities, visit the symposium web site at <http://www.swaturners.org/symposium>.

The 19th annual **Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium** will be held on September 18-20, 2015 at the Larimer County Ranch, Loveland, CO. This three-day event has 49 rotations. Glen Lucas, David Ellsworth, Sam Angelo, Michael Roper, Ron Day, Al, Mirman, Doug Schneider, Steve Sinner, Janice Levi, and Vince Wilson are the current demonstrators with more to be announced. More information can be found at www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com.

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 September 2015 newsletter is August 31.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, August 8 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 regular club meetings 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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