



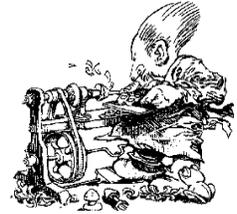
Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



October 2016

Volume 9, Issue 5



President's Gouge – What a Difference a Presenter Makes

Jerry and Debra Kermode came to our town and put on a show. Boy, we were not disappointed. No stressful encounters or BS rules, just a lot of woodturning ideas and information and a great show. No behind the scenes kais, just a bunch of high energy turning fun. Jerry is a very skilled turner, interesting to watch. We have never had a husband/wife team show up and do a demo, nice touch. It takes a special bond for a husband/wife team to work together. I know that from experience. The best thing I ever did was bring my Kathy into the business. First time she threw a customer out of the station for being an ass, all I could do was laugh and smile from ear to ear. Yeah, the guy deserved it. He came in later and apologized, and then I threw him out again. Just kidding. Back to demo.

Turn Here for Safety

Always start a workpiece at a slower speed until it is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. Always stop the lathe to determine what is causing an out of balance condition.

Jerry started off with a short slide show of his shop and gave us a little background and history about him

and Deb. First thing Jerry showed us was turning a mallet from a small log. Took ten minutes to complete. He then proceeded to use it the remainder of the day. Next up, Jerry showed us what Deb calls wonky turning. It is a square blank between centers that is turned round. Then he remounts it off center and turns beads and coves or whatever suits his fancy. He will change the center points two or three times, changing the axis each time. The result is a very interesting piece. Jerry says this is a really good way to practice your turning skills for turning natural edge bowls and the like. Turning what I call lots of air. You can also incorporate this into your turn-



ings, maybe turning a goblet with an offset stem, etc.

Jerry's tool control was amazing as it is with all the great turners. He would have the dreaded tool catch occasionally because he was working so fast. Made it so us mortals could relate and feel good. He showed his tool sharpening techniques that are different from anybody else's I have seen. On that point, all the world-class turners who come to pay us a visit sharpen their tools differently from each other. Their tool techniques are all a little different also. Not one of them turns the same way but they get outstanding results. They will be the first to tell you there is no set in stone way in woodturning. It's the results that matter, the finished product. That doesn't mean we can't get in trouble with lousy and dangerous turning techniques. There is more than one way to be a good turner.

As the third item on the day's agenda, Jerry turned a natural edge bowl with stitching. He likes to start out turning between centers. He uses a Forstner bit to create a flat opening in the bark section and uses a two-prong spur chuck to hold it between centers. Jerry prefers a two-prong over a four-prong for its holding ability. Forgot to mention after bowl blank is cut round on the band saw. Jerry cuts a v-groove in the blank that he stitches later in the process. After piece is mounted between centers, he turns a spigot on the bottom for mounting with a four-jaw chuck. After turning outside of the bowl, he reverses it and turns the inside.

Jerry was turning a blank with the bark left in place. He does not glue the bark if it is tight and well attached. I usually use thin CA on the bark before turning. Different strokes for different folks. Like written previously, whatever works. No wrong way. When Jerry has the bowl roughed to his standards, he uses a biscuit cutting tool to put the grooves in for the stiches. He makes his own biscuits/stiches out of contrasting colored woods so they stand out. Just writing about this makes me want to do this next time I am in the shop. The tricky part of cutting the biscuits is keeping the cutter steady and perpendicular to the side of the bowl when you cut the grooves. You can use stiches on v-grooves that are cut on the band saw or use them on turnings that have natural voids or cracks to give the turning stability. We will be auctioning Jerry's demo projects at our Christmas Party. Jerry had some of his turnings on display with the prices. He gets big money for his art.



The next demo was turning a perfect ball. He uses a 5" x 10" log or square stock between centers. He turns it round then makes pencil marks for his ball. The pencil mark for the center is his guide for when he is rounding the ball on the jam chuck. After he parts off the ball, he makes a jam chuck to hold the ball to complete the turning. When he is done, it is amazing how perfectly round it is. Wayne Porter and I own a sphere-turning tool at a cost of 400 big ones. Doing it Jerry's way, the only thing you're out is the price of the wood, pretty cool.



Jerry wanted us to get our money's worth and turned another bowl without any stitching. The big show ended about 4:00 p.m. A long day but worth every minute. There are some additional tips Jerry and Deb shared through the course of the day. His finishing technique for most of his turning is three parts Danish oil and one part polyurethane. After it dries Deb sands with steel wool and then rubs on paste wax. Gives a real nice satin finish. You notice I said Deb does a lot of the finishing. Maybe you guys can get the little woman to do your sanding and finishing for you, let me know how it works. Jerry buys his sand paper supplies from 2sand.com and his CA glue from Starbond. Swears by both of them.

The club is going to be placing an order with Craft Supply the end of October for the club and our members. We will get a 10% discount and quite possibly free shipping. We got free shipping this spring when we did our last order. They won't commit on shipping until the order is placed. If you have some items on your wish list or Santa needs a little help, this might be a way to do it. I will send out an email ahead of time with ordering instructions. I also want to thank Rob and Jill Etches for their wonderful donation of Madrone. Rob rented a trailer and hauled it all the way from Napa to Zuni Pines, and would not take any money for gas or rental. He is this month's club hero. Thank you to Jill and Rob. There might be some free wood in the shed with Rob's name on it.

The next monthly meeting will be October 8 at Wayne Porter's shop. Starts at 9:00 a.m. Address is 759 Gansberg Ct., Gardnerville, NV 89460. Frank Miller will be doing our demo on sharpening and using those great tools he makes for us.

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

Principles of Design for Woodturning – Tools for Drawing Your Design

Well, this is the last of my articles on the principles of design for woodturning. In this installment, I'm going to talk about the tools and supplies that can be used to draw your design.

Nothing listed here, other than paper and pencil, is required to draw a design, but if you are a woodturner, you have probably already started to drool at the idea of getting more tools and stuff.

Plain paper can be used for just about anything. Graph paper is useful to get an idea of scale and is handy for doing segmented layouts. Tracing paper has many uses: Copying drawings from books, transferring from drawings to wood and so on. Card stock can be used as a quick template for drawing or for measuring while turning.

Pencils and pens. Get a mechanical pencil kit and make yourself a special woodturning design pencil. Use colored pens or pencils to distinguish different elements or to separate segmented parts. Large marking pens can be used to gauge how thickness may affect the shape of a design. An Exacto-type hobby knife is good for cutting templates or to cut and paste from different drawings.

Chalk or dry-erase board. Often drawing on a larger scale can help to flush out an idea. You can get a 2x3 dry erase board for less the \$30.00.

Drafting table, Portable drafting board, Basic drafting tools. If you want to get more detailed, a portable drafting board or a small drafting table, and basic drafting tools are a great way to go. You can make a good drawing board from 1/4-inch plywood and a little shellac.

French curves and flexible curves are an easy way to get consistent curves on your drawings. Draw the left side of a bowl, flip the curve, and draw the right side.

Chain. A small chain about 18" to use as a catenary. Tape one end to the top of a dry-erase board, move the other end until you have a shape you like and trace the chain with a marker.

Software. CAD software is my favorite design tool, but is not for everybody. Programs like AutoCad or TurboCAD have a fairly long learning curve that require a time commitment to become comfortable with them. There are woodturning specialty programs like Woodturner Pro and Creative Woodturner. You can get information online on what is available.

Golden ratio calipers (Fibonacci gauge). This tool gives a quick measurement of the golden ratio (1.618 to 1) and can help to set proportions of a design.

Mirror. Hold an unframed flat edged mirror at a right angle to one-half of a drawing to get an idea of the finished look.

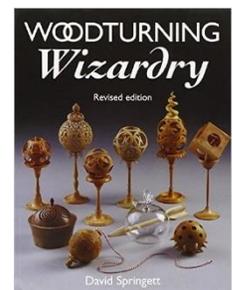
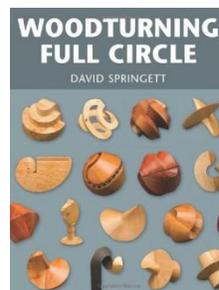
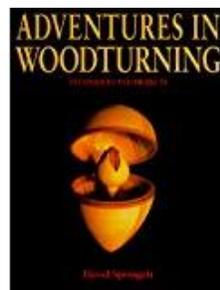
A Light box can be helpful when tracing from one drawing to another, often eliminating the need for tracing paper.

I hope you have enjoyed this little series of articles. If you have any questions or comments, catch me at a meeting or hands-on. – Nik Nikakis

Book Reviews

Adventures in Woodturning, Woodturning Full Circle, and Woodturning Wizardry, David Springett, Fox Chapel Publishing.

These three books are primarily projects books, with projects like a combination lock box, streptohedrons (twisted geometric shapes), and Chinese balls. David talks about the woods he uses, making special tools, jigs, chucks, and he even includes plans and instructions for building an oval chuck out of wood in *Adventures in Woodturning*. David explains the techniques and skills needed to complete each project. His directions are clear and the photos make the steps easy to follow. The projects require precise turning and may not be for everyone, but the books are fun and interesting to read, even if just to see how some of this stuff is done. – Nik Nikakis



Kermode Hands-on Report

As I prepared to go out to the hands-on, it hit me. This is September 11; fifteen years after those cowards killed many Americans. Even though I am sad to see the shape our country is in, I AM DAMN PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN and even prouder to be able to go to a hands-on with members of the *best woodturning club* around.

OK, I am off my high horse now. There were seven members bright-eyed and eager to participate with Jerry Kermode. I had missed the Saturday meeting due to my wife's bucket list item of going to the San Juan Islands in Washington, but had negotiated to get back in time for the hands-on. Everybody said Saturday was great and after listening to Jerry Kermode's opening on Sunday, I knew it had to be great. He started off stressing safety and good breathing at the lathe. I understand he even showed some Yoga exercises on Saturday. Hmm. This guy is great and after watching him in action, Dave Mills and I conferred about asking him back sometime next year and Jerry said he would love to. So I would imagine that will be brought up at one of the future meetings. Jerry had plenty of help on Sunday. Dave was kept awake running errands and even went to the woodshed once. Frank Miller and Terry Anderson were there assisting along with our fantastic photographer Paul Cote clicking away. I did however miss Wayne Porter. He is almost always there helping in many ways, but I understand he had other plans. You missed a great hands-on Wayne!! A big thank you to the Prez for having all the wood ready for the hands-on. – Jerry Johnson

August Hands-on Report – Queen for a Day

It is 4:00 a.m. I meant to get to this last night right after the hands-on while the memory bank was still operating at 60%. Seems that's the new norm. Got hung up instead on gunbroker.com wasting the evening looking at old guns. Yes, it is one of my obsessions. No, I don't want to know how many hours I have spent cruising the gun aisles online. Gunbroker is kind of like the old game shows *Queen for a Day* or *Let's Make a Deal*. You read the description of the gun and look at the pictures. You can email the seller with questions. The auctions run from 3 days up to 10 days. Nobody does any serious bidding usually until the last couple of hours. Not wanting to tip their hand, then the crazy stuff begins. The auction ends at a set time unless there is a bid put in fifteen minutes before it ends. If that happens, the auction is extended fifteen minutes after the final bid so people can place additional bids. If you are the lucky or unlucky winning bidder then you wait for your new purchase to arrive in the mail at the local FFL (firearms dealer). You can be jazzed and all smiles or sometimes sad and droopy. First time I purchased a gun online I talked it over with the local gun store owner looking for assurance I was not going to be ripped off. He looked at the gun online said it looked pretty good to him. The gun store called when my new treasure arrived. I rush down to the store, and all the employees gathered around. I opened the package and here is a Daisy BB gun. My first thought, well dummy, you really got ripped off. Now I have to deal with trying to get my money back! After about 30 seconds, everybody starts roaring with laughter, and then it hits me. Best joke ever played on yours truly. Then they brought the real gun out, it was a beauty. Trivia question: Who was the host of *Queen for a Day*? Who was the sponsor? I can remember this useless stuff but cannot remember why I walked from one side of the shop for something.

OK, the hands-on. Great day with great friends. Fifteen or so in attendance. Ron Burdg as usual was the first to show up with a box of those special sinkers (donuts). I was sporting my new tee shirt proclaiming I am a deplorable. Things started off with Zuni blend coffee and treats. Then Jeff Newpher shows up carrying a huge cardboard box. Inside are 15, yes 15, beautiful bowls made out of wood from Carson City to Mexico that he is donating for our craft show in November. I was almoosooooost speechless. What a gift, big thanks to Jeff. They will be on display at our October meeting for everyone to see. Had six different lathes going throughout the day. Mac McCracken was turning a bowl getting a little advice from Frank Miller. Terry and Annette Anderson had our newest future woodturner Jacob with them. Richard

Thomas was on Mama Bear turning his second or third large bowl ever. Richard is a very good turner in his own right. He has never turned bowls because his lathe is too small for the larger pieces. As is always the case at our hands-on, I learned something new. Richard was using a laminate file tool to sand the bowl spinning on the lathe. It took all the tear-out away and looked like it had been sanded with 320-grit paper. Amazing. He cleans the file with a file card. He said they can be purchased at APEX tool in Reno. Nik Nikakis was busy turning angels. The ladies were on a hunting trip: Annette, Yvonne, and my Kathy were sitting around shootin' the bull.



Bill Hemphill showed up with a roughed out bowl of the Madrone he had purchased from the club. It was warped like a Mad Hatter's hat with big cracks everywhere. Bill was ready to toss it in the fireplace woodpile thinking it was a lost cause. The rest of the so-called experts standing around, Bob Wieland, Steve MacLean, and myself were saying, hold on here, this might be a piece of art. Bill said, "Help yourself, I am done with it." Bob Wieland the lawyer/artist mounted it on the lathe between centers. Think about it—a lawyer/artist—sounds really weird. Almost as bad as saying honest and lawyer in the same sentence. Anyway Bob turns a new foot on the bowl, remounts it on a four jaw chuck. Then someone says, why don't we try the procedure Jerry Kermode showed at his demo, doing stiches. We were off and running. Hopefully, the new art will be on display at the next meeting. In all honesty, I have never witnessed a turner use a belt sander for finishing a piece. Bob thinks it will sell for \$250.00 at the craft show. He also probably thought OJ deserved to have legal representation.

No trip to the woodshed this time. There was a table still set up from the Kermode demo that had some bowl blanks that were left over. Woodturners, being who they are, are not able to pass by a pile of wood started asking if they were for sale. Sure nuff, sold two pieces. Trivia answers: Jack Bailey was the host, White Kind D detergent was the sponsor.

John Ebel brought up an idea he has been kicking around. Have a permanent section in the newsletter with turning items members are looking to buy and items they want to sell. Sounds like a great idea. Think I will run it by the board and Bill Draper our newsletter editor.

The meeting broke up at 11:45 a.m. Thanks to everyone that helped with the cleanup and putting the lathes away. Make shavings not sawdust. – Dave Mills [Photo by Annette Anderson]

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.



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, 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.

Dates to Remember

The AAW has announced that its **31st Annual International Symposium** will be held in Kansas City, MO on June 22–26, 2017. The current list of demonstrators includes Dixie Biggs, Trent Bosch, Jimmy Clewes, Kurt Hertzog, Michael Hosaluk, Rudy Lopez, Glenn Lucas, Andrew Potocnik, Tania Radda, Richard Raffan, Mark Sanger, Merryll Saylan, Betty Scarpino, Al Stirt, Derek Weidman, and John Wessels. Check out their [web site](#) for more information.

Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to Bill Draper via cwnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the November 2016 newsletter is October 31.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, October 8, at 9:00 a.m. The address is 759 Gansburg Court, just off Highway 88 in Carson Valley. If you end up in California, you went too far. We all appreciate Wayne's continued willingness to hold club events 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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