



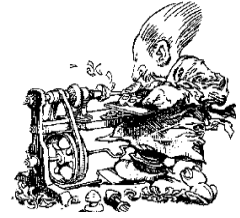
# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



January 2017

Volume 9, Issue 8



## President's Gouge

Happy New Year Everybody! Since this is my first "GOUGE", let me start by saying it feels strange as I have always looked forward to reading what Dave Mills wrote and even enjoyed some of his humor.

As most of you know, we had a great Christmas party at Aspen Park! Thank you Donna, Annette, and Shelley for the centerpieces. They looked great and I understand that this will become a custom to do every year. They made a good bit of spare change doing it and I was asked if it was all right for the ladies to keep the monies separate to buy next year's Christmas goodies during the after-Christmas sales. Knowing the work they put into centerpieces, I said sure knowing Annette (our Treasurer) will keep track of the monies with an eagle eye. I have also secured the Aspen Park clubhouse for two events this coming year, the picnic and again at Christmas.



Nik Nikakis, the club's Secretary, did another outstanding job representing our club down at the Museum with the most beautiful tree (in my mind) in the Gallery of Trees, which was decorated with our ornaments from club members. Nik and his wife Denise do this every year and we need to express our appreciation more often. I for one look forward to seeing it every season! Thank you, Nik, thank you!

I have been busy meeting with Dave Mills, Wayne Porter, and Annette either in person or on the internet concerning various interests of the club. I have asked Graham Chase (our Accountant) to attend the meeting in January to confirm some items that we need to take care of this coming year. One of the items is to complete the non-profit paperwork with the IRS. This will entail sending in a payment of \$400 with the paperwork within a few months. Graham also has a few recommendations to help keep our club heading down the correct monetary path.

We now have about 50 members and have three new turners that will be attending the meeting as guests. We lost some members this year and it was sad to see it happen, either through going to the big lathe in the sky or moving, and others who found it not to be their cup of tea. With the growth of the club we need to remember this is not just a "good ole' boys" club any longer, but a serious woodturning club with an eye to keep toward the future of the joy of woodturning! I think the past membership has helped do that with their great community contributions. We have limited the membership to 50.

I have also been busy trying to finalize some new demonstration instructors from various parts of the country. I have not at this time had any replies back from Rudy Lopez, who Dave Mills had talked with last summer, but I did get a very positive reply from Alan Stirt. He will be at the Oregon Symposium this spring. Originally, I had hoped to get him right after Oregon to help defray some of the cost as he lives in Virginia! However, after putting his name out there to the Board of Directors, I have since heard some negatives about him, so will look long and hard about Alan. So as of right now, we have NO DEMO PEOPLE COMING. I will be asking the club for names so we can look into them. I have heard from people that they would like to see Jerry Kermode again. When Jerry was here last year, I asked him if he

### Turn Here for Safety

Before turning on the power to the lathe, rotate the stock by hand to be sure it clears the tool rest. Never adjust the position of the tool rest while the lathe is running.

would consider coming back and he said YES, so we might look into that. What do you all think? WHO DO YOU SUGGEST?

I will also be entertaining the idea of getting some shirts and hats that have our club name on them. I think it would look very professional when we show our products at the craft fair that we have shirts with our names and logo. I wore my white one at the Christmas party and had a few members show interest. The cost was nominal and of course, with more orders the prices go down accordingly. I will try to bring two different shirts to the meeting just as examples.

Our meeting in January will feature Jane Miller (wife of Woodturner of the Year Frank Miller who also handles our videotaping along with several other duties). Jane will be doing PYROGRAPHY (wood burning) and she also will have a slide show of different patterns and techniques. SHE ASKS THAT WE BRING SOME OF OUR WORK TO SHOW! It doesn't matter if you're a beginner and do simple work (like I do) or have been doing it for years. You do not have to be an artist either. Jane will show how to do transferring patterns and shading. This will be a real treat for everybody I am sure. She will also feature some work on bowls as well as flat work.



We do not have a President's challenge this month, but it will return in February! The real challenge will be for the new president not to screw up the meeting! Please be patient with the new guy.

In closing this long missive all I can say is I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE MEETING, God Bless America, and GOD BLESS CARSON VALLEY WOODTURNERS! – Jerry Johnson, President [Photo by The Nikakis']

## 2016 Christmas Party

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! On December 10, the Aspen Park Clubhouse was rocking and rolling with a very large turnout despite the weather not co-operating. We had lots of food, drink, and merry times. I was really surprised when Steve with his wife Allison and Bob came in from Reno, braving the storm along with Richard



from Virginia City way. What dedication we have with our members.

We were sad to hear about Dave Rich needing some medical attention a day or so before the party, but his wife Ruth represented him in a fine manner. Thanks for coming EVERYBODY. Also a great big thank you to the band. Nik, you guys are awesome! AND thanks to Donna for all that you did.



After Dave presented the new club president (me) with the official whistle, our Treasurer presented Dave Mills with a beautiful plaque thanking him for his great service. So before Dave could recover from it (and he thought he was through!) I presented him with two Craft Supply gift certificates. The first one was for \$25. I told him we all pitched in and finally came up with 25 bucks (I had to do it since Dave always gives someone a hard time.) After he thanked us all, I gave him another card with a \$675 gift certificate. I am not sure which of us almost cried. Dave for getting such a present or me having to hand it to him. OK, so I have a sense of humor. Then just before the auction, my wife Shelly stood up and recited a poem she had written for Dave. It was quite good. It was witty, funny, and totally Dave! Following this article, the poem is printed so we all can read it. The gift certificates were raised by members of the BEST DANG



WOODTURNERS CLUB IN AMERICA. It is really amazing what we can all do when we get on the same page! WOW! I also must thank everybody for the canned food and toys that we all brought. I delivered the toys to Toys for Tots in Carson City, and Annette delivered the canned food to the lady in Carson for the Food Closet. – Jerry Johnson [Photos by The Nikakis’]

### **Hail to the Chief!**

Far out in the woods, sits a little log house,  
Where our president lives with his cute little spouse.

If you go to visit, you'll find lots of logs,  
And all manner of tools and frolicking dogs.

But beware if he offers that weird "Zuni brew".  
And I'd be sure not to drink it if I were you.

For I've seen what grows down deep in that pot,  
It's thick and it's gooey and it smells of rot!

He's an artist with wood, oh the shapes, how they taper!  
But he doesn't give them as gifts, he gives toilet paper!

He's sarcastic and witty, and sometimes a pain,  
But his wood shop is spotless. No, sorry, that's Wayne!

But at least he's a patriot, a man true and good,  
And yet he overprices all of his wood!

He voted for Trump, of that there's no doubt,  
But only because Bernie Sanders lost out!

And he claims to be deaf, some find that endearing,  
But Kathy knows better; It's selective hearing.

While a little bit bossy, he's a whole lot of kind,  
A better man and a friend, you'd have trouble to find.

We do love you Dave, though this poem is so corny,  
All this talk about wood has made me quite horny!

So, we say farewell, it's been crazy and fun.  
And say thanks for your work, and all that you've done.

You've given the club your blood, sweat and tears,  
And now we say thank you. To you Dave, our cheers!

### **Turning Wood Into Things Beautiful and Useful**

He says he can't judge his own work, but it is obvious Dave Mills possesses a remarkable artistic gift.

Mills' life has always been lived close to the natural world, and his connection to the beauty of the physical landscape shows. He loves to leave the raw edge or the bark exposed in his woodturning pieces, acknowledging the perfection and uniqueness of the tree itself. Mills has made it his mission to draw out the distinctive qualities that each piece of wood holds, and use them to make utilitarian objects: Bowls, platters, plates, and vases. He likes to make things you can use every day, and that become an integral part of your day-to-day life.

Mills and his wife Kathy bought their property in Alpine County in 1971, building their cabin on the land in 1988. The couple had always wanted to raise a tree farm, and they had a broad vista filled with sage and bitter brush, so

they set to work planting Jeffrey Pine, Tamarack, Austrian Pine, and Aspen. Often Kathy would plant up to 200 trees in a single day.

They nurtured the young saplings themselves and have created their own miniature forest, dubbed “Zuni Pines.”

Mills was born in Marin County and moved to Tahoe when he was 7-years-old. He and Kathy were high school sweethearts and have been married 44 years. Together they ran the full-service Chevron Gas Station (just torn down in Minden next to the Bentley construction project on Main Street) for over 35 years. Living in Tahoe, they commuted over Kingsbury until moving to Woodfords.



When their business sold in 2004, Dave bought an old Montgomery Ward wood lathe that had gone through the Acorn Fire. He read all the books he could, and started taking classes. It was then that he saw an ad promoting a new club, the Carson Valley Woodturners.

Mills joined club members Al Mason, Dave Rich, Dave Colon and Wayne Allen in creating the club, which meets twice per month. Mills currently serves as president. Club members teach each other turning skills, how to sharpen

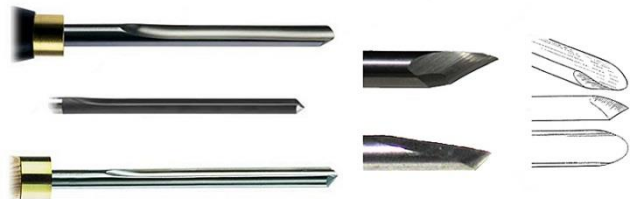
tools and identify different types of wood, and exchange new ideas. There is a waiting list to join, but they encourage new members. Their website is [carsonvalleywoodturners.com](http://carsonvalleywoodturners.com).

The group has also partnered with Silver Stage High School in Silver Springs, Nevada to instruct the students how to turn wood. The group trailers down all the equipment and supplies needed and create the curriculum.

In the end, it is what Dave finds inside the wood that excites him the most. It is always a surprise to discover the true characteristics of the raw material. He has been turning “spalted” wood (just beginning to decay) and finds it requires precise timing to know when the wood should be used. Often these works have sections of hardened sap that glow a magnificent amber in the light. Look for unique and beautiful new pieces by Dave at the Carson City Art Gallery at 110 South Curry Street. The Gallery can be reached at 775-313-8628 for hours and directions. – by Lisa Gavon, R-C Alpine Bureau. Reprinted from the December 9 issue with the permission of The Record-Courier.

## The Spindle Gouge

Also called a detail gouge, shallow gouge or fingernail gouge. Spindle gouges are designed for spindle work but can also be used for detail work in bowls and faceplate turning. They are usually shorter and lighter than [bowl gouges](#) and have a shallower [flute](#). Spindle gouges range in sizes from 1/8 inch micro tools to 5/8 inch. The gouge is normally sharpened with a fingernail profile, with the bevel 30 to 35 degrees. Some turners use a variation of the Irish grind. Often a secondary double bevel is added to reduce the primary bevel length and allow for closer detail when turning in confined areas. The tool excels at beads and coves. It is a great tool for turning pens and bottle stoppers, or for doing decorative finials.



To use the tool, set the rest below center and do a test run with the lathe off to see how the bevel will ride and adjust the rest as needed, then follow the ABCs: anchor the tool, ride the bevel, and cut.

To practice I take a short 2x4 and cut it in half lengthwise, mount it between centers and rough it to round. I then turn some beads and coves make some “V” cuts, and then do it all again larger or smaller. – Nik Nikakis



## Dates to Remember

**2017 Oregon Woodturning Symposium.** The Oregon Association of Woodturners is proud to present the second Oregon Woodturning Symposium in Albany, Oregon, on March 17-19, 2017. Join them as they bring in some of the best turners in the nation for extraordinary demonstrations that offer something for every level of woodturner, beginner to professional.

Demonstrators include: Al Stirt, Binh Pho, Christian Burchard, Dixie Biggs, Don Ward, Jon Magill, Michael Blankenship, Nick Cook, Stuart Batty and our special guest, Stuart Mortimer.

The symposium is open to anyone with an interest in woodturning and we offer *special discounts for attendees registering before February 15th!*

They also offer student discounts as well as a special optional banquet for all attendees. Visit <http://oregonwoodturningsymposium.com> for more information.

The **38<sup>th</sup> Annual Utah Woodturning Symposium** will be held May 11 through 13, 2017, at the Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. The early registration deadline is May 1. More information will follow when available.

The **AAW** has announced that its **31<sup>st</sup> 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 [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 February 2017 newsletter is January 30.

## CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, January 14, 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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