



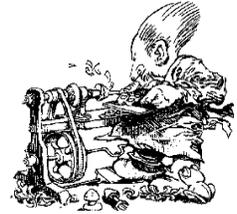
# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



June 2017

Volume 10, Issue 1



## Detail Gouge

Hi all. At the May meeting, we said a sad farewell to our President, Jerry Johnson. We wish Jerry and Shelly a safe move to Alaska and all the best for their future.

A big thank you to Dave Mills for agreeing (kicking and screaming) to be our interim president. Dave did have some stipulations for taking on the job – again! One of his demands was that someone other than he write the monthly Gouge, and I in a moment of weakness agreed to take it on. Along this same line, Matt Furginson volunteered to research and arrange for professional demonstrators. Thanks, Matt. The club is in good hands right now, but we will need people to step up and take on board positions in the future. I know Dave will not want to continue as president in 2018, so please consider running for an open position or helping others in the club to realize the fun they can have as a CVW Board member. OK, the sermon is over but it will probably be repeated.

There were several pieces of wood from the most recent harvesting trip available for purchase and one very special piece was auctioned off. Congratulations, Ralph. There were some great items in the show-and-tell. Wayne Allen as usual had several fine examples. One platter with sunrays caught my eye. Dave Mills had a manzanita hollow form that looked like it was held together by magic. In addition, Earl McCracken brought some pieces from the last few hands-on sessions that really showed off his continued improvement.

Many thanks to Wayne Porter for the excellent turned goblet demonstration. The demonstration for the June meeting will be three different toy top projects presented by yours truly. I may open with a song, so come early for a good seat. The club is always looking for future demonstrations, so any of you that have a project or technique you would like to demonstrate at a club meeting, please contact a board member. – Nik Nikakis, Secretary [Photos by Nik Nikakis]

### Turn Here for Safety

When turning, do not move your tool with your arm. Shift your weight back and forth and arch and straighten your back. Using your legs and back to move the tool allows long, flowing, and uninterrupted cuts.



## May Hands-On Report

Several members converged on Dave Mills' Zuni Pines shop to catch up on the latest club information and do some turning. The project for this hands-on was a lidded box. Dave and Frank Miller had several examples for us to examine. Dave did a quick demonstration of what to do and not to do when turning a box. Several members started on boxes with some nice figured maple that the club had at \$6.00 a blank. Ralph Wycoff brought the fine blank he won at the auction at the last meeting and was using Dave's "Big Blue" lathe to get started on what should be a lovely 20" platter. When I left at noon there were still chips flying. I am looking forward to the next hands-on. Dave, thanks for hosting and an almost flawless demonstration. – Nik Nikakis

## The Bedan

Bedan comes from the French word "bédane" (duck beak). This tool is very old, and was used for turning long before gouges appeared. The bedan is a rectangle often square (sometimes trapezoidal) with one bezel of about 45 degrees. They are commonly used for spindle turning, and are often used when turning tremblers. With care, they can also be used for hollowing and scraping. A bedan can be used like a parting tool to turn a piece to a precise diameter. They can be used like a skew and can make most of the same cuts. They are very good at turning dovetails for chucking with clean straight edges. The tool can be used with the bezel down or up. To learn techniques for using the bedan, look up information on the French woodturner Jean-François Escoulen. – Nik Nikakis



## Bodging

Bodging is a traditional woodturning craft, using green wood to create spindles using a traditional wooden-bed pole lathe. Bodgers most commonly made chair legs and stretchers, historically for the Windsor chair manufacturing industry.

The origins of the term are obscure. A theory is that *bodges*, defined as rough sacks of corn, closely resembled packages of finished goods the bodgers carried when they left the forest or workshop. Yet another theory is that *bodger* was a corruption of badger, as similarly to the behavior of a badger, the bodger dwelt in the woods and seldom emerged until evenings.

Bodgers were highly-skilled itinerant woodturners, who worked in the beech woods of the Chiltern Hills in the United Kingdom. The term and trade also spread to Ireland and Scotland. The term was always confined to High Wycombe until the recent (post 1980) revival of pole lathe turning with many chairmakers now calling themselves bodgers. Chairs were made and parts turned in all parts of the UK before the semi-industrialized production of High Wycombe.

Chair bodgers were one of three types of craftsmen associated with the making of the traditional country Windsor chairs. In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were about 30 chair bodgers scattered within the vicinity of the High Wycombe furniture trade. Although there was great camaraderie and kinship amongst this close community, nevertheless a professional eye was kept upon what each other was doing. Most important to the bodger was which company did his competitors supply and at what price. Bodger Samuel Rockall's account book for 1908 shows he was receiving 19 shillings (95p) for a gross (144 units) of plain legs including stretchers. With three stretchers to a set of four legs this amounted to 242 turnings in total. Another account states, "a bodger worked ten hours a day, six concurrent days a week, in all weathers, only earning thirty shillings a week".

The bodger's equipment was so easy to move and set up that it was easier to go to the timber and work it there than to transport it to a workshop. The completed chair legs were sold to furniture factories to be married with other chair parts made in the workshop. [Editor's note: Could the 'turner' image in the page one heading be that of a bodger?] – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.

## Go or No-Go Gauge

Have you ever "turned" yourself into a frothing-at-the-mouth lunatic, having rendered the recess or spigot diameter of your latest treasure to less than (or more than) the capacity of your scroll chuck? I have, and let me tell you it was not easy to remove the rust on my lathe bed caused by all that froth. There are solutions of course, which include re-turning the foot, innovative chucking, or buying a new set of jaws for your chuck. If you consistently turn in the middle of your chuck jaw's range, a problem is not so likely. But as you approach the limits of your chuck, bad things can happen. If you haven't had this happen, you

likely someday will unless you consistently check the foot diameter while turning. I solved this problem for myself (thus far) by making what has been called a "Go No-Go Gauge".

To make this gauge, measure the maximum and minimum capacities of your scroll chuck in expansion mode. Then on a 3" x 6" (size is optional) piece of scrap hardboard (or whatever), transfer the minimum measurement to one side of the board and the maximum measurement to the other side. Don't go quite to the limits of your chuck as you will not have travel room left to grip the work. Keep in mind that if you are turning green wood and will have to re-true the foot later, you will have to leave a little extra room for that later process. Notch each side of the gauge accordingly and you have a quick and easy way to ensure you don't over or under your foot diameter.



Now make another gauge for the compression mode of your chuck. It is a good idea to mark each gauge for its intended use, e.g., Vicmarc 5 1/2" expansion mode. If you change jaws in your chuck, it is easy to make gauges for each set of jaws.

This gauge is not an invention of mine, but the person who first came up with this simple idea deserves praise. It has saved me time and aggravation. I hope it does the same for you. – Wayne Porter

## Skewed Points

Ever wonder how fast those pieces of your almost-finished masterpiece were moving after that really annoying catch? As you may know from personal experience, the detached pieces can have disastrous consequences if you happen to be standing in the wrong place. The examples below provide the formulas to determine the miles-per-hour speed at the edge of the turning piece using the pen-and-ink method, and the formula components if you want to use a spreadsheet such as Microsoft® Excel. - Bill Draper

Manual method:  $MPH = (RPM * \frac{60 * \pi * D}{12 * 5280})$

Spreadsheet method:

	A	B	C
1	Lathe RPM	3000	<<enter RPM in cell B1>>
2	Item Diameter	16	<<enter item diameter in cell B2>>
3	MPH at Outer Edge	142.80	<<enter formula in cell B3: =(B1*(60*PI()*B2))/(12*5280) >>

## Ulmus Americana

*Ulmus americana*, generally known as the American Elm, is a species native to eastern North America, occurring from Nova Scotia west as far as British Columbia. It is an extremely hardy tree that can withstand winter temperatures as low as -44 °F. Trees in areas unaffected by Dutch elm disease can live for several hundred years.

The American Elm is a deciduous tree, which, before the advent of Dutch elm disease, commonly grew to >100 feet tall with a trunk >4 ft. The crown forms a high, spreading canopy with open air space beneath. The leaves are alternate, 3 – 7 in long, with double-serrate margins and an oblique base.



The tree is hermaphroditic, having perfect flowers, (i.e. with both male and female parts) and is therefore capable of self-pollination. The flowers are small, purple-brown, and, being wind-pollinated, are apetalous; they emerge in early spring before the leaves. The fruit is a flat samara 3 in long and 2 in wide, with a circular wing surrounding the single seed.

As in the closely related European White Elm, *U. laevis*, the flowers and seeds are borne on 0.4 – 1.2 in long stems. American Elm is wholly insensitive to daylight length, and will continue to grow well into autumn until injured by frost. The tree reaches sexual maturity at around 150 years of age. However, nowadays it is uncommon for the tree to reach over 100 years of age because of its susceptibility to Dutch elm disease. The American Elm is the state tree of both Massachusetts and North Dakota.

In years past, the American Elm was used widely as a shade tree and as a street tree, because of its graceful, arching, vase-like growth form and its tolerance of most stress factors. Furthermore, the cross-grained wood imbues the branches with great strength, and breakages were rare. The species has been planted well beyond its natural range. It also survives low desert heat at Phoenix, Arizona. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.

## Dates to Remember

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 at the Kansas City Marriott. The current list of demonstrators includes Sam Angelo, Bruce Berger, Dixie Biggs, Trent Bosch, Jason Clark, Jimmy Clewes, Janet Collins, Anthony Harris, Michael Kehs, Janice Levy, David Lindow, Kurt Hertzog, Michael Hosaluk, Rudy Lopez, Glenn Lucas, Harvey Meyer, Andrew Potocnik, Tania Radda, Richard Raffan, Mark Sanger, Merryll Saylan, Betty Scarpino, Thomas Stegall, Al Stirt, Jason Swanson, Derek Weidman, John Wessels, and Tom Wirsing. 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 [cwvnews@charter.net](mailto:cwvnews@charter.net) no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the July 2017 newsletter is June 26.

## CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, June 10, 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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