



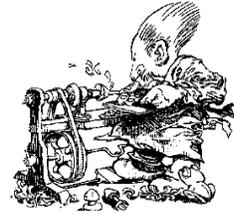
Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



September 2017

Volume 10, Issue 4



Detail Gouge

A good time was had by all attending the club's summer party. Annette's article later in this newsletter covers all the details. Thanks, Annette.

Steve MacLean and Bob Wieland will be doing a demonstration of hollowing with a video monitor at the September 9 meeting. It is a safe bet who will be doing most of the talking.

Rudy Lopez will be here September 30 and October 1. The demonstration will be on the 30th. Come early and get a good seat.

Remember, the club needs donations for the fall craft show on November 17 and 18. Don't wait until the last minute to donate. On a similar note, I'll be collecting donated or loaned ornaments for this year's "Gallery of Trees" at the Douglas County Museum. – Nik Nikakis, Secretary

Picnic Happenings

Once again, the Carson Valley Woodturners had a great picnic. We started out with our illustrious leader giving us a few words of welcome and updating us on several changes to the club. We are now an official non-profit club. This means that we do not pay sales tax or have to charge sales tax. This is great news for everyone, especially for the treasurer. This also means that we can take charge cards whenever presented and we did so at the auction.

As always, there were "Hot-Off-the-Press" tools made by Frank Miller, and Ron Burd had handles to go with the tools so that you could rush home and see what you could do with your new purchase. Quite a pair those two. You need it and they make it.

In order for us to use the clubhouse, we needed to have a member in residence. Since Jerry had left for Alaska, we were really scratching our heads. As luck would have it, Denise happened to have a friend that lives in the park and she graciously agreed to rent the clubhouse for us. Judy does not turn wood, but she is a lovely lady and was a great addition to our party. Knowing our members as I do, I am sure that she was made more than welcome to our little soirée. AND, she has already made arrangements for our Christmas Party. Thank you, Judy.



Once the preliminaries were over and the visiting done, we showed that we could really cook. Food was aplenty in all shapes and forms. John Drown made pulled pork and chicken and everyone else was more than generous with their food offerings. Food was put on the bar and we literally ran out of space. The horror of it all was we had to pull down the desserts until the main food was somewhat diminished in size and quantity. We then put the desserts back and it was round two at the buffet. At the Christmas Party, we will have a special dessert table. We had approximately 60 people in all and the food was outstanding. Thank you all.

Turn Here for Safety

Never wear loose clothing or jewelry. Keep long sleeves rolled up and long hair tied back

Act Two – The much-awaited show-and-tell. As always, there were things that we had not seen before. Beautiful work and interesting techniques and some good laughs. Dave shared a beautiful piece and mentioned that he is not perfect (the horror of it all) and described how he saved his piece with the help of his friends. Wayne Allen brought things to share and gave one item to the club for the auction. His wife said that he of the house. If she had seen it, it would the light of day. Richard Thomas shared a showed off his had burned small wood and placed holes in his box. The beautiful and they moons. John Drown and I think I smell a like colorful and



piece that many skills. He round pieces of them in the many results were looked like little



had a really lovely painting technique demonstration there. The paint looked lovely little clouds had settled on his work and were resting there for all to admire. There were so many wonderful and interesting items on the table I could go on and on, and in fact, I will. Curtis Kortemeier donated several pieces to the club after the show-and-tell. Wayne Allen donated nine turnings he had brought in addition to the auction item, Ken Crosby donated a unique tea light holder, and Wayne Porter donated four goblets to the club. I have said it before and I will say it again and again...our members are all very special and generous with their time and turnings.



On to the auction and what an auction it was—absolutely amazing offerings! The club had purchased a piece from Mel and words cannot describe it to do it justice. Using his basket illusion style, it was purple and black and when you took it out in the sun, the colors just popped. What a talent. Speaking of talent, the Wayne Allen piece that was smuggled out of the house was put on the auction block as well. That man could do more with his little pieces of beautiful wood than anyone I know. You talk about trash to treasure...absolutely amazing stuff comes out of his workshop. Everyone was very generous with their bids and the club took in over \$1200.00 in bid money. Thank you all.



The final act was the cleanup. We looked like professionals. Terry was on the vacuum; Donna worked and gave out assignments. Wayne Porter took bag after bag of trash to the dumpster, and we were done and locking the door by 2:15 p.m. Not bad, not bad at all.

Thank you all for a great day. – Article by Annette Anderson [Photos by Paul Cote]

August Hands-On Report

We again joined Dave at Zuni Pines for some turning, talking, and Zuni blend coffee. There was a good turnout of about 18 or 19. I cannot remember if I counted myself.

Several of us bought Frank's little swan neck tools and after a quick lesson from Dave, tried our hand at turning miniature hollow forms. Wayne Porter turned the smallest and topped it off with a fine finial. Frank was showing Patty and Yvonne techniques for hollowing and a nifty way of using Deft lacquer for a quick on the lathe finish. Dave was helping Gary Muma with Banksia pod salt and pepper shakers.



As always Dave is happy to have members visit Zuni Pines to get some help on a project or pick up some wood, just give him a call. Dave, thanks for hosting and the Zuni blend coffee. And Terry, thanks for the donuts. – Nik Nikakis [Photos by Paul Cote]

Segment Cutting Wedgie Sled and Segmented Bowl Press

I saw this sled several years ago, and built a small variation to fit my 4” Dremel table saw. Now that I have the time, I built one to fit my 10” table saw and make big boy turnings. The base and two fences are made from Corian and the track guide from maple. The two fences are set using a preset wedge or a protractor. A 30/60 drawing triangle makes a great wedge for 30° segments. There are several advantages to the Wedgie sled. The two-fence system does not require the precise alignment that is necessary with a single fence sled or a miter saw and no need for test rings. Saw setup is not a factor in the accuracy; the accuracy is contained entirely within the jig and is transportable from saw to saw. Cut slanted segments merely by tilting the blade. Varying material width is not a factor. Cut any segment number configuration with one sled. There are also some disadvantages. Because the segments are cut without flipping the material, they have to be marked on one side and assembled with all segments in the same orientation. If the setup has been changed, it is difficult to duplicate existing segments.



When I completed the sled, I remembered I had done some drawings and collected the hardware to build a bowl press. Therefore, off to Lowe’s for some wood and the press was built. It’s a little overkill but does a good job. The base is trimmed 2x4s and 3/4” plywood. The top, handle, and press guide are oak. The screw drive is 3/4-10 threaded rod. The up-rights are 1” square aluminum tubing. I drilled and taped the top oak for the threaded rod but also drilled a recess for a 3/4-10 nut if the threads in the oak fail in the future. There is a 16” disc of 3/4” plywood on top of the base that will spin allowing the work

piece to be aligned before clamping. There is a 7” disc of 3/4” plywood below the press guide that can be quickly changed with a single screw if a larger or smaller one is needed. Now I have to get into the shop and use these things. For information on the Wedgie Sled go to www.segeasy.com. They also have wedge sets available for many segment counts. I based my press on a video from www.woodcraft.com/blog_entries/helping-you-make-a-segmented-bowl-press. – Article and photo by Nik Nikakis

Spoon Billed Scraper Tool Review

Frank Miller has done it again. Frank dropped off a new tool for me to evaluate. This one augments the two hollowing tools he makes for tiny hollow forms. I had told Frank that those hook tools he makes work great around the neck and down the sides, but not so well rounding the curve down to the bottom. Next thing I know, a new tool is arriving for a test run. I don’t know if Frank had seen something similar to this tool before or if he just comes up with this stuff out of the blue. At any rate, it looked interesting.

It didn’t have a name yet so I’ll call it a Spoon Billed, Round Nose, Scraper. That pretty well describes it.



The nose is rounded of course, but it has a flat grind on top, (eliminating about

half the diameter). The entire bevel is also rounded from the cutting edge back toward the shank of the tool, (that part is similar to one of Cindy Drozda's detail gouge tools). However, this is not a gouge, it's a scraper.

It was three or four days before I got a chance to try it out, but I can now say I have a complete set of tiny hollow form tools. Fantastic! It also fits perfectly in one of Ron Burdg's custom-made handles. It worked great on the interior, coming across the bottom and around the curve to the side (which is what Frank designed it for), but I continued up the side with the tool in a shear scrape orientation and it worked there as well. I was expecting to get a little catch here and there...but not one hint of a catch. Not to say that you couldn't get a catch...anything is possible in woodturning. However, if you keep in mind how the cutting edge is oriented to the wood, it is a fantastic addition to our woodturning arsenal. A slight to severe shearing angle, depending on where on the vessel I was cutting, worked best for me. Now I have another idea for Frank to work on. It pays to keep these guys tinkering you know. Pictured on the previous page are the tool, handle, and 2-1/2" W x 2-1/4" H Walnut hollow form I zipped out using the new tool. And only 2/3 of a garbage can of shavings...just kidding. Could have made it smaller, but like our President Dave, I hate to waste wood.

Once again, thank you Frank and Ron for supplying these tools and handles to our club members. You guys are the greatest! – Article and photos by Wayne Porter

Salvaging a Tree for Turning

I've learned a great deal from this club since I started turning a few years ago. Although we don't call ourselves professionals, there is a vast amount of combined knowledge available to us all from other members. It seems every meeting I learn something new, or that I have been going about some portion of the turning process in the wrong way. Note: "something new" usually translates to, "I want to do that, but I *need* that new tool first".

One area that I am still surprised I was so ignorant about was how a bowl blank should be cut from a tree. Having felled untold numbers of trees and turned them into cord wood, and working in and around carpentry my whole life, did little to prepare me for creating a bowl blank from a section of tree. I'm sure there is much I still don't know, but at least I now feel confident I can cut a blank that is not as likely to split on me before I can get it turned.

I like to cross cut a section of tree that is about 20% longer than its diameter. This allows for some splitting and checking at the ends where it is likely to happen. Then remove the pith (the center of the tree where the first few years of growth occurred). If you don't remove this area, splitting and warping will nearly always occur.

At first I thought I could just cut the log in half vertically and then remove the pith while turning the bowl. Not so. It will likely split before you get around to turning it. I've learned that if I remove about 8% of the diameter of the log on each side of the pith I am in a safe range for preventing splitting from the early growth rings out. For example: In a 20" diameter log I would remove *about* 1 - 1/2" from both the left and right side of the pith. This leaves you with a slab about 3" thick. Remove the pith area from this slab and you have a 3" x 3" pith section that can be used for spindle work or lidded boxes, etc., and two 3" thick pieces that can be used for shallow bowls or platters. You will also have the two bowl sections that will become bowl blanks.

Sealing should be done as soon as the green tree is cut. All end grain should be sealed. I like to seal the first 1" or 2" of side grain adjacent to the end grain. This seems to reduce the likelihood of splitting. Some people seal the entire back, but this will slow the drying process somewhat. If you are going to finish preparing the wood for bowl blanks, it is best to seal it when cut and again when all cutting operations are complete.

If you own a chain saw or if you are using a borrowed saw, you should be familiar with their safe operation. Chain saws are dangerous and should not be used without proper attire and knowledge of its use.

Let's not let a discarded tree's death be a useless one; turn its life 'round. Good hunting! – Wayne Porter

Dates to Remember

The 17th annual Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium will be held September 15-17 at the Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds in Loveland, CO. Demonstrators include Stuart Batty, Trent Bosch, Cynthia Carden Gibson, Kurt Hertzog, Eric Lofstrom, Jonathon Medina, Carmen de la Paz, Curt Theobald, and Tom Wirsing. For more info visit www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com or contact Alan Jensen, (970) 663-1868.

The American Association of Woodturners has announced that its 32nd Annual International Symposium will be held in Portland, OR, on June 14–17, 2018 at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97232. Check out the AAW [web site](#) for more information as it becomes available.

Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to Bill Draper via cwvnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the October 2017 newsletter is October 2.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, September 9, 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.

Due to the timing of Rudy Lopez demonstration, there will not be a regular meeting in October. We will return to normal meetings on the second Saturday in November.

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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