



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



November 2017

Volume 10, Issue 6



Detail Gouge

October was a fairly quiet month for the club. Some group tool and supply orders and a fun hands-on. I picked up a Grex air sander and had it broken-in within a few days. Great tool.

I tagged along to the Silver Stage High School with our past and potential future president John Compston (that sounds like a good title



and coves, parting off, and then using those techniques to turn a simple ornament. John repeated this for six different classes while I watched and learned. I hope to do a little more on our next trip.

At the November meeting, Frank Miller and Dave Mills will be doing a tag team demonstration on finishing, embellishing, and the ins and outs of tool making.

We also will be holding our annual election of club officers. Current officers, with the exception of President and Secretary are running for reelection, so we will need at least two members to run for the open positions (and the other positions if you are interested).

The Carson High School fall craft show is November 17 and 18. The club still needs donations. Remember to do a short write-up for each item. Set-up for this year's "Gallery of Trees" at the Douglas County Museum starts November 26. If you are planning on donating or loaning ornaments, please bring them to the November meeting. – Nik Nikakis, Secretary [Photos by Nik Nikakis]

October Hands-On Report

I pulled into Zuni Pines a little after 9:00 a.m. on the 14th and was greeted by Dave's head of security Ricky. After a quick sniff search, I was allowed to pass.

The turnout of 26 was the largest I've seen to date. I guess when members heard there would be a few snakes in the shop they couldn't stay away. They weren't disappointed. Dave and his minions had set up Ron Burdg's hollowing snakes on three different lathes and when I walked in the chips were already flying. There was a large selection of hollowing tools for the snakes and hand-held for any and all to try. The exchange of information and technique was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Dave, thanks for hosting, your passion for woodturning, and most of all the Zuni blend coffee. Keep your tools sharp and the shavings out of your coffee. – Article by Nik Nikakis

Turn Here for Safety

Never use your fingers to check the work for roundness while the lathe is running, especially during roughing operations. Stop the lathe to check the progress, or rest the blade of the tool lightly against the work as it turns.

for a sci-fi story). John spent the day demonstrating the fundamentals of spindle turning. He showed roughing a piece to round, turning beads

Lignum Vitae

Lignum vitae is a trade wood, also called guayacan or in Europe known as pockenholz, from trees of the genus *Guaiacum*. This wood was once very important for applications requiring a material with its extraordinary combination of strength, toughness, and density. The wood is obtained chiefly from *Guaiacum officinale* and *Guaiacum sanctum*, both small, slow growing trees. All species of the genus *Guaiacum* are now listed as potentially endangered species. Demand for the wood has been reduced by modern materials science, which has led to polymer, alloys, and composite materials which can take lignum vitae's place.

"Lignum vitae" is Latin for "wood of life", and derives from its medicinal uses; lignum vitae resin has been used to treat a variety of medical conditions from coughs to arthritis, and chips of the wood can also be used to brew a tea. Other names for lignum vitae include palo santo (Spanish for "holy wood") and greenheart; lignum vitae is also one of the numerous hard, dense woods referred to as iron-wood.

Lignum vitae is hard and durable, and is also the densest wood traded; it will easily sink in water. On the Janka Scale of Hardness, which measures hardness of woods, lignum vitae ranks highest of the trade woods, with a hardness of 4500 lbf. The heartwood is green in color leading to the common name Greenheart. In the shipbuilding, cabinetry, and woodturning crafts, the term greenheart refers to the green heartwood of *Chlorocardium rodiei*. In the early 2000s the Dogfish Head brewery commissioned a 10,000 gallon brewing barrel made of the latter after hearing that locals used this wood for wine production. The wood also has seen widespread historical usage in mortars and pestles and for wood carvers' mallets.

It was the traditional wood used for British police truncheons until recently, due to its density (and strength), combined with the relative softness of wood compared to metal, thereby tending to bruise or stun rather than simply cut the skin. The belaying pins aboard the USS *Constitution* are made from lignum vitae. Due to its density and natural oils, they rarely require replacement, despite the severity of typical marine weathering conditions. Due to Lignum Vitae's toughness, it can also be used as a lap in the process of cutting gems. The wood is covered with powdered industrial diamond, attached to a spindle, and used to smooth rough surfaces of gems. Master clockmaker John Harrison used lignum vitae for the critical parts of his early and nearly all-wood clocks, since the wood is self-lubricating.

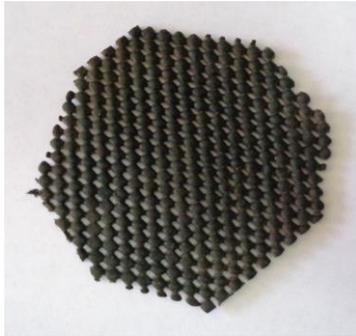
For this same reason it was widely used in shaft bearings. Commonly used in ship's propeller stern-tube bearings, until the 1960s with the introduction of sealed white metal bearings. According to the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association website, the shaft bearings on the WWII submarine USS *Pampanito* (SS-38) were made of this wood. The after main shaft strut bearings for USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) the world's first nuclear powered submarine, were composed of this wood. Also, the bearings in the original 1920's turbines of the Conowingo Hydroelectric Plant on the lower Susquehanna River were made from lignum vitae.

After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the urgent need to rebuild the streetcar system and the inability to obtain regular composition, porcelain, or glass insulators for the electrical feeders fast enough, a significant number of insulators were turned from this wood as a 'temporary' solution. Many of these lasted into the 1970s with a small number remaining in service as of 2009.—From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.



Non-Slip Mat

I got a 2'x5' non-slip sanding mat from a wood working store back in the 90's and have used it for sanding and routing of small pieces ever since. Over that time, I discovered several more uses for the mat. I cut pieces to use as protection pads on a metal vise. I cut some five-inch squares for the kitchen to help grip the lids of sticky jelly jars. Since I started doing more woodturning, I've found a few more use for this spongy material. A piece of it can help get a better grip with a jam chuck. I use it with a four-jaw chuck to soften the jaws or when jam chucking a flat piece of wood against the chuck. A piece



can really improve your grip when drilling handles or pepper mills. Moreover, it still works great at keeping items from slipping on the bench when sanding. (The photo is of a 4"X4" piece I use with a four jaw chuck.)

When I first bought my mat, it cost about \$20.00. You can get a 2'x3' mat now from some woodworking stores for about \$10.00. Several years back I discovered that the same material is sold as shelf liner. You can get a 20"X6' roll for \$3.00 at Walmart. So the next time you are in a store that sells shelf liner, pick up a roll and keep it handy. Keep your tools sharp and the shavings out of your coffee. – Article and photo by Nik Nikakis

Dates to Remember

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 December 2017 newsletter is November 27.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, November 11, 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.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers		
Acting President Dave Mills: 530-694-2565	Vice President Ron Burdg – 775-721-0253	Treasurer Annette Anderson - 775-720-0641
Secretary John Nikakis – 775-265-3890	Director Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887	Members at Large Donna Dimmick: 775-246-0874 Denise Paley: 949-525-1270
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