



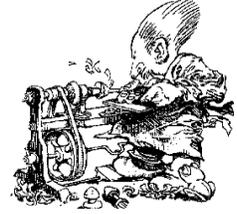
# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



January 2018

Volume 10, Issue 8



## President's Gouge

Well, after taking a break from club president for three years I am back and looking forward to the future. Having previously served as president for nearly five years, I have missed it and all of the wonderful members. I again wanted to give back to the greatest woodturning club in the West. I see many new faces and look forward to getting to know all of you and finding out about you and your ideas for the future. Thanks for electing me president. I know the field was packed, and I appreciate your vote of confidence. I know this next year will be exciting and filled with club activities. I have several ideas for the club and will be discussing them with the board and members to see what we can do to provide more support for Dave and Wayne and all they do for the club. I know that club activities take up a lot of their time and effort, and want to see if there are things we can do to provide them with a little assistance. A big thank you to John "Nik" for all of your work as Secretary. Our records have never been as complete and well organized as they are now. A special thanks for taking over the gouge duties for Dave during his return as President. Thank you to Annette and Ron for staying on as Treasurer and Vice President, and to Donna for stepping up to fill Nik's shoes. We will all work together to keep the club going in a positive direction.

On November 30, six club members made the trek over the Sierras to Bangor, CA to get some olive wood that had been damaged in a fire near the end of October. I refer to this group as the geriatric ward as the youngest had just turned 69 the week before and the oldest was 76. The trip was not quite what we had hoped, but was still a productive effort as we filled the back of my truck and almost half of the trailer. We left Wayne Porter's house at 7 a.m. and got home at 6:45 p.m. Not a bad day's work for a group of old men. A big thanks to Dave Mills, Wayne Porter, Mel Swingrover, Rob Etches, and Dave Edwards. Rob drove up from Oakland to help. Sorry I did not make the sealing party on Saturday, however, I understand there was a good turnout, and we did not have the ambulance on site. A big thanks to Kathy Mills for providing lunch and goodies for the crew. I am sure that there was plenty of Zuni Pines coffee, high in caffeine to help keep everyone warm and awake. Just wanted to let you all know that Dave has not cleaned the pot in several months and that is what gives the coffee its distinctive taste. Again thanks to all of the club members who stepped up and helped with the olive wood.

I had not attended the Christmas party for the last several years, however, I did make this one, and what an outstanding turnout. I would like to congratulate Bill Draper for being selected "Turner of the Year", an award that is very fitting for someone who stays in the background but does so much for the club. Bill started the club newsletter in 2008 and has been the editor ever since. Looking at some of the newsletters from other clubs around the nation ours is right there with the best of them. Bill, great job and congratulations!

### Turn Here for Safety

Exercise extra caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark pockets, knots, irregular shapes, or protuberances. Beginners should avoid these types of stock until they have greater knowledge of working such wood.



We had 56 people in attendance. Good thing we are able to use the clubhouse at Aspen Park, as I am not sure we would have gotten everyone into one of our homes for the party. A big thanks to Annette and Donna who put this together and to all of you who helped to get it setup and for cleaning up after. We want to make sure that we leave the clubhouse in as good or better shape after so that we might be able to



continue using it in the future. The decorations were outstanding and the food was wonderful. The gift exchange was a big success with only a few of the items being stolen. Sorry, Steve. I got the bits home and realized I did not have a Milwaukee impact driver so had to go out and buy myself an early Christmas present. At least that is what I told my wife. Thank you all for your generous bids during the auction. Several members brought in items for the auction, along with items from Woodworking Source and those turned by Molly and Rudy. Through your generosity, the club took in \$1,720.00. A special thanks to Ralph from the Woodworking Source for his donation of the Carter bowl gouge and for get-



ting Carter to donate a skewer. Outstanding - and that is why we are the greatest woodturning club in the West. Also big thanks for those of you who donated food and toys. A good time was had by all!

I also want to give a special thanks to Nik and others who helped setting up the CVW Christmas Tree at the Museum. A big thank you to all who loaned ornaments as well. The tree was beautiful and we had a place in the main room. What a wonderful way to showcase the Carson Valley Woodturners. Great job and again thanks to all.

Our January meeting will be held at Wayne Porter's shop on January 13, 2018. The program will be Nik Nikakis demonstrating the turning of a finial and Wayne Porter demonstrating airbrush and woodburning techniques.

I am sure we will have another great year and I am looking forward to keeping the club going in a positive direction. – John Compston, President [Photos by Paul Cote]

## December Hands-On Report

I arrived a little late at Zuni Pines and was met by Ricky and his trainee Maverick. The pair gave me an informal escort to the shop where another large turnout was thoughtfully watching Dave give a demonstration of a Rudy Lopez style twice turned bowl.

After the demonstration, a few turners started their own TTBs while Wayne Porter and Frank gave our new members, Eric and Katie, a lesson on tools, spindle technique, and bowl turning. Welcome to the club Eric and Katie. As always, the conversation and the company were exceptional.

Dave, thanks for hosting this month and the past year. The Zuni blend coffee keeps getting better and better. Happy New Year to you all. Keep your tools sharp and the shavings out of your coffee. – Nik Nikakis [Photo by Paul Cote]



## Photographing Your Turnings

There are many reasons to photograph your turnings: To post on-line for sales or a forum, to create a catalog or portfolio of your work, and more. Catalogs or portfolios can be handy to show your non-woodturning friends or family just what it is you do, or to help get you a spot in a gallery without schlepping around your entire inventory.

If you are photographing a turning for sale on-line, a quality picture that captures the detail and depth of the turning will help to catch a buyer's eye and hopefully lead to a quicker sale.

It doesn't take a setup like the one in the photo to get good results. Before I got the table tent and lights in the photo, I would create a backdrop from white wrapping paper (from the dollar store) and use a couple



of clamp-on work lights with reflectors. I would clip white paper in front of the lights to defuse the light and soften the shadows. The camera you use doesn't need to be a DSLR. You can use your smart-phone or any digital camera that will give you a sharp image. The photo of the setup was taken with my pocket camera. Some type of photo editing software is handy but if you take care, you can use the photos right from the camera.

A few tips: If you have a built-in flash that you cannot turn off, cover it with white paper to defuse the light. You don't want any sharp shadows.

Turn off the house or shop lights to eliminate any unwanted glare. (If you have problem light from a window, wait for the sun to go down.) Take as many photos as you need. Experiment with light placement.



Use reflected light from mirrors or white card stock to highlight areas of the turning. If an area has too much light, a small piece of black paper can be shaped to create a precise shadow - a gobo. Your goal is to get a photo that is sharp with plenty of detail and depth.

You can build a good table tent from a cardboard box and some white paper or fabric. Find a box about 2'x2'x2', cut off the top, and turn the box so that opening is the front. Cut holes in both sides and the top, (leave enough cardboard for support), cover the holes with the paper or fabric, and create a backdrop from the top back to past the front of the

bottom. The backdrop should arc from the top back to the bottom front. (See photos.) The backdrop can be any color you like or a gradient. Many examples of cardboard box table tents can be found on-line.



In my setup, the table tent and lights are from Cowboy Studio. The tent was about \$26.00 and the lights with stands and sockets about \$60.00. The photo of the winged bank-sia pod bowl was taken with this setup. – Cardboard box photo from Internet. Article and other photos by Nik Nikakis.

## A (Very) Brief History of Woodturning

The origin of woodturning dates to around 1300 BC when the Egyptians first developed a two-person lathe. One person would turn the wood with a rope while the other used a sharp tool to cut shapes in the wood. The Romans improved the Egyptian design with the addition of a turning bow. Early bow lathes were also developed and used in Germany, France, and Britain.

In the middle ages, a pedal replaced hand-operated turning, freeing both the craftsman's hands to hold the woodturning tools. The pedal was usually connected to a pole, often a straight-grained sapling. The system today is called the "spring-pole" lathe. Spring-pole lathes were in common use into the early 20th century. A two-person lathe, called a "great lathe", allowed a piece to turn continuously (like today's power lathes). A master would cut the wood while an apprentice turned the crank.

The term "bodger" stems from pole lathe turners who used to make the chair legs and spindles. A bodger would typically purchase all the trees on a plot of land, set up camp on the plot, and then fell the trees and turn the wood.

The spindles and legs that were produced were sold in bulk, for pence per dozen. The bodger's job was considered unfinished because he only made component parts. The term today is alternately defined as a person who leaves a job unfinished, or does it badly.

During the industrial revolution the lathe was motorized, allowing turned items to be created in less time. The motor also produced a greater rotational speed for the wood, making it easier to quickly produce high quality work. Today most commercial woodturning is done by computer-operated machinery allowing for mass-production that can be created with accurate precision and without the cost of employing craftsmen. Despite this, there is still a demand for hand-turned products. Woodturning is also a hobby enjoyed by many people. Modern professional woodturners are typically either "production" turners producing large quantities of functional pieces, or artistic turners producing smaller numbers of pieces, often enhanced after turning by carving, piercing, coloring, applying pyrography, gilding, or a number of other techniques to produce objects for the art market. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. References removed, and edited.

### Dates to Remember

The **39<sup>th</sup> Utah Woodturning Symposium** will be held May 10-12, 2018, at the Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. There will be over 90 demonstrations by more than 20 international woodturners. The early registration deadline is May 1. For a list of demonstrators and more information, visit [www.utahwoodturning.com](http://www.utahwoodturning.com) or call 801-443-8198.

The **American Association of Woodturners** has announced that its **32<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:cwvnews@charter.net) no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the February 2018 newsletter is January 29.

### CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, January 13, 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.

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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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