



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



February 2019

Volume 11, Issue 9



President's Gouge

Well, I got my first meeting as POTCVW behind me. We had a good turnout and got a lot accomplished. We also started what I hope will be an ongoing discussion about the direction and future of the best woodturning club anywhere.

Patty took orders for shirts and hats. You missed a big discount if you were not at the meeting. She will be taking more orders at full price and even that is a good deal.

Yvonne gave us an update on the professional turners coming to some of our meetings this year. Jimmy Clewes will visit us in April, Eric Loftstrom in July, and Alan Lacer in September. Look these turners up on the web to see their work. Yvonne started taking sign-ups for the Jimmy Clewes' hands-on on April 14. Do not miss a chance to learn from one of the best.

We had a very good discussion about the future of the club. Some seeds were sown and a positive direction put in place. Our plan is to have a building of our own in the future. We will be setting aside funds for this purpose.

Turn Here for Safety

Never leave the lathe running unattended. Keep the lathe unplugged when not in use and before making adjustments.



We had a small but good show-and-tell. Ken Crosby showed a nice natural edge bowl, Wayne Ferree had two cups with pyrography art work and a bowl, Frank Miller brought an S. Gary Roberts sphere with chip carving and a glue inject tool from Stewart McDonald (shown below). Richard Thomas presented several wood burned and dyed pendants, and one of our new members, John Seher, displayed some walnut bowls and boxes. I showed a sugar bowl and got a few giggles from my singing bird box.

I want to thank you all for making my first meeting a good one. Remember the winter club challenge is a bowl with a foot base. Any size you like. Challenge details are printed on the last page of the January newsletter.

At the February meeting, Gary Muma will be demonstrating a technique for turning a natural edge vase. See you there. Meeting details are on the last page of this newsletter. – John "Nik" Nikakis, POTCVW [Photos by Paul Cote]

January Hands-On Report

There was a large turnout at Dave's Zuni Pines shop, someone said they counted 28. Yvonne brought her dog so Ricky and Maverick had a little help with the K-9 security. The Zuni blend was brewed and there were plenty of fresh donuts.

Dave had recently cut a few trees on his land so there was plenty of green pine for turning lampshades. After Dave gave some quick instructions, John Compston, Gary Muma, and Glen Robinson grabbed the three Laguna lathes and the wet shavings were soon flying. By the end of the session, three lampshades will be ready to sand and finish after a few days of drying.

Dave, we all thank you for hosting and for organizing another fun get-together. The Zuni blend was good as always and the conversations some of the best. Keep your tools sharp and the shavings out of your coffee. – John "Nik" Nikakis

Jimmy Clewes

Jimmy will be demonstrating at our April 13 meeting. If you have not had the opportunity of seeing Jimmy in person, mark the date on your calendar.



Jimmy is listed on the Register of Professional Woodturners in the United Kingdom and a member of the American Association of Woodturners. He has over 22 years of experience in woodturning and woodworking. Jimmy has traveled the world as a freelance demonstrator and teacher.

At the age of 16, Jimmy attained an apprenticeship in engineering and decided to further his studies by attending Manchester Polytechnic in Manchester, England. He received a 2:1 Honours Degrees with special emphasis on learning 3-Dimensional Design. It was during his time in college that his interest in woodturning was rekindled. The combination of his college education, his limitless imagination, and his professional skills was a perfect fit for Jimmy to pursue his creative abilities as a woodturner and to take that ability to the next level.

An avid sportsman and adventurer, when he is not busy teaching and demonstrating, you will find him expanding his creativity by exploring nature and enjoying the beauty of the desert. Alternatively, you might find him in his workshop in Las Vegas creating innovative woodturning designs.

Jimmy has several DVDs available: The critically acclaimed *Turnaround with Jimmy Clewes*; *Turn it On with Jimmy Clewes*; *Turn it Up with Jimmy Clewes*; *Back to Basics with Jimmy Clewes*, and my favorite *Turning the World with Jimmy Clewes*, which includes projects filmed in Norway, Scotland, and the United States with special features including the renowned Norway Woodturning Cruise. To learn more about Jimmy and see some of his works, visit him at jimmyclewes.com. – John "Nik" Nikakis

How to Seal Very Thin Cracks in Wood

At our January meeting, one of our more accomplished turners, Frank Miller, introduced a relatively inexpensive tool for sealing both cracks and defects in our turning blanks. I suspect that a number of the audience may not have gleaned the details of his presentation, hence this piece for the newsletter. The device enables you to force "filler" into both deep fissures as well as very thin cracks. It should be in the toolbox of every serious turner.



I ordered the tool a few days after the January meeting, and the day after it arrived, it saved a small bowl blank that I had started before I realized it had a number of cracks that I could not remove by turning. The tool consists of an air pressure gun, a plastic tip, and a pressure gauge that is attached to your shop Air Compression System. While



not expensive, the parts are overpriced – the three components, with shipping, cost about \$33, but probably should cost no more than \$15, with shipping. However, the \$33 is still relatively small when you consider the number of wood blanks that can be saved. Here are some suggestions if you are planning to buy this tool. Frank gave me two web sites: The first is for the air gun at [https://www.stewmac.com/Luthier Tools/Types of Tools/Clamps/StewMac Crack Repair Tools.html](https://www.stewmac.com/Luthier%20Tools/Types%20of%20Tools/Clamps/StewMac%20Crack%20Repair%20Tools.html) and the second for the pressure gauge at [https://www.stewmac.com/Luthier Tools/Tools by Job/Tools for Finishing/Spraying/Mini Regulator For Spray Guns.html](https://www.stewmac.com/Luthier%20Tools/Tools%20by%20Job/Tools%20for%20Finishing/Spraying/Mini%20Regulator%20For%20Spray%20Guns.html). If you order from these two sites (from the same company), you will pay an extra \$9 for shipping. I called the company directly to place my order (800 848 2273) and saved the double shipping cost.

A few observations: The pressure gauge is not a regulator, so you have to adjust the delivered air pressure at the compressor. You need a quick release adapter to connect the gun to your air system. The gauge threads into the gun and will accept the English threads of the adapter. However, the nut on the pressure gauge is metric (#17) and the head of the adapter is English (9/16). Tite-Bond glue is easily removed from the plastic tip, even when dry, but I would not use an “Instant” glue unless I had replacement tips. At \$4 plus \$9 shipping, the tips are not cheap. If you think you might need extra tips, include them with your original order. – Wayne Ferree and Frank Miller

Craft Show Wish List

At our January meeting, we talked about a list of items needed for our craft shows. This is a copy of the list Dave Mills sent out.

1. Salad bowls 12 to 16 inches in diameter and must be a food safe finish - no lacquer.
2. Platters 10 to 14 inches. Food safe finish only.
3. Natural edge bowls any size.
4. Utility bowls 8 to 12 inches, again food safe only.
5. Steak flippers, the club will furnish or pay for the hardware.
6. Christmas ornaments.
7. Anything made out of Banksia pods. Salt and pepper shakers sell really well. The club will pay for hardware and pods.
8. Yarn bowls 9 to 10 inches in diameter, six or seven inches deep.

Our customers want to use the turnings they buy on a daily basis, so a food safe finish is a must. The easiest food safe finishes are Zuni Farms Wood Balm, Mahoney Oil, or just plain mineral oil. – John “Nik” Nikakis

Janka Hardness Test

The Janka hardness test measures the hardness of wood. It involves measuring the force required to embed an 11.28 mm (0.444 in) steel ball into wood to half its diameter. This method was chosen so that the result would leave an indentation 100 mm² (0.16 sq in) in size. It is one of the best measures of the ability of a wood species to withstand wear. It is also a good indicator of how hard a species is to saw, nail, or turn.

The hardness of wood usually varies with the direction of the wood grain. If testing is done on the surface of a plank, perpendicular to the grain, the test is said to be of “side hardness.” Testing the cut surface of a stump would be called a test of “end hardness.” The results are stated in various ways. In the United States, the measurement is in pounds-force (lbf). In Sweden it is in kilograms-force (kgf), and in Australia, either in newtons (N) or kilonewtons (kN). Sometimes the results are treated as units, e.g., “660 Janka”.

A common use of Janka hardness ratings is to determine whether a species is suitable for use as flooring. Some examples of wood species relative hardness values are listed in the table below. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; edited.

Example Wood Species	Janka Hardness (pounds-force)
Lignum vitae (hardest wood listed)	4500
Ipê (a common deck wood)	3684
Teak	2330
Rosewood	1780
Hard maple	1450
Ash (a common material for baseball bats)	1320
Red Oak	1290
Cocobolo	1136
Mahogany	800
White pine	420
Balsa (softest wood listed)	100

Dates to Remember

The **American Association of Woodturners** has announced that its **33rd Annual International Woodturning Symposium** will be held in Raleigh, NC on July 11-14, 2019 at the Raleigh Convention Center, 500 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601. Check out their [web site](#) frequently for more info.

Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to Bill Draper via cvwnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the March 2019 newsletter is February 25.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, February 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.

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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