

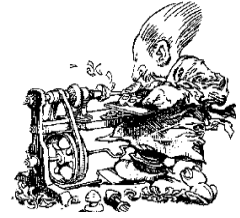


# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



June 2019  
Volume 12, Issue 1



## President's Gouge

We had another good turnout for the May meeting, with a visit from Roger Haines and the return of past president Jerry Johnson. Welcome back Jerry! Ken Crosby did a great job demonstrating a really fun project. (Almost German ring turning) Thanks Ken. Glenn Robinson has graciously volunteered to take over as editor of the club newsletter, thanks so much Glenn.

**Turn Here for Safety**  
Never wear loose clothing or jewelry. Keep long sleeves rolled up and long hair tied back.



We had another good show and tell with several members showing off their creations from the Jimmy Clewes workshop. Thanks to; Gary Muma, Yvonne Young, John Seher, Ron Brady, Ralph Wycoff, Patti Pastrell, Wayne Porter and Wayne Allen.

Andrew Rothwell will be doing this month's demonstration "Magic Wands". This should be a fun demonstration and the wands make a great gift for any age.

The club's spring challenge is to make a plate or platter, any size or

style. Entries will be judged at our July meeting, be sure to get yours in for a chance at a \$25.00 club coupon, good toward club wood.

The club needs donations for the November craft show at Carson High: Salad bowls 12 to 16 inches, Platters 10 to 14 inches, Natural edge bowls any size, Utility bowls 8 to 12 inches, Steak flippers, Christmas ornaments, anything made out of Banksia pods, Yarn bowls 7 to 10 inches. Remember to use a food safe finish.

John "Nik" Nikakis, POTCVW (Photos Paul Cote)



## April Hands-On Report

Well we had another productive hands-on Saturday May 25, 2019 at Zuni Pines with another good turnout with 23 members in attendance. We had plenty to eat as Kathy brought over a coffee cake and we had 3 dozen donuts. The Zuni Pines blend of coffee hit the spot as well. The outside temperature was a little warmer than last month and Dave's shop inside temperature was very pleasant. It was the first time in a long time that we had all 8 lathes running. We had four members turning the burned dish and lid that Jimmy Clewes demonstrated at his demonstration in April. We also had some special assistance with the skew provided by Frank Miller. We had some offset turning, turning a jig and finishing touches on a

larger bowl. Dave Mills, Wayne Porter and Frank Miller assisted several members with sharpening their gouges. Several members made a trek to the wood sheds. It was a very educational and productive session. A good time was had by all and a special thanks to Dave for the use of his shop and to Kathy for helping keep the members weight up so that we will all have our summer swimsuit bodies.

John Compston (Photos Paul Cote)



## Safety Notices

*(Note: Fractal Burning is a technique using high voltage, 12,000 to 15,000 volts, to burn patterns in wood.)*

Fractal Burning Has Killed and Could Kill You. As of January 2019, we know of ten deaths [16 as of March] caused using fractal, or Lichtenberg, burning. We only know of those deaths that are reported by the media and show up in Internet searches; it is highly likely there are more. The American Association of Woodturners has banned the use of this process at all of its events, and has banned articles about fractal burning in all of its publications. The reported cases of fractal-burning deaths range from hobbyist woodworkers through experienced woodworkers to an electrician with many years' experience working with electricity. It only takes one small mistake and you are dead—not injured, dead. Some of those who died were experienced at using the process and some were not. What is common to all of them: fractal burning killed them. High-voltage electricity is an invisible killer; the user cannot see the danger. It is easy to see the danger of a spinning saw blade. It is very obvious that coming into contact with a moving blade will cause an injury, but in almost all cases a spinning blade will not kill you. With fractal burning, one small mistake and you are dead. This is true whether you are using a homemade device or a manufactured one. There are many ways to express your creativity. Do not use fractal burning. If you have a fractal burner, throw it away. If you are looking into fractal burning, stop right now and move on to something else. This could save your life.

Rick Baker, Chair, AAW Safety Committee and Harvey Rogers, AAW Safety Committee

## Eric Lofstrom



Working with wood has been a source of peaceful intrigue since my childhood. When creating, I try to practice “presence,” or mindfulness, so I can stay safe and make the most of my time creatively. I strive to balance the seemingly opposite goals of absolute physical control and creative surrender. On my best days, I can zoom in on the finest material details, while also acknowledging how various elements might play to a piece’s artistic message. Approaching studio time in this way may not be the most productive in terms of volume, but it allows me to explore and fully understand things in a more satisfying way.

As an artist, I aim to create clean-lined forms with minimal distraction. I use grain, color, and texture to invite an intimate conversation with my work. I enjoy working within self-prescribed constraints, focusing my exploration to develop philosophical concepts into series. Currently, my work represents curiosities relating to water, energy, and the human spirit.

Eric's Introduction to Woodturning.

Eric’s earliest memories of creating with wood are in Grandpa's dirt floor, basement workshop; he had a special place at the bench, right next to the scrap bin. Eric grew up around woodworking, but had never

learned about a tool called the lathe until the first weekend in October of 2001, while attending a free demo at a woodworking store in Sumner, WA. It was here that his woodworking trajectory changed and the woodturning adventures began. A demonstration on turning pens and letter openers was all it took to hook his curiosity. Creating shavings on a lathe consumed Eric's thoughts for the next few weeks as he wrapped his brain around how a finished piece could emerge from rough materials so quickly! After hearing all the details (several times), Eric's wife pursued this spark of excitement and set his woodturning journey in motion with a mini lathe and tool set for Christmas. Years later, Eric's woodturning enthusiasm continues to grow.

Like many turners, Eric began with scraps of 2x4s and "factory sharpened" tools. Several startling catches in the first few projects quickly focused him on the why and how of creating curls instead of settling for sawdust. Gaining tool control and improving technique became a personal quest. Whether creating a fitted lid box or multi-axis turning, a translucent or winged bowl, a hollow form or exploring surface embellishments, Eric enjoys projects which both challenge his skill and stretch his creative curiosity.

In the fall of 2002, Eric began a membership with the South Puget Sound Chapter of the AAW. He enjoyed serving on the board of directors from 2005-2012 and representing the club at several woodworking shows in addition to mentoring others at the club's monthly sawdust sessions. He began demonstrating and teaching woodturning classes at local woodworking stores in 2006. Since then, Eric has taught at multiple symposiums and has become a highly sought-after instructor for woodturning clubs across the United States and Canada. The constant exposure to other turners continues to transform his awareness and understanding of turning fundamentals.

Conscious of the importance tool control plays in creating pieces, Eric believes it is not only important to know which techniques work but also why they work. As a passionate teacher and woodturner, Eric is on a mission to impact the world of woodturning by helping others build confidence in tool control and developing their own creative voice!

There is nothing more powerful than being inspired by an idea and having the courage and confidence to create that one-of-a-kind piece... to Eric, this is what woodturning is all about!

Bio and photo from Eric's Web Site

Eric will be the demonstrator at our July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Revisiting the ONEWAY Wolverine Sharpening System

We had a very informative session on the Wolverine System by Wayne Porter and John Nikakis at the March Club meeting. However, one element of the system was only lightly covered – use of the Platform. The Vari-grind Jig and the Skew Jig, as explained at the demo, make tool sharpening easy and repeatable. However, the design of the Wolverine Platform is quite poor and falls far short of the quality expected from a major Tool Company.

A clarification: The referenced nose angle on turning tools is the inside angle measured between the long axis of the tool and the face of the tool.

I purchased my Wolverine System years ago, but used the platform only for dressing the Grinding wheels (with Ron Burdgs's diamond tool). Last month I watched the tool grinding Video produced by Doug Thompson (Thompson Tool Company) and became interested in the process, which involves using a platform aligned at specific angles to the Grinding wheels. That is when I discovered the weakness in the Wolverine system. The Wolverine Platform is hinged near the middle of the Platform rather than at the face, next to the Wheel. Rotating the Platform changes the angle relative to the base of the grinder, the height of the intersection point with the wheel and also changes the reference point on the wheel (the tangent to the radius of the wheel), making It difficult, if not impracticable, to quickly set a prescribed angle between the Platform and the wheel without an aide.

In his Video, Mr. Thompson uses an aftermarket platform that does hinge at the face, but it cost \$95 plus shipping cost and the supplier states the resultant grinds may be off by a degree or two. This apparent lack of precision and the cost seems a bit high for those of us interested in only a few standard angles. A simple and inexpensive solution is to purchase the “Raptor Set up tools” at a cost of less than \$10 per tool (about \$27 for three). The actual measured angle on the Raptor aids do not agree with the tool number, but when used to set the platform, the resultant grind on the tool is exactly the desired angle. I measured the ground angle using all four of the Raptors that I have in my shop and the resultant angles were correct and repeatable. Mr. Thompson’s grammar could stand some editing, but he appears to be quite knowledgeable about tool steels and sharpening. I recommend viewing this video if you wish to know more about your lathe tools.

Wayne Ferree

### Chatter and Catches Editor

As I said in the Gouge section, Glenn Robinson has stepped up to be the new editor of the newsletter. Until Glenn gets setup and organized please send any articles or announcements to me at [jdnika@charter.net](mailto:jdnika@charter.net). Deadline for the July newsletter is June 24<sup>th</sup>. Again, a big thanks Glenn.

John “Nik” Nikakis, POTCVW

### Dates to Remember

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

### CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month’s CVW meeting will convene in Wayne Porter’s shop on Saturday, June 8 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 our club events in his shop.

June’s Hands-on will be 9:00AM the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Dave Mills’ Zuni Pine shop, 20599 Hwy 88, Woodfords, CA. Thanks for having us over Dave, we truly appreciate it.

**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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