

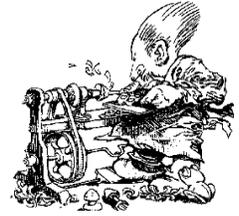


Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



August 2019
Volume 12, Issue 3



President's Gouge

We had a good turnout for Eric Lofstrom's demonstration. Eric started by showing us the standard body movements associated with wood turning, he even got us out of our seats to practice the moves. Seeing our bunch shifting from left to right and bobbing up and down was well worth the extra twenty bucks. After the dance lesson Eric did a demonstration with the skew chisel, showing several different cuts and turning a couple of nice spin tops in the process. He then showed us his turning and painting process for his "Namaste" series bowls. After the bowls, Eric demonstrated a effect on a rectangle and a multi-axis technique he uses for his fire and water drop sculptures. It was a fun day and a few of us got to continue the next day with a hands-on workshop at



Dave's Zuni Pines shop. Thanks Dave! We had the judging for the club's spring challenge, plate or platter. We had several nice pieces to judge and after some hard deliberation we picked a stunning cherry platter by Andrew Rothwell. Thanks to everyone who participated, and to Denise for helping with the judging. The club's summer challenge is a holiday ornament or decoration. Have fun and try something unique. The entries will be judged at the October meeting.

In place of the August 10th meeting we will be having our annual summer party. The party is a pot luck, Donna will be contacting members for their RSVP and coordinating dishes. Saturday August 10, 1:00PM to 4:00PM at the Aspen Park clubhouse, 1380 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville, NV. If you volunteered to help setup be there about 11:00AM. See you all there. On Sunday the 21st a bunch of us had the

Turn Here for Safety

A B Cs Anchor, Bevel, Cut. Eric showed how important your anchor is. Hand putting pressure on tool rest, body in contact with handle, then present bevel and then Glide{dance} at that cutting spot.



pleasure of hosting a group of six girl scouts and their chaperones at Dave's shop. After a short introduction to the lathe and a quick spindle turning demonstration we divided up into pairs and spent the next few hours teaching tool skills and turning magic wands. We all had a fun time and the girls gave us



“Girl Scout Cookies” as a thank you. It’s a good feeling to share our hobby with a younger generation. Thanks to Dave, Yvonne, Frank,

Denise, Curtis, Wayne Porter for all their help and to Paul for stopping by to take photos. Alan Lacer has canceled his September visit due to scheduling problems. In his place I’ll be doing a demonstration of the many ways to hold your wood on the lathe to turn it. How much wood can a lathe chuck, chuck?

Don’t forget November is just a few months away and the club needs donations for the Carson High-Craft Show: 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, and yarn bowls 7 to 10 inches. Remember to use a food safe finish. – John “Nik” Nikakis, POTCVW [Photos by Paul Cote]



A day learning and practicing Biomechanics with Eric Lofstrom

The club was lucky to have Eric Lofstrom visit from Washington State to be our July demonstrator. He specializes in teaching biomechanics (the study of body movement) at the lathe to maximize precision efficiency and longevity. His first lesson of the day was 4 dance moves that he uses at the lathe, yes you read that correctly, dance moves. He encouraged the audience to stand up and practice the moves with him.



There were lots of confused looks from members and some even needed their neighbors to give them a shake to wake them up. The coffee and donuts had not taken effect yet.

1. Shallow squat with legs apart and feet at 45-degree angle.
2. Squat and glide to the left and glide to the right
3. Squat, glide lift foot.
4. Squat, glide, lift foot and twist.

OK, got that? Then he went on to show us how to incorporate those moves into turning, to make our turning more accurate.

The next day a lucky few got to attend a hands-on class with Eric at Zuni Pine, where we got to put into practice learnt the day before.



The day started off with “nesting” at our lathes, just a quick 5 minutes. Next, we did some constructive analyst of our tool and compared the tools against each other's. Eric then went on to explain the differences he had noticed and how those differences would affect the performance at the lathe and why design, material, size, etc of the tool would make a difference. Next, it was onto hints and tips on sharpening our tools. This really did have some “Aha” moments, when something so simple and effective is taught to you, you really do step back and “doof” why didn’t I think of that. This is how I will be honing my tools in the future (sorry Dave, I will still need you to patch up my tools when I mess them up.)

Now it was time to get to our lathes and start putting those dance moves into action. The first project was to turn some simple cylinders, yes simple. As Eric would constantly remind us throughout the day simple but not easy. The squat and glide definitely improved the accuracy of the cylinder and after the fourth one, I think I got it..... So now we all got the dance moves down, it was time to start our Raindrops. Next mark out the axis point on each end of the cylinders, attach to the lathe and go... Now remembering the dance moves and a new way to hold the tool at this point became more difficult, as we were now adding multi-axis turning into the mix. A piece of wood spinning at 2,000 rpm kinds puts you a little off-kilter. With patient guidance from Eric, I managed to get back on point. And then when you think you got it, your mind goes to jelly and you really can’t remember how or what you were trying to achieve, and there comes that saying again it may be simple but it is not





Eric about coloring techniques.

easy. I managed to get a couple of cool S-shaped transition lines on my ran drop and then disaster struck, I tighten the lathe too much and crunch and a pop I snapped one of my axis off, not to worry, every piece is a practice piece until the moment it is finished.

For the last hour of the class, it was back to kindergarten. We got to play with paint, sponges, and paint sprayers. We all had fun exploring color and techniques. Again, Eric imparted his wisdom of experience on us. I know Dave could have spent hours even days talking to

At the end of the day, none of us went home with a finished raindrop, but we all learned the skills to go to our own lathes and make one. The next weekend Denise brought along to Dave's place three beautiful raindrops she had completed at home. One of them being only about 1/4 inch thick and 2 inches high. Great Job Denise! Hopefully, she will bring them along to show and tell so everyone can see them.

The hands-on class was a great learning experience and getting to spend time with an artist of Eric's caliber was a great honor. Eric is passionate about woodturning, teaching, and bringing new ideas and skills to his students. Eric was gracious enough to bring pieces of his work with him so we could visualize the possibilities... I would say that I am nowhere near Eric's skill level. Eric would correct me and add the word "Yet" to the end of my statement. With practice, time and passion we can all get somewhere near Eric's level of skill. However, I will never be trying to get my turning within a 1000th of an inch. I will not add yet to that sentence, that is just not me. Yvonne[photos by Paul Cote]



August hands on

What a coincidence! Seems all the men's thong bikinis were in the laundry on Saturday. Though we were all hot (temperature wise) some work was done at the Zuni Pines Workshop and Hands-on on July 27th. The proposed project, or temperature forecast, (or maybe thongfobia) was sufficiently daunting however, that only 10 turners showed up. Only Dave showed the courage to turn a teardrop, or was it a flame? It might not have been possible however without the constructive kibitzing of Wayne Porter and others. Meanwhile, Frank was turning top centers to mount CD's on. His objective is to point a laser at the spinning top and admire the reflection off the CD wherever it goes. Northern (Nevada) lights maybe? Nick turned a few walnut thimbles demonstrating his homemade drill, mini chuck, and mini Jam chuck. And, Dave showed how he mixes thick CA with brass powder to fill cracks in bowls. Lathes were open and skilled turners present. Opportunities were available for some skill building.-sw Craig Steele[photos by Paul Cote]

A trip to acquire some of the most sought-after wood, "WOOD BURL".



The trip started at that time of day I should have been in my bed at 5:00 am, after all the sun was not up yet. With coffee in hand Dave Rich and I headed north, having the name of the Burl Lady and her address entered into the trucks GPS system, we headed north on US 395. Leaving Nevada and entering California the sun was rising and temperatures was keeping pace with the sun.

When we reached Oregon the sun and temperature had reached its peak. Continuing north, we saw a haze in the sky. Stopping to eat I asked a local if there was a fire nearby. He replied “we have 5 fires in the area just north of here”. Going north the smokey sky thicken. The south bound side of I-5 had a lane closed, along a 10-15 mile stretch. There was fire equipment and fire crews working hard.

As we reached Coquille we discovered an A&W stand and had to stop a get a Root Beer Float! Reaching Mardena’s ranch we were amazed at the quality and size of the Maple burls she has.

Dave and I put are bibs on and started looking at Mardena inventory of Maple Burls and figured Myrdle wood which was impressive. The three of us loaded our treasured wood into the pickup bed, covered and tied the tarp down to keep unwanted eyes from seeing our treasure.

Leaving Mardena’s ranch we headed south and home stopping

in Grants Pass for the night and a little walk to get rid the stiffness from sitting most of the day in the truck. The next day heading south the fire fighters and helicopters were on the job working hard on the fires. As we traveled, we were a little nerve about the California Inspection Station at the state line. It turned out they just passes us throw without a look.

Just north of Susanville California we ran into a swarm of butterflies which covered the front of the truck. The trip was over 1000 miles with a lot of green trees. A good trip with a lot of greatly prized wood.-Paul Cote[photos by Paul Cote]



Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to the Club Newsletter Editor via cvwnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the September 2019 newsletter is August 26.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting will be a Pot Luck at Aspen Park clubhouse in Gardnerville at 1380 Centerville Lane from 1:00 to 4:00. Thanks to all who helped set this up.

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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