

Turning in the Age of Corona, Episode #26

Lord of the Rings...and...Plattery Will Get You Everywhere...and a Book on Trees

February 28, 2020

John Wells turns architectural pieces 12 feet long, but he's also gifted at the little things.



The wedding ring was pretty cool, but John decided it needed better than a plain brown wrapper. Not only did the threads work at first try, but the tooling worked out so nicely that the maple box never needed any “grit.”

Meanwhile, John started a lot of our club members carving spoons to complement those salad bowls we like to turn. Here's one of **Jim Baker's** and **Bill Hopkins'** first spoons in progress: (Bill turned the mallet, too)



Platters have a special place in the WoodTurners' portfolio, but the appeal of platters goes beyond the aesthetic tastes and practical utility for humans.



The purrfect platter

You just never know how those objects will be used! (This rather large cat found bliss on a Chinquapin platter made from his personal tree in Bonny Doon...a fire survivor with attitude and taste!)

Dan Aldridge, beyond reigning as the undisputed blank cutting champion of Santa Cruz Woodturners and a consummate sharing partner in all things round and wooden, is also a new platter maker.

This is a 17" Western Red Cedar birthday present to you know who:



Bill Hopkins and Jim Beckett have also recently joined the flatter fray.

This is one of Bill's efforts made with laminated walnut scraps.



Dwain Christensen is no stranger to walnut platters, either!

The rim inlay looks pretty delicate, too!



One of mine from this week.

Bay Laurel, 18"

Platters sometimes require patience. The slabs below came from a section of trunk 20 feet from the base of a towering tan oak on **Roy Holmberg's** mountain retreat in Bonny Doon yesterday. That tree survived winds and dodged fires on that knoll, but not the microbes (sudden oak death isn't the only scourge). It came down on purpose a couple weeks ago. A year in the proverbial cool, dark place, and they will emerge from the chrysalis to serve munchies to unfettered gatherings of dozens of happy people when we get back to that! (Crossing fingers hard)



Now, for a Book recommendation: ***Around the World in 80 Trees***, by Jonathan Drori, published 2018.

Each of the trees gets 2-4 pages of history, biology, culture, occasionally medicine, and definitely humor. It's easy to read in bites, as each tree is a "stand-alone." However, taken as a whole, it illustrates that the Earth may be a water world to astronomers, but it's a tree world to those of us who live on the surface. Well, maybe that's not going to stay true, but for us turners living in the present, it's a pure joy.

The illustrations, beyond the prose and the information, are worth the price of admission.

—WS

That about does it for February!

Remember that **March 20, our demo will be “A Morning with Mike Mahoney,”** a privilege and a treat with this creative legend. Zoom meeting invite was sent recently...let me know if you need a repeat!

The **President’s Challenge for March** will be **“Mutt and Jeff.”** *What’s that, you ask!*

For those of us old enough to remember comic strips in newspapers, Mutt and Jeff appeared as an odd couple of a lanky fellow and his rather squatty companion. Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, if you remember them, had the same dynamic going in English films.

The theme for March envisioned something large and something small made from the same wood, ideally the same blank, if that’s not a stretch. That could be something like the examples below, but you’ll definitely use your imagination in ways that go far beyond a pedestrian president!



Monterey Cypress (18”)



*Coast Live Oak (16”)
(used to live next to my shop)*

Enjoy the longer days, the greening of deciduous trees, the bursting of blossoms of every color...and warmer shops in the morning!

Wells

President, Santa Cruz Woodturners
2020-21
www.scwoodturners.org



Play with sticks whenever you can



Be nice to trees. It's still snowing somewhere.
Only turn them when they need to go...
Only burn them when they're already gone.