

Turning in the Age of Corona, Special Edition #29

Santa Cruz Woodturners

March 15, 2021

Crackpot Experiences and Future Rewards

Bill Hopkins found an unattended stump on Soquel Drive, took it home, and made this nicely crafted, natural edge bowl with quilted figure the same day.



This is what happened overnight



This is what I suggested: *Write these off to practice, Bill. It's usually not worth chasing your tail trying to fill those cracks with goo, especially if it's still moist and going to crack more...or maybe self-destruct completely. (Sooner or later, you're going to hear one of those things blow up with a loud bang, pretty cool when you think about that much trapped energy.)*

Early career bowls are not Mesopotamian artifacts to be cherished in a museum for posterity. Every one of these early efforts cements the muscle memory for your cutting motions so that eventually it becomes as natural as clipping out of your pedals. Practice reinforces the "feel" of the sweet spot and reminds you of the errors in tool presentation that lead to spectacular catches, ugly divots, and choice expletives. All of that training makes the next bowl...or the ones coming up in the summer...or next year...better than they would have been.

That's all good. Meanwhile, this object is a good source of BTU's to keep your sweetheart's hands warm on a chilly day. (Plan for the future, but live in the present.)

*Quite a few of us have taken lessons where the instructor takes one of our beginner bowls, band saws it in half to look at wall thickness and bottom configuration. Doing that even once reminds us that the "ashes to ashes" reality overrules minor disappointments. **Raf** and others acknowledge that it's still an option even for pros.*

This was Bill's response:

The bowl looks better than the tree that got hit by the car...or the car for that matter. I felt bad just grabbing the stump instead of checking on the folks in the car (Just might be a wood turner, JK :).

Feel free to use my pics unless there is a hot tub involved.

The best advice my *sensei* gave me was to "not get emotionally attached to a piece of wood." I have the rest of the stump that I'll cure properly.

To which I'll let a photograph speak for itself.

Not all stumps are worth the hassle it takes to remove them from the Earth.



The **American Association of Woodturning (AAW)**, an organization that has helped us (and 360+ other woodturning clubs) immensely, sponsors a series of remote **demos from master turners at definitely appealing price points**. (\$10 for AAW Members, \$15 for non members who oughta join, too). They come around roughly weekly.

Those renowned turners have included **Glenn Lucas, Ed Pretty, Kirk deHeer, and Mike Mahoney**, who have or shortly will deliver “private” demos to our club, plus many others, and a welcome emphasis upon **Women in Turning**.

I’m copying the notice for one for **Liam O’Neill, Saturday, March 27, 8 AM PDT**. Since it will not conflict with our meeting...you might really consider it! (I’m signed up.)

Here’s the link with information and registration on the AAW Website:

[Liam O’Neill | Wide-Rimmed Bowl – and More! | March 27, 2021 \(woodturner.org\)](#)

Here’s the text without the cool pictures.

Join us for an exclusive woodturning experience with the extraordinary **Liam O’Neill, world-renowned woodturner and artist** recognized for his exquisite functional bowls and massive outdoor sculptural work.

Coming to you directly from Ireland, Liam will use a combination of live and recorded content to demonstrate three turning projects suitable for a variety of skill levels.

--Signature Wide-Rimmed Bowl

--Birdfeeder

--Open Bowl, Using a Chainsaw as a Turning Tool *How can you resist that! WS*

The chainsaw portion of his demonstration will include safety practices, jigs and fixtures, and shaping and finishing techniques. What’s more, Liam will include a special segment about using the “Irish Grind” bowl gouge that he introduced to the U.S. years ago.

Details/Registration

Preregistration required. Replay will be available to registered attendees only.

More About Liam O’Neill

- [Liam's website](#)
- [“The Peace Bowl,” by Liam O’Neill, *American Woodturner*, October 2013](#)
- [Liam O’Neill, AAW 30th Anniversary Profile, April 2016](#)

Back to Santa Cruz. Remember that our **President's Challenge for March is Mutt and Jeff.** That's something small and something large made from the same wood...maybe the same blank, maybe the same tree, maybe the same species...that's for you to interpret. I suspect the winner will find a way to depict the harmony and friendship theme.

Deadline to submit your photograph—end of the work day Thursday, March 18

Speaking of winning, perhaps you've noticed that our meetings haven't doled out any material prizes since February, 2020, aside from those yellow felling wedges at the Chain Saw Derby at Sue's. So, is winning the SCW President's Challenge sorta like getting a "Participant Ribbon" in a middle school dance contest?

Nope, there will be prizes, and we'll save them up to commemorate the return to in-person meetings...maybe by summer, depending upon how the vaccinations and viruses go. *And just what might those prizes be?* A piece of wood, a bag of chips, some outdated glue, a gift certificate to a nail salon, or a \$5 discount card to Tiffany's?

Quiz: What shall we call a hollow form vessel about a foot long, 3¼" diameter, with radial symmetry and a dimple on the bottom, typically created on a powerful machine, featuring a shiny multimedia presentation integrating minerals, tree bark, embossed paper, metallic foil, and stabilized plant material?

Hint: Don't drop it on concrete.

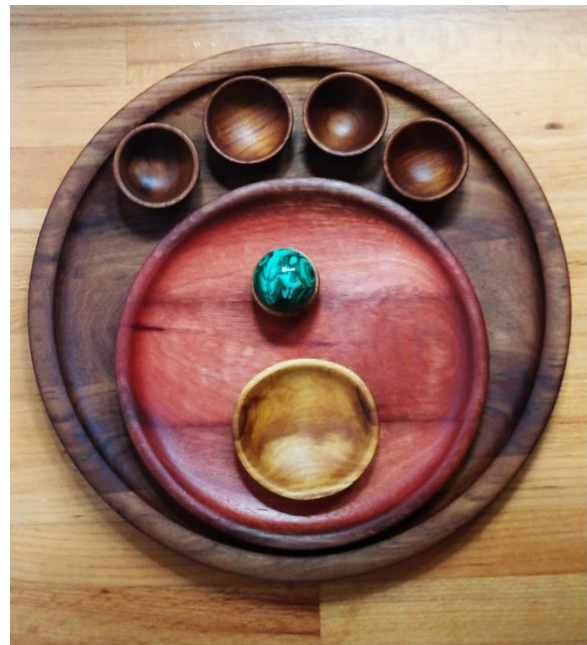
Answer: See last page

That's enough for today. Enjoy the later sunsets. See you Saturday morning!

Wells

President, Santa Cruz Woodturners

(Quiz answer next page)



President's Challenge Winners...and Judges...will get an All Seasons Reward

"You can tell they're woodturners if..." the winner tries to mount it on a lathe.



Spring



Winter



Summer



Fall

You have time to Score!