

Turning in the Age of Corona

Episode 31, April 19, 2021

Santa Cruz Woodturners

New Work, Big Spindles, Some Tips, and a Preview of Spring Demos

We are now a full month into Spring, which means our shops are not so chilly in the morning, and it feels natural to keep working in splendid daylight beyond 6 PM. Fires stranded many logs in the fall, and trees came down in the winter. Many of us have more bowl blanks stacked up than we have energy to process. That's good!

More than all of that...after a year of anxiety and frustration, COVID's stranglehold on people and society is loosening. Nearly all our club members have received at least one vaccination, and by June all of us should be protected from serious illness. That which opens the possibility of a return to in-person meetings, a chance to actually hold these objects in our hands, and catch up on the mischief we seem to embrace between meetings. That's good, and then there's donuts in the flesh instead of "virtual sugar."

Our club VP, **Morgan Taylor**, is leading a Blue Ribbon club committee¹ to develop a plan for our summer and beyond. Lots of uncertainty remains—perversity of virus mutations, school protocols for our use, logistics for outdoor venues, uncertainty regarding larger public gatherings, debate about continuing episodic remote pro demos—and more. A July in-person meeting seems likely! Stay tuned.

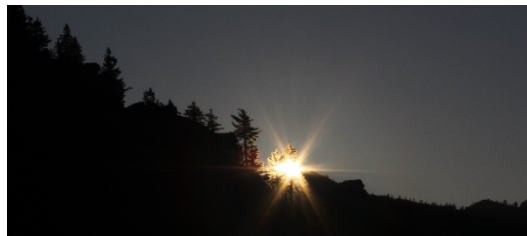
Upcoming Club meetings and "Virtual Demos," Mark your Calendars!

May 15: **Jim Rodgers**, Turning School Founder and Prolific publisher,

Segmented Bowls, via Zoom. All levels can make these!

June 19: **John Wells**, One of our Founding Fathers, Versatile turner, Constant teacher

Making Three Tool Handles, A narrated Zoom Presentation



Turning on the Cusp of the Summer Solstice

¹ Also **Raf Strudley, Dwain Christensen, John Wells, Dan Aldridge, and Tim Johnson**, with WS as observer



Congratulations to **Bill Hopkins**, whose photograph of this lidded bowl of apple burl captured the President's Challenge for April.

Fifteen of our members now have 3 images of their best work on our new Member Gallery on our website, www.scwoodturners.org.

Check it out...and please join the fray!

Send me up to 3 images, and we'll upload those and add your display! This will make it possible for you to share links with family...and dazzle our prospective new members!

Chuc Nowark joined our club after the COVID scourge eliminated our in person meetings. Most of us haven't had a chance to hold his work...yet...but here's a hint of what you can find in his entry in our Member Gallery!



Monterey Cypress



Black Acacia

And in case you missed our meeting Saturday, here's the Buckeye burl bowl
Sue Broadston entered in the Gallery...in this case 3 views of one masterpiece.



Speaking of Bill Hopkins again, he might look bemused on occasion, but never stumped! He spied this forlorn stump of a fruitless mulberry in a tree work site while attending a funeral, and, by golly, it fit in his trunk.



Dan Aldridge generously shares the bounty of his unrelenting pursuit of downed wood.

He's also become the undisputed dervish of rough outs. Here's a roughed out 20 inch tan oak platter blank from Roy Holmberg's back yard tree.



John Wells has remarked in some of our previous demos that “woodturning” has drifted toward “bowl turning” for most of our club members, and AAW, too. However, turning really began with spindles, thousands of years ago, and spindle turning remains the fundamental for most commercial applications ...including his. Ever hear the ditty about “*trying to fit a square peg in a round hole?*” Spindle turners fix that!

Here are some views inside John’s shop:



It’s hard to make one perfect spindle. Now imagine making 50 identical red oak balusters by hand.

While we're on the subject of John's shop, make sure you have reserved **June 19** for an assuredly practical virtual demo. John will narrate a step-by-step sequence of photographs in which he'll make three different types of tool handles. Aside from returning staunchly into spindles, this knowledge will enable you to make friends in the neighborhood, upgrade your tool display, and mostly give you the joy of using a tool you made yourself.



Looking a little tired...my friend's favorite succulent gardening tools



My revision with salvaged teak



This, however, is what John does!

A week or two ago, we published a review of epoxy uses in turning, with lively interviews from three of our member “resinators,” **Larry Dubia, Mattie Guthrie, and Dwain Christensen**...plus an historical cameo from **Roy Holmberg**.

You can find that article in our website, under the Communications tab, and then open Education, and then Educational Dialogues 2021.



Meanwhile...

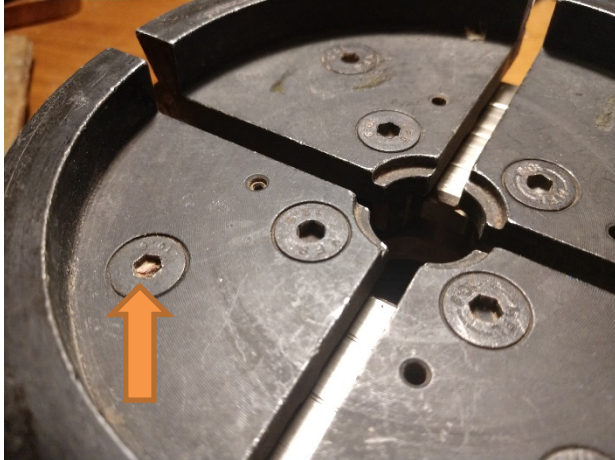
Look what Dwain just found on his front porch!

Roy Holmberg, as we know, is both a turner and a blacksmith. He’s also a lover of great big machines, and this 3 phase, 7 hp motor with oversized bearings just called to him.

He answered.

He’s going to fabricate an outboard turning lathe that can handle a 36” blank.





Safety Hint

The screws that hold your interchangeable jaws to your chuck can loosen with extended use...just like lug nuts on your truck.

As the song goes: *You picked a fine to leave me loose wheel...*

Periodically verify they're all tight, or bad things can happen, to wit...another ditty:

*There was once a lad did some coring
Repetitive, sure, but never boring
His chuck screws wiggled loose
Wood flew off like a goose
And into the rafters went soaring*

Well, that's a wrap for April. I'll be away from the lathe for a few weeks scampering in the rocks of Southern Utah, but I think I'll find a way to cope with the withdrawal if I can locate some gnarly old juniper knuckles. Stay busy!

Wells



21 inches...we think an antique barn builder's slick sporting a new John Wells white oak handle—see how he made it June 19!

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