

Turning in the Age of Corona

Episode # 33: The Real Fox News...and some turning, too.

Santa Cruz Woodturners

Although summer is just 4 weeks away, my shop is still chilly in the morning. Today, with the prospect of warming weather, I left the door open this morning.

For background, Sandie and I have been “hosts” to a family of gray foxes for about a month.



Smile, you're on camera!



GQ, I tell ya!

After this period of observation, I consider foxes to be a behavioral cross between coyotes and cats. They're sly, as we must expect...but also slinky, smart, mischievous, independent, and borderline fearless. The mothers are constantly watchful, preferably from a sunny vantage point. The kits play parkour games on the deck, breaking flower pots and snapping cymbidium stems while frolicking.

The males sport a little more red in their mantles, and they seem really adept at catching rodents and sharing the entrails with the brood.

In some cases, however, the canine behavior aspect seems to dominate. Witness the mark next to my lathe when I returned to the shop an hour after leaving the door open.

*Dude...this is **my** shop! I have left many marks in it, but this is outrageous! No trespassing.*

*Your host with a long handled gouge,
Wells*



Back to wood turning.

In our most recent Turning in the Age of Corona, we featured the work of a number of our members with segmented assemblies.

We displayed **John Wells'** expertise with stave assemblies, which of course are a form of longitudinal segmentation rather than stacked ring structures.

Here's an example of one for which John applied both. It's an advent candle assembly...taller than a first grader. As you can affirm, it has obviously been granted a seal of approval by a saintly figure.



Our Santa Cruz Woodturners President's Challenge for June 19 is "Out of the Ashes."

Show us something you made with wood that became available after the fires of August, 2020.

This doesn't have to be full-on Phoenix allegory, but it should demonstrate that the fires scared us all, but we recovered with our creativity intact. Here are a few previews!



Tim Johnson made this baby rattle made from apple wood salvaged from the aftermath. Pediatricians agree...lose the tree, keep the baby.



Seeing John Wells' delectably warping, once-turned, thin wall madrone bowl, I tried one, too...also from a downed tree behind John's shop. I think we'll see lots of bowls from that source soon!

Left: starting its "flower petal" warping metamorphosis and revealing tool marks I thought were going to hide. Right: freshly sanded and finished...hoping it retains that magical raspberry frappé color!

Bill Hopkins has been a busy fellow, climbing sheer rock walls in the Sierras, scavenging stumps from roadsides, buying a bigger chainsaw, and putting a heavy use patina on that new 18" jet lathe.

Here's his future "Out of the Ashes" entry. It's going to get a malachite inlay in the rim, but the "event horizon" figure in this piece of redwood already looks like a challenger!



OK, 'nuf for a pretty day. Go outside and warm up!

Wells

Wells Shoemaker
President, Santa Cruz Woodturners

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