

Turning in the Age of Corona

Episode #39: Repairs, Re-Do's, and Resurrections

August 5, 2021

Santa Cruz Woodturners

We are just about halfway through the summer, and what a rollercoaster it has been. California was declared "Reopened" in mid-June, when it appeared that COVID was sufficiently suppressed and immunizations sufficiently widespread to steadily restore activities we had sorely missed.

We did that! We held our first in-person meeting of the year, outside but generally without masks and without compulsive squirty hygiene interfering with our chance to handle the turned objects our members had created during the pandemic.

Not so fast. Most of California had discounted two important warnings. First, the wildly contagious Delta Variant was chewing through communities (and states) with vigor. Second, the wildfire spread was feeding upon deliberately unimmunized people who, apparently, believed dunce hat propaganda instead of science...and confused common sense with "liberty." Many of those folks...and their loved ones...have paid too dearly.

What rudely opened Pandora's Box again was the realization that immunizations, almost miraculously effective in preventing serious illness and death from COVID, were not comparably effective in preventing low grade illness and contagiousness from Delta. That meant that even a fully immunized gathering...such as ours...could not confidently be regarded as safe for vulnerable individuals...our members and loved ones at home.

With that lugubrious news, your SCW board has postponed our in-person August meeting and the scheduled live demo on "One Hour Platter." **In its place, featuring a vastly more famous turner and gifted teacher, we'll tune into Glenn Lucas live from Ireland. He'll make his Lidded Bowl...just for us.**



Just when we thought we were done with you....

In keeping with the theme of making the best of an unwelcome situation, we'll display some of our members' efforts to repair, re-do, or resurrect a turning.

Let's start with **Dan Aldridge**, who turned this rather thick bowl from a piece of damp madrone. The blank, aside from madrone's propensity to move, crack, and twist, had some pith lines, ravishing grain flourishes, and other features known to be "quirky."

So, yeah, it cracked, rather severely. Was this destined to heat the living room when the wood stove got back into business? Was it going to feed the bandsaw? Noooo.



Behold...the FrankenBowl!



Frank Roest showed us several bowls in the extended **Show and Tell** at Sue's home back in July. Frank showed us one where he thought he'd get some helpful feedback from 20+ avid turners paying rapt attention. This was a piece of original growth redwood, salvaged from the CZU fires, and turned into deep bowl. Frank encountered a few technical remounting challenges involving a failed tenon grip and the brittleness of the thin walls.

As **Tom Eovaldi** channels his Law Professor wisdom: *There are always at least 3 ways to solve a turning challenge.* Frank listened carefully to more than three, went back to the shop, and this is what he did!



It's a little shallower than it was, but it's ready for service.

We haven't seen **Hugo Marchevsky**, one of our most courageously ambitious new turners, since the pandemic clamped down. Hugo left for Connecticut for family duties, but he's reestablishing his shop...and doing great things with it!

It turns out that he left his home in the Redwoods above Scotts Valley...but reunited with a piece of redwood 3000 miles away. A friend came into possession of a piece of root from a massive tree cut in 1860. This tree, estimated to be 2000 years old when it surrendered to the axes, sent an emissary across time, and Hugo answered the call.

See the photos next page!



Freshly turned and sanded

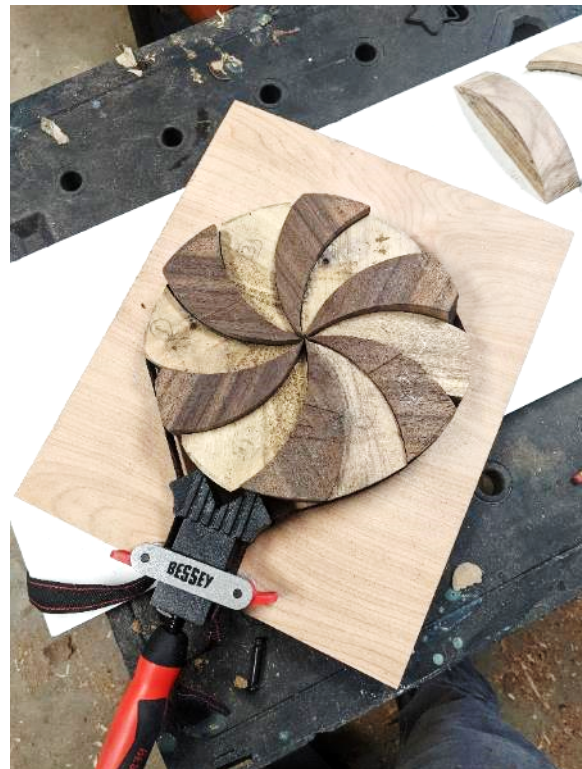


We've seen some of **Sue Broadston's** work with ancient redwood roots, and Hugo, welcome to the party!

Bill Hopkins missed our July meeting, and he didn't get to show us his President's Challenge segmented turning. It would have joined a remarkable table! Here it is:



Ash and walnut "pinwheel" spiral, about 7" diameter, 6" high



The jig is a whole 'nuther story...



It's important to know when "embellishments" make a turning more captivating
...or just more cluttered.
Bill stuck with simplicity with this bowl, and let the Black Acacia do the talking.

Speaking of **President's Challenges...the gig for August is "Fruit."** You decide what that means to you...send me a jpeg at least 100 KB by August 19, and we'll do the "show."



Avocado burl w lapis "Lake Powell"
inlay

WS "Fruit"

That's enough for today.

If you have opinions...or experiences...you would like to share regarding finishing redwood to preserve the beloved "pink" color of freshly tooled wood...how about sharing those views with all of us! Hugo would love to hear from us.

Experiences that didn't work out so well are just as valuable as ones where you got exactly what you wanted.

Wells

Wells Shoemaker
President, Santa Cruz Woodturners

Copyright 2021



Have fun...The Platters are Coming