

Turning in the Age of Corona

Episode # 41, October 16, 2021

Virtual Show and Tell

Our members have been busy as we hopefully enter the fading phase of the pandemic.

**Emily Coughlin**, one of our newest members, brings a background of ceramics to her introductory lessons on the lathe. Obviously, that accelerates the learning curve!



Emily and her 6" diameter River Birch bowl from **Dan Aldridge's** generous stash.



**Maarten Meerman's** hands never lie idle, and he must have a generous stash of pennies to provide scale. The tenon in this wee gavel is 1/128" diameter.

**Dan Aldridge** once again secured a load of fresh, glorious lumber for blanks for our club. This time it was black walnut. Here's one Dan saved for himself—gaudy figure, 20" diameter, fitting handily on that big Oneway lathe. Note the magnetic tool rack in the background.



Dan as maestro, along with **Earl Wynn, John Wells, Larry Dubia, Raf Strudley, Bill Hopkins, Dwain Christensen, Roy Holmberg, Bill Arnold, and me**, too, have sustained one of the pinnacle benefits of membership in Santa Cruz Woodturners—namely a supply of high quality wood for which the only price is the dedication of some hours, some chainsaw fuel, and perhaps a beer or two.

In the pandemic, we've shared pickup loads of avocado, bay laurel, box elder, Black and English walnut, live oak, tan oak, Modesto ash, river birch, redwood, madrone, Douglas fir, Norway Spruce, black locust, Monterey Cypress, big leaf maple, cedar, and holly. Linda Anderson brought some exotic Banksia pods from the Arboretum. That's probably not the whole list! Lots of turning lumber was salvaged from fire damaged woodlands in 2020.

Of course, these "windfalls" don't lend themselves to schedules. Woodturners need to pounce on ephemeral opportunities before the chipper intervenes!



Speaking of things ephemeral, the Open Studios event returned to Santa Cruz County this year as the COVID threat subsided...which is the reason we postponed our October club meeting to October 23.

Here are two of the pieces **Raf Strudley's** visitors had the privilege to see:



Koa platter with turquoise inlay



Monterey Cypress with Bubinga lid

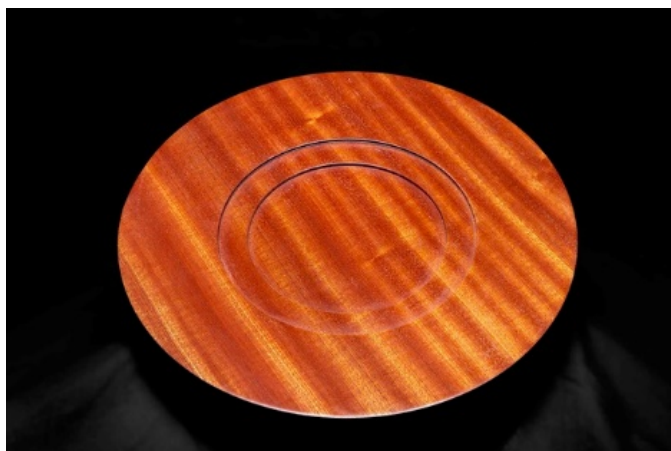
Raf may have jumped the gun on the One Hour Platter demo coming up this coming Saturday, Oct 23. The debate about where a “plate” ends and a “platter” begins can’t be resolved without a damp cork on the table between the debaters, but there is no dispute that these triumphs will raise the bar for all of us!



The striped series



Purple Plate



Sapele Platter

**Tim Johnson** made this oak lidded bowl for the September President's Challenge.



But we know Tim's bliss lies with small spindles...namely the lace bobbins his wife uses masterfully in her craft and teaching. Tim has responded to this technical and domestic challenge with his lathe and ingenuity.

Tim elaborates: *When a lace maker starts a new project, they can have literally dozens and dozens of pairs wound and ready to go on the pillow. The problem is having them conveniently at hand and not tangled up when you want to add the next pair. I had some Koa and padauk in the shop, so I made these.*





*The A frame racks (previous page) are Koa and I turned the dowel cross piece. I misdrilled the one on the left so I had to turn fake end caps.*

*The other one I made in pieces to travel. There is the padauk base and two Koa center spindles and arms, one with opposed holes and one with ascending holes.*



Travel racks, finished variably with Mahoney's walnut oil, Wood Bowl Finish, and Hut wax



Spiral design

**Bill Hopkins** has approached the lathe with the same verve he harnessed as an elite triathlete, now senior rock climber and (honest!) pole vaulter. None of these are low impact sports, and he has a play date with an orthopedic surgeon this week. We expect him back at the lathe long before that surgeon expects.

Here's Bill's lidded walnut bowl with turquoise inlay...which he has donated to the Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust for the November 6 "Wine and Roses" benefit auction.



And here's mine for the same charitable function.



Nested Monterey Cypress, 17" diameter, metallic green resin inlay



Speaking of orthopedic surgery and turners...**John Wells** is recovering nicely from his shoulder repair, and I'm hiking again after a somewhat grisly knee repair.

Part of knee rehab involves retraining those pranged and atrophied muscles for balance. Physical therapists use a balance board to hasten this recovery. They're made of plastic, and they'll gobble two \$20 bills retail. Turners have other options!



The *Wells Wobbler* (Plywood base and Black acacia dome. 16" diameter)



That's it for today! Can't wait to see you all on Saturday, Oct 23, at Sue Broadston's shop, 1717 Vine Hill Road...off Hwy 17, uphill from Scotts Valley. Check your e-mail for directions before you leave...coming shortly. It's a little tricky since the road sign for Vine Hill off 17 is still missing.

Wells Shoemaker  
President, Santa Cruz Woodturners, 2020-21

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