

Turning in the Age of Corona, Episode #45

December 13, 2021

Santa Cruz Woodturners

Seasonal Turning, Trivetal Pursuits, & New Horizons

Good Day, Turners,

I'm tickled to see rain, as I look hopefully at my David Arora mushroom field guide, entitled "*All that the Rain Promises, and More....*" For Turners looking at a forecast involving wind and rain, it also means there may soon be fresh wood on the ground, crying out for a musical chainsaw. Meanwhile, let's hope the electricity stays on.

Our end of year club meeting December 18 at Mission Hill School Shop should be special! We'll welcome **Morgan Taylor** as President, **Roy Holmberg** as VP, and **Dan Aldridge** as Treasurer. **Dwain Christensen** will serve his second tour as Secretary!

We'll also do a **special "demo" featuring...all of us**. We encourage all of our members...and our guests, too...to bring 2 objects for **Show and Tell**. The first: something you made early in your career that still gives you pleasure. Second: something you made during the pandemic that likewise brings you satisfaction. For our new turners, there may not be too long a time gap between those...and for some of us, it could be 50+ years. No matter...all of these things used to be a living tree, and we showed respect to the effort Nature applied by stretching our skills with wood.



The Conical Conifer—Doug Fir

Jim Beckett has been turning ornaments, sculptural fruits and flowers, and platters for decades on a very old lathe.

His new lathe is getting a seasonal workout!

Craig Wargon has been busy in his new shop. We all start with open bowls, learn to make uniform wall thickness and a clean bottom...and then make them thinner, and then incurved, and then...bigger, hollow, inlaid, engraved ...all sorts of cool things happen.

Our 2022 demos are going to touch on projects that will appeal to members at all skill levels.



Black Acacia



Monterey Cypress

Bill Hopkins, not likely endeavoring to please his shoulder surgeon, is bowling again.



Avocado, Bay, Black Acacia, Black Walnut, and Monterey Cypress



Black Walnut and Magnolia (how about that black patch!)

Dan Aldridge writes: 13 ready to core. I'm done with new wood after this. *I really am.*
Yes, I am. *–Wells says: Right, Dan.*

Trivetal Pursuits

Rummaging through the stacks of blanks awaiting their turns, I suspect we all have saved a few shallow discs—“hockey pucks” of 3-8” diameter. Too shallow to realistically make a vessel, too pretty to use for BTU’s...just waiting. I recently turned a bunch of these into trivets—popular and practical, and also a neat way to show off gaudy grain. Cut the round, make a shallow mortise in the bottom, turn the upper surface flat...or ever so slightly concave. Sand. Done.

Decorate the bottom with some turned beads, glue-on cork for a non-skid function, or stick on little silicon feet. (Don't use felt, as it will absorb moisture, collect grit, grow mold, or go ugly.)



Black acacia, Bay Laurel, Tan Oak: WS

Looking forward to the rest of winter, we have a tentative schedule for in-person **demonstrations at our monthly club meetings:**

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
January 15, 2022	Turn an end-grain bowl	John Wells
February 19, 2022	Sharpening Workshop: Rotating stations for gouge, skew, scrapers, tool modification, honing	The Usual Grinder Suspects
March 19, 2022	Turn an incurved bowl with an undercut rim	Wells Shoemaker

Needless to say, COVID, School policies, and personal health issues can lead to modifications.

Now for a bonus! Weather like this doesn't generate a lot of initiative for camping, but Spring is coming...and the desert is already here. For some of us whose backpacking days are fading, **Dirt Road Camping** gets us close to the wilderness...expansive views, dark skies, dazzling sunsets, stimulating weather, and joyful quiet. Might as well eat well while you're there, as your truck doesn't complain about lugging a full cooler.

I wrote this 49 pp, heavily illustrated booklet to assimilate 50 years of personal experience and lots of advice from people who have cheerfully shared their lessons.

It's free for us...if you like that sort of thing...available through this easy link:
[Microsoft Word - Dirt Road Camping comp 11-24-21.docx \(wellshoemakerwoodcraft.com\)](https://www.wellshoemakerwoodcraft.com/microsoft-word-dirt-road-camping-comp-11-24-21.docx)

That does it for Episode #45

Stay Well!

Wells Shoemaker
President, SCW, 2020-21

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The artist's hand: Roy Holmberg



In case you need inspiration: Raf Strudley's natural edge madrone chalice