

Turning in the Age of Corona

Santa Cruz Woodturners

Episode 12, July 6, 2020

Featuring **Jim Baker, Maarten Meerman, Raf Strudley, and *Arctostaphylos***

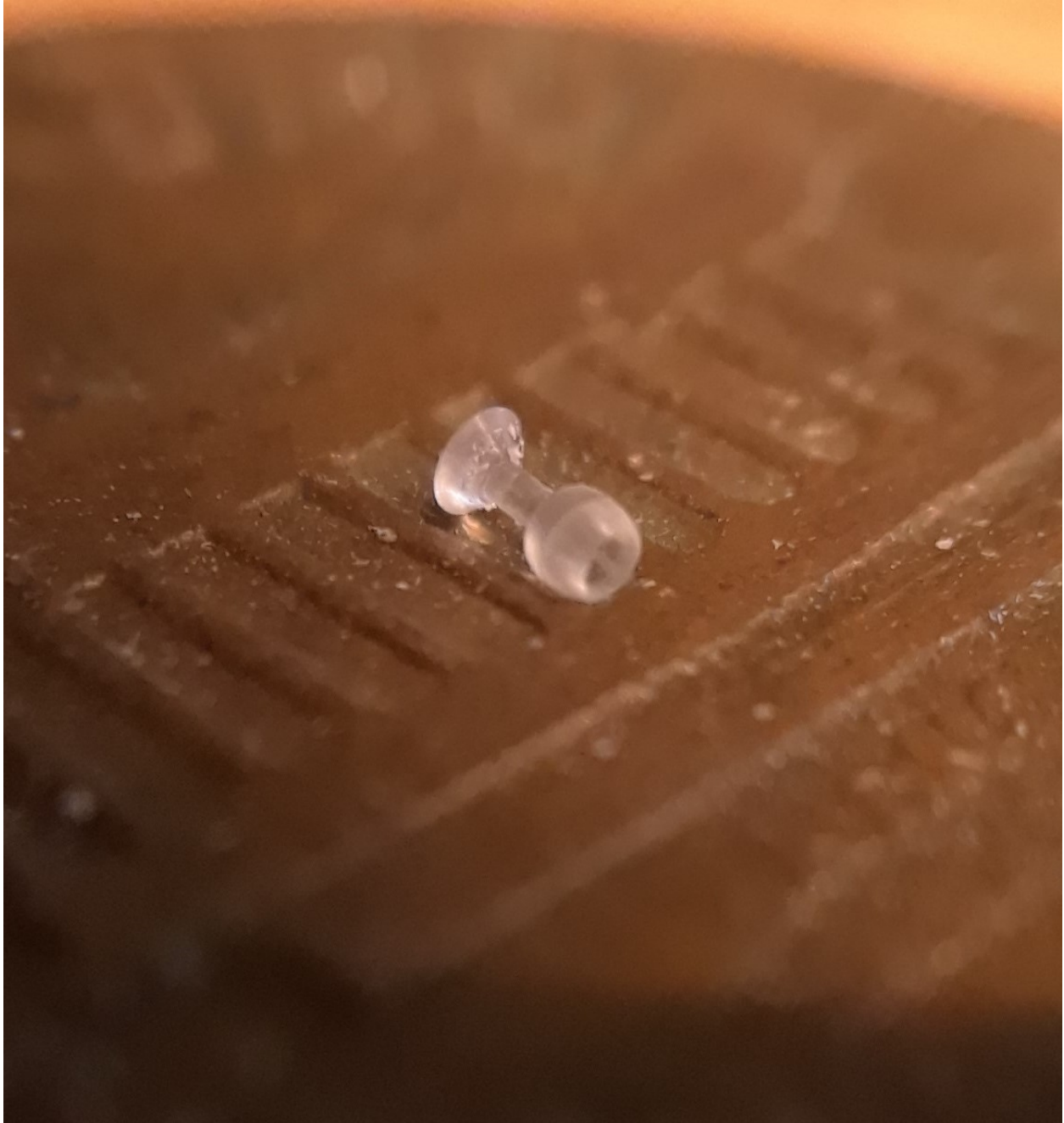
The days may be getting shorter, but we're approaching some rich sessions for Santa Cruz Woodturners.

"Finishing School" opens on **Saturday, July 18**, 8:30 AM, by Zoom, featuring **John Wells** and lessons from 5 SCW members.

Saturday, August 1, we'll have our first international remote demo with **Glenn Lucas**, live from Ireland, also at 8:30 AM. He'll demo turning a thin wall bowl. This is just for us, with plenty of opportunity for Q&A using the live Chat function. More info to come.

But we don't have to live in the future. **Jim Baker** took a piece of the Black Acacia we harvested in February, 2019, and did this with it in the here-and-now. This was a "Welcome to Rio Del Mar" present to a new neighbor. Pretty much everybody in that neighborhood now has a Jim Baker Bowl for salad, popcorn, or wayward golf balls!





Maarten Meerman turned this goblet out of Plexiglass...and he calls it a Nano-Glass. See the parallel lines embossed upon which the goblet rests? Wonder what they are? Look at the color for a hint, and also the curvilinear contour out of focus in the upper part of the frame. It's the columns of the Lincoln Memorial. You can get some of your own if you find a modern American penny between the cushions of your couch. The turning measures barely more than a millimeter...1/32 of an inch.

Maarten turns novelties visible to the naked eye, too, frequently featuring flying objects and alien transport vessels. But nobody gets down the way he does with micro turning.

Raf Strudley turns objects that generally take two hands to lift...not because of weight, but rather delicacy. He's working with manzanita root burl now, and he's offered to help other SCW members find some of this remarkable local wood.



Raf will have to tell us about these stabilizing bars!

Here's one of Raf's works in progress. Manzanita wood is really dense and hard, and this chaparral bush habitually embeds abrasives into its root burls, so plan to spend some quality time at the grinder. The color gradation from golden new wood to cordovan heart darkens a bit over time (see below). Once again, we turners experience the marvels of freshly cut wood—color, aroma, and texture—and that explains the grins.

Keep your ways slick, the floor clean, the tools secure, and the air clean...and dazzle the world with a perpetual smile.

Wells Shoemaker
President, SCW
July, 2020

Some more manzanita photos
next page...



Manzanita darkens with light and oxidation, but stays smooth as silk. WS, 2019

Manzanita (genus *Arctostaphylos*) before it surrenders its root burls to the turner.



Commensal living in the chaparral



Imagine the root burl of this one...growing right out of the rocks.



The "little apples" have several forms, usually smooth.



Manzanita loves the Santa Cruz Mountains