

Turning in the Age of Corona, Episode 13

Santa Cruz Woodturners

July 19, 2020

July has been a busy month for us...in the shop, on the computer, and in **Dwain Christensen's** case...in the sky.

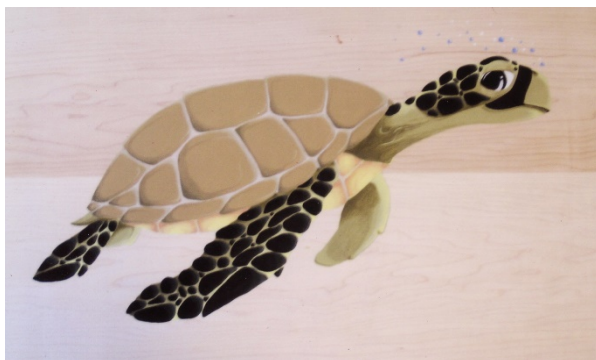
Dwain has been experimenting with textures with his turnings...but he's also been getting up before the crack of dawn to photograph Comet NEOWISE.



Keep your eye on the sky but your steel on the toolrest, Dwain!

John Wells delivered a comprehensive discussion of different finishes, each with distinctive features and uses, in our July 18 “Finishing School” presentation, followed by 6 SCW members displaying similar bowls finished with different products.

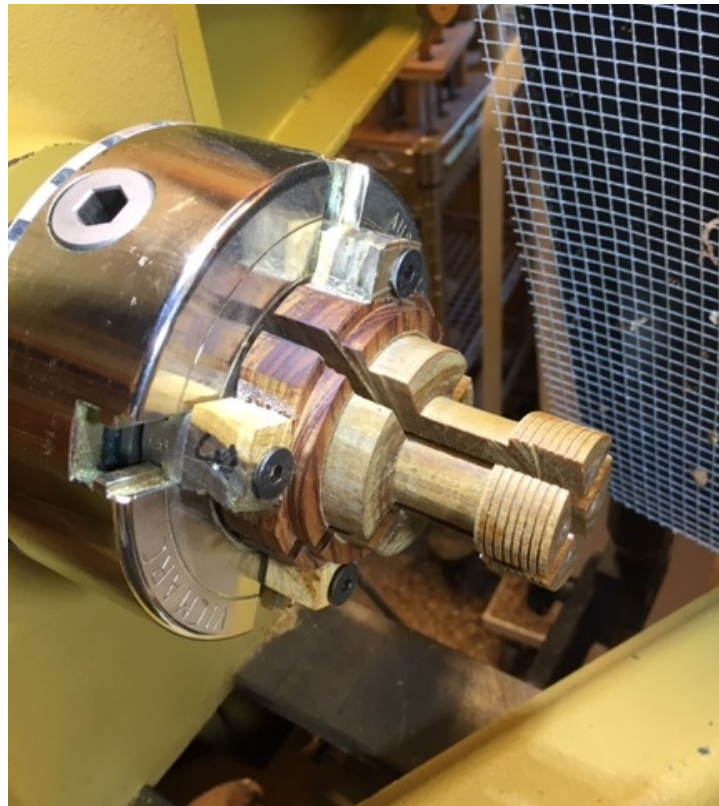
Water based finishes represent one category infrequently used by turners, but John mentioned the virtue of crystal clear clarity without color alteration. He forwarded these images of a toy box with drawings he aimed to preserve...see for yourselves!



Morgan Taylor loves making boxes, but he's apparently not satisfied to do things the same old way over and over again. He advanced to threaded lids, but found that, depending upon the characteristics of the wood, those don't always stand up to use. One solution is to make a threaded insert of a harder wood, but that opens up the challenge of gripping the box to finish the bottom without the expanding chuck jaws damaging the insert. He looked for commercially available solutions which he could adapt to his Vicmarc chuck, but didn't find one. Morgan contemplated commissioning a customized device, but instead, he went to that special "place" all turners have deep in the brain and made his own with materials in the shop.

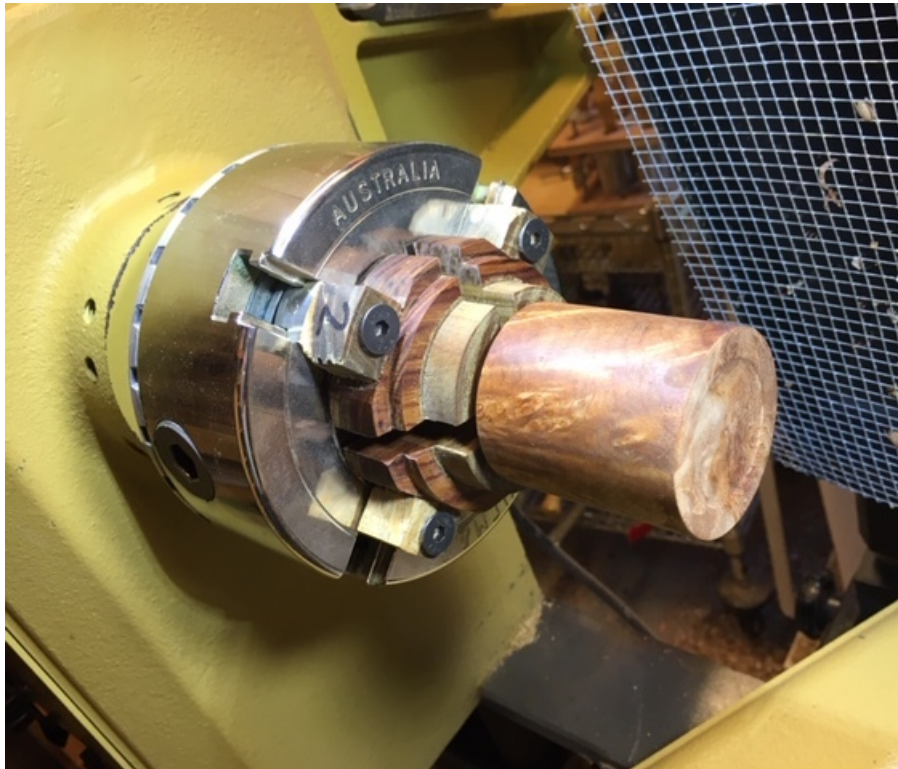


The box above with threaded insert protruding below the rim.



Morgan's solution: Made of lignum vitae with some cocobolo buttressing. There's a steel pin inside each of the jaws. MT, July 2020

And here's that box gripped with Morgan's shop made device ready for a classy bottom treatment.

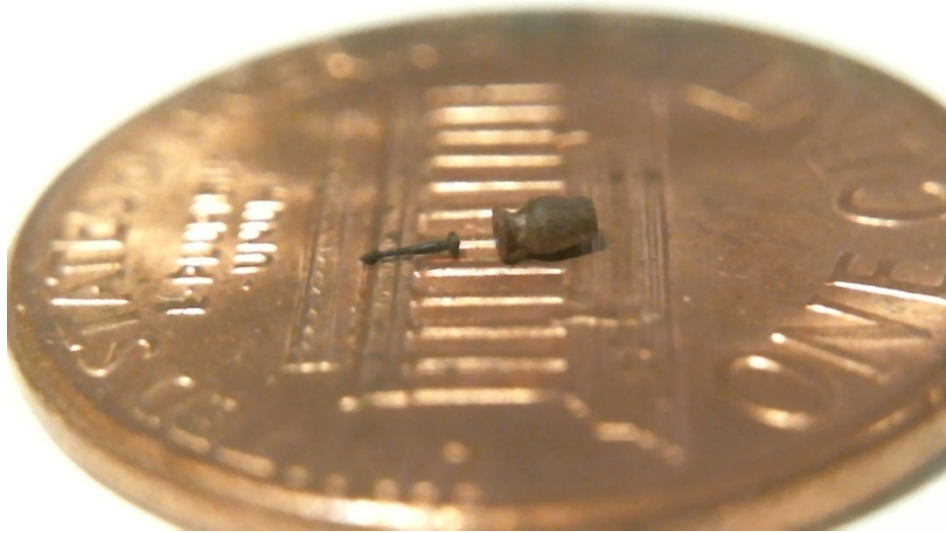


While Morgan was doing macroscopic innovations up in the mountains, **Maarten Meerman** was hiding from the inland heat and doing some microscopic work.



This is a lignum vitae spoon.

Not content with just a spoon, but quite happy with a penny as a gauge, Maarten made this hollow form with a finial:



Maarten, as we all know, is a rocket scientist who works for NASA. He has been known to allow his mind to drift beyond the Earth's gravitational field at times, but he settles back down when his lathe calls. Car makers use wooden models to design new cars, right? Maarten turned this model for a satellite-mounted telescope designed to observe the Earth's surface. This one can be appreciated without a magnifying glass!

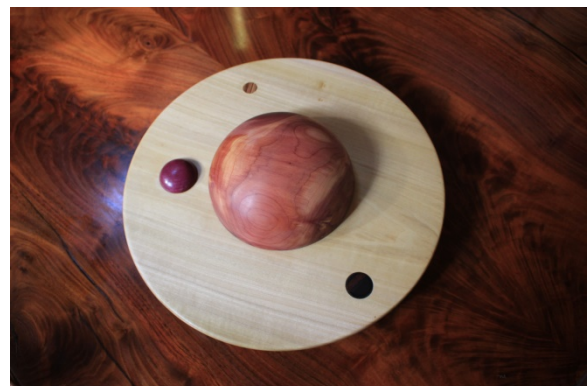


Meanwhile, let's remind you that when you finish working in your shop for the day, the comet is now visible in the Northwest at dusk...just above the horizon, below the Big Dipper. It's an easily social-distanced break from the dreary routine, and it will become easier to see for the next few weeks. Take your binoculars.



Thanks for the inspiration, Dwain.

Wells Shoemaker
President, SCW



Another celestial fantasy WS

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