

Turning in the Age of Corona

Episode #21, January 1, 2021

Santa Cruz Woodturners

Our upper half of the Earth is Tilting back to the Sun, and We're Turning, too

Happy New Year, Santa Cruz Turners! Episode #21 comes to you on the first day of 2021, coincidentally of course.

Most of the Christmas Trees in the County are now lounging on the verge of roadways waiting for a big muncher truck to take them away. But not **Tim Johnson's!**



Tim applied a technique he learned in Germany to make these elegant trees. Starting with the turned cone, he carefully using the point of a freshly sharpened skew to peel back the grain and create the frilly features. The tan wood is Deodor cedar, the red incense cedar...making these beauties a treat for the nose as well as the eyes!

Speaking of shavings...



Kirk deHeer, Master Instructor at Craft Supply, will be doing our club demo on the subject of **“Demystifying Catches”** January 16, usual time. This image was taken in Craft’s demo studio and classroom in Provo, Utah



Kirk’s mantra “Stay Sharp,” along with a constant focus on presentation of the tool to the wood, allows him to make a lot of shavings fast, without much need for “reprimands” from the blank, protests from the lathe, or expletives from the turner.

He has a side business making nested blanks of Utah hardwoods, figured silver maple in particular. He makes stacks of these and hides no secrets about techniques.

The trick, as usual, is making them work in our hands.

The **President's Challenge for January**, as you know, is a **Multi-Media turning**. We'll do that in the form of a slide show, obligatorily, and our members have submitted some pretty clever objects. I know **Jim Baker** made his own stone crusher with a pipe and a long bolt, and he's making greenstone inlay as we speak. **Tim Johnson** used brass washers in a way you'll admire for simple elegance. **Roy Holmberg**, well, he bent some more steel to his will. **John Wells** melted some pewter and turned awkward cracks into highlights. **Tom Eovaldi** did some decorative stone work and also integrated some hammered brass and copper. I used some powdered copper, and I know **Larry Dubia** is brewing something sticky up there in Boulder Creek.

Please share your work! Send me a jpeg and a one liner describing it.

Deadline: January 13 by e-mail

The clock shows after midnight...a little past the line for Cinderella, but for us...it's not even close to too late!



Here's a little heads up for the **President's Challenge for February**. We live in an exceptional location for turning, but it seems we don't often feature our prized resource. Hint—it's very tall and feathery. It's festive...featuring seasonal favorite shades of red and green. It gets very smooth, but on the other hand, it has an irritating, fibrous exterior if you rub against it in the wild. It ardently seeks the sun but makes its own rain. You can't really drink it, but, like fine ale, it was made with exceptional grain. Parts of it can get very old, but it's constantly making new shoots.



Yes, of course, it's **redwood!**

This 12" bowl is rather plain, but it's symmetrical and feels good in the hand.

Send us a jpeg of something you made recently with redwood...any shape or form you wish. You have time to fiddle.

Local chauvinism *rules* in 2021.

Finally, our club has grown nicely despite the many faceted aggravations of last year. We welcome some experienced craftspeople and some brand new turners, all of them with intriguing life histories and a yearn to turn.

Bill Hopkins, for example, is a retired podiatrist, a former elite triathlete (Roy would approve of anybody who does an Iron Man), big wall rock climber, and a pole vaulter for over the top senior kicks. Now he's restoring his father's old woodworking machinery, but playing with his own, brand new Jet 1840 lathe. Today he roughed out 3 bowls and rode 35 miles on his bike...a turning man, for sure.

Craig Wargon, another podiatrist and another awesome, persistent athlete, is the regional leader for Kaiser's telehealth enterprise during the pandemic, as well as a regular 100 mile bike rider and indefatigable optimist. He and his firefighting son have plunged into woodwork together, and Craig has engineered shop work surfaces that make mine look funky. He's been turning for a month, and he's already making feathery shavings like an old hand (hard to do that with an Achilles heel).

Jim Beckett and I shared a woodshop mentor in LA almost 50 years ago, and we acquired our first lathes not long after that. Jim joined our club a year ago, and, in what should have been the depths of COVID despair in December, took the plunge and upgraded his 70 year old lathe. That old lathe created some extraordinary, scraped platters. Now Jim is getting acquainted with a Jet 1642 with a variable speed controller and serious heft, among other features likely to spoil him. He'll still be doing some large diameter work, turning outboard with some of the imaginative infrastructure he used with the old lathe. Meanwhile, he's a master surfer, artistic carver, meticulous tablemaker, and talented painter. If there ever were a President's Challenge for physicians in leadership roles with persistent courage under fire, he'd be on the stage.

We'll be introducing all our new members over the new few issues, and catching up with some of our seasoned veterans as well! (Chuc Nowark, Allan Dodd, and Jennifer Joy...you're up next issue!) (Photos really help...hint!)

Happy New Year, Turners.

Make it a round one!

Wells Shoemaker
President, SCW, 2020-21



Feb, 2020

And, to leave you with an inspiration, here are some works from your 2021 Board Members:



Raf Strudley, Treasurer
Natural edge madrone



Morgan Taylor, VP
Threaded box, Redwood burl



Dwain Christenson, Secy
Natural edge ash bowl



Maarten Meerman, Past President
Model for an actual satellite telescope