

## Turning in the Age of Corona, Episode 23

Santa Cruz Woodturners

*Plattery will get you...Everywhere*

*Photo Gallery and February Demo Preview, and More*

**Dan Aldridge** has not only been alerting our members to available wood, notably along with **John Wells, Raf Strudley, Larry Dubia,** and **Earl Wynn,** but he has also filled his shed to the rafters with drying blanks that may keep him turning until the age of 100.

Not long ago, Dan was enchanted by a video by **Mike Mahoney** (*by the way, Mike is our March demo presenter*) depicting platters made with quartersawn Valley Oak with those magically flashy radial rays. Naturally, Dan perked up his antenna for large diameter oak. He didn't have to go far...just a bit down the hill from his shop to do fire mitigation clearing. Lo and behold, there was a sick, mature oak that needed to go. The lower part of the trunk was still sound, and this is what came of that encounter:



Imitation, as they say, is the highest form of plattery, so here's the deck outside my shop door.



*Monterey Cypress, slabbed like butter with that ripping chain. 20" diameter blanks to come*

### **Now from Macro to Micro**

This sounds like an intrusion upon member privacy, but just this once....

**Maarten Meerman** regularly astonishes us with turned objects which fit between the pillars of the Lincoln Memorial...not that big stone structure looking over the pool towards the Washington Monument, but the little copper one worth exactly one cent. However, even crafty micro turners have occasional human struggles. After a few days of indigestion, Maarten, the aerospace engineer, scientist, and Air Force Academy professor, corresponded with a medical doctor. Thoughtfully anticipating the professional's recommendation, and predictably insisting upon efficiency, he attached a stool sample in a pill bottle.



*Get well soon, Maarten*



## Member Gallery to Come in 2021

We're creating a **Member Gallery on our website ([www.scwoodturners.org](http://www.scwoodturners.org))** to allow our members to post photos of work which has given them pride. It will be organized alphabetically by surname, viewable by the public, and the separate displays will open with a click. It's a work in progress, with lots of possibilities and likely refinements, but we'll have our first version up before spring. Stay tuned!

Would you like to let prospective members see how neat our craft can be...including what beginning turners can accomplish rather early in their journeys? Include a link to your own website even if you're not a pro? Refresh your display from time to time? It starts in the shop, of course, but sharing can last a long time.

Send me photos of up to three turnings—you choose. Please send jpeg format, as attachments to an e-mail, file size at least 100 KB, with a one liner describing the wood, dimensions, and features of the entry.

**That's also a sly plug for our February Demo** by our own **Dwain Christensen** and me regarding how to more effectively capture the charm of turned objects with photography accessible to non-professionals with cell phone or SLR cameras.

Here's one of Dwain's entries to the future Member Gallery.



*Walnut with segmented re-purposed skateboard deck*



This elegant, striped bowl by **Raf Strudley** shows some advanced photo techniques, editing, and display. This is what a pro needs to do to sell craft objects in a time when people are not going to galleries, not going to Open Studios, and pinching pennies. Pro photographers get really good at this, but, beyond the superb craftsmanship by the turner, what makes this image “pop” are some basic principles we can all apply with equipment we have at home.

Let's look at some other examples.

Turners have choices to display their work in the Temple of Zoom. Here are two “takes” for a sneak preview of **Roy Holmberg’s** entry in this month’s President’s Challenge for Multimedia turning (ceramics, maple, copper, and steel...that’s pretty multi, Roy!):



They’re both *really* cool. Which one do you like better...and why?



Here are two more photos of one of Roy’s multimedia creations, turned redwood burl with a forged steel vine snaking through a natural opening. They were taken within minutes of each other. Which one best captures the imagination?

Dan Aldridge sent these photos to document his really thin walled bowl for our Finishing School demo last June, conducted by **John Wells**. Recall that 5 of our members each turned a 6" silver maple bowl but finished it with a different product for a "compare and contrast" discussion. *Note the coin for scale in the first one.*



Each one shows a different aspect for educational purposes. However, if you were going to choose just one for Show and Tell, which would it be?



**Morgan Taylor** shared these two photos for his contribution to the Finishing School presentation. They showed different perspectives of the work, as we learn to use screen images instead of holding these in our hands the way we used to do. This was really well done! Aside from the instructive aspect, are there other features which please you...and how did he get the bowl on the right to levitate, anyway?

OK...make sure that Saturday, February 20, is on your schedule for our meeting and a demo you can apply the same day! As usual, we'll start at 8:30 AM via Zoom.

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Meanwhile, our shops are warming up!

Get outside, get that vaccination, and stay away from crowds.

We'll eventually return to old fashioned, in-person meetings, real donuts, palpable Show and Tell, and shavings you can smell.

Wells Shoemaker  
President, SC Woodturners 2020-21