

Santa Cruz Woodturners

President's Message

January, 20-20

The decade of perfect vision has begun, although world and domestic events wouldn't indicate much progress so far. Woodturners, like stonemasons, use materials created before their own births to make objects and structures that will survive to the century beyond our own. That keeps us humble, I suppose, regarding our responsibility to steward scarce resources during the years we run the show.

The Santa Cruz Woodturners has grown remarkably since the gleam in Larry Dubia's eye 5 years ago turned into a club of 40 members filling tabletops with clever, artistic, objects made of wood...with occasional embellishments of stone, metal, and epoxy.

The Presidential role, so capably filled by Larry, Sue Broadston, and Maarten Meerman, has been passed to a new guy, and I pledge to honor their leadership tradition with fresh zeal, humility, and mischief.

Your new board includes **Raf Strudley**, an exceptional professional turner, back in his original role as Treasurer. Raf is also, I think he'll allow me to say, attentive to details, something which we'll definitely need as we grow. Raf will do the demo at our January meeting on the contemporary use of scrapers.

Linda Anderson may state she's early in her career with turning, but there's nothing she doesn't know about the crust of the Earth. As Vice President, Linda brings a researcher's brain and vibrant UCSC curiosity to her role, and we're lucky to have that kind of duality.

Tim Johnson, our new Secretary, began turning delicate lace bobbins to support his wife's enterprise, which I believe shows precocious 2020 vision. Tim's experience teaching Boy Scouts will fit wonderfully as SCWT aims to bring something fresh and something useful to every member at every meeting.

My personal aspirations for the club include:

1. Formalize our structure as a non-profit organization (501.c.3) to protect our members, improve both our stability and agility, create a solid platform to accept donations and handle money, and formalize our mission to uphold and educate the art and craft of woodturning. Thanks to Raf and Morgan Taylor for their early work!
2. Build upon our founders' initiative to steadily increase the participation of our members and broaden our leadership through meeting structure, education, and communication. Everybody has something to teach. It seems improbable to brighten our collegiality beyond the current glow, but we'll take a run at that, too.

3. Strengthen our relationship with the Mission Hill School through deeds of handy people.
4. Keep up the wood exchange so generously afforded by our members with chain saws and connections, and take some pressure off the tropical hardwoods of the world.
5. Take the inevitable yet modest step of a small dues increase.

See you at Mission Hill on January 18. Milling around starts at 8:30 AM, meeting at 9:00 sharp. President's Challenge and Show and Tell will follow the demo as we try some new sequencing.

Looking ahead, the February 15, 2020, meeting will be held at my shop, 108 Don Carlos Drive, in Aptos. We'll do a coring demo, followed by a sausage BBQ and wine tasting. Those festivities, optional but cool, will likely extend the departure time until after 1 PM, based upon our experience in 2018 and 2019.

Happy New Year...it's in our hands to make that happen!

Wells

Wells Shoemaker, President, SCWT

A parting quote: Mike Krukow, revered SF Giants announcer, once intoned: *This guy has a batting average of .150, but he has a bat in his hand and there are runners on second and third... and that makes him dangerous.*

I'll pirate that quote and say: *This turner may be in his first year at the lathe, but he has a gouge in his hand, and that makes him a teacher.*