



January 2009

The Wood Spinner

Central Virginia Woodturners

www.centralvawoodturners.org

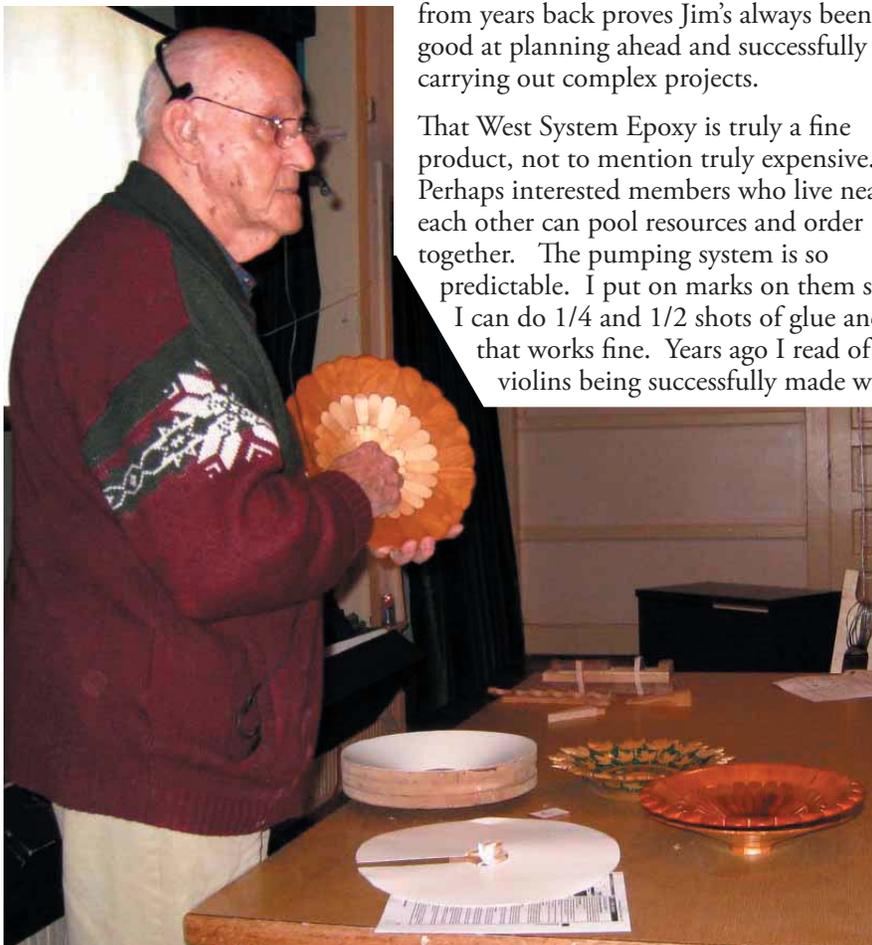
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President's Corner

Editor: Betty Gruber
bwgruber@comcast.net

Jim Higgins explains how he makes his remarkable segmented creations.



Hello CVW turners. What a turnout we had January 20'th, and what a Show and Tell! Dennis counted 58 or so at the meeting, and the display tables were simply jammed the full double length. It was most satisfying and most inspiring. I tried to run the meeting as quickly as possible, but it simply took a while to cover everything. It was what you might call a pleasant congestion. Thank goodness for the heating system.

A big thanks to Jim Higgins for his excellent demonstration of the gluing techniques he uses to achieve his complex creations. The forms were simple but effective, and everything showed so much forethought. Perhaps retirement lets you think ahead better, but the evidence of his handiwork from years back proves Jim's always been good at planning ahead and successfully carrying out complex projects.

That West System Epoxy is truly a fine product, not to mention truly expensive. Perhaps interested members who live near each other can pool resources and order together. The pumping system is so predictable. I put on marks on them so I can do 1/4 and 1/2 shots of glue and that works fine. Years ago I read of violins being successfully made with

the neck butt-glued to the body with West Epoxy with no traditional dovetail joint. That's how well it glues end grain. Yes it's a bit brittle, doesn't accept wood movement that well, but neither will it swell and bleed out of a glue joint and poke through a finish.

Betty Gruber is continuing to upgrade and update our website. The demo schedule can now be found on it, as well as 2008 newsletters and the basic club info. We plan to have a members-only link that you can log into and find the bio's of club members that Ron Dearing came up with, along with some basic contact information.

I hope the Serious Tools presentation was not too intrusive. The suggestion that he come over was presented to me by Don Voas, and after some conferencing with other officers we decided to go with it. But the basic consensus after the event was not to have any more salesmen as part of our regular meetings. Perhaps we can schedule a vendor's day some time in the future, but I suspect that will only happen at the Virginia Symposiums, which would have sufficient attendees to make it worth the vendor's time.

Roger Flory came over and we got a truckload of grape trunks from White Hall Vineyards. They are stocked at Starke Smith's for any members to select from if you wish to turn a Chardonnay, Merlot, Syrah, or Petit Verdot bowl. But there is no way to tell which is which. Have a go at it, and expect lots of movement and fast drying.

And finally, we continue to improve our setup at Crimora, from the library to the video to the seating layout. We have a fine lineup of demos ahead of us. Keep those fine creations coming on in to the Show and Tell, and here's to everyone's continuing improvements in our lathe creations throughout the year.

See you February 17, Fred



Chapter General Meeting — January Meeting Notes

January 20, 2009 at 6:30 pm
Crimora Community Center

Officers in attendance were:

President: Fred Williamson
Roving Vice President: Starke Smith
Programs Vice President: Bert Smith
Treasurer: Dennis Hippen
Newsletter Editor: Betty Gruber
Video Chief: John O'Neil
Acting Secretary: Mars Champaign
Acting Librarian: Mars Champaign
Webmaster: Betty Gruber

General members 52

Guests: Joe Morrisette, Jim Packard,
Feather Stein, Andy ?, Scott Trumbo

Absent officers were:

Librarian: Joan Baumgardner
Secretary: Joan Baumgardner

The General Meeting:

Fred Williamson called the Central Virginia Woodturners (CVW) meeting to order at 6:36 pm. The following items were discussed:

Cancellation Policy:

Due to the problems from the cancellation of the Dec 16 meeting, cancellation procedures have been clarified. Generally, if Augusta County Schools are closed, we are also closed. The CVW President will make a decision by 3:30 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting as to whether a meeting will be cancelled. In the event a meeting is cancelled, an email message will be sent to all members notifying them of the decision. In addition, a "cancellation" notice will be posted on the website, www.centralvawoodturners.org. For the few individuals who do not have access to email, a telephone call will be made. If in doubt, check your email or the website after 3:30 pm.

Library Expansion Plan:

The board had recommended the librarian be permitted to spend up to \$200 per year on the library. A motion was made, seconded and approved to budget \$200 for the library. Fred polled the members on whether they preferred videos or books. The members supported both.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported we have \$1,420 in the treasury. Fred discussed the need for a quality video projector and screen for club use. The estimated cost for the equipment purchase is approximately \$580 for the projector and \$80 for the screen. He said the AAW subsidy of \$650, received in 2008, would be applied toward this purchase. A motion to purchase this equipment was made, seconded, and approved.

Later in the meeting, the silent auction rendered \$64 (\$54 at meeting and +\$10 from someone who gained poplar from Starke's shop a while back).

2009 dues paid at meeting totaled \$750, including that of a new member. With prior paid, we now have 41 members paid for 2009 dues.

Current club balance is \$2250.

Tentative Demo Schedule:

Fred detailed the tentative program plans for the year:

January 20 - Segmented Turning with Jim Higgins

February 17 - Turning Baskets with Brian McReynolds

March 17 - No monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday. Saturday March 14 or 21 will be Guest Demonstrator Willie Simon.

April 21 - Multi-station

- ◆ Carving with Dave Potter, Jim Oates, Joan Baumgardner
- ◆ Turning Spheres with Dennis Hippen
- ◆ Turning Pens with Bryce Connelly, Norman Proffit and Betty Gruber
- ◆ Sharpening with Starke Smith

May 19 - Vacuum Chucking with Don Voas

June 16 - Turning Lidded Boxes with Bert Smith

July 21 - Turning Natural Edged Bowls with Peter Welch

August 18 - Hats with Kirk McCauley

September 15 - No monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday. Saturday Featured Demonstration TBD

October 20 - Multi-station

Turning Christmas ornaments with

- ◆ Starke Smith
- ◆ Miles Everhart
- ◆ Ron Dearing
- ◆ Bert Smith

November 17 - Mounting Techniques with Fred Williamson and Starke Smith

December 15 - Holiday party and possible fundraiser.

Fred announced that Scott Trumbo will describe a line of tools following the Show and Tell and during the Silent Auction.

Show and Tell:

Starke Smith ran the Show and Tell with members, as usual, describing an incredible collection of items.

Scott Trumbo described the Serious Toolworks line which includes a 1500 pound lathe, a camlock tool handle and a range of bowl and spindle gouges and scrapers for the handle. All the gouges are 16 inches long. The handle is designed such that only one handle is needed as the tools are quickly removed from the handle and another tool inserted.

Silent Auction:

Dennis Hippen managed the silent auction, which totaled \$64.

Featured Demonstrator:

Jim Higgins presented the program in which he described how he made his segmented bowls.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Marsden Champaign for
Joan Y Baumgardner*

Show and Tell



Cutting boards by Ray Quillen. Handles are turned.



Turned balls by Dennis Hippen



Nested raw edge bowls.

Coming Shows, Symposiums & Events

Arizona—The Arizona Woodturner's Association will hold its **Third Desert Woodturning Roundup**, February 6, 7 & 8, 2009 at the Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, AZ.

For details please go to: www.desert-woodturningroundup.com

New Mexico—2009 AAW National Woodturners Symposium, Spirit of the Southwest, June 26-28, 2009, Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM

Info about Burls

Contrary to popular belief, burls actually grow in a pattern that radiate out when they grow. Cutting across the burl creates the typical eye grain formation. Cutting front to back creates a tiger stripe pattern.



Nate Hawkes shares during Show and Tell

Demo Ideas Anyone?

If you have a demo that you would like to do for the club, sign up now. Suggestions for what you would like to see are also encouraged. Contact: Bert Smith, email woodsmith600@comcast.net.

Club Events

Tentative Schedule

January 20—Segmented Turning with Jim Higgins

February 17—Mounting Techniques with Fred Williamson and Starke Smith plus Sanding and finishing by Fred Williamson

March 17—No monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday. Saturday March 14 or 21 will be Guest Demonstrator Willie Simon.

April 21—Multi-station

- ◆ Carving with Dave Potter, Jim Oates, Joan Baumgardner
- ◆ Turning Spheres with Dennis Hippen
- ◆ Turning Pens with Bryce Connelly, Norman Proffit and Betty Gruber
- ◆ Sharpening with Starke Smith

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- ◆ Ron Dearing
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Please check the website or latest newsletter throughout the year for changes.

Show and Tell

Please accept our apologies in advance if anyone, any item, or submission is misidentified. It is not intentional.



1
Kirk McCauley maple hat, coffee cup holders, and maple bowl.



4
Elbert Dale showed us his finger tops hollowing tools and turning chisel.



5
Jim Oates' carved walnut and apple bowl



7
Dan Voss' platters in cherry, eucalyptus, and tree of heaven

Jim Higgins Demo — Segments and Inlaid

We learned many things from Jim Higgins' cumulative experience.

For designs like his maple leaf bowl, he creates a design on the computer and prints out the components.

From that he cuts the individual components on the band saw, using a 1/4" saw blade or smaller. A scroll saw may work even better.

Jim creates a mold to provide a starting shape for his creation. He uses a small disc in the bottom, which will be jam fitted into the mold. This disk becomes part of the finished piece and will hold the mold and the creation together for the initial part of the layout and inside shaping. Before the bottom is put into place, however, Jim cuts a circle of paper that will be used to release the creation from the mold. A center hole allows a slight overlap with the bottom disk, and shape is provided by a slit in the paper to be rolled into a "cone" shape.

Double stick tape holds the release paper to the mold. When he is happy with the placement of the release paper, he jam fits the bottom disc.

Jim then lays out the pre-cut components into his mold. Jim uses West Epoxy for his adhesive. He uses the epoxy also for creating the filler between



his leaves (or other elements).

Blue tape is used to hold the epoxy mixture along the outside edge.

For an interesting filler, he mixes stone inlaid or other material, starting first with a very fine mixture and pushes only a thin layer of it into the mold. Epoxy gets hot as it chemically sets up. This heat can also create bubbles. The bubbles will be filled in with the next layer of epoxy mixture.



To extend the time of the epoxy, put your mixture into the freezer. The heat created by the chemical reaction is delayed because the epoxy cures with heat.

Another layer of epoxy filler with larger pieces of inlaid is added being pushed into the mold with care to minimize air bubbles. Let set. Finally the last layer of smaller filler particles finishes the epoxy layering process. Let set.

The mold is secured to the lathe and the inside of the piece is turned.

The piece is carefully removed from the mold. The outside is then carefully turned and finished.

Walnut can be used as filler. A walnut can be cut three sections across.



Jim Higgins Demo — Segments and Inlaid

From David from Woodturners of the Virginias: Here are my notes that you might find useful if you decide to make your own segmented platter. We will also ask Jeff to put it on the website. Happy Turning.

Segmented Platter Demo: Cherry Platter with Walnut Leaves or Walnut Platter with Cherry Leaves

- ◆ Use two contrasting woods.
- ◆ Plane to equal thickness.
- ◆ Choose size of template or trace from paper pattern onto woods (patterns allow for 5 1/2, 6 1/4, and 7" platters).
- ◆ Use 1/4" or smaller band saw blade to cut rough circle blanks (scroll saw may be even better).
- ◆ Use double stick tape to join two circles; one on top of the other; place between centers on your lathe and true both together.
- ◆ Use templates or tracing paper to outline where to cut on your circle blanks; be sure to number your pieces.
- ◆ Take your time and cut out the pieces. Use oscillating sander to eliminate kerf marks if necessary.
- ◆ I use a marine epoxy with filler, which can be colored or textured, as

my adhesive. Downside is that you can get air bubbles that will require filling later. (Rick Dickey suggested using a sanding table that vibrates to settle the epoxy; another option would be to use a food sealer that creates a vacuum and theoretically would pull the air bubbles out of the epoxy. Or just put your project on top of anything that vibrates while it's setting up—compressor, washing machine in its spin cycle, etc.) You also might consider using "Ultimate Glue," a polyurethane glue that expands. I haven't used it, but it may well be the best answer. The epoxy can provide a crisp line delineating the leaves from the rest of the wood. Not sure what kind of glue line the Ultimate Glue will give.

- ◆ When using the epoxy, you have to use blue tape along the circumference of the cut sections. The tape will contain the epoxy and help prevent it from oozing out.
- ◆ After parts have set up, return blank to lathe: secure between centers, re-true, and create tenon.
- ◆ With tenon, place blank in chuck and turn off excess epoxy/glue to reveal pattern; check for air bubble voids—fill if necessary; decide on shape and whether you want a small bowl in the center. My example has



thin wings and a bowl.

- ◆ Using either a vacuum chuck or jumbo jaws, reverse platter and finish the bottom.



More Show and Tell



Bob Swope shared his recycled house lathe frame idea and offered share extra lathes he brought with him. Starke Smith shared his cherry platter, bud vases, “wood stove” bowl, and sour cherry bowls. He also brought natural edge bowls made from spaulted maple.

About Central Virginia Woodturners

Central Virginia Woodturners is a local chapter of the AAW with over 69 active members. Club meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. Meetings are held at the Crimora Community Center.

Directions—to the Crimora Community Center on Route 612 just west of Rt. 340 in Crimora.

From Staunton and points north—

From I-81 take the Rt. 612 exit (Verona Exit) east, or

From route 11 just north of Verona, turn east onto Rt. 612, across from Burger King.

Stay on 612, for 10-12 miles.

As soon as you cross South River, the Crimora Community Center is on your left.

From Charlottesville and points east, from I-64—

Take Exit 96 (Lyndhurst Exit) and go north on Delphine Street.

After a mile of so you will cross 250E at the Hess Station and join 340 north. Alternatively you can take Exit 99 at the top of Afton Mountain and get onto 250 West.

Go 3 miles to turn right at the Hess Station, 340 north.

From there it is 6 miles to Crimora.

Turn Left on Rt. 612 at the BP gas station.

Go about 1 mile crossing RR tracks. The center is on the right just after the RR tracks.

Contact information:

For information on attending CVW meetings or joining CVW, contact: Fred Williamson, CVW President, f1w2@cville.net; Bert Smith, CVW Vice President—Events, woodsmith600@adelphia.net; Starke Smith, starke@cfw.com; or, Dennis Hippen, CVW Treasurer, Hipwood@comcast.net.



Members review, examine and discuss items during the free time immediately following Show and Tell.



Show and Tell items made by Dick Miksad