



## CVW Newsletter - May 2010

### President's Corner

Having a professional demonstrator come to town is always a fun event. It sets the tone for the turning season. (Didn't know there was a turning season? It's when all the catalogs start arriving; I can remember getting 11 in one day.) We all looked forward to the David Ellsworth Demo in May, and we prepared for it all winter. For those of you who didn't make that demo, it was all it was billed to be. What surprised me was the number of members from the two clubs that sponsored the event, that didn't show up.

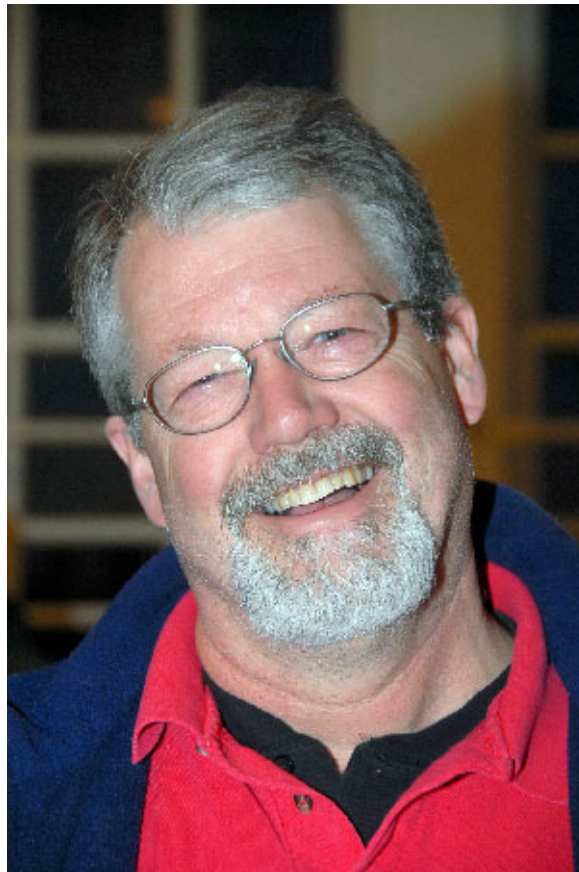
I would like to entreat all of you to support the professional demonstrators when they come to impart their skills; it is a lot nicer to demo for a full house. I mention this because of the upcoming Symposium in October that we put on here in our own backyard. I can't personally afford to go to Hartford, as much as I'd like to. I can, however, support our local venue of

professional turners, YOU! The 2010 VA Woodturning symposium (October 22 & 23) is about YOU. Sure, we have some great professional turners coming, like Alan Lacer, Barbara Dill and Tom Foley, but the folks behind the mentor stations are all folks from your clubs - local turners willing to spend their time teaching YOU what you want to know.

So, be there if you dare, sign up early, bring a friend, and bring some younger folks. We will have an intensive station called "Tomorrow's Turners" for kids 12 - 17. We need to get the kids involved early, so spread the word. A good attendance assures you that this type of symposium will happen again in the future.

June 15 this month, check the website for the demo information ([www.centralvawoodturners.com](http://www.centralvawoodturners.com)) and as Frank Stepanski says, "Happy turning".

Peter



**Next Meeting: June 15, 2010 -  
Jeff Fleisher will demo chip  
carving techniques**



**April 20, 2010 Minutes**

Crimora Community Center  
Central Virginia Woodturners Club (CVW)

**Officers in attendance were:**

**President:** Peter Welch

**Vice President:** Nate Hawkes

**Treasurer:** Tom Evans

**Librarian:** Mars Champaign (Rolf Gebel - backup)

**Secretary:** Jim Oates

**Video Crew:** George Marrah, Jimmy Guynn, and Pat Steele

**Newsletter Editor:** Dennis Martin

**Web site:** Fred Williamson (Jay Ragsdale - backup)

**Programs Vice President:** Stark Smith (Don Voas)

\*Richard Miksad volunteered to take over the Food Czar position. This is not an official position.

\*Mark VanArsdale has volunteered to bring water and coffee to business meetings.

**Attendance:**

Members: 44

Guests:

**The General Meeting:**

- The Secretary was late so I missed some of the discussion.

Peter called the meeting to order at 6:30

- New members and visitors were welcomed.
- The Symposium is in October and we need as many as possible to pre register. So far we have 10 vendors

using 16 spaces.

- Anyone who has not paid their dues was requested to pay Tom Evans.
- Shenandoah Valley Arts Center is sponsoring a new craft festival titled the Arts of the Blue Ridge Festival on Saturday, June 5, 12:00 - 8:00. Donations are still needed so far 11 members have contributed.
- Peter questioned how the email is working.
- David Ellsworth Demo is on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month.
- CVW members are encouraged to join the AAW and enjoy the many benefits of membership.
- Demo for tonight is the "Star Studded Extravaganza of Talented turners" Fred Williamson, Don Voas, Dennis Hippen
- Shirts
- Remember the 24<sup>th</sup> AAW Annual Symposium in Hartford, CT June 18 - 20. You can register on line at [www.woodturner.org/](http://www.woodturner.org/)
- Ron Dearing is going through some difficult times. Please remember him in your prayers.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Tom Evans gave the treasurer's report. Current club balance is \$950

**Silent Auction:**

Tom Evans managed the wood auction. The auction rendered \$29

**Show and Tell - Next Page:** (This is one of the four components of the CVW meetings including the business meeting, silent auction and demonstration. Show and tell provides a venue to display member's turned creations and discuss the materials, finish, impressions and problems with the item. Time also allows for questions and discussion. This inspires new techniques for veteran turners and challenges the less experienced. Combined with the clubs mentorship program, young turners and veterans can find themselves refining their skills and improving their craft - Editor)



**Show and Tell:**

Nate Hawks conducted the Show and tell which emphasized the Cherry Challenge with all blanks supplied by the club. 18 people had pieces for the challenge and several other pieces were presented along with some turning suggestions for improved finishes.

Tom Evans – Cherry piece had some discoloration due to a 30 caliber bullet he found as he was turning the piece. His piece is a footed natural edge bowl. Tom also had a large poplar vessel with beautiful grain.



Jim Oates – showed a bread bowl with natural edge turned to scroll handles that had to be re-turned after drying because of warpage.



Mike Meadows – produced a symmetrical bowl with good finish

Ray Kidd – made a nice lidded bowl from his cherry.





Ron Capps – discussed his bowl turned from the wettest wood he had used. Several other members agreed that the wetness did present



Mars Champion - showed a bowl that came off his chuck that he had salvaged and showed a cup made from the John Marshall house dogwood. He also showed a nice spaulted beech pepper grinder.



Dennis Hippen – Presented a collection of balls similar to what he would demonstrate later in the evening. He also showed a maple bowl with probably a mahogany foot. His box elder stemmed cup had a nice color pattern. He worried about the tool marks and got several suggestions on eliminating them. He also showed a high density plastic pusher he had made to extend the reach of his tail stock. For the Cherry Challenge he also created a



natural edge bowl from a piece with a bullet embedded in it. He donated this piece to the June sale.





Elbert Dale – had a rolling pin made from Monticello poplar with cherry handles from Ash Lawn. This piece as always was mostly turned using only a skew. Now if he can come up with a way to drill holes with it there will be no equal. (Sorry Elbert I failed to get a close-up picture of this fine rolling pin - Editor)



Richard Landreth – Showed a unique bowl within a bowl turned from his cherry log. (Sorry Richard, I had another senior moment and failed to get a better picture of you nice bowl - Editor)



Roger Flourey – showed a large natural edge cherry bowl with the bark intact.

Peter Welch - presented his natural edge bowl for the Cherry Challenge bowl





Charley Conner – had three bowls made from the cherry challenge log and a nice natural edge burl bowl.

Kirk McCauley – Presented his natural edge bowl and discussed the problem of discoloration of the outer wood due to bruised fiber. He got many suggestions for eliminating the bruising. He also brought two nice unique oak bowls, one with three feet.



**Methods suggested to eliminate bruising of cherry sapwood.**

- Sand with 80 grit paper
- Remove the heel from the gouge to lower the pressure on the wood fibers and prevent burnishing.
- Blow out residue out with air compressor before finishing.
- Coat with sanding sealer before sanding.
- Sand in two directions to make the fiber stand up.
- Use new sandpaper to get a better cut.

Drawing for gift certificate was won by ??????????



Don Voas – Showed a footed bowl made from a cube of wood as a preview to his demo along with candle stick holders made using the same technique. He also showed a maple vessel with the rim and foot of walnut.



Jim Higgins – presented his natural edge bowl from the cherry challenge and donated it to the June sale. He also presented a tall legged vessel that was a challenge to make stable because of the small base. He solved the problem by adding a thin foot to join the legs. Jim has been experimenting with organic dyes to enhance the grain and that gave this piece a very nice clear color somewhat darker than the wood but showing off the grain well.



Fred Williamson - Showed a very complex curved natural edge bowl with several distinct diameters from the bottom to the edge.



**Many apologies to Jim for calling him Bill Whittaker last month for some reason unknow to this editor. The senior moments must be multiplying and coming more frequently. I keep suggesting I be fired.....Editor**



Stark Smith – Had an egg crate of golf balls free to anyone who needed one. Jay Lindhjem had used one in his April demo over his live center to assist in turning his platter



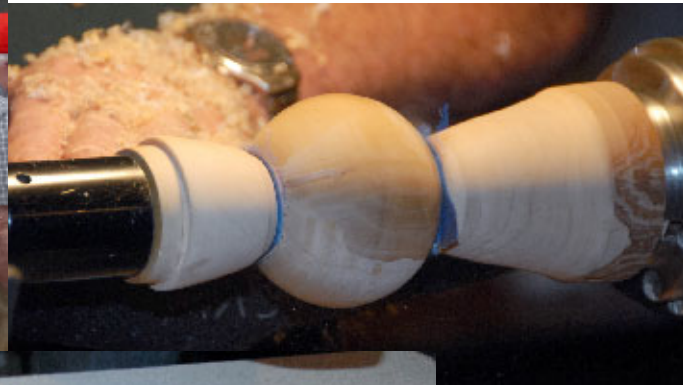


## Demonstration: Turning Spheres (Balls) by Dennis Hippen

Dennis Hippen demonstrated turning symmetrical balls from a block. He started the piece between centers to make the initial cylinder and then proceeded to make the first rounding cuts starting from his center inscribed on the cylinder. He then changed to his chuck to hold wood fixtures with a cup shaped working surface used to re-clamp the piece 90 degrees to the original turning axis. The curvature needed was approximated by patterns so that each pass was more nearly round. The process was repeated several times until only sanding was necessary to complete the ball.







Elbert Dale joined in by using the skew, his favorite turning tool, to turn a sphere.





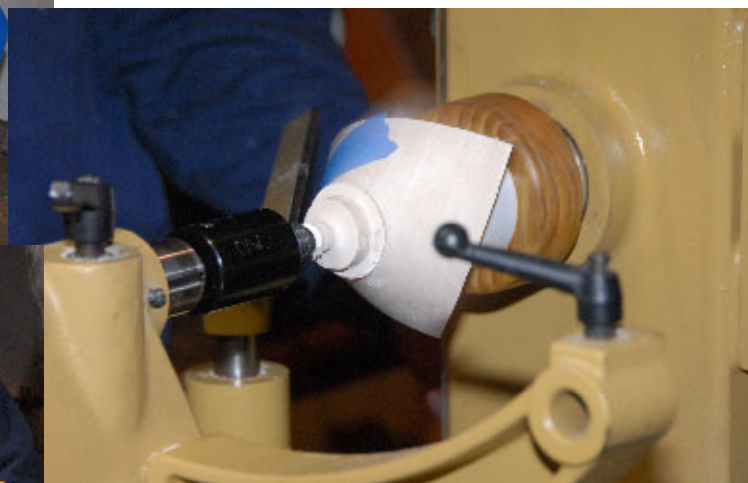
## Demonstration: Turning Bowls from a Cube - Don Voas

Don Voas showed turning a piece from an equal sided cube with two corners removed to allow the double centers to grip the piece solidly. Breakout was minimized by using sharp tools and turning at a relatively high speed. Planning the diameters carefully established the final proportions of the piece with only sanding to smooth the edges.





Don showed that frowning at the wood improve the quality of the turning.





## Demonstration: Visualizing Logs to Capitalize on Best Grain and Unique Characteristics - Fred Williamson

Fred Williamson showed how to visualize where a log should be cut to take advantage of the grain and hollow spots, crotches or burls in the wood to make unusual turnings. He also used a small tooth chain on his saw to improve cutting as well as keeping the chain tight to minimize kickback and improve safety. Starting with light cuts and using the teeth on the saw to control the piece. Balance of the piece can be improved by approximating the center for mounting and cutting the piece with the top and bottom parallel and then approximating the circle using either calipers or a circular pattern. Chalk is an absolute necessity for planning the cuts and center lines to minimize vibration while turning.

All demonstrators emphasized safety during their presentations. Woodturning can be dangerous unless the proper procedures are observed





Fred, There isn't any way to make a bowl out of this grotesque piece of wood, is there?



Cutting the logs for the Cherry Challenge was done on the farm of Dennis & Carole Martin near Churchville. President Peter Welch, Dennis Hippen, Dave Rhodes, Jim Jones and the editor sectioned four wild black cherry logs and split them in half for the challenge. After the chain saws were quiet and all the pieces were loaded they totaled about 150 chunks, which were shared with the Mt. Jackson club. A special thanks goes to Jim Jones who also helped fell the trees a few days before, plus he was kind enough to take these pictures.....Editor





One piece of cherry had a bullet imbedded in it. Dennis Hippen turned a bowl out of this piece.





## Demonstration: Turning Bowls and Hollow Forms - David Ellsworth @ the barn of Peter Shoemaker, Mt. Jackson

It was a real treat to be both educated and entertained by David Ellsworth. His presentation was both polished and replete with details on using a bowl gouge. Stopping frequently to provide details of the type of cut (roughing, scraping, shear scraping and finishing) provided the audience with exceptionally valuable turning techniques. David encouraged questions at any time, and reviewed topics on request. I felt fortunate to be able to learn from a real artist and a nice guy.



A special thanks is extended to the Woodturners of the Virginias (WOV or Mt. Jackson Club) for hosting David, and for inviting CVW members and coordinating between the clubs. A special thanks goes out to Peter Shoemaker for the use of his new, and very nice, barn. It was an excellent venue for the demonstration. Also, a special thanks goes to Starke Smith who provided his very nice Oneway lathe. Both lathes of the CVW club were taken to the barn, plus Peter's Powermatic 3520 and a Jet lathe of another WOV member were also available for the individual tutorage the followed the next day.







A unique grind on David's spindle gouge





