



CVW Newsletter - April 2011

President's Corner

Once again you are going to be inflicted with the ramblings of the secretary who filled in for Peter who was busy at work and unable to attend the meeting.

Remembering our purpose is to expand working knowledge of woodturning and mentoring newcomers to turning, and to this end we were pleased to attend the Alberene SoapStone tour arranged by Dennis Hippen this month. Everyone was impressed with the similarity of turning soap stone and wood and the veining and variability of stone similar to wood. Good job Dennis. Your officers would appreciate any other suggestions that might expand our knowledge of turning.

Show and Tell has become a great opportunity for people to also share what they have learned and ask questions about things that are still new to them. Keep up the good work. It is encouraging to see new turners progress so fast - keep it up!

The club store has become a real success through improved display, product availability and the efforts of Kirk McCauley and Tom Evans and in spite of some rough spots in the cash flow. Please let Kirk know about any other products that may be of interest.

Good feedback is needed to keep our mailing list complete and accurate. Check the members only portion of the website (<http://centralvawoodturners.org/>) for accuracy and send any corrections or additions necessary to Tom Evans.

President Substitute: Jim Oates



The next club meeting will be Tuesday, May 17, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. This meeting will have a show and tell and a silent auction. Spouses and significant or other guests are welcome. The demonstration will be *Finished Galore*.



April 19, 2011 Minutes

Crimora Community Center
Central Virginia Woodturners Club (CVW)

Officers

- President:** Peter Welch
- Vice President:** Nate Hawkes
- Treasurer:** Tom Evans
- Librarian:** Mars Champaign (Rolf Gebel - backup)
- Secretary:** Jim Oates
- Video Crew:** 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: 54 Total Attendance, and 5 guests

New member(s):

The following officers were not in attendance:

- President: Peter Welch
- Vice President: Nate Hawkes

> Jim Oates, as acting president, opened the meeting a little late at 7:10. The video crew was having troubles with a camera. If there are any volunteers they sure could use some help as the set up has become more time consuming as the videos have gotten more professional thanks to John O'Neil and Fred Williamson.

> New members Scott Meadows and Kevin Johnson and



visitors were welcomed.

> Catalogs are available for Klingspor for free at the door.

> Dennis Hippen announced the tour of Alberene Soapstone and Quarry on Wednesday, May 4th. An announcement will be mailed later with detail directions to their



shop. They have several large band saws, lathes and a resident sculptor as well as soap stone for sale. There are several requirements for the tour- Hardhats - they only have a limited number, no thongs, only closed toed shoes etc. Their web site is www.AlbereneSoapstone.com Dennis will provide a summary of the tour for publication later.

> April 22nd Tom Evans will be the featured artist for the Staunton Augusta Art Center's Museum Store at the RR Smith Center in Staunton from 5:00-7:00.

> May 8th Kirk McCauley will be at Stratford Hall for Coaching weekend showing turnings from the R.E. Lee plantation.

> We discussed the cancelation of the Barbara Dill demo and decided not to reschedule at this time. The next scheduled demo is Tom Boling in the fall.

> Raffle tickets were sold for the pen made in tonight's demonstration for \$2.00 each.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Evans reported that there was a balance of \$1061 in checking thanks to Dennis Hippen's donation from his wood sale, \$390 from the club store and with the new members added to equipment fund grew to \$636 and membership would be around 80 total.

Tom reminded members that if the dues were not paid as of tonight they would be removed from the active role.

Wood Turning Links you may want to try:

Glue recommendations: <http://www.thisisthat.com/cgi-bin/glue.cgi>

Great buy on Makita sanders: http://www.amazon.com/Factory-Reconditioned-Makita-GV5010-R-Disc-Sander/dp/B001WAHCJO/ref=cm_cr_pr_pb_t

Silent Auction:

Tom Evans managed the wood silent auction. The auction rendered \$28 for the club treasury.



**CENTRAL VIRGINIA WOODTURNERS CLUB
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF: 4/20/2011**

\$ 664.00 OPENING BALANCE

REVENUE/DEPOSITS:

\$643.00 Deposited 4/20/11
\$75.00 Dues- 2 new members and 1 renewal
\$50.00 Raffle- Richard Landreth pen
\$28.00 Silent auction
\$100.00 Dennis Hippen wood sale
\$390.00 Club Store sales

+ \$643.00 TOTAL REVENUE/DEPOSITS

EXPENDITURES:

\$64.50 Kirk McCauley-reimbursement for Club Store Purchases
\$175.00 Crimora Ruritans rent
\$6.00 Transfer \$2 per paid membership into Equipment Reserve savings account

-\$643 TOTAL EXPENDITURES

= \$ 1,061 CLOSING BALANCE (Checking Account)

Excludes: \$30.00 Treasurer's change fund

\$30.00 Club Store change fund

\$636.00 Equipment Reserve Savings account

Alberene SoapStone Tour

We were given a short safety form to read and a pamphlet describing the company's history. Since the 1880's, when James Serene found a quality vein of soapstone, the company has had operations in Central Virginia employing as many as 1000 people in 1925. In today's economy the company is much smaller.

The first impression of this company is that it is quiet, rusty and unique nestled in the middle of beautiful mountain scenery near where the "Waltons" story typified Americana. The buildings have obviously been around for a while and many are examples of soapstone durability.



This contrasts with modern diamond wire cutting equipment used to cut slabs of stone from $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick up. Most of the current production is from recycled "rejects" that were less than the required 50" by 50" sawed in the obsolete gang saw building. The rejects were dumped into the worked out quarry pits along with the overburden. These "rejects" weighing as much as 14,000 lbs. are now being recycled for countertops and slabs up to 30 inches wide and bulk stones as big as the block allows. The only effluent from these operations is stone dust entrained in water which is allowed to settle out in an old quarry before the water is absorbed into the ground.

The tour began with a walk through the coring and turning area where pieces are turned on a standard lathe using grinding stones and water in place of tool rests and gouges. Cores up to 14" can be cut and mounted on the lathe. Finished samples of the output of this operation were available in the office.

The stone yard handles rock up to 15,000 lbs. with an overhead bridge crane and a turnover table to position the rock for cutting on the diamond wire saw table. Imagine a 10 ft. tall band saw. Properly positioned stones are cut into $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch slabs for countertops and as little as $\frac{3}{4}$ inch for other applications. Conveyed from this machine on a large roller conveyor the slabs are polished to remove most of the saw marks and then the slabs proceed to manual polishing where a final finish is ground or brushed on the surface of the slab. Many finishes can be applied to the stone. Slabs are then moved to pallets and sorted and inspected for flaws before sale. Other pieces are cut to size with diamond blade saws for stove parts, pavers or countertops.

The resident artist, Toru Oba, was an interesting part of the tour and showed us around his area containing sculptures that had taken as much as 3 months to complete and ranged from water fountains to large free form sculptures. He explained the numerous finishing techniques he used to texture and polish the soapstone and other materials. After the tour we enjoyed a casual lunch at a local eatery and took the scenic route home. More pictures and a video are posted on the CWV web site.





Show and Tell:



Tom Evans kicked off with two large hollow forms. The first made from a 130 lb. maple blank was repaired to stabilize a breakout with nice walnut stitching. His second cherry sphere with a small bark depression was also filled with turquoise powder to stabilize a crack that was drawn together by soaking in water overnight to reduce the crack.

Ron Capps brought 5 small bowls. His American Elm required very sharp tools to achieve a smooth finish. Also he had bowls of Apple, Walnut, and Maple. The Maple bowl had a bark inclusion that looked like a bird. His Hickory platter had a nice variation in color. He also discussed repair methods for cracks in a bowl made from a Walnut crotch and ways he had learned at the meeting to prevent and repair cracks.





Charley Conner showed us his first pen and pencil set made from walnut burl with real ivory inserts from old piano keys and nicely finished.



Roger Chandler Showed two nicely finished hollow forms. The first was Catalpa and Walnut. He reported the Catalpa was hard to work and finish but the end result was nice. His footed Box Elder and walnut hollow form had poly finish that popped. The finial was slightly warped but only Charley noticed that.





Don Voas showed bowls made from root stock. He showed a small cherry bowl and two Arborvitae (White Cedar) natural edge bowls.



Tim Quillen showed his first green turning - a nicely made, thin, spault-ed Norway Maple piece.





Phil Evans brought three large bowls he had made from a sycamore tree he had to remove from his yard. They were nicely finished with wipe on poly and Tung oil.



Dave Potter presented a White Oak burl bowl (so he could participate in the drawing). Dave has brought coffee to each meeting for the last 6 months. Thanks Dave.





Denny Martin showed his deep Norway maple bowl and a boring bar which he will sell if you are nice to him.



Charley Wenzel brought a variety of turned pieces including bottle stoppers, a toothpick dispenser and an inside-out handle. His tool caddy looked handy for controlling shop mess. He also showed a collection of pens



which he has been turning for about two years. Originally he featured furniture at his sales but now almost half his sales are from turnings. His hollow forms are Chinese Chestnut, Black Palm and Bubinga.



Fred Williamson showed two large, outstanding natural edge Norway Maple bowls, a heart pine unfinished vessel and a Silver Maple bowl produced from a piece of Silver maple soaked in PEG (polyethylene glycol) to stabilize the wood.



Before and After





Andy Rhodes, recently introduced to wood turning by his dad, Dave Rhodes, presented a very large Poplar crotch bowl, a Maple bowl with an embedded lead shot, a Cherry and a Red Oak bowl, both with natural edges. Impressive results for a new turner.





Demonstration: Richard Landreth - Pen Making



Richard showed the tools necessary for pen turning from all manner of materials. A pen Mandrel is an

absolute necessity for mounting bushings and tubes to make pens. A live center for the tailstock is also a good option to have. A pen press, vice or clamp can be used for assembly.

Since a large number of types of pen kits are available from suppliers such as Penn state and Woodcraft he recommended carefully organizing tools to match the kits.

He also recommended carefully reviewing assembly instructions for proper placement of bushings and proper bushing sizing.



The first step is selecting a blank and boring a hole for the brass tube allowing 1/16th of



an inch or more per end for squaring and trimming. Barrel trimmers are available for each size tube.

Scrapers or gouges can be used to turn pens but scrapers with a relief bevel are better for acrylic blanks.

Bushing diameters must be matched accurately for a smooth fit but in between can be personalized for better feel.

Sanding proceeds in steps fro 120 down to 600 grit sandpaper followed by EEE-Ultrashine to smooth surface.

Finishes can be CA glue or friction polish. Water based finishes tend to raise the

grain and are not used.

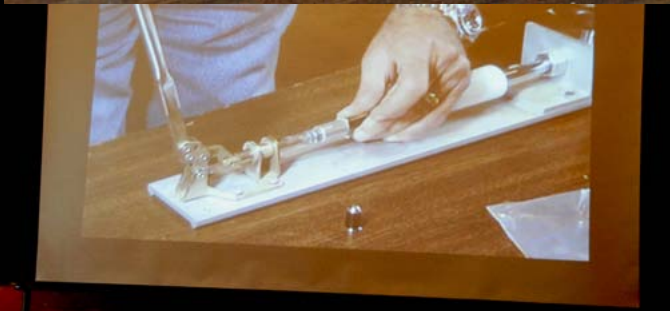
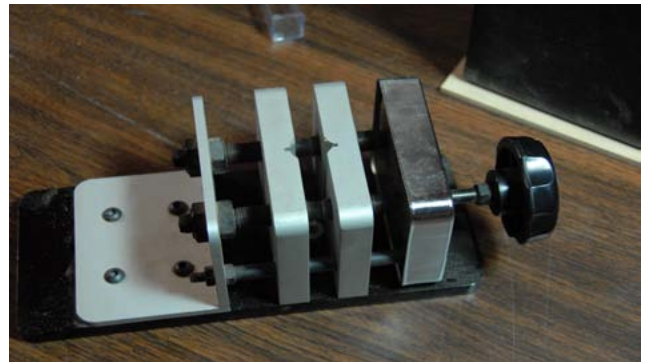
Richard then demonstrated his technique for making a Celtic Knot to embellish a pen and make an attractive pen.

Care must be taken in inserting components to assemble the pen.

Acrylics are inherently safe since the chips tend to be a long ribbon and no dust is generated.

Dave Map won the pen that Richard assembled during the demonstration made from African Blackwood.







Silent Auction





Buy & Sell Section: This space will be dedicated to featuring things that are for sale (i.e., tools, lathes, wood, turned items) or things that members are seeking to purchase. Please submit the items you wish to sell with any pictures prior to the publication of each newsletter. Because the newsletter completion date is so variable I suggest you call or email the newsletter editor with your information. If you are seeking to purchase something and want to advertise in this venue please submit a written description to the editor:

Dennis (Denny) Martin, 272 Buffalo Branch Ln., Swoope, VA 24479
540-337-7716 ursus@mgwnet.com

For Sale

No for-sale items were submitted prior to completing this newsletter.

Attention - Schedule Change

The Barbara Dill Demo scheduled for Saturday, April 23 was canceled due to cash flow problems and it being scheduled the day before Easter, which would likely limit attendance (see President's Corner). We need to support professional demonstrations by attending and paying dues promptly at the first of the year.

The next club meeting will be Tuesday May 17, 2011 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The demo will be **Finishes Galore**

Be sure and bring something for show and tell.

Jim Oates, Secy. CVW



Notes:

REMEMBER: IT WAS PROPOSED AT THE JANUARY MEETING THAT MEMBERS WITH THEIR LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH A TO M COME EARLY FOR SET UP, AND THOSE BEGINNING WITH N TO Z STAY LATE TO CLEAN UP.

Club Store:

There was \$390.00 in store sales indicating that Peter and Kirk are doing a great job of running the club store. Contact either of them with suggestions.

Did you see a mistake? Did I identify someone incorrectly? If so, please let me know. It takes some time to learn names of new members, so mistakes are made. A bigger mistake would be not letting me know, to allow me to correct any errors. Call, email or let me know during the meeting. Many thanks!...Editor (Dennis Martin/540-337-7716/ursus@mgwnet.com)

If you think of ways to improve the CVW newsletter with suggestions or criticisms, please get the attention of our old, ugly, short, nearly bald editor and tell him about it.....editor.

Better yet, fire him; you can do better.

Gift Card Drawing:

Winners of the \$10 gift certificates were Charley Conner and Roger Chandler

Silent Auction:

Tonight's auction had a variety of wood choices and yielded an additional \$28 of income for the club.

Shop of the Month:

Shops, whether modest or elaborate, are of interest to all wood turners. Books have been written on the subject. Organized or chaotic, our shops can symbolize work habits, interests, skills, tidiness (or the lack thereof) and an effort to be creative and make things with our hands, tools and machines. In other words, our shops seem to take on the personality of the wood worker. Our shops may be comprised of a bench-top lathe and hand tools or a full shop of industrial grade machines we all dream about. Impressive results can be realized in both work environments. Whether a weekend woodworker, a retired hobbyist or a professional wood turner, all derive satisfaction from discovering the secrets and beauty in a chunk of wood. Beginner or accomplished, the wood turner strives to improve techniques, become more efficient, and learn from mistakes and from peers, videos or instruction. In an effort to share turning knowledge, it seems there would be benefit to seeing the shops of other turners. To that end, I have been given permission to include each month (if I can keep up the pace) a one or two page pictorial rendering of the shop of a member or perhaps others that aren't members. Please see this month's Shop-of-the-Month on the next two pages.....Editor.

Sorry, but having to clean up after a tornado that chose to visit our farm and barn (not the house) a couple of weeks ago, and our good neighbors, the Shop of the Month section won't be a part of the newsletter this month.

Look for the shop in next month's newsletter.....Editor