



## CVW Newsletter - May 2011

### President's Corner

Greetings fellow woodturners!! I'm overjoyed to be spending the past few weeks relaxing a bit before I take the Nursing state licensing boards later this month. I've been spending lots of time in my shop turning bowls and preparing logs for future turning. Some time ago I happened across a web page that outlined the "four laws of woodturning". At the time, I found it particularly humorous as well as educational. I wrote it down, and found the paper again recently. I wish I could give credit to the original author, but I can't find the original source of the "four laws". At any rate, here they are, as I originally read them. Again, I stress that I am not the original author.

1. Cutting is better than sanding!! This is SO important, and one of the keys to having fun with woodturning. I can't tell you how many times I stood with a power drill and sanding disc in my hand and wished hard that I had taken more time to achieve a cleaner cut while turning the bowl rather than sand out the tool marks with the "80 grit gouge". Sometimes, I have even resorted to 60 grit for severe grain tear-out. Ever since my table saw accident, I've been learning to be patient and not rush to finish turning a bowl. I stop the lathe frequently and re-assess my approach, and maybe change the tool I'm using. While it is true that an entire bowl with just one tool, sometimes a combination of tools gives better results.

2. The bevel does not cut!  
Again, this is an important hint to remember. When learning to use a bowl gouge, we all learn to rub the bevel on the wood surface to keep control of the tool, but as we gain this fine control, it starts becoming apparent that the bevel can really do a number on soft wood grain, leaving the equivalent of a bruise on the wood, which is often difficult to remove with sanding, and also doesn't always appear until oiling--then its too late!! It isn't essential to do, but it is a big help to grind back the bevel on your gouge to a bit narrower than standard, in order to help remove some of the potential for bruising. More on this point later.

3. You can't make the inside bigger than the outside!!  
This one is kind of funny for me, because for whatever reason,

I am very talented at making funnels! I have the laser guide for the McNaughton coring tool, but don't always use it, as it is a bit awkward to use for me, as I like to change the knives often, which requires re-positioning of the laser each time. You can make a funnel when using a bowl gouge, or any tool for that matter. STOP AND CHECK YOUR THICKNESS!! Whether using an expensive gauge from Craft Supplies or Packard Woodworks, or the simple bent wire that David Ellsworth uses, a thickness measuring tool is very important. Fred Williamson has demonstrated the use of his shop-made thickness calipers several times in the past. They are great!

4. You can take more off, but not put more back on.

This is a hard one to remember. I really like letting each piece of wood help speak to determine what shape it is going to become, based on what the grain might be inside, or the hidden bark inclusions or voids present inside burls. Authors are allowed to have "writers' block", so why can't we have "turners block". This is what I call it when I just can't be happy with the shape a piece is turning out to be, because I keep playing with taking another cut here or there. I think the perfect form takes a lifetime to achieve, but also learning when to say, "okay, I'm happy with the shape now".

While some of these things are pretty basic, they can all be applied to so many different areas of turning; bowls, spindles, hollow forms, etc. I like to look at

the list often and evaluate what I'm doing and could do differently to become a better woodturner, while still having fun. I hope we can all help each other to grow and most of all, to enjoy the craft of woodturning with each other. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Nate Hawkes, Vice President (Acting President)



**The next club meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 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 program will be multi-station with use of the easy rougher, sharpening and other stations available.**



**May 17, 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, John O'Neil and Pat Steele
- Newsletter Editor:** Dennis Martin
- Web site:** Fred Williamson (Jay Ragsdale - backup)
- Programs Vice President:** Nate Hawkes
- Attendance:**  
78 paid members 12 new since first of year.  
Members: Count was not taken.
- New member(s)/Guests:**  
Visitors: Bill Russell, Ken Gibbs, Jim Hicks, Colman Packard, Robert Packard

**The following officers were not in attendance:**

President: Peter Welch

**Silent Auction:**

Tom Evans managed the wood silent auction. The auction rendered \$35 for the club treasury.

**The General Meeting:**

Nate Hawkes called the meeting to order at 7:05. Nate has just finished his nursing courses and graduated from UVA. Congratulations Nate and welcome back.

David Ellsworth used a unique drive center during his demonstration, but he was unable to remember who gave it to him or who made it. The June 2011 edition of American Woodturner unlocks the secret. Stubby is the manufacturer and it costs \$100 (<http://stubby-latheusa.com/cgi-bin/onlinestore.py>).



Do you know this beautiful and bright young woman? She was a guest at the May meeting. A good friend of our Vice President, Nate Hawkes, she was articulate, had a great smile, and even talked to old, cranky men. We hope she returns. You might ask Nate to invite her back.

It seems each meeting we are blessed with guests that are interested in what our meetings are about and how to create the excellent pieces that members bring for Show & Tell. You can help make them feel welcome by introducing yourself and showing them around. They might like to look at our equipment and tooling or be able to ask questions about S&T items or talk about the wood on the Silent Auction table. Please help our guests feel comfortable about being at our meetings, and encourage them to return. It is an excellent time to talk to them about how club members can help them learn to turn.....Editor.



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

-\$246.00 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

Note: Totals are rounded to even dollars for ease of reading

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Current club balance** is \$1061 per Tom Evans Treasurer's report but stores supplies and misc. expenses decreased this total to \$937

**Equipment reserve** \$635.70. We will buy a new live center to replace one that runs hot.

Tom Evans announced the September SVAC show for all members of CVW to show and /or sell their work. Bring items to the August meeting. Sandpaper raffle tickets \$1 or 3 for \$2.

Fred Williamson - trees blown down at Monticello - European Linden and sugar maple a big pile of branches still there and he may be able to supply to the club.



Do you know these two? Although not the best looking critters that came out of the box, they are the two that have done the most to assemble, set up, video the meetings and tear down the system each month (others do help). The Audio and Visual Systems we club members and our guests enjoy each month has been improved substantially in the last couple of years through their research, hard work, innovation and recommendations. Better speakers, better cameras, talented videography and a penchant to continually improve are the products. If you get a chance please tell them how much you appreciate their very hard work. If you have ideas on how to improve the system they would be most pleased to hear them. Who are they? John O'Neil (the one with the hairy chin) and Fred Williamson. The club is fortunate to have them among us.....Editor.



## Show and Tell:



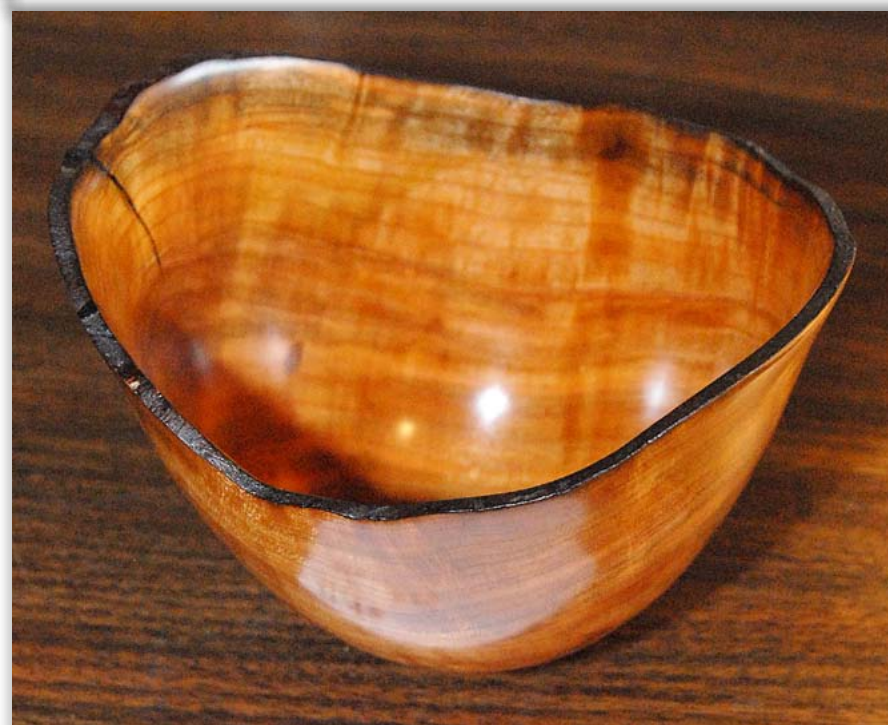
**Fred Williamson** - Showed a large piece of Linden (basswood family) from Monticello mounted on a faceplate with CA saturated base to stabilize - it needs super sharp chisel to turn.



**Charlie Wenzel** - Brought an Easy Rougher purchased w/o a handle, so he made one from maple per Nate Hawkes demo last month. He also showed a platter made from cherry, hickory and spalted maple with wax finish.



**Miles Everard** - Brought a musical instrument similar to a ukulele. The top & back were sassafras, the edge from cherry and walnut, with an ebony bridge and a mahogany neck. He also had 8 cup-and-ball toys, 10 tops and a kaleidoscope. Miles has been busy.



**Nate Hawkes** - Showed the club a cherry root bowl with a natural edge. The damaged tree was found after a storm. The piece had a deep, rich color.



**Don Voas** - Presented a container made from cherry root finished with 600 grit inside and a maple crotch platter finished with Behlens wood finish. He also explained his IKEA Lamp with LED available for \$10.

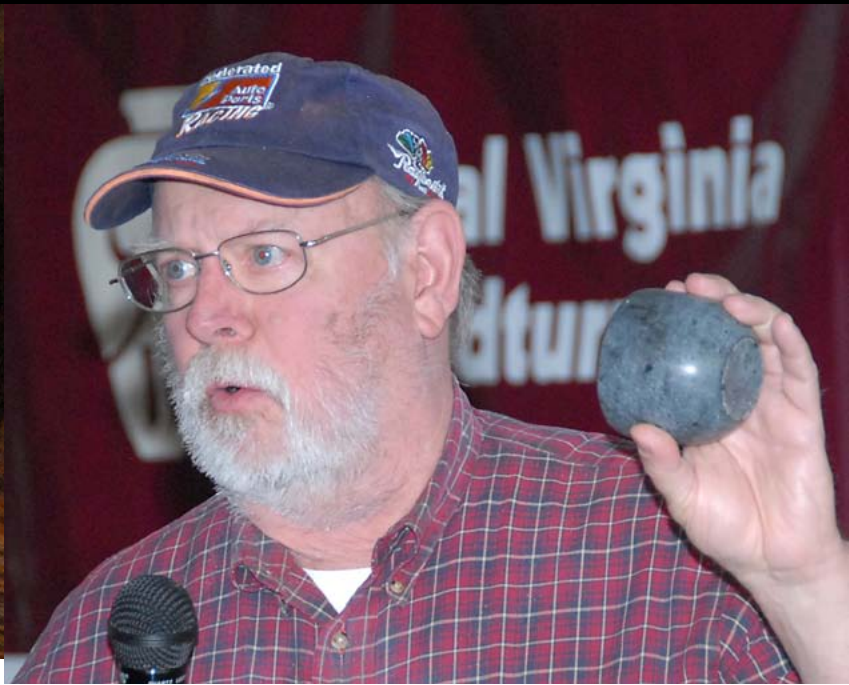


**Andy Rhodes** - Brought three very large bowls of Norway maple and large crotch pieces with bark inclusions. A large American Beech from Gipsy Hill Park was used to make an-



other large bowl. Andy participated in Art in the Park craft show in Staunton May 28 and 29 and sold several pieces.





**Bill Russell** - Showed an Alberene soapstone cup for keeping his Martinis cold that was made by Andre Steinmetz



**Jim Oates** - Brought a candy container made from a cut off blue wine bottle and a carved cherry top and base. He also brought a "rotten" maple bowl with gaps filled with Walnut, Cherry, Maple and Holly sawdust to stabilize it after treating the whole piece with sanding sealer.



**Denny Martin** - Showed a walnut bowl with a nicely grained apricot base he made for his wife Carole's birthday. He used black paint to fill the pores to highlight the walnut grain. He really isn't asleep.



**Phil Evans** - Displayed two small Red Maple bowls, a Sycamore platter and a natural edge Maple bowl. Phil has improved his turning skill substantially since joining CVW.





**Mike Meadows** - Presented a large, heavily spalted sycamore bowl. Not a good picture of Mike...Editor



**Starke Smith** - explained his walnut platter and the edge that came off when he cut it too thin. He reminded all about the Charles Neil General finishes WOV demonstration. His Wild Cherry bowl was finished with Danish Oil





**Brice Connelly -**  
Brought a vessel of pine from an old barn. He burned the rim and found it was very flammable.



Typical high quality turnings on display for Show & Tell, and the club store continues to be a popular, convenient complement to the club, managed by Kirk McCauley & Peter Welch.



## Demonstration: Finishing Options by Nate Hawkes, Fred Williamson & Kirk McCauley

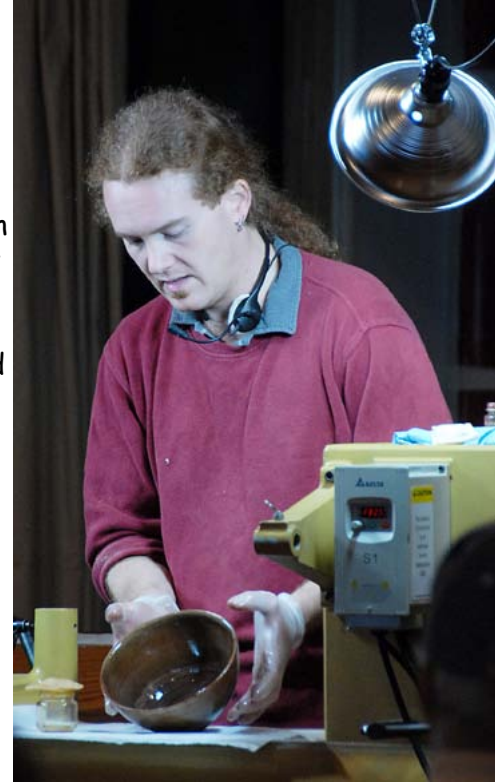
**Nate Hawkes** - Shellac is scraped from the bark of the trees where the female lac bug, *Kerria lacca*, Order Hemiptera, Family Coccidae secretes it to form a tunnel-like tube as it traverses the branches of the tree. De-waxed Shellac - 1 lb cut 1lb/quart



ter of paris to fill the pores. It will not turn the piece white.

cut with denatured alcohol. It is not a durable finish if used alone. Wear safety glasses unlike our demonstrator. Apply with paper towel while rotating slowly similar to French Polish. Never use a cloth since it will not tear away if it catches on the work. Gradually increase speed to polish and let dry. Polish with dry paper towel. An oil finish can be used after a day to harden and evaporate any remaining solvent.

You may have to wipe the bowl after about an hour to remove any bleed out before the finish hardens. Let the piece stand for about 24 hours or more depending on humidity levels. Finish can be brought up with Scotch-brite pads. Dispose of towels saturated with finish only after letting them dry thoroughly.



Nate also discussed Minwax Antique oil consisting of alkyd solids and linseed oil. He saturated the bowl at the first step of the finish until it seeped completely through the end grain. He poured from the container into the bowl to have enough finish to saturate the wood. He then turned the bowl over and wiped the outside. Richard Landreth suggested rubbing walnut with plas-

Waterlox penetrates better but costs 50% more and tends to gel with age.





**Fred Williamson** - demonstrated the Behlens Salad Bowl finish. Apply to the inside first; turn over and do the outside. Wipe smooth quickly before the finish becomes sticky.

It tends to set up fast. Behlens can be applied over almost any other finish including vegetable oils. Salad oils can only be removed from wood using oven cleaner. Fred uses 600 grit paper mounted on soft foam with sponge backing to remove scratches before applying finish.



Butcher block finishes made from linseed oil and bees wax or mineral oil is good for cutting boards and the like. Bees wax can be shaved and melted into the oil to augment the finish. The addition of bees wax will reduce water spotting. Behlens is inherently safe since it will not catch fire.

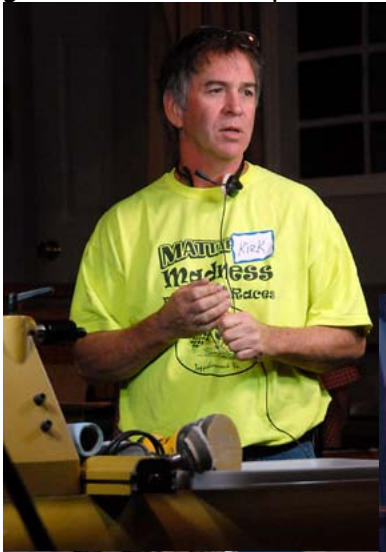
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Kirk McCauley pointed out that thin shellac will keep CA glue from staining woods when patching cracks. Kirk demonstrated finishing small pieces with Cyanoacrylate (CA) glue. He sands the piece to 400 or 600 grit to remove scratches and applies medium

thin CA by spreading with a plastic sheet or sponge and buffs with a dry paper towel. Buffing can improve almost any finish according to Kirk. The three buffing steps he uses are:



1. Tripoli
  2. White diamond
  3. Carnauba wax
- CA can also be used to waterproof goblets. Flutes and coffee cups





## Finishing notes from Fine Woodworking and Wikipedia

**Minwax Antique Oil Finish** dried in five hours to a low-gloss sheen with middle-of-the-spectrum color. Its water resistance was poor.

### Test Results

Drying Time 5 hours

Sheen Low-gloss

Water Resistance Poor

**French Polishing** is a wood finishing technique that results in a very high gloss surface, with a deep color and chatoyancy. It consists of applying many thin coats of shellac dissolved in alcohol using a rubbing pad. The rubbing pad is made up of wadding inside a square piece of fabric and is commonly referred to as a fad (also called a tampon)).

**Pure Tung Oil.** Extracted from the nut of the china wood tree. Used as a base in many blended finishes. Available from catalogs and hardware stores. Difficult to apply, requires many coats, good water-resistance.

**Raw Linseed Oil.** Pressed from flax seeds. Not to be confused with boiled linseed, which contains metallic driers. Listed as a food additive by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Very long curing time, good looks, low water-resistance, frequent reapplication.

**Mineral Oil.** Although derived from petroleum, it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and entirely inert. Sold as a laxative in drug stores and as a wood finish in hardware and kitchen-supply stores. Simple to apply, low water resistance, frequent reapplication.

**Walnut oil.** Pressed from the nuts of the walnut tree. Sold as a salad oil in health food stores and in large grocery stores. Walnut oil dries and won't go rancid. Easy to apply, frequent reapplication.

**Beeswax.** The work of the honey bee. Can be mixed with an oil to create a better-smelling, slightly more water repellent finish. Sold in woodworking and turning catalogs.

**Carnauba Wax.** Derived from the Brazilian palm tree. Harder than beeswax and more water-resistant. Can be used straight on woodenware as a light protective coating or a topcoat polish. Sold in woodworking and turning catalogs.

**Shellac.** A secretion from the lac bug. Harvested in India. Super blond shellac in flake form is the most water resistant variety. A film-forming finish. Sold

in woodworking catalogs and hardware and art supply stores.

**Nothing.** Available everywhere. Makes a reasonable finish for woodenware. No application time. Free.

### A recipe for one sweet finish

The food-safe finish that appeals most to me is one recommended by Jim and Jean Lakiotes, West Virginia makers of spoons and other kitchen items, as well as furniture. Their finish is a mixture of mineral oil and beeswax.

To make it, warm the mineral oil in a saucepan over low heat, and melt a chunk of beeswax in it equal to about one-fifth or one-sixth the volume of the oil. (At high heat, there's a potential for fire. Be sure to keep the heat low, and consider using a double boiler.) As the wax begins to flake apart and dissolve, stir frequently. When the mixture is blended, pour it into a jar to cool and solidify.

To apply, wipe on an excess of the soft paste, let it dry a bit, then wipe it off. If you want to apply it as a liquid, you can reheat it. Like any mineral oil or wax finish that will take a lot of abuse, this one will need to be reapplied often to afford decent moisture protection. But applying this fragrant finish is such a pleasure that you may find yourself looking forward to the task.

This article is excerpted from Jonathan Binzen's article "Which Finishes Are Food Safe,"

**Lacquer** is often regarded as the best all-around finish for wood. It dries quickly, and it's durable. There are several different types of lacquer available to woodworkers. Understanding the characteristics of each will help you choose the right one.

### The Basics:

- Nitrocellulose: Relatively inexpensive, quick drying, and the cured resins provide a reasonably good protective layer
- Acrylic lacquer: Avoid the yellowing problems associated with nitrocellulose lacquer
- Catalyzed lacquer: Hybrid reactive finishes that cure chemically, not solely through the evaporation of solvents.



## Silent Auction



## It's Official - It's Art

The June show at SVAC is an open category show for members only. It was judged on June 2 and an opening reception was held the same evening at 5:00pm. Tom Evans entered the large natural edge maple vase with a big knot hole, covered with spalting and has long gap stabilized with walnut stitches - It won Best of Show! Tom had shown that piece in the May meeting Show and Tell. When Tom first joined the Shenandoah Valley Art Center some of the artists questioned whether Wood turnings were art or "only" a craft. When Tom suggested we have a CVW show there, it turned into one of their most popular events with strong participation from many of our members and good attendance at the SVAC show.



There has been an ongoing discussion concerning woodturning as an art. I think it can be both. As a person learns a craft they develop the ability to produce an attractive result. Just as paint by number picture isn't art, some turned pieces are made from plans and finished and are not "art". A carefully planned and finished piece like this is a joy to behold and represents what our club is all about. There is a calligraphic piece that covers this discussion well:

He who works with his hands  
 Is a laborer  
 He who works with his hands and  
 his head  
 Is a craftsman  
 He who works with his hands his

head a his heart  
 Is an artist (Submitted by Jim Oates)



**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](mailto:ursus@mgwnet.com)

**FOR SALE -- Sears Craftsman 10" Radial Arm Saw with Craftsman dust collector, mounted on steel legs with casters, 2.5 hp, 120/240 volts, 11.0-5.5 amps, 3450 rpm, 60 Hz, 1 phase. Blade wrenches. Blades include 60 tpi Freud Carbide (excellent condition) and the following Sears Craftsman Kromedge blades: two 28 tpi Chisel-Tooth Combination, 64 tpi Hollow-Ground Planer, 200 tpi Thin Rim Satin Cut Veneer, plus 10"x3/32" & 10"x5/32" Sanding Wheels. \$250 or best offer.**



**Don Voas, 1211 Windsor Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, Phone 540-433-1518.**

**For Sale: A Model 95 PowerMatic scroll saw in very good condition. Mounted on a heavy steel stand, 1/3 hp motor, with a light and belt guard. Contact Gary Cline @ 540-294-7092 Asking \$400.**







## 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 Andy Rhodes and Phil Evans. Support our vendors who provide the certificates.

### Silent Auction:

Tonight's auction had a variety of wood choices and yielded an additional \$35 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.

Don Voas has been kind enough to share some information and pictures of his very nice shop that is in his basement in his and his wife Nancy's home in Harrisonburg. Don made the shop presentable on short notice, so if you get a chance please thank him for taking the time to welcome you, vicariously, into his very nice wood working environment. Please turn to the next page.



# Shop of the Month - Don Voas



Overhead lighting is daylight fluorescent (6500°K) which enables seeing a brighter more natural white and wider color gamut than possible with the more common cool white fluorescent and incandescent bulbs.



In Don's small shop - 325 ft. sq. - storage is at a premium. Consequently, you will see that areas to store wood are limited only to the boundaries of his imagination.



The radial arm saw is for sale. See the For Sale section in this newsletter.



A Colwood Cub wood-burner near this vise is used for identifying and signing the bottom of turned pieces.

A 1960s walnut stereo cabinet was converted to an attractive storage and display cabinet for small turned pieces by removing the legs, radio receiver, turntable and speakers and then mounting it on a wall above book shelving. Woven reed panels in front of the speakers were removed and made into doors by adding hinges and turning knobs.

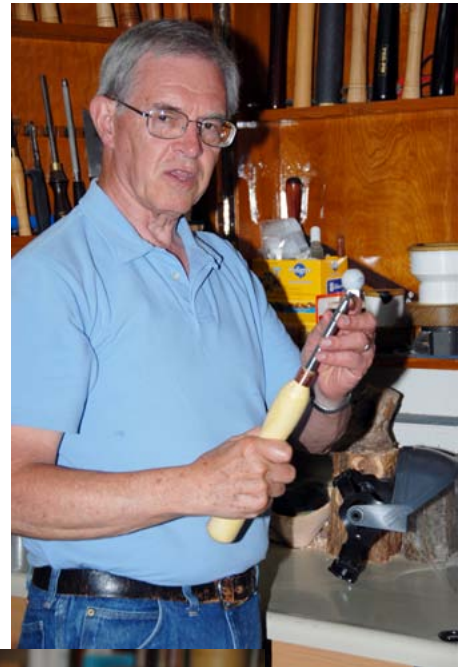


Don is always open to trying new techniques and always result in perfection.





An old adage says that a clean desk is the product of a troubled mind. In large part because of the size of his shop, Don has had to create a system of organized equipment, tooling and storage to allow him to produce his excellent turnings and other wood work. Regardless, it is clear he does conform to the adage above.....editor.



Don fabricat- ed templates to provide accurate sharpening of his lathe tools.



The table saw and work bench are the same height for convenience in cutting large panels and long boards. A skid/pallet top and smooth fiber-board on top of the table saw (with blade cranked down) provides a great work table. This top, with several spacers, can be positioned on the reclaimed dining room table behind the saw to provide a level out-feed surface when cutting 4"x8" plywood.

Workbench legs and frame were made from tulip poplar 3"x4" wall studs salvaged from a Cincinnati, OH, house built in 1840. They are solidly held together with bolts and internal barrel nuts. Three holes (center and near each end) were drilled through the maple bowling lane floor. A threaded rod through each hole allowed tightening nuts to eliminate cracks between several warped boards. Don turned a new cherry handle and inserted cherry jaw pads for the old PowerKraft 10" quick release wood vise.





This Power-Matic band saw is a great mate for his PM 3520B lathe.



His grinding and buffing are at one station. A buffing wheel extension is forthcoming to improve his polishing.

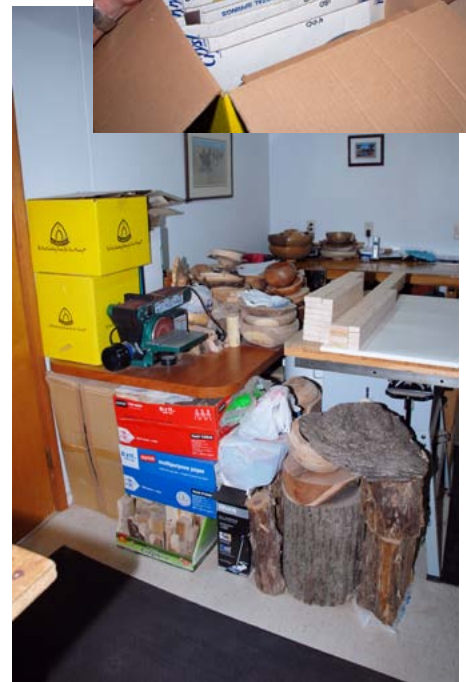


What was Don turning the day of the interview?...Nothing. He was making rug looms for his most gracious wife Nancy. This goes a long way to paying for that electric chain saw.



The newest tool in Don's shop is a Makita electric chain saw. Excellent choice.

Who do you know that labels his/her wood scraps and the surplus sand paper from Klingspor. Are we dealing with a troubled mind?



Bent band saw blades to set projects that are drying after applying finish is a great idea.

