



CVW Newsletter - June 2011

President's Corner

Well fellow CVW members, the dog days of summer have arrived early this year! It's been over 90 degrees during the day for about the last week and a half here. Even during a recent trip to Allegheny County the heat has been fierce! My shop is really a converted shed, and not insulated or air-conditioned. I have a 36" belt driven fan at one end sucking air through, which actually keeps it fairly comfortable except on the most humid of days. Even when you're not exerting yourself much, you sweat quite a bit when it is 95 degrees outside! A cool cloth on the neck helps, as does shorts and a t-shirt. I can't quite stand to turn bare-chested. Too messy!

Lately I've been thinking about a short demonstration on routine chainsaw maintenance. Many of us take it for granted, but the more I read in online forums, there are many turners that don't know much about saw and need reminders to help avoid costly repairs or replacement. Here are just a few regular things that might help you keep your saw running right. Part of a routine saw tune-up should include replacing more than just the spark plug. The air filter of your saw is very important; even though it might look clean, your filter should be replaced regularly to keep your saw running right.

Tiny particles that pass through openings in an old filter lead to a clogged carburetor, which means poor performance and frustration when you need power. In addition, the fuel filter should also be replaced regularly; I do this once a year minimum. Your saw dealer may recommend otherwise. When it comes to greasing your saw bars, this should be done daily. Even on inexpensive cutting bars there should be a small hole near the tip for inserting a grease gun. Your crankshaft bearings may require regular lubrication. Check your owners' manual. In addition to greasing the tip, cutting bars should be flipped over upside down at least every time you change chains. The guide bars can be run either direction (but don't forget to make sure the chain is going the right direction!) to keep the wear even on both sides of the bar. Also important, make certain your gas-oil mix is the right ratio. According to Stihl USA, you should always go to the very end of your can of gas. Leaving a little in the bottom and adding oil means that your mix is slowly getting more and more concentrated, leading to carbon deposits on your piston and exhaust ports, leading to potentially catastrophic overheating events. Saws are made of magnesium and aluminum alloys, which deform very readily at extreme temperatures. As I am finding out, this is potentially VERY expensive. If you have a commercial grade saw, this can be several hundred dollars.

Lastly, routine inspection of the major components is important. Check for wear in the chain brake band; you shouldn't see any thin or burned spots; this might mean something is out of alignment. Everyone will experience a broken starter rope at some point. You can usually avoid frustration by replacing the starter rope before it happens. Watch for worn spots or frays before they break. The chain drive sprocket mechanism is another

inspection point; it shouldn't have any deep grooves in it. Oregon, which makes bars and chains, recommends replacing it every 2 chains. Sounds like they are trying to sell a lot of parts! Just watch for grooves in the sprocket mechanism. This can mean chain slipping during a cut, as well as premature wearing of your chain and bar. As the worn gears push the chain, it slightly deforms the links, unnaturally wearing the groove in the cutting bar. Side-note, make sure that you have the right width chain for your bar. Chains come in .050, .058, and .063" gauges, meaning that the metal links on the underside of the chain are that thick. Although any saw can technically drive any of the different thickness chains, the guide bar can only fit one thickness

of chain. Trying to use a chain that is too thick will lead to bad words being shouted at oneself - trust me!! Also, a chain that is too narrow may slip out of the groove and come off during operation. Remember the gauge of the chain is different from the "pitch" of the chain-- .325, .375, or .404. The "pitch" is the average distance between the rivets of the chain. Take the distance between three rivets and divide by two. Most homeowner saws will be the smaller two sizes, while large saws use .375 or .404. They are NOT interchangeable!! The saw's gears and guide bar must be converted to change the type of chain you run. Keeping each part of the saw in good shape will mean longer life for your expensive chains, and a safer, more enjoyable experience!!

I have to always put a plug in for safety. I have a few saws, some very large. Every saw, even the smallest limb cutting saw, is capable of hurting or killing you in an accident. Stay safe. I have 12-layer Kevlar chaps; I will not lie and say

that I wear them all the time; sometimes I admit to being lazy or "too hot" to wear them. We SHOULD all wear personal protective equipment whenever we use a chainsaw, meaning steel toed boots, chaps, gloves, a forestry helmet with face shield, respirator and last but not least, ear protection!! Any exposure to sounds anywhere near the volume of a chainsaw, no matter how long, is damaging to your ears.

So until we meet again in Crimora, stay safe, take care of your equipment, and keep on turning!

Nate Hawkes



The next club meeting will be Tuesday, July 19, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. This meeting will have a show and tell, a silent auction and a demonstration of carving and chain saw maintenance. Spouses and significant or other guests are welcome.



June 21, 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
- Newsletter Editor:** Dennis Martin
- Web site:** Fred Williamson (Jay Ragsdale - backup)
- Programs Vice President:** Nate Hawkes
- Attendance:** 47
- Total Membership:** 79

New member(s)/Guests:

- Guests: Coleman Packard
- New Members: Bill Miller & Robert Packard



The following officers were not in attendance:
President: Peter Welch

The General Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Nate Hawkes filling in for Peter Welch

New members and visitors were welcomed.

Lathe Loan Policy: requested for Boy Scout project. Decision made by officers present to loan the lathe so member can use the resource - Milton Estes

Treasurer's Report:

\$943 in checking and \$644 in equipment reserve. See detail on next page.

SVAC show in September - bring articles for the show to the **August** meeting. Tom Evans will carry to the show or see him to make other arrangements.



Club Store:

There was \$364.00 in store sales indicating that Peter and Kirk are doing a great job of running the club store. Contact either of them with suggestions.

Below is an example of the pieces of advanced turning that is exhibited on the **AAW** (American Association of Woodturners) web site. Combined with their magazine, they offer basic to state-of-the-art wood turning information (<http://www.woodturner.org/>)....Editor



Turning of the Week -

This is the last piece that I will be taking to the National Symposium. I just finished this piece yesterday. It is Live Oak acorn caps with blue resin and Live Oak burl cast in the same resin for the rim and base. I would guess it is about 13" or so tall and about 4 1/2" in diameter. It is a little under 1/8" thick and quite translucent.

The finish is a catalyzed varnish sanded and buffed to a high gloss....Alan Trout of San Antonio, TX (<http://www.aawforum.org/photopost/showphoto.php?photo=9659&ppuser=13937>)



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

\$ 937 OPENING BALANCE

REVENUE/DEPOSITS:

- \$480 Deposited 6-12-11
- \$50 Dues- 1 new members (Packard, Miller)
- \$50 Silent auction
- \$10 Dennis Hippen wood sale
- \$364 Club Store sales

+ \$480 TOTAL REVENUE/DEPOSITS

EXPENDITURES:

- \$413.82 Kirk McCauley-reimbursement for Club Store Purchases
- \$ 6.17 Reimburse John O'Neil for A/V related expenses
- \$ 4.00 Transfer \$2 per paid membership into Equipment Reserve savings account
- \$ 50.00 Augusta Lumber - Purchase 5 gal Anchor Seal for Club Store
- \$474 TOTAL EXPENDITURES
- = \$943 CLOSING BALANCE (Checking Account)
- Excludes: \$30.00 Treasurer's change fund
- \$30.00 Club Store change fund
- \$644.00 Equipment Reserve Savings account

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

Show and Tell:



Bryce Connelly - showed a rack of natural edge bottle stoppers made from Cherry and Redwood burl. His Red Cherry bowl was made from a tornado damaged tree and had an oil finish. He also made a maul from Ash for his wife who carves.



Phil Evans - demonstrated his unique sandpaper carousel that hangs above his lathe and holds a variety of 3 inch disc grits. His large Sycamore bowl included a bee's nest hole. Fortunately the bees were gone. He had an unusual four winged bowl mounted on a piece of maple with each piece quartered and pegged to the base with Walnut pins.



Dick Miksad - brought a large well turned natural edge bowl of Black Locust. Dick says the locust is hard to turn



and stringy and he had bent his easy rougher in the process. Impressive bowl.





Kirk McCauley - turned a soapstone piece after making it round on his band saw. Since he turned it dry, it was a very dusty operation and he would not recommend it without a top flight dust collection system. He indicated it turned easily and sanded beautifully. He also showed a series of natural edged maple bowls and a bowl of Monticello poplar with a natural edge and quite a bit of pink highlighting in the wood.



Hal Green - showed a Cherry and Katalox vessel with a nice shape and a vacuum fit lid.

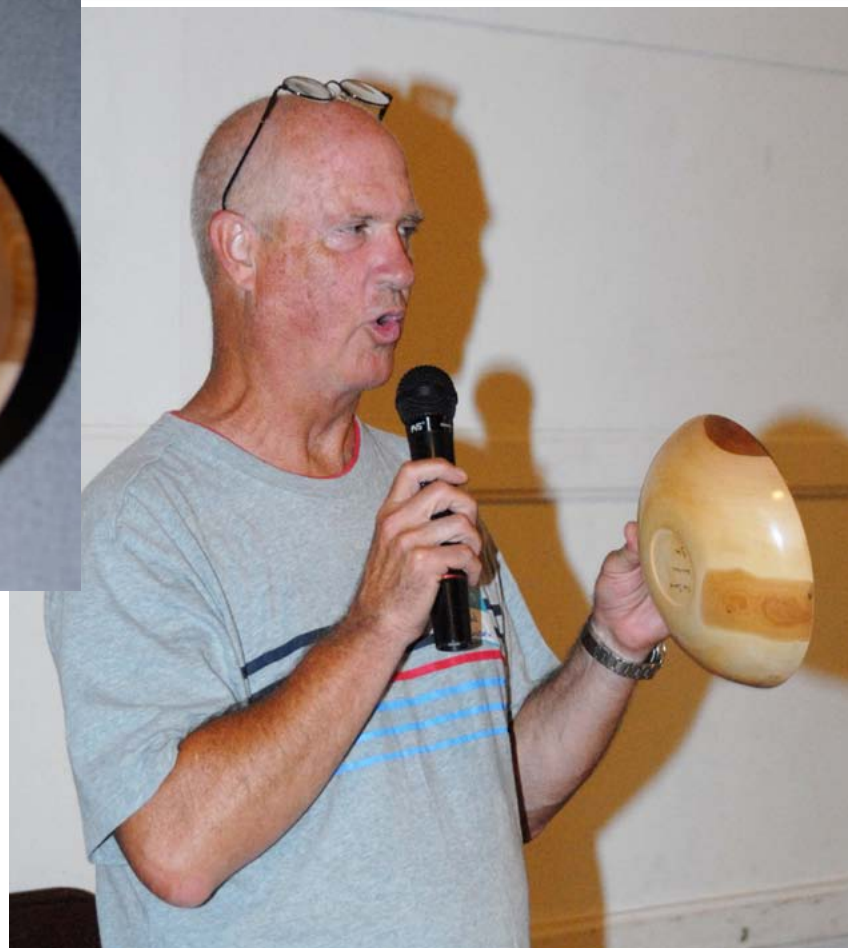




Dave Potter - brought a Chestnut Potpourri container with a pewter lid. The wood was salvaged from an old barn.



Richard Landreth - Showed his Black Birch bowl he made for his wife that was his first buffed finished piece. Sorry Richard, the picture of your bowl doesn't come up to par.....Editor





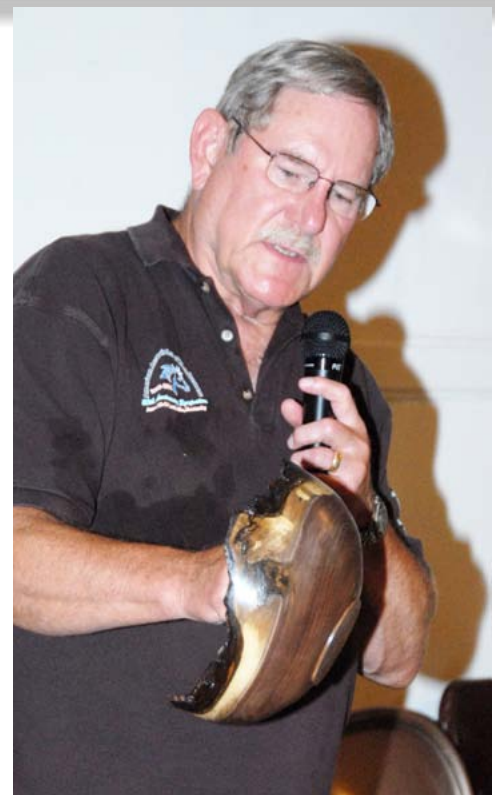
Kevin Johnson - showed his first bowl made from 5 layers of Corian so nicely joined they looked like one piece. It was hard to tell it from soapstone.



Charlie Wenzel - showed a Cocobolo and ? ice cream scoop handle and a Korean Cherry bowl with an hour-glass shape. He also showed 3 Ambrosia maple bowls from Woodcraft that demonstrates the variability of the markings. The largest bowl had only faint striations



Phil Schoner - showed us a ball shaped bowl that returned upright each time it was rotated.



Dennis Hippen - had a tapered magnolia bowl and the crotch it was turned from showing how the grain was changed by the limbs. He also had a bowl made from wormy Ash that he had gotten from Starke Smith that he said was really dry and dusty but finished nicely. He also showed a nice natural edge Walnut bowl with several bark inclusions.



Tom Evans - showed 5 pieces starting with a large cherry globe with a raised rim and bark inclusions on the sides and a smaller 3 legged bowl with a large crack filled with black CA that made it look like part of the radial cracks around the center of the log. He also had three Asian or Chinese Elm bowls with a variety of shapes. Tom said the elm was difficult to sand and finish.

Charlie Conner - presented a nice Redwood bowl made from a neighborhood redwood that died after about 30 years. He also had a picture of Johnny Huffer, a DuPont retiree and Civil War buff, at the Stonewall Jackson Prayer Oak that a strong wind recently brought down. It is located between Grottoes and Weyers Cave. WOV (Woodturners of the Virginias) is making arrangements to turn pieces of the tree for charitable donations.





Fred Williamson - arrived late and showed us several pictures of the trees at Monticello before they had to be taken down and then several of the logs that were being saved or used

for display. He also suggested small parts boxes he obtained from his computer store that cost \$1 apiece that were very handy for saving sawdust to mix with CA for repairs. He let us know Elbert Dale was in Hawaii and he would place his name in the drawing for luck. Unfortunately Elbert's luck is only good if he is present and the certificates were won by Dennis Hippen, Bryce Connely and Charley Conner.



Bob Swope - brought a walnut bench with turned legs



Gary Dale - showed his boring tool made by Denny Martin with a very nice handle and bolster. He also brought three cherry bowls and a walnut goblet, all nicely done and finished.





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



Bottle Stoppers with Kirk McCauley

Kirk utilizes a pen turning kit to make bottle stoppers, letter openers, or other small handles. He finishes each with CA using paper or sponge to spread the finish. He also expanded into techniques for using CA to stabilize bark on the bottle



stoppers with a natural look and showed how this technique could also be used to stabilize natural edge bowls with the bark on for extra durability.



Safety with Nate Hawkes

Nate brought several pieces of safety equipment and discussed the critical features required for turning wood safely. His Polyshield 6000 included face shield covers to maintain the clarity of the shield over time when scratched or spotted with finish or glue. He recommends P-100 filters for all his shields or masks which filters out all particles larger than 1 micron. OSHA recommends N-95 which only filters out 95% of particles since any particle inhaled repeatedly can become carcinogenic. He also recommends using rubber gloves for finishing.

The most hazardous tool woodturners use is the chain saw and we should all familiarize ourselves with the many safety precautions that should be observed using this tool. He pointed out that two woodturners had been killed at the lathe so far this year so we all need to follow good safety practices.



Easy Rougher Tool with Richard Landreth

Richard Demonstrated the proper use of the Easy Rougher for spindle turning or the outside of the bowl to achieve rapid stock removal or a smooth finish cut to minimize sanding. He also discussed using the easy rougher for internal stock removal by drawing it toward the tool rest to work with the grain. He then encouraged people to try their hand with the tool.





Signing your name with Fred Williamson

Fred brought several different wood burning tools and several varieties of wood for people to practice on. He used a Razor power supply to control the temperature which is available from Craft supply or Packard at a reasonable price. He showed how he had modified the units with cork or tape to insulate them and prevent burning his fingers when signing several bowls in one session. He demonstrated how to push a tip that had been smoothed with sandpaper to achieve the best script results. He signs his name in script but uses block letters for the material or date and any dedication of the piece. Fred showed the difference between using soft wood and several harder varieties and the difference in appearance using several types of tips. Fred let everyone try their hand at signing their name.





Silent Auction



Turners Resources

Beginner's Corner is a section in the **Woodturning Design** (<http://www.woodturningdesign.com/>) magazine, an excellent publication for both the beginner and the accomplished wood turner. The August issue has an article titled "Traditional and Nontraditional Learning Resources". There are some good tips for all turners, particularly the beginner. You are encouraged to consider subscribing to it and to the **American Association of Woodturners (AAW)** (<http://www.woodturner.org/>) for a plethora of wood turning ideas, techniques, tooling and materials.

In this article Robert Gulley talks about traditional resources such as books, videos, club web sites, magazines and on-line information. Included is a list of some of the sites that might prove helpful to any wood turning enthusiast:

- Wood Turning Center (www.woodturningcenter.org)
- Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild (www.ovwg.org)
- Sawmill Creek Woodturning Forum (www.sawmillcreek.org)
- World of Woodturners (www.thewows.com) contact a moderator for an invitation
- Around the Woods (<http://aroundthewoods.com>)
- Home With Herm. (www.whdv.net)
- Woodturns (www.woodturns.com)
- Steve Russel (www.woodturningvideosplus.com/woodturning-education-articles.html)
- Toronto Woodturner's Guild (<http://torontowoodturnersguild.org/index.html>)
- Irish Woodturner's Guild (www.irishwoodturnersguild.com)
- Laymar Crafts Woodturning (www.laymar-crafts.co.uk)
- Google Groups (Woodturning) (<http://groups.google.com/group/rec.crafts.woodturning/topics>)
- Wood Work Forum (www.woodworkforums.com/f232/)
- Charlotte Woodturners (www.charlottewoodturners.org/)
- Web sites of prominent wood turners such as our own Fred Williamson and Kirk McCauley, or David Ellsworth, Dale Nish, Alan Lacer and many others.....Editor



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

Repeated from May CVW newsletter

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.

Gift Card Drawing:

Winners of the \$10 gift certificates were Dennis Hippen, Bryce Connely & Charley Conner. Support our vendors who provide the certificates.

Silent Auction:

Tonight's auction had a variety of wood choices and yielded an additional \$56 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.

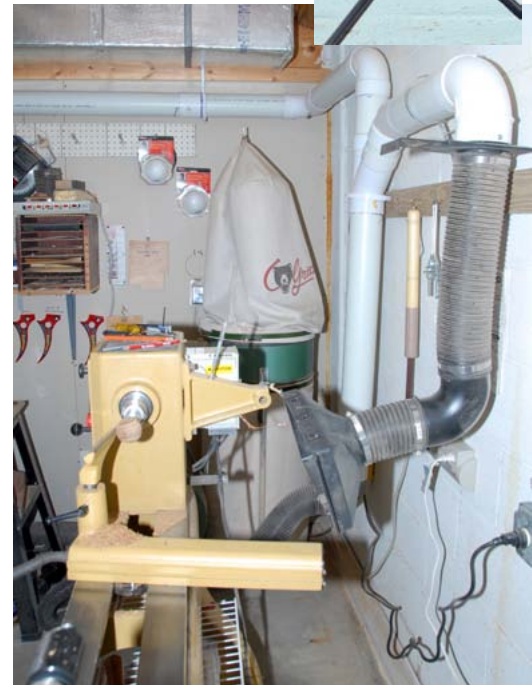
Mars Champaign has been kind enough to share some information and pictures of his very nice shop that is in his basement in his and his wife Bobbie's home in Waynesboro. Mars keeps a neat shop and has a plethora of wood working tools. Please turn to the next page to read and see pictures of his wood working space.

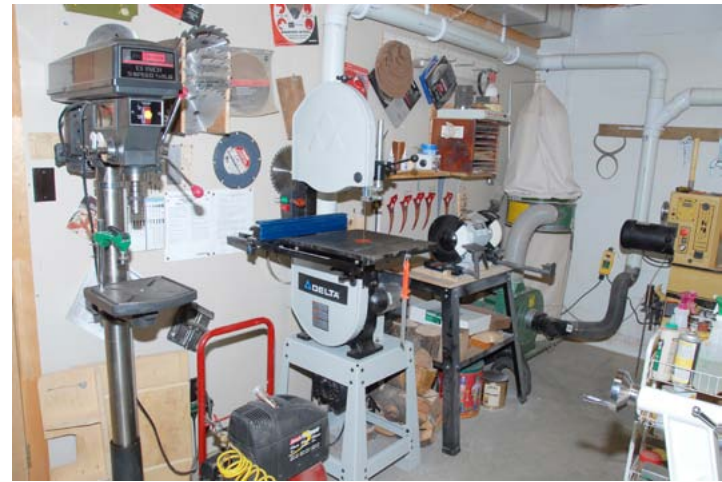


Shop of the Month - Mars Champaign

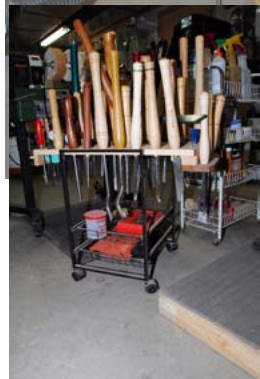


Mars Champaign is a resident of Waynesboro and lives in a beautiful home next door to Dennis Hippen (I'll leave it to the reader to judge if this is a blessing or a curse). Mars' shop is in his basement, and although fairly small (364 sq. ft.), it is a model of organization (again I will leave it to the reader to judge any sanity issues). Recent problems with his small table saw resulted in finding it a new home, thus leaving more room for other things. Access to the shop is down stairs and can be difficult to negotiate with your arms full, and periodic minor flooding during heavy rains has occurred. Note the plastic cups in which some table legs are implanted. Several shop-vacuums - I believe Mars has 4 of them - were observed that have been called upon to address the water problems. Although Mars says his Jet Vacuum System is noisy, he has attached a remote switch allowing him to turn it on from anywhere in the shop.





Mars recently purchased the Jamieson capture hollowing system to use on his Powermatic 3520, but has only tested it once. Look at the pictures; don't they make you envious that he can actually find things. It makes this editor about half mad. How many would join the editor while Mars is away in rearranging things to make his shop as confusing as our own shops. Please note that in smaller shops it is necessary to utilize every nook & cranny. Wood is stored under the jointer and next to the grinder, and tools are readily identified while hanging on the wall. Shop safety included a air filter that hung from the ceiling and a full-face Trend



ter that hung from the ceiling and a full-face Trend air respirator. This shop is the envy of many, including the editor.





Mars has a great shop and if you are fortunate to get a tour you will be as impressed as the editor with how it is organized. He does share it with his beautiful bride and some of the tools (i.e., the scroll saw, a grinder, the Rikon lathe that he won) require her permission before using. Both Mars and Bobbie actively grow herbs and are very active in a herb growing club/association. The reader is blessed to have the opportunity to vicariously visit Mar's shop.....Editor