



Sept. 17, 2011

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Curly Cherry bowl by
Nate Hawkes



CVW Newsletter - September 2011

President's Corner

Thanks Tom (Boley), for a great demo. I have turned several of the bowls he demo'd already.

We are rapidly approaching the end of another year in the history of CVW. It has been a good one with lots of growth both in members and talent. That's what it is all about.

A new slate of officers has been announced, and don't forget that if you feel you can help or know of someone who would be just right for one of the spots on the board, please see me, Nate Hawkes or Tom Evans. We will hold nominations in October, and install the new slate in November.

The October meeting is the 18th @ 7 pm. Demo TBA. Hope everyone is enjoying this weather, start a fire in the shop, settle in and make some sawdust.

God Bless, Peter



Editor's Note: This issue is large in part because of our excellent (CVW) demo by Tom Boley, but also the Shop-of-the-Month featuring Fred Williamson. Additionally, Fred gave me permission to include pictures of his all-day demo in his shop sponsored by the WTOV club. You will see a lot of Fred in this issue - we can learn a lot from Fred and other club members.

The next club meeting will be Tuesday October 18, 2011 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We should see two demonstrations on turning Christmas ornaments.



**September 17, 2011 Minutes
Crimora Community Center
Central Virginia Woodturners Club (CVW)**

Officers:

President: Peter Welch

Treasurer: Tom Evans

Librarian: Mars Champaign (Rolf Gebel - backup)

Secretary: Jim Oates

Video Crew: John O'Neal, Jimmy Guynn

Newsletter Editor: Dennis Martin

Web site: Fred Williamson (Jay Ragsdale - backup)

Programs Vice President: Nate Hawkes)

Attendance: 30 attendees

Guests: 2 (Mark Hawthorn & Russ Dorn)



The following officer was not in attendance:
None

The General Meeting:

- Peter called the meeting to order at 10:00. He announced that the silent auction will be held at lunch time.

- Tom Evans thanked people for their pieces for the SVAC (Shenandoah Valley Art Center). The display of turned pieces is impressive.
- Mental Health America has selected the club for artist of the year and donations are requested. They will conduct a silent auction of the pieces donated to help raise money. Their services are vital for mental health and they do an excellent job. Bring pieces to the next meeting or see Tom to make arrangements to pick them up. We need pieces by the 3rd weekend in October.
- Tee shirts are available from Peter in several colors and sizes.
- We have received the drum of Anchor Seal, which will be for sale to members at a considerable savings. The donated pump does not work well, so we need an alternative to make it easier.
- Fred Williamson donated a supply of 40 grit sandpaper free for the taking. He recommends Denny's carbide tips as making a clean cut. Denny is making these cutters with a 30 degree cant that is set up for pull cutting.
- Peter Welch reported that the Easy Rougher inserts are available from Global Tooling for \$23.50 for 10. The can be purchased in several sizes and shapes.



The attendance for Tom Boley's demo (30) was less than expected. Members in both clubs (CVW & WTOV) are encouraged to attend these demos by talented turners, not only to capture techniques and tips, but also to encourage club officers to continue to make great efforts to bring these gifted turners to share their knowledge.



CENTRAL VIRGINIA WOODTURNERS CLUB MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
 AS OF : 8/19/2011

\$843	OPENING BALANCE	
	REVENUE/DEPOSITS	
\$392	Deposited:	8/17/2011
\$392	Transfer from Equip. Reserve Acct to purchase Anchorseal	
\$800	\$345 Demo entry fees, 23 attendees @ \$15 ea	
	\$30 Raffle Sales	
	\$20 Silent Auction	
	\$254 Club Store sales	
	\$101 Donations: \$100 anonymous donation to Equip fund, \$1 t-shirt sale	
	\$50 Redeposit \$50 change fund	
\$1,192	TOTAL REVENUE/DEPOSITS	
	EXPENDITURES	
\$392.50	Tom Evans, reimbursement for purchase of Anchorseal	
\$50.00	Cash, \$50 extra change for Demonstration entry fees.	
\$91.50	Dick Miksad, reimbursement for food and supply purchase for demo	
\$200.00	Tom Boley, Demonstration fee.	
\$11.83	Tom Evans, reimbursement for name tags and table covers.	
\$165.00	Deposit into Equip Reser Acct: \$100 donation, \$65 Anchorseal purchases	
\$100.00	Crimora Ruritans, 4th quarter rent.	
\$4.00	Deposit \$2 ea for two new members into the Equip Reserve Acct	
\$1,010.83	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
\$1,025	CLOSING BALANCE	Checking Account)
	Excludes:	\$30 Treasurer's change fund
		\$30 Club Store change fund
		\$422 Equipment Reserve Savings account
	Total exclusions	\$482
NOTE:	Totals are rounded to even dollars for ease of reading	



Club Store: The club store sales were \$254 and store expenses were \$0.0, which shows what a benefit the club store is and how popular it has become, thanks to Kirk McCauley's efforts.

Not only is lunch provided at the all-day demos, morning refreshments are also available. Try to make it a point to attend future special demonstrations by talented turners from distant places. The benefits are well worth the few dollars charged. Thank Dick Miksad for the food.





The club library contains books, DVDs, CDs, magazines and other helpful learning tools. Thank Mars Champaign, our librarian.



Club talent is exhibited each month on the show-and-tell table. Check out the next several pages that feature the work and the creator of exceptional utility and art pieces made of wood.... Editor

Show and Tell:



Phil Morrisette - brought 3 pieces - A small bowl, a candle holder and a maple potpourri holder with a walnut base that were all nicely turned and finished.





Phil Evans - Showed two large Walnut bowls both with natural edges.

One was bark-on and the other was very thin, and both were nicely turned. He finished both with sanding sealer and wipe on poly.



Tom Evans - had a large natural edge bowl of Asian Elm with the openings sealed with coffee ground filler in CA to enhance the appearance. He also showed a turned coffee mug with stainless liner. Now we know where the coffee grounds came from.



Jim Oates - showed a Dogwood flower shaped container with a walnut lid and a flame shaped finial made from Box Elder that he is donating to the Mental Health America silent auction.

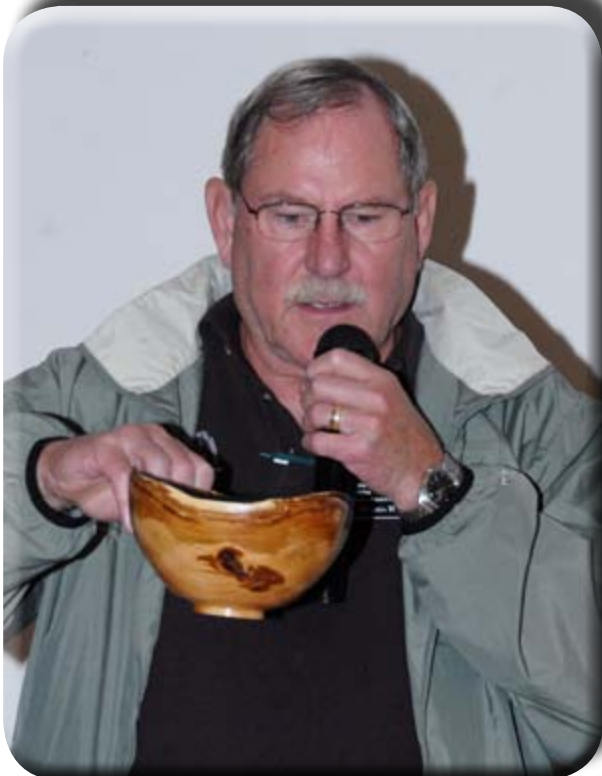


Phil Schoner - brought a unique hollow globe made from spalted Persimmon that was highly figured and had a tremendous variety of colors.





Dennis Hippen - showed his natural edge Poplar bowl and an Apricot natural edge bowl. He also brought a wormy Ambrosia Maple bowl with so many holes it reminded us of a Tom Evans bowl. His natural edge Pear bowl contained large inclusions giving it an unusual appearance.



Dennis Hippen showed Mars Champaign's Ornamental Cherry bowl. Mars was unable to attend since he was taken to the hospital with chest pains. Mars is now doing well after the install of a pace maker.



Peter Welch - showed his Sycamore stave construction coffee mug with a stainless liner and a Sycamore bottom and another turned from a single piece of Sycamore with a Walnut bottom.



Betty Gruber - had her turned Yo-Yo and toy wheels she is turning for the Grottos Craft Show next weekend where she will demo turnings and sell crafts.





Fred Williamson - showed several irregular shaped bowls he had assembled for the Richmond Museum Trunk Show. The irregular edges were from the inside of a very rotten large maple and were very attractive. He also had a large vessel made from a Winesap Apple tree that was taken from property originally owned by Meriwether Lewis. His large spalted silver maple bowl made from wood supplied by Don Voas and Denny Martin was spectacular. It was finished with multiple coats of salad bowl finish.



Silent Auction

You failed to take my advice and fire the editor, so I did remember to take pictures of the Silent Auction, although it is not a good stitching of the photos. I still think the editor should be fired....Editor



Turners Resources.....by Editor

Richard Raffan Demo: Hello Fellow Virginia Woodturners, The Tidewater Turners of Virginia, Inc. (<http://www.tidewaterturners.net/newsletter/highlights/main3.htm>) and the Woodcraft of Norfolk/Virginia Beach (<http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=556>) are sponsoring Richard Raffan for a day long demo and week long workshop at the Woodcraft of Norfolk/Virginia Beach on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011 @ Woodcraft of Virginia Beach. In the spirit of cooperation, we'd like to extend an invitation to your club members to attend these events. Please forward the attached information to your members and ask them to help support and welcome a world renowned woodturner to Virginia. We also invite you to join our friendly competition on the demo day (details are on the Tidewater Turners registration site - http://www.tidewaterturners.net/announcements/raffan_form_second.html). Follow the instructions on the attached flyer to register and pay for the events. Come join the fun with the Tidewater Turners and Woodcraft! Space is limited so contact us soon.....The Tidewater Turners

TAW Symposium: The Tennessee Association of Woodturners (TAW) will be presenting their annual Symposium on Friday, January 27th and Saturday, January 28th, 2012. The Symposium will again be held at the Radisson Hotel at Opryland on Music Valley Drive across from Opryland, Nashville, Tennessee. The hotel has recently completed a full renovation, which includes a new restaurant.

The 2012 Symposium features some of the world's leading woodturners including Al Stirt, Dale Larson, Jennifer Shirley, Ashley Harwood and Mark Gardner. <http://tnwoodturners.org/symposium/>

Woodturning Contest: Check out the details for this turning contest. Great prizes: http://www.woodturnersamerica.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=212:the-beauty-and-the-beast&catid=93:beauty-and-the-beast-contest&Itemid=142

North Carolina Symposium: North Carolina has in the past had a very good state symposium and some CVW members often attend. Visit <http://www.northcarolinawoodturning.com/> for details about the North Carolina Symposium to be held in Greensboro on Nov. 4-6.

Local Tool Resource: Kaman Industrial Technologies is located just off Rt. 608, just south (toward Stuarts Draft) of I-81, behind and at the lower level of the first small strip mall on the left. It is before Dominion Outdoors and just before Ferguson's. They sell Lenox band saw blades that are made to order in their Richmond facilities. It is usually a one-day return. <http://www.kamandirect.com/>



Turners Resources (cont.).....by Editor

The latest edition of AAW (American Association of Woodturners) magazine, the *American Woodturner*, provides the following in their Calendar of Events section: Sept. 15-16, 2012, Virginia Woodturners' Symposium, Expoland in Fishersville. Featured demonstrator, Jimmy Clewes, will demonstrate both days. Hands-on sessions set this symposium apart from others with 4 rotations of 12 workstations each. Attendees will receive in-depth, up-close, hands-on woodturning instruction from individual mentors. New turners welcome. Visit virginiawoodturners.com for developing information. Also in this excellent magazine is an article about how to create and sign the bottoms of bowls and other turnings. As usual the photos of examples are well done.

Turning Tip from Jeff Fleisher (WTOV President) saying that a friend of his shared a site that for a new product on the market to reverse chuck hollow vessel type turnings (<http://oskarkirsten.com/kirsten-kone>)



Kirsten-Kone

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

Richard Byrne from Staunton has a Delta 46-111 Lathe for sale. He bought it from Virginia Metal Crafters when they auctioned their tools. Heavy cast iron. Chucks. Tool rests, faceplates heavy wooden stand with drawer..\$350 OBO If interested contact: Richard O. Byrne, Consultant Architectural Conservator, robbyrne@verizon.net



A member of Tidewater Turners has two large lathes for sale and would like to make them available to turners throughout Virginia. We hope you'll announce this at your next meeting or put it out in your newsletter. Anyone interested should contact Jerry Whitehurst at (757) 426-2238 or email at chipsrflyin@aol.com

EXTRA large, industrial size, lathe; 50" swing, 26" D or 25" swing x 7' L turning over a sliding bed; Originally made for the Navy; 3 HP variable speed motor, heavy-duty compound; Email for pictures. Used for metal, as well as wood.

Laguna Pinnacle Lathe - \$5000 (Virginia Beach/Pungo); 48 inch swing with bridge removed; 24 inch swing above the bed; 1500 lb cast iron construction; Bed is made of steel with dovetail machining; Bed is extendable by adding optional bed pieces; Motor is 3hp with electronic speed control and 4 step pulley; Head stock is 45 x 4.5 mm with 8tpi adapter included; Max length between spindles is 52 inches; Has no more than 50 hours of use; 12 inch face plate and two tool rests included



Stonewall Jackson Pray Tree Project

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, several members of the CVW and WTOV clubs met at the Stonewall Jackson Prayer Tree to continue the task of chainsawing the large remaining butt portion of this very old white oak. With the mega-saws of Nate Hawkes and Starke Smith, the 63" trunk was partitioned into 5 very large chunks. One was cut into smaller pieces that will meet lathes of members in the near future. This historic tree grew on the farm of Donna Miller and family who donated the tree to the WTOV club. Members of the CVW club are being asked to participate. The details of a protocol to guide members in managing this valuable resource can be obtained from WTOV (<http://www.woodturnersofthevirginias.org/>) or by contacting the president, Jeff Fleisher (chpcrvr@shentel.net).

Much of this wood is being stored at either Peter Shoemaker's (Phoenix) Shop in Mt. Jackson, or on the property/farm of Denny Martin. If you care to participate in this worthwhile project please contact either.



Nate Hawkes shows off his new, large Stihl chain saw with a long blade - a real beast.



The tractor and skid loader were donated for the day by Donna Miller to load the wood. Sylvia Miller, a good friend of Donna Miller (no relation) was there to support the effort.



These are the chunks of the Prayer Tree that can be found on the farm of Denny Martin. Come take some home.



Demonstration: Tom Boley - Plate, Natural Edge Bowl & "Bark"ing Edge Bowls.

Tom Boley Demo: (CVW Meeting Sept. 17) Tom Boley is a full time woodturner in Northern Virginia. He does all custom architectural woodturning, making balusters, newels, porch posts, column bases, table legs, rosettes, and some of the oddest things, all of it round, for his customers. He got into hobby woodturning through an adult education class in Fairfax County and joined Capital

Area Woodturners in about 1995. Having served as vice president for two years and then president for two more, he was well equipped to form up Catoctin Area Turners in Loudoun County in 2009 and serve as their president for two years. He turns full time now and even with the recession, keeps pretty busy with custom work. **Written by President Peter Welch.**

Peter introduced Tom Boley, from Capital Area Woodturners and he started his demo by turning a platter attached to a 6" Oneway face plate with double stick tape. Thin pieces can't be supported with the tailstock cone center as it will pierce the piece. Consequently, one side needs to be flat. Tom does not use the wide 2 inch tape since it will not release the piece easily on a 6" faceplate. He used SpecTape, pressure sensitive tape, in 1" width. Carefully mark the center so that you can swing a circle to the center the faceplate. Tom always wears safety glasses when turning small pieces like a pen and a face shield when turning bigger items. He also turns with a full glove on his left hand. He advised caution when wearing a glove since it can catch on the lathe, and he turns off the lathe when moving the tool rest.

Tom turns architectural pieces as his full time job. He has 4 lathes including one copy lathe. This allows him to turn pieces rapidly. His longest lathe has a 12 foot bed for turning porch columns. (Text written by Jim Oates:)





Tom started the demo with a wooden bowl-gouge model to show the position of his tool when cutting. He starts with the bottom of the platter on the outside riding the bevel for a pivot point. He cleaned the



edge after he shaped the bottom to save time. His second cut was on the bottom, again riding the bevel but pushing away from the rest to maintain control. He then explained rotating the tool so that the tool is sliding on the bevel and then rotated slightly more to get a slicing cut. If the gouge is rotated to where the top edge is almost against the wood you get a shear scrape. The handle should be lowered at an angle to the vertical to improve the cut. The cutting edge should be set at about the center line of the piece and the tool rest should be adjusted accordingly. Tom demonstrated that you should not forget to mark the center before removing the piece. A thin blade of a kitchen knife between the pieces of tape will separate the platter from the face plate. In some instances continued pressure will cause the piece to release and no knife is necessary. Rubberchucky.com makes rubber bumpers for non-marring holders for the tail stock for extremely thin pieces or you can use a chunk of wood or a golf ball with a hole drilled in it.





Turning a Platter or Plate



Tom works from the outside to the center of the platter. If the tape slips, stop immediately and re-tape the piece. A tiny bit off center when re-mounting will not affect the piece. After the edge is turned the center can be removed by running the gouge straight into the platter. At



this point be aware of sharp edges that can cut flesh quickly. The bottom can be flattened with the gouge as a scraper or a drop nose scraper can be used to be a little less aggressive. A straight scraper pointed downhill will do the same thing. Sanding to finish - Choose an appropriate grit initially to shape the wood and each successive paper removes the scratches from the previous grit. Be sure to use dry wood for platters and plates. Mineral spirits will remove the tape residue from the face plate or the platter.

Demo Lunch Break

After a good lunch, Show and Tell and the silent auction, Tom did his Barking Bowl Demo.

During the break Nate Hawkes reported that he received an email from Roger Chandler warning that the Lancelot carver will kick back if you don't hold on tight. The Lancelot is a circular cutter with chain saw cutter teeth that is mounted on hand held grinders. http://www.katools.com/shop/taxidermy-tools-lancelot-cutters-c-40_47.html

Demonstration: (Cont.)

Tom had another nice prop to show where natural edge bowls live. He cuts his pieces as long as possible and Anchor Seals the ends to minimize cracking. He uses cardboard templates to band saw the blanks after splitting the log (cardboard was better than plywood dis. He showed the orientation for a smooth edge or a natural edge. Square edge bowls start life oriented like a smooth edge bowl. He uses a large spur drive set into the bark side of the log to drive the turning. A pilot spot can be made with a Forstner bit on shaggy bark pieces. He showed the proper orientation for cutting from short fibers to long using a bundle of soda straws. When near the edge, he reversed the direction to cut the bark cleaner. He mad a tenon to fit the chuck without bottoming in the jaws. This allowed him to use more force when turning since the jaw face supports the piece.



He initially turns the piece and leaves it about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch thick depending on the size of the bowl. He then dates it and coats with anchor Seal. Wood dries at approximately 1 inch per year so drying from both sides cuts the time in half.

Tom walked us through making bowls cut on the bias of approximately 45 degrees. The process is similar to a square edge bowl with the spur set at approximately the center of the bowl and the tailstock set to hold the flat edge at 90 degrees to the centerline of the lathe.



To check the diameter of the tenon/foot Tom has made small templates which indicate the minimum and maximum diameters of each of his chuck openings.



Tom reported he owns 3 chain saws, one gas powered, one electric and this one that someone made for him.



Tom was impressed with the versatility and holding power of the Glaser screw center system.



A log bowl was the next demo and is a very unusual shape made from a section of log longer than its diameter. When hollowing, the tool exits the piece twice per revolution and when it dries the ends will close up even more.



Toms teaching aids, teaching, and his techniques were outstanding. Hope you didn't miss this demo.....editor



Lastly, Tom turned a small square bowl, and showed variations on that theme.
See Next Page

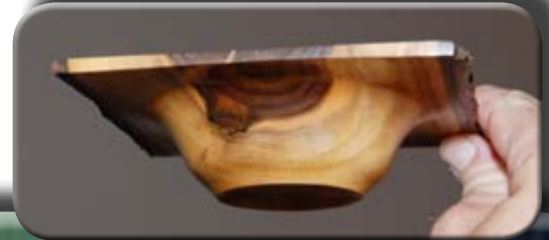




If you missed this demo, you missed one of the best we have had. Tom's handout will be posted on the web site.

Tom's favorite finishes in order are:

1. Salad bowl finish
2. Watco Danish Oil
3. Waterlox





Notes:

Gift Card Drawing:

Winners of the \$10 gift certificates were Mars Champaign, Fred Williamson, Phil Morriset and Jim Oates.. Support our vendors who provide the certificates.

This newsletter sports some changes in the photography. The editor would be most interested in your comments, recommendations or criticisms that would improve it and make it more enjoyable to read and share.

Silent Auction:

Tonight's auction had a variety of wood choices and yielded an additional \$20.00 of income for the club. Thank Kirk McCauley.

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. You are encouraged to do both.

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 pictorial rendering of the shop of a member or perhaps others that aren't members. Please see this month's Shop-of-the-Month that follows.....Editor.

Fred Williamson has been kind enough to allow the editor to take pictures of his large shop that is in a building beside his home in Albemarle County not far from Crozet. Fred is a full-time, professional wood turner with an exceptional reputation and talent. Please turn to the next page to read and see pictures of his wood working space....editor.



Shop of the Month - Fred Williamson

Fred Williamson, for those that are new and may not be aware, is a very talented professional woodturner, who is also the immediate past president of our CVW club. A list of his contributions to the club is long and beyond the scope of this humble rag; however, during his tenure, and with others participating, the club vastly improved the audio/visual system and we were able to acquire the PowerMatic 3520B lathe. If you get a chance to visit Fred and see his shop you will be both fortunate and impressed. We are fortunate that he allowed the editor the opportunity to visit and photograph his work space, thus allowing the readers of this newsletter to sample what many of us would call a dream work space for a wood worker and wood turner. Please enjoy the privilege of viewing the photographs that of Fred's secluded shop and home.



One of the days that Fred interrupted his busy schedule to meet with me, good friends came along. Jim Jones, a former member of the club, and Charlie Conners and Dave Rhodes, current active members, were as impressed as I was with Fred's shop, its' location in the mountains north of Crozet in Albemarle County, and with the volume of wood that lines both sides of his gravel drive as we approached the shop and his home. The reader will just have to suffer with the obvious distraction as these three old coppers clutter otherwise decent photos. While we were there Fred took a few minutes to give Charlie some pointers and demonstrate his trade and tools.



Fred's home is a product of some excellent wood working by the owner. At one time Fred did a lot of cabinet work. When entering the home you pass through a beautiful front door he made. The house sits on a knoll with the mountains in the background. Fred is also a gardener with a hot house for starting plants that is attached to the shop and with raised garden plots outside the door. We saw where a lot of the shavings are used to mulch the plants. An electric fence was in place to exclude the wild critters, principally deer and bear.



Charlie Conners gets some valuable one-on-one instruction from the master on his PowerMatic 3520B.



Turning bowls like these maple beauties, below, is the envy of any wood turner.



Fred's large lathe is a beast and will easily handle flitches that weigh 250 pounds. I want to see him put one of them up on the lathe bed. Dave Rhodes watches him make chips.



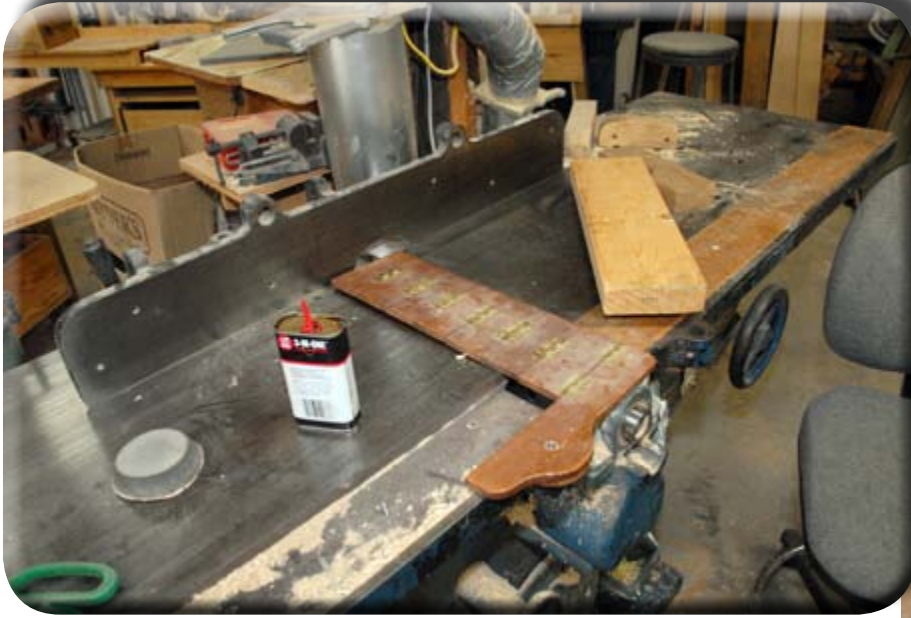
The banjo support for the tool rest on Fred's impressive home-made lathe sports a bolt head with a nickel showing Montecello.





Among club members I suspect Fred is unique in his ability to turn a 250 lb. chunk of maple into a 6 lb. "globe" hollow form. These require both talent & patience & a weeks work for each of them.





Among the several great tools in Fred's shop is an old 12" jointer, a home-made bandsaw (note the bicycle tire used on the plywood wheel), and a home-made pneumatic drum sander. He also made an efficient dust collection system with an old squirrel-cage fan, and a disk sander to flatten bowl bottoms.





To most this would be firewood.



The heat source is fed by scraps, and wood that was left unattended too long. Note the system of heat protecting panels.



For a large shop it is entirely too well organized.



This is a piece of scrap spalted maple Fred salvaged.



Big bowls require big tools like these boring bars.



Every wood worker would like both a surface planer and a surface drum sander.



Leg space and plenty of work tables are among the many envious attributes of Fred's shop.



Fred's bowls are stored in an adjoining room.



Fred's lighting is also innovative and flexible.

Fred's large bowl lathe is made of cast iron legs from old machines, metal plated wood ways, large pillow blocks and shaft and a 3 hp variable speed motor with home-made pulleys. For added weight the pillow blocks are mounted on heavy steel plates and I believe he said there is sand and/or concrete added for more mass...impressive. It is no wonder that he can mount a 250 pound chunk of wood on this beast and not have it walk around the shop. His "little" lathe is a PowerMatic 3520B



Don't miss a chance to see Fred's shop and to watch him turn.

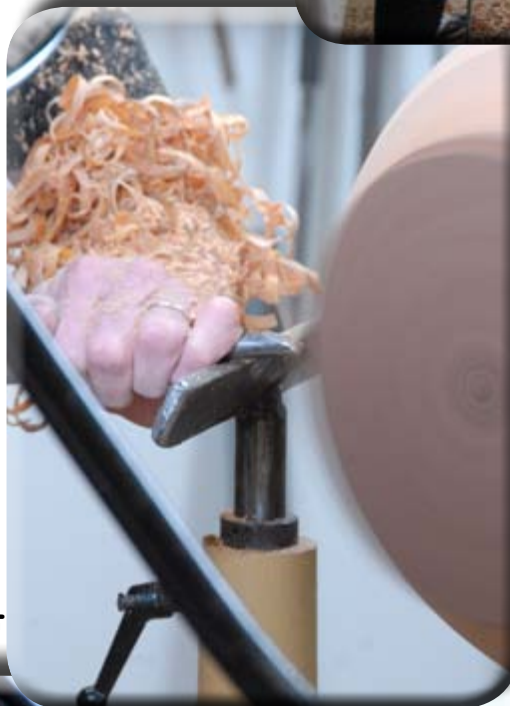




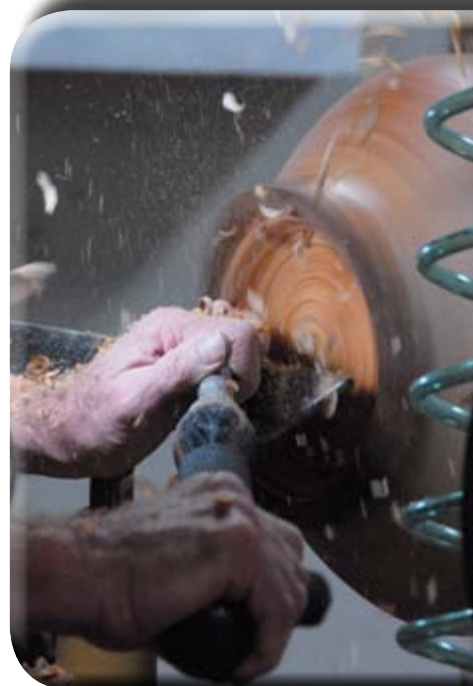
If you weren't in the western Albemarle County mountains, setting in Fred Williamson's shop most of the day on Saturday, October 1, 2011, you missed an outstanding demonstration, and a day full of shared techniques, tools and talent. Fred assembled the best demo this editor has had the privilege of attending, and that list includes turners like David Ellsworth and Jimmy Clewes, among many others. It is probably obvious that Fred is an excellent teacher/instructor, is always well prepared, shares details and techniques continuously and freely, is exceptionally patient, responds to his audience effectively, and all this while being a really nice guy. He is also endowed by being computer savvy, functions as a web master, has considerable writing gifts, and has an ability to work with a variety of people and personalities. We members of the CVW club are fortunate to not only have him as a member, but also that he has taken an intense interest in the club activities. However the club is gifted with many others with not only similar talents, but a willingness to work - to do the jobs that make this club what it is.



Fred Williamson Demo Oct. 1, 2011



Hollowing was begun with a 1/2" bowl gouge, then continued with a large boring bar.



The face shield cranial cloth that keeps the chips out of his hair, the home-made apron that keeps the chips out of his shirt and pockets, and the sewing machine-made shoe covers that keep the chips out of his running shoes testify to Fred's inovative thinking. I heard comments from attendees that they were going to make similar garmets for their shop work.

Fred, began the demo by starting with a big chunk of wood, using an electric chain saw to rough shape it, mounted it on his large lathe that he made, and rough turned the exterior. He then mounted it on this PowerMatic (small) 3520B lathe, which was closer to the audience to hollow it with a variety of bowl gouges and boring bars. He demonstrated his hand sharpening techniques, and talked about grinders and wheels. The invitation was extended to use his boring bar tools on a medium sized hollow form and some gave it a try.



Pete Johnson tries the boring bar on Fred's hollow form without destroying it, while Hank Marien watches from a safe distance.



Bowl bottoms are flattened on a shop-made disc sander.



Fred sands without spinning it on the lathe, or sands while bowl is in his lap.



As gouges are repeatedly sharpened they get shorter (duh!), but Fred shared his technique of removing the short gouge and inserting it into a round piece of steel to extend the length of the tool and to use the remaining portion of these expensive gouges. This is a simple, but effective technique that substantially extends the life of his tools.

He also turned an open-faced bowl to demonstrate more effectively the hollowing techniques (more easily seen by everyone there), and to show how he controls wall thickness. Fred can make chips fly with roughing cuts, yet can quickly change to fine finishing cuts with the same gouge.



Fred prefers to use Behlens Salad Bowl finish.

Sanding is the curse of all turners, but Fred shared his many secrets that continuously produce those stellar bowls and huge hollow forms. Using several Makita sanders, we were shown how to make our own sanding disks by combining a piece of plywood, a couple of densities of foam and mounting them on the Makita while holding them on a belt sander (this information is on Fred's excellent web site).

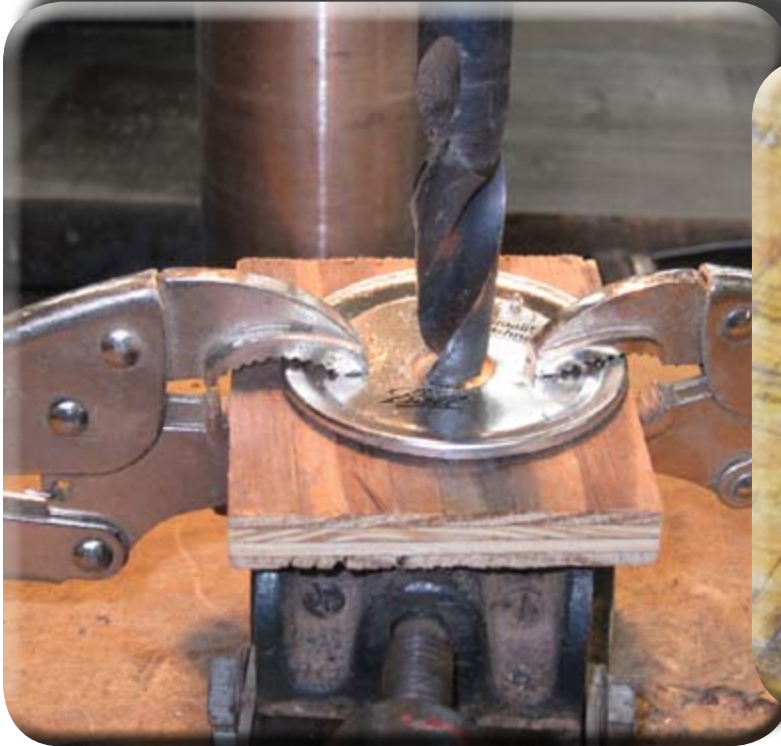


If you weren't here for Fred's demo you missed a lot. This demo was sponsored by the WTOV (Woodturners of the Virginias). Perhaps the CVW club can sponsor an all-day day demo with Fred in the future.....Editor



Turning Tip of the Month

Recent emails between, Dennis Hippen, Don Voas and Fred Williamson discussed an issue with Behlens Salad Bowl finish that involves "its insistence to develop a wax/polymer surface scum in the sealed can/bottle". An article in the AAW magazine (page 16 in the Aug 2011 issue) addressed this problem by recommending the use of a Vacu Vin wine saver pump and stoppers. Previous issues of the AAW magazine are archived on the AAW web site for members. Fred sent pictures of his experiment with the system (still being evaluated), but early results suggest this could minimize or eliminate this problem for those of us that aren't generating many bowls each week.



A 3/4" hole is drilled in the new canning jar lid (old lids didn't seal very well). The stopper was inserted and the air was mostly removed with the Vacu Vin wine saver pump (~\$12,00, with stoppers @ \$1.75 ea from Amazon). Editor's note: filling the jars with marbles to remove air might help, and storing upside-down might be something to try with the pump; plus I suspect other brands of pumps might also work.

