



# THE WOOD SPINNER

## APRIL 2021



### Next General Meeting/Demonstration

APRIL 20

#### **When Good Wood Cracks with Dennis Belcher**

It's a curse and an opportunity when wood cracks. This demonstration presents a series of techniques that take the curse of a crack and turn it into an artistic opportunity. This presentation flows from the article Dennis wrote for the AAW's American Woodturner in the August 2015 edition. The article was a survey of techniques used by woodturners across the country to deal with a crack.

There are two key themes in the demonstration. The first is to show how to safely do each technique. The second is unleashing the creativity in the audience to resolve cracks in their own unique way.

Regular meetings occur on the third Tuesday of each month: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm.

*People who feel comfortable may attend the meeting at the Skills Center. The auditorium is staged to be socially distanced. Others are still encouraged to participate via Zoom.*

For more information, please visit [centralvawoodturners.org](http://centralvawoodturners.org)

### Skills Center (Open by Appointment)

OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

#### **Hosted by Jim Oates**

Jim Oates hosts mentoring sessions each month on tool techniques. He covers the various ways tools can be used and how some different tools can be used to make the same cuts.

### Cheese Shop

The CVW member-donated items at The Cheese Shop in Stuarts Draft are selling like hot cakes! Recently the shop gave CVW permission to put up a new display.

To donate turned items, please contact Larry Parker. Thank you everyone who has donated or plans to donate. Please say Thank You to Todd Anderson, the manager of The Cheese Shop, for agreeing to help CVW.

# President's Corner

I received a request from the local Boy Scouts troop to put a link on our website about woodworking. I also took the opportunity to invite them to the Skills Center for Saturday mentoring and to our monthly demonstrations. I see too many people out there who cannot do anything for themselves. Measuring and cutting, using the right screwdriver for the right job. (Okay, maybe I have used a screwdriver as a prybar.) My neighbor actually said to my wife: could Bill give me a screwdriver because he must have a hundred. Can you imagine someone not owning a screwdriver? Worse yet, asking for one of mine? They have no idea how different each one is and may have its own purpose or size. We take our mechanical knowledge for granted most of the time. Some of our knowledge is gained from experience, some from reading and doing and some from mentorship and real-life training. Personally, I believe we need to share our skill and craft with anyone, mostly young people so we can continue the art, skill, friendships, and satisfaction that all have come to be part of our lives.

Last month, I mentioned this COVID thing was getting old, now we have started opening the Skills Center for our monthly meetings again. This past week, we only had about five or six people show up, and we still have the Zoom meetings going on which I know we will continue for quite some time. But things are opening back up. I actually had to wait to get seated at a restaurant this week. Things are getting better. Almost everyone except the rich people got their stimulus check this past week, so buy a new gouge, tool, or air filtration system that you have had an eye out for. Dennis or Alex can help out by telling where they are on Craigslist. If you have not heard, we have set up a Google group just for notices of an item popping up on Craigslist, social media, or website. Email Norm and he will add you to the group. If it gets to be too much, you can unsubscribe. Another idea is to pay your dues if not already

done so. Jerry is getting ready to put anyone who has not paid on the inactive list.

You will receive or may have already received a call from someone from Central Virginia Woodturners asking for input on transitions and planning for the future of CVW. We want to wrap this up soon so we can get planning to meet goals and desires.

I know you guys have a ton of time on your hands and I have seen some really great stuff recently. Take a picture and share it with the club by way of our monthly newsletter. Send your submissions to Jason Diggs so he can put them in another fine publication this month.

This is your club. Be part of the success.

Bill Hemminger  
President

Email: [president@centralvawoodturners.org](mailto:president@centralvawoodturners.org)

Call or Text 540-649-6990



## President's Challenge

**Beads of Courage, Inc.** is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and teens coping with serious illness, their families, and the clinicians who care for them through our Arts-in-Medicine Programs. We believe in creating a context for caring transactions to transpire through our community and encouragement programs.

The club is continuing to collect contributions to the Beads of Courage. Please drop off your turning at the next Skill Center session. You can find guidelines on this Beads of Courage website. The club also has some BOC logo beads at the Skill Center for contributors to insert into their bowl or lid.







# RESIN-BURL HOLLOW FORMS

BY BOB BROWN



A hollow form that would make the milkway jealous! This beautiful piece is one part epoxy resin and part elm burl. The piece is hollowed, but the wall thickness is not so thin as to remove the swirling depth of character that the epoxy resin imparts. Paired with the swirling bokeh of the burl, it's enough to draw comparisons to the Pillars of Creation. Let's hope we see more submissions like this from Bob!



Striking similarity to Pillars of Creation.  
Credit: Nasa.gov

# DRAWING FIGURE OUT OF THE WOOD

BY DENNIS HIPPEN

Check out these new rollerball pens from Dennis! For a recent batch of rollerball pens, Dennis selected some wormy wood that shows off some interesting figure! Dennis points out that the bug/worm holes seem to create faces on the sides of the pens.







Has been in the family for 100 years!

## LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME!

A set of three antique chairs are available for to a good home. One of the chair's has a damaged leg that needs repair, but who doesn't love a good turning challenge? Roger says that these chairs are handmade and have been in the family for 100 years.

For more information, contact Roger Gathright.  
[gathright.roger@gmail.com](mailto:gathright.roger@gmail.com)

# GEARING UP WITH CHERRY

BY JASON DIGGS



Prototyping form, fit, and function with some firewood.

Last summer, I cut down a dead-standing cherry tree in my yard. I was pretty giddy to set these rounds aside to make a few things. It was right around Christmas that I took an interest in swapping out the gearshift knob in my car. To my surprise, there were very few aftermarket options for my little Korean car, so I had to come up with a design of my own.

The most intimidating challenge was working around the the anti-reverse locking mechanism. Since the car is a 6-speed manual transmission, the reverse is located to the left, beyond first gear. The original gear shift knob had a trigger button to allow the driver to place the transmission into reverse, and I needed to come up with a design to replace



Final fit and finish with figured elm and cherry.

the trigger. To take the trigger's place, I created a shift collar on a spring. The driver pulls the collar up to disengage the anti-reverse mechanism (seen right).

I created the shift collar (the bottom segment) by drilling out two separate diameters on the lathe to make room for the shift throw and a large coil spring. The shift collar lifts up to disengage the reverse lockout to move from first gear to reverse.

Universal thread inserts were expensive, so I decided to just tap the knob with 10 mm x 1.25 mm threads. Unfortunately, the wooden threads became loose in the winter, but come April and these threads are snug again! If any one plans a similar project, I think a metal insert would be a better fit for this application.





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Jason and his wife are expecting a third child this summer. The vehicle was traded for a minivan this April. Maybe it's time for some wood veneer paneling for his next project?

Sanded to 600 grit and finished in shellac.

# WELLSPRING II

BY MIKE SORGE



**H**e's back at it again! Standing at 26 inches high x 13 inches in diameter, this colossal sculpture is made from Black Walnut and a glass sphere. This sculpture is similar (albeit bigger!) to Mike's February submission: "Sorgente Blossom." That glass sphere really captures the imagination! Let's hope we see more like this from Mike in the future.





# IN MEMORY OF BETTY REINAKE

BY JIM OATES AND MIKE SORGE

Three different angled photos of the Cherry Curved Heart Bowl - a collaboration with Jim Oates and Mike Sorge for a customer who is donating the bowl to his church as a "prayer bowl" in honor/memory of his mother who passed away two months ago. Mike Sorge made the bowl and Jim Oates did all the hand-etching of the letters of the dedication.



The dedication reads: "In memory of Betty Reinaker, a faithful servant 2021"





Beautiful, hand-carved Blackletter (also known as Gothic script) to honor a loved one.



The script runs the inner diameter of the bowl- no easy feat!



The bowl sits handsomely on a small foot to elevate the bowl.

# THE SWIRLING EDDIES OF MAPLE BURL

BY GARY CONLEY



**G**ary Conley recently finished a handsome bowl featuring maple burl with a wet-sanded walnut oil finish. He's been concentrating on getting his wall thicknesses and curves consistent and fair, and likes the way this one turned out.

Gary mentioned that the bark inclusions were a bit of a challenge, but frequent sharpening did the trick. Hats off to Gary for this wonderful contribution.



The maple burl bowl stands at 10 1/4" dia, 4" tall.



# DOUGH BOWLS AND TURNED LIDS

BY JIM OATES

The dough bowl is 11.75" dia and 5" deep.



**A**lways full of surprises, Jim has crafted a lettered-lid to customize a ceramic container he made as a gift (left). Jim has also turned piece of Holly with a natural edge from a blank he received from Fred Williamson (top). The bowl features carry-handles on both sides so that it can be used as a serving bowl for bread and other accoutrements.

# SQUARE-TO-ROUND SCULPTURE

BY NORM DALLURA



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A mesmerizing square-to-round turning that models after a Rudy Lopez demonstration. The sculpture was completed in gorgeous cherry wood.





A small collection of natural-edge bowls, Walnut cored.

# NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS



Jason Diggs

Woodturning  
since Jan 2020

Please send in submissions of your latest work! The Woodspinner should be a source of inspiration for everyone in the club as they catch a glance at what their neighbors are creating.

Be sure to include a little information about your work to help us contextualize and understand your work: how large is it? What kind of wood did you use? From where did you draw inspiration? Who did you model after? What was the most difficult thing about the project?

All of our works are part of a larger discourse in woodturning. Our works acknowledge and build upon the designs of one another. The works we create and share enrich the discourse and the culture of woodturning.

Please send next month's submissions to me to at [diggsj@gmail.com](mailto:diggsj@gmail.com). Please put **CVW Submissions** in your subject line so that I am sure to receive it.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed this month and I look forward to meeting all of you.

## WHAT'S THE SILLIEST THING YOU'VE BEEN ASKED TO MAKE?

My wife recently came to me and asked me to help her with a prank for her coworkers. She handed me this raggedy soccer ball and said she wanted to make a trophy. She turned the "neck" of the trophy on the lathe and I helped her mount it to a block and fix the ball into place. Hands down strangest request to date.



For the May Newsletter, send me some stories about the silliest requests you have received. Bonus points if you have images!