

Central Virginia Woodturners

A Registered Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

April 2026 Newsletter

Introduction to Embellishing

Bill King (Tidewater Turners)

April 21, 6:30 PM

This is an in-person demonstration at the Crimora Community Center.

Please check out the future meeting plans on the website [Calendar](#) page.

Next Skill Center Session

Skill Center and Mentoring Sessions are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9AM-Noon. The Club Store will be open at this time. New and prospective members are always welcome. Please contact [Jim Oates \(Woodturning Skills Center Coordinator\)](#) if you have a specific request.

Pics from the Previous Skills Session



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Drop-In Saturday Skills Center Session

Members can use the Skill Center on the 4th Saturday of each month from 9AM until 12:00 PM. Jeff Corwin and Alan Driver have organized an additional Saturday where members can utilize our Skill Center for projects or instruction. Members of all levels of turning skill are invited to work on challenges or get help with specific projects or techniques working with members of CVW's mentoring and instruction team. Members are encouraged to let Allen and Jeff know if they have projects or learning goals that they would like to have addressed in the upcoming session.



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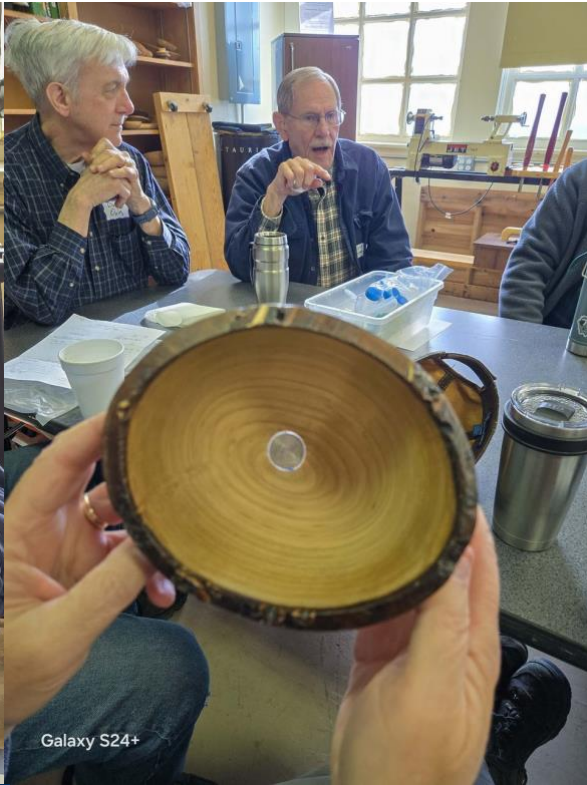
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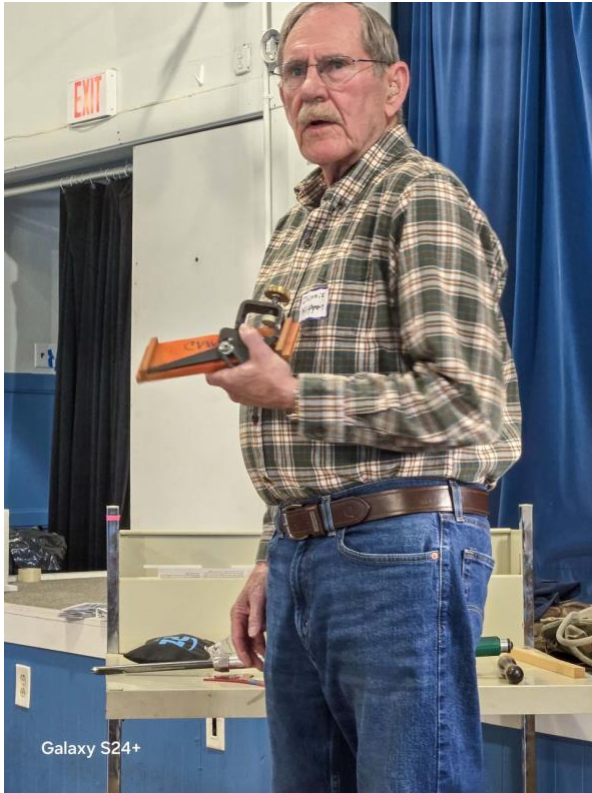
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Heart Bowl Class

On March 14, 2026, Mike Sorge conducted a class on how to turn a Heart-shaped Bowl.



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Virginia Woodturners Symposium

The next Virginia Woodturners Symposium will be held on October 24-25, 2026 at the Augusta Expo Center, in Fishersville, VA. More information and registration are available at <https://viriniawoodturners.com>.

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Turners' Corner

Fred Williamson

I am pleased to announce an upcoming show at [Gay Street Gallery](#) in Washington, VA, opening March 21 and running through May 7, 2026. It will feature 40 pieces of my recent work. The Opening is 4-6 pm, Saturday, March 21. Please stop in for a visit if you have an occasion to travel that way.

Dennis Hippen

More fun in my shop. Cindy Westley and Don Oxley from the Sunnyside Retirement wood shop crew had a tutorial on making handles for the garden kits from CVW woodstore. Yeah, and can also be used for hair parting and combing. Process included on lathe drilling to depth with a chuck, design/turn handle and finish same. Then reviewed the stationary method of glueing large tang kits into handles.



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We had the Jerry/Jerry curly chip makers for a morning of fun green bowl turning. Jerry Martin on the left made a nice bowl out of ambrosia maple and Jerry Jorgensen made a \$150 bowl out of cool Sweet Gum (very nice coloring) from Bob Shiflet. Jerry J also took home a log of wet apples and a wet Cherry bowl blank. J & J also cleaned up well (that is the shop mess) Dennis



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Thoughts from Jim Echols: An Open Letter to the Central Virginia Woodturners

About three years ago I retired and decided I wanted to start turning. I had turned one or two things when I was in high school and I really enjoyed it. 50 years later I stood in front of my lathe and realized very quickly that I was better at woodturning when I was in high school. I told my wife that I was doing a miserable job and that I needed to go back to school. A few weeks later she came home from the Cheese Shop in Stuarts Draft with a flyer for the Central Virginia Woodturners (CVW). My wife told me that it said that the club offered people a free chance to attend on one Saturday a month to get instruction. A few months later I was finally able to attend one of the Saturday sessions. At that session I learned more about safety and also about tools I didn't know anything about. Thank you to everyone for being so generous with your time and teaching.

Since I had a woodworking background, not a wood turning background, I had lots of kiln dried wood in my woodshop. Because of this I started with segmented bowls. I had no idea where to buy wood blanks that would be appropriate for turning. I soon learned, because of CVW, how to produce a "blank" from a freshly cut log. I had no idea before learning from CVW that you wanted to cut the "pith" out of the log to avoid the crack that would happen. I learnt from the club how to cut the logs and even how to set up a "cradle" for the log to sit in so that I was not dragging my chainsaw blade in the dirt. Once again, thank you for being so generous with your time and teaching.

Soon after that I learned about "twice turned bowls". I don't think I would ever have figured that out on my own. I always assumed you needed dry wood to turn, because that is what you want for doing woodworking such as building furniture. I also didn't know how much easier it was to turn "wet" wood. I certainly didn't know how to store/age the rough turned blank so that it would be usable when it was dryer. The club also taught me to expect the wood to crack and/or warp if I turned a bowl from green wood and brought it to the final dimensions.

Last summer a friend gave me a very large cherry burl. It was so large that I could barely pick it up. I brought it to the CVW Saturday meeting last fall and asked for advice on how to cut the burl. The burl went all of the way around the tree. I received wonderful advice and a few months later I finally got up the nerve to get my chainsaw out and cut the burl. I was able to cut off three distinct burls and also salvage wood from the trunk that had burl in it.

I did some rough turning of the first burl and then took it to a CVW meeting to ask for advice. I received more help than I ever would have imagined. I received very good advice, and Mike even invited me to his shop so that he could give me more advice. I took him up on his offer. What an experience. Boy did I learn!

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Early turning of cherry burl



Roughed out cherry burl



Jim at Mike's Shop



Finished cherry burl bowl

I am always amazed with how eager people in CVW are to share their knowledge, skills and time. I have worked too many places where people didn't want to share their knowledge because they didn't want anyone to be able to do the things that they do. This group is just the opposite. Everyone is very open, shares their knowledge, skills and experiences and works to make others better woodturners.

The things I have learned from CVW club members is endless. I have learned how to better use a four-jaw chuck, how to do a "lid" for a "box", how to use many different finishes, how to use the "Beall" buffing system, etc. Individuals have been very generous in their help, tutoring and advice in helping me to learn each of these.

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I am grateful to the members of CVW that have helped me in my journey. Even people that have never talked to me about advice on turning have helped open the door for me because they have helped make sure that we have a club that treats everyone so well.

Thank you.

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We are always in need for donations for both the Shenandoah Valley Arts Center and the Cheese Shop. Please bring something the next time you come to the Crimora Community Center. Your donations are a valued source of income for the club and help to keep dues down.

Shenandoah Valley Arts Center



Dennis Hippen has created an opportunity for the Club to sell items in the Shenandoah Valley Arts Center (SVAC) at 126 S Wayne Ave in Waynesboro. All woodworking items are welcome for donation from club members including bowls, spindle work (including pens) and flat work (e.g. cutting boards). Please use the shelf in the back room for donations. The Center will provide a display stand and manage the sales. This is a great opportunity for the Club to earn funds to offset the increasing costs of demonstrations and to keep our dues low. SVAC gift shop price points are \$40-80 range and often sell items that are \$150+. Marc Steck has volunteered to be the coordinator between CVW and SVAC. Thanks Marc!

Cheese Shop



We are need of more items for the Cheese Shop. Please consider items other than bowls. Boxes, vases, and unusual items sell well, plus provide a variety for customers to consider buying.

Please bring items to the Skills Center when it is open and leave them on the shelf in the back room. Please to not take them to The Cheese Shop yourself so we can manage inventory.

If you haven't visited The Cheese Shop, please do so to see what we offer. Feel free to straighten the display if it seems in disorder. If there are easels without items on them, you can place them in the tote under the shelf. While you're there, feel free to introduce yourself to the manager, Todd Anderson, and thank him for working with club. He is an Honorary CVW Member.

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Beads of Courage

We have an outlet for Beads of Courage bowls. Please consider donating to the Cheese Shop or SVAC. There are BoC buttons in the collection box in the back room.

Quote(s) of the Month

Courtesy of Mike Sorge

“Courage sees a seed, hope sees a tree, and faith sees a forest.” ~ Matshona Dhliwayo
“To be without trees would, in the most literal way, to be without roots.” ~ Richard Mabey
“The diligent farmer plants trees, of which he himself will never see the fruit.” ~ Cicero

Party Raffle Donors

The following vendors provided the generous donations for our 2025 Holiday Party door prizes. Please share our appreciation with them with your patronage.

Niles Bottle Stoppers	Woodcraft Short Pump*
Ace Hardware Waynesboro*	Thompson Tools*
Penn State	D-way tools/ Boxmaster*
Black Forest Sawmill	Craft Supplies USA
Klingspor	Sunnyside Resident
Lowes Staunton	Treeline Woodcarvers
Home Depot Waynesboro*	Grottoes Ace
Lowes Waynesboro*	Packard Woodworks*
Home Depot Harrisonburg	Woodturners Wonders*
Rockin R Harrisonburg	Mike Sorge*
Dave Wampler	Willie Simmons

*Repeat donor

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Monthly Meeting Show and Tell

Thanks to our Club Photographer Bob Shiflett

The best way to share Show-and-Tell items is at the monthly meetings. Here all members get a chance to share their work, solicit suggestions as well as creative criticism and learn something new. Members get to ask questions and see the work close up. The newsletter is also a way to share your creations, but this medium is missing the interactive element. Please bring your work to the meetings to start a discussion!



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Demonstration Images

Embellishing a Wide-Rimmed Shallow Bowl
Stewart Furini



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Show-and-Tell

Please bring your show and tell items to the next meeting – it is a lot more fun that way. If you have photographs for the Newsletter, please send to newsletter_editor@centralvawoodturners.org.

Fred Williamson

Some wonderfully curly silver maple I just got, and pieces from a huge burl on a 12" dead tree, I thought (and labeled) white oak, but it's so hard to tell, bits of pignut hickory coloring, and sugar maple.

A 114 Silver Maple

A 106 Dogwood

G 14 Dogwood

G 19 White Oak Burl

R 36 White Oak Burl



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Jeff Corwin

I turned a double-decker piece from two different kinds of internally lit sea urchin tests (aka shells) that ended up winning the most votes for the 10-inch and under category of the Club Challenge in March, which was to turn something suited to the theme “Let There Be Light.”

I’ll attach a photo of two of my four-part finials and a photo of my lighted sea urchin piece.



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Elected Officers for 2026 and 2027	Esteemed Staff & Volunteers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President: Norm D’Allura• VP Programs & Demonstrations: Ken Koons• VP of Membership and Activities: Don Oxley• Secretary: John Schmidt• Treasurer: Ron Burton• Skills Center Director: Jim Oates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheese Shop Coordinator: Tom Reeves• SVAC Coordinator: Marc Steck• Video Lead: Open• Store Manager: Buck Culver• Librarian: Dave Shombert• AnchorSeal Coordinator: Fred Guendel• VA Symposium Board Members: Norm D’Allura & Gary Conley• Photographer: Bob Shiflett• Webmaster: Norm D’Allura• Newsletter Editor: Norm D’Allura• Assistant Skills Center Director: Gary Conley



The Central Virginia Woodturners (CVW), located in the Shenandoah Valley in Crimora, VA, is an affiliate of the [American Association of Woodturners](#), serving turners from Charlottesville to Staunton to Harrisonburg. Please visit our [web site](#) and consider joining our interactive, informative, educational, and very friendly club.