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May 2019

Orange County Woodworkers Association

A 501(c)(3) Charitable Corporation

Sawdust & Shavings

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It won't be long now, and it will be OC Fair time, and there are some important dates to be mindful of. The deadline for entries in the Fine Art Woodworking Show is May 24th, and the delivery date for your entries is on July 5th, so you better get hopping on those winning masterpieces,

because we're running out of time.

We will also be posting the sign-up sheet for volunteers for the OCWA booth at the beginning of June. If you haven't signed up before, you should give it a try, because it's a whole lot of fun, and you can try as much deep fried everything as you can stand.

NICE TURNOUT

It was very gratifying to see the amount of participation in our box contest at the April general meeting. There were a ton of boxes making the judging very challenging as the boxes were diverse, imaginative, well made, and basically incredible, so the judges, Mr. Larry Marley, and Mr. Jerry Knight had their work cut out for them. We also had some great show and tell items as well.

We had a fantastic crowd for the event. I think they were expecting a presentation on traditional furniture,

but they had to endure a last minute change to the "Unknown Turner". The crowd showed great restraint in that there were no unruly outbursts, and no missiles were thrown at Mr. Unknown. I take that as a plus. Anyway, it was a great night.

SHOW AND TELL

My favorite part of our meetings is the Show and Tell segment. It's so amazing to see what our members are up to in their shops. We love to hear about their successes, and their pratfalls too. It's all about the learning experience, so please bring in your pieces, and remember you could also win the show and tell drawing, and take home some bucks.

James Santhon, *President*

FIELD TRIP TO FENDER GUITAR FACTORY

Greg Schwartz has made arrangements for OCWA members to take a tour of the Fender Guitar manufacturing facilities in Corona on Thursday, **May 23, 2019. The tour starts at 11:00 sharp**, so get there by 10:45. The address is 311 Cessna Cir, Corona.

Greg says take 91 FWY East to Serfas Club Dr., and turn left. Allow for at least a 30-minute drive after exiting freeway. Carpooling is encouraged.



OCWA is now registered with AmazonSmiles which allows OCWA eligible to receive a .5% donation from all eligible purchases through the AmazonSmiles.com. If you'd like to participate, simply go onto Amazon.com, search and click on AmazonSmile,

and once on the AmazonSmile's site select Orange County Woodworkers from the list of charities. There is no need to change settings – all your account info/settings remain the same. You'll have access to the same products as found on Amazon.com. Thank you for participating.

For more information please contact Ralph Crowther.

WOODWORKERS' SAWDUST

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Sawdust & Shavings

is the monthly newsletter
of The Orange County
Woodworkers Association.

It is published monthly before
the Woodworkers Meeting.

Do you have an idea for
an article, shop tip, or
tool review? Please send
articles to: [newsletter@
ocwoodworkers.org](mailto:newsletter@ocwoodworkers.org)

Deadline for submissions
is the Monday after the
Woodturners meeting.

Visit us on the Web at:
OCWoodWorkers.org



At about 10:30 AM on the morning of Thursday, April 4, I was mowing my lawn when I received a call from Cliff Trimble, who was scheduled to speak to OCWA at 7 PM. Cliff told me he had just been released from an emergency room hospital visit and was under instructions to stay off his feet and take it easy for the next week or two. (Fortunately, there does not seem to be any reason for long-term concern.)

Of course, I panicked a bit and in the next minute texted, e-mailed and left a voice mail for our

President, James Santhon, and started to plan a short-notice replacement talk. A few minutes later, James called back and volunteer to cover for Cliff. James said he had acquired some nice walnut 4x4 stock that he make a long-stemmed goblet.

During setup time, James began honing the edge of all of his turning tools. Jim says he only grinds new tools or ones with a significantly chipped edge. Otherwise, he hones the inside and outside with an oil stone. At the demo he used 3-in-1 oil, but normally uses 30 W automotive oil. I inspected the tools and they were the sharpest I have ever seen.



James's favorite tool is a hefty 1 1/2- or 2-inch-wide gouge he uses like a spindle roughing gouge. James told me the tool has been used by his family for at least 40 years (remember it is honed, not ground) and came to him as a gift from his older brother. It is made from vanadium crucible steel and is a tool to be envied! His smaller gouges, skewers and parting tools are Thomson Lathe Tools.

James' spindle was a 9- or 10-inch-long walnut 4x4 mounted between centers. He quickly removed the corners and rounded the blank with the big gouge and proceeded to make a tenon remounted the blank on a 4-jaw chuck.

James then gave the first of his rules and started working on the top edge of the cup:

Rule 1: Start at the top lip and work down.

Unlike a bowl where one typically shapes the outside of the bowl before working on the inside. James began hollowing the inside of the bell first and then shaped the outside afterward. His reasoning, which I think is very sound, is you are turning the more difficult end-grain when hollowing and the easier



WOODWORKERS' SAWDUST

face grain when shaping. Leaving the outside to last provides more support for the hard work.

Rule 2: Hollow the inside of the cup before shaping the outside.

Once the bell hollowing was completed, James quickly shaped the outside of the bell and partially, but not completely, narrowed the top inch or two of stem. It looked like the stem was $\frac{1}{2}$, maybe $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick at this point. He then carefully sanded the inside and outside of the bell from coarsest to finest grit and applied a friction finish. James said the bell was complete and he would never return to it.



Rule 3: Complete the cup in small steps as you work downward. Never go back.

Once the inside and outside of the bell was complete, James narrowed down a few inches of the stem, including a decorative top bead, to final thickness. The completed stem looked to be about $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick. James very lightly sanded it and applied the finish. All the time, he made sure to leave plenty of wood on the bottom side of the blank for support.

Rule 4: Leave plenty of wood on the "bottom side" of the blank to support where you are working.

James continued to work down the stem an inch or two at a time. Each time he said "Let's make it a little longer" there was a collective sucking of breath by the audience. Each time James carefully pared down the purposely-thick bottom side of the blank an inch or two, carefully sanded, applied finish and repeated. Again, and again and again. It seemed everyone was expecting the stem to snap. But, careful, gentle work and working downward in steps avoided the dreaded snap!

When the stem grew to within an inch of the chuck tenons, James declared victory and started shaping the top of the base, including a decorative bead. Once again, he finished the section and then proceeded to part the cup from the chuck.

James donated the cup to the 50/50 drawing.

Jerry Knight, Vice President



May Meeting: Our next meeting is Thursday, May 2, 2019. Our Speaker will be Russ Filbeck who has promised to bring along some of his famous rocking chairs and talk about the techniques he uses to produce his warm, soft finishes.

Russ will also talk about his recent trip to Japan to study Japanese tools and chairmaking techniques. While in Japan, Russ participated in the Kequrou Kai competition, where teams use traditional pull-planes to shave transparent, whisper-thin shavings from giant planks (In the picture, the shavings are hanging over the whiteboards.)



WOODTURNERS' SHAVINGS

This month, Tom Borusky regaled us with the fine details of placing a captive bottom in a stave-built segmented vessel. First, a couple of definitions: A stave-built segmented vessel can be thought of as a single very tall segmented ring. The other big difference is that the grain typically runs vertically, which allows the glue joints between staves to be all long grain. As for the captive bottom, it is a solid disc that is trapped in a recess, but free to move as humidity changes. The flatwork analog is a frame and panel door.

Constructing the body is conceptually similar to other segmented rings with one key difference. Since the grain orientation is rotated, we can cut them in long strips with the blade tilted. As with any segmented work, the more precisely you can cut the angles, the less work you will have later on. Best practice is to glue up the parts in two half rings that are separated with dowels. Once the glue sets, flatten the mating surfaces and glue the halves together. A good way to ensure you get everything flat is to mark the faces up with a pencil before cleaning up with a large disk sander. When all the marks are gone you know the face is completely sanded. You'll also want to make a shorter ring at the same time to be used as the keeper ring. While it can be made from the same wood as the main body, Tom likes to use a contrasting wood, typically ebonized walnut, which can be used to elevate the work a bit.

When you are designing your work, remember that the thickness of your stock will directly affect the amount of shaping you can do. Laying out the staves on some polar graph paper will get you a good idea of the minimum and maximum diameters you

can expect to be able to achieve. As your overall diameter goes up, you will need to either make the staves thicker or increase their number.

Once the barrel is glued up (You did wait for the glue to cure, right?) you'll need a way to hold it. Tom's preferred method is a pair of chucks (one for inside, one for outside) set up with Cole jaws and custom buttons that he made with long shoulder bolts covered in Tygon tubing. He also uses a spacer made from an ABS pipe fitting to give him about $\frac{3}{4}$ " of standoff from the face of the jaws. Once you have it mounted with an internal grip, rough turn the outside until it is just rounded.



With the outside started, round the inside of the base until you have just knocked off all the corners to a depth of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Tom likes his square ended carbide tool for this, but you can use your favorite tool for hollowing into end grain. Make the recess for the bottom about $\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter bigger than the smoothed interior and around $\frac{5}{8}$ "

deep. Put a slight taper on the part that will not be filled by the bottom piece. (If you use $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood for the bottom, taper the first $\frac{3}{8}$ " of the recess.) The bottom is a simple disk that is just a bit (about $\frac{1}{8}$ ") smaller than the recess.

At this point, finish shaping the rest of the vessel. A structural consideration for the inside is to leave a small ledge of about $\frac{1}{16}$ " in the transition to the bottom recess. Because of the short grain in this area, a thinner edge would be prone to chipping out, which is generally considered a bad thing.

The reason for the taper is to make it easier to get a snug fit with the keeper ring. The fitting is done similarly to getting a snug fit on a lid: lots of test fits and small trimming cuts. When it fits well you can



assemble the bottom of your vessel. Tack glue the bottom in the recess at two points of the long grain only. This will let it expand and contract without rattling. Glue the keeper ring only to the sides, leaving the bottom free to move. Once the glue cures, grip the vessel from the top and finish turning the bottom and keeper ring. The ring can be either flush or proud, depending on your preference.

If you want a bit more of a challenge, there are a few variations you can try:

- Compound tapered staves. This lets you create a larger diameter variation without needing thicker staves. The downside is that the cutting of the staves is somewhat more complex, both mathematically and mechanically.
- Place contrasting strips (veneer or thicker) between the staves for visual interest.
- Build thicker staves with contrasting woods

HANS WEISSFLOG DEMONSTRATION



Hans Weissflog has been a full time German woodturner since 1982. His exceptional work can be seen in many museums and collections around the world. He does demonstrations every-where in Europe, Australia and USA. His style and designs are exquisite and unique in the woodturning world.

At our demonstration, he will show us how he makes a Pierced Lid Box, a Standing Oval Box and what he calls a Drunken Box.

DEMONSTRATION DATE: Saturday, June 1, 9:00am to 4:00pm. \$40 (includes coffee, donuts, and lunch). The demonstration will take place at Anderson International Trading, 1171 N Tustin Ave, Anaheim. Sign up on the OCW website: <http://ocwoodworkers.org>. It would be a good idea to bring your own chair.



BOX CONTEST



Box Contest Winners: (L-R) Don Winans, Ken Cowell, Fred Wilmott and Jim Daniels.



TOY STORY



Once again our merry band of toymakers met to sand, spray and glue toys for the less fortunate. All seem to be setting in to our new surroundings. It was nice to see Matt Johnson bring his son, Connor, again

introducing him to woodworking but also to volunteerism as well. Rex Bullock was laid up and unable to attend so we missed having one of his wonderful black Labradors roaming around. Hope to see both of you this month. I heard a complaint from the mailman about cars blocking access for his vehicle. I guess "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night shall stay these couriers from their appointed rounds" but a Toyota will. Go figure. Please accommodate. I look forward to seeing everyone Saturday, May 4th. The coffee will be hot and the doughnuts fresh.

Ken "Doc" Crandall, *Toy Chairman*



SHOW AND TELL



MONTHLY CHALLENGE

My appology for not having photos of the last challenge. I'd like to include all the challenge items in the next newsletter. If possible please bring in your challenge items to the next Turner's meeting (May 16th) or if you'd like, send me a photo through the Newsletter's mailbox: newsletter@ocwoodworkers.org

The Challenge for the next turner's meeting on May 16 will be to construct and turn a stave vessel with a floating bottom. Your choice of woods, any size, any shape.



NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to our new members:

Steve DeRosa, *Irvine*
Jeff Lott, *Huntington Beach*
James Davidson, *Laguna Woods*
Alexander Yospe, *Irvine*
Kal Galal, *Irvine*
Randy Poulson, *Santa Ana*

Wade Guthrie, *San Clemente*
Abe luera, *Lake Forest*
Randy Foster, *Santa Ana*
Gary Voechting, *Santa Ana*
Ryan Lonworth, *Santa Ana*

MEETING LOCATION AND DATES:

Tustin Senior Center

200 S. "C" Street
Tustin, CA 92680

Woodworkers' Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

Woodturners' Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.



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