



MAY 2022

Turning Times

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
CASCADE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

WWW.CASCADEWOODTURNERS.ORG

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

May is still bringing us unprecedented showers (i.e., downpours) but I hope everyone is doing well and turning many new items. On Mother's Day I was treated to flowers, a fabulous brunch, and an afternoon of browsing (and buying) at the Gathering of the Guilds and the Ceramic Showcase held at the Convention Center. What a delightful day!

The Board is still working at bringing us all together at the Wild Lilac Child Development Center, but we have run into a few glitches. We are going to continue to have our "hybrid" meetings there, while (I'm sure the word is in the dictionary now) "ZOOMing" the proceedings out to our members who watch from home for their comfort and/or safety. We had hoped to have the Storage area completed as I mentioned in last month's newsletter, but now it looks like it will be later in the summer. We are still storing the TV's, stands, lathe, books, videos, the wood for raffles, Store supplies, and the precious audio/visual equipment in various homes and garages and loading up for



May Demo

Our May meeting presenter, Peggy Schmid, hails from just north of the Atlanta area, and she is also a demonstrator at this year's AAW Symposium.

Peggy is an accomplished sculptor, art educator and woodturner. For us, she will be showing her turning skills on small pieces and showing us her "dot painting" method of embellishing turnings.

You can find out more about Peggy on her website:

www.PeggySchmid.com.



GRESHAM ARTS FESTIVAL

For the third Festival in a row, Cascade Woodturners has been juried into the Gresham Arts Festival as one of only four nonprofits. That alone speaks highly of our club and what we offer as a community of turners. The response of the public to our booth, turners, and hosts reflects that achievement.



One part of our mission as a nonprofit is to educate the public about the craft and art of turning wood. You as a turner do that every time someone asks you about a piece you have made.

Please join us as we educate a broader audience of people interested in what we do. A typical Festival draws 10,000 to 12,000 people, and while we do not see every one of those people, we probably have as much or more traffic as any booth.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

each meeting, driving the items from these locations, setting up, and then after the meetings taking it all down and to our homes AND THEN doing it all over again the next month.

Also, between meetings we are working on refining the sometimes complicated new technology to be able to have these hybrid meetings. So.... we will continue to bring you IRDs (Interactive Remote Demos) and for those who wish to join us at WLCDC for in-person viewing, wood raffles, and Show & Tell, we will be there! This month's meeting on Thursday, May 19 will be a demonstration by Peggy Schmid of Cummings, GA. Peggy holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture, is an Art Educator and a wood artist!

Some of her accomplishments are: she has produced work for a movie, was a featured artist for Artage for the City of Atlanta, featured at ABC No Rio in New York and her bowls were featured on HGTV Green Home. She has won awards as an artist, sculptor, and woodturner. Peggy will demonstrate some of her embellishing techniques on turned wood for us. I'm sure her creative style will give you ideas for trying new embellishments for your work.

Our June and July meetings will also be IRD's from some unique turners (TBA), and we are hoping to get a live, in-person demonstrator for our August meeting. Then, in September, we will have the huge Annual Wood Auction where you will want to stock up on some great wood, tools, and probably many more surprise items that Gary and his helpers will find for us!

This pandemic has really thrown just about everything it could at our normal way of conducting meetings and gatherings (and let's not forget to blame the weather too). The many set-backs we have experienced are minor, but inconvenient. Most of us are safe and healthy so let's look to brighter days and more wood to turn!!!

A big THANK YOU to all of you for sticking with us during these trying times and for renewing your memberships so that YOUR club may bring you these programs to help expand your turning talents!

Suzanne Jensen, President

GRESHAM ARTS FESTIVAL CONTINUED

We cannot sell anything as part of the Festival rules, but you are free to hand out your contact information for people interested in your work. Having your work on display also helps.

The Gresham Arts Festival is on Saturday, July 16th this year and is located at the aptly named Gresham Arts Plaza. More information will follow, but if you are even mildly interested in being part of the fun, please reach out to Harvey, Suzanne, or me.*



Here are some ways you can help:

- Greeter/host at our booth
 - Set up/take down at beginning and end of the day
 - Demonstrate turning on our mid-lathe
 - Loan us your awning, preferably with sides
 - Loan a piece or two of your work for our display
 - Contribute wood from your stock for demonstrators to turn
 - Transport the various parts needed to make our booth a booth
- Use your photo skills to document the day
- Be a 'Jack/Jill Of All Trades' (JOAT) and lend a hand when needed

Thank you in advance for any and everything you can offer!

Len Otto, Board Member

*Len Otto 503-200-8193 or Len@HonorYourPast.com

Harvey Rogers 646-660-3669 or harveyrogers@gmail.com

Suzanne Jensen 772-521-5102 or suzannejensen@bellsouth.net

April 2022 Show and Tell

Turnings by Gerald Stutts



Turnings by Phil Lapp



Turnings by Scott Davis

Turning by Randy Rhine



LICHTENBERG (AKA FRACTAL) BURNING CLAIMS TWO MORE

Lichtenberg burning is the process of sending high voltage (2,000+ volts) electricity through a piece of wood that has been treated with a solution, typically saltwater, to increase its conductivity.

As the electricity makes its way through the wood from one electrode to another it burns everything in its path. The pattern left behind resembles a lightning flash.



It can be a fascinating process to watch, and it can be a deadly process to conduct.

Currently, there have been 34 known deaths caused by Lichtenberg / fractal burning since 2017. In May of 2017 the AAW Board of Directors, at the recommendation of the AAW Safety Committee adopted the following policy:

It is the policy of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) that the process known as Fractal Burning is prohibited from being used in any AAW-sponsored events, including regional and national symposia, and that AAW-chartered chapters are strongly urged to refrain from demonstrating or featuring the process in chapter events. Further, the process of Fractal Burning shall not be featured in any written or online AAW publication, except for within articles that warn against its use.

AAW publications will not accept advertisements for any products or supplies directly related to the process.

What makes fractal burning dangerous?
Electricity will take the path of least resistance to

ground. Dry wood, by itself has a somewhat high resistance and is not very conductive. Adding salt water to wood lowers the wood's resistance and the electricity flows through it, though not easily, which is why it creates enough heat to burn its path across the wood.

If the operator suddenly becomes a better path to ground, the electricity can change direction in milliseconds and travel through the operator instead.

Some of the variables that can cause the operator to become a better path to ground include, directly grounding oneself, inadequate insulation between oneself and ground, inadequate insulation between oneself and the electrodes, inadequate insulation of the conductors (wires), dirty/wet equipment, damaged equipment, faulty equipment, and the list goes on.

In addition to all of that, the higher the voltage, the more capable it is of jumping, known as arcing, across or through a resistant object or the air (picture lightening). Some of those who have died from this process were trying it for the first time, others were seasoned "experts."

The most recent fatalities (April 6, 2022) were a man and a woman who were believed to have been influenced by viral TicTok videos of the process. The equipment that electrocuted them subsequently started a fire that burned the house they were in. They were the 33rd and 34th known deaths from fractal burning since 2017. Don't be the 35th.

Kevin Jesequel, Safety Officer

Rough Turning the Outside of a Bowl

The bowl blank is still mounted on the lathe as described in my first article in the April 2022 newsletter.

In this step, we must complete two major objectives:

1. Shape the blank into the desired form of a rough bowl.
2. Create a tenon on the bottom of the bowl, so we can safely mount the blank in a chuck.

Position the tool rest at a 30-to-45-degree angle to the bed of the lathe near the bottom of the bowl. Using a large, maybe 5/8" bowl gouge take push or pull cuts beginning near the tailstock end of the blank and move toward the headstock. You need to make each cut a supported cut, and by moving from the smaller to the larger diameter of the bowl blank, each cut will be supported by the wood fibers in the larger diameter.



As you begin to get 'down to round' you will want to begin shaping the tenon you need to go into the chuck. The tenon must be formed properly to fit the chuck you are going to use. Some chucks require a dovetail shape and some require a tenon with straight sides. If you are unsure which type of chuck jaws you have, ask someone with more experience as the tenon is critical for your safety.

The tenon diameter also needs to be cut to closely match the chuck jaws you will be using. Adjust your chuck jaws to a nearly closed position, leaving approximately 1/4" gap between jaws. Set your calipers to the inside of the jaw diameter, using a pair of spring calipers, transfer that measurement onto the bottom of the bowl blank to mark the tenon. Be careful to touch only one leg of the caliper to the bowl blank. The other leg **MUST NOT** touch the spinning bowl blank. It is critical to understand this as your safety and the safety of those nearby depend on doing this correctly and safely.

After marking the tenon on the blank, use a nibbing action to remove material and size the tenon. Be sure to shape the sides of the tenon to match your dovetail or straight chuck jaws.

Move your tool rest parallel to the lathe bed as you are shaping near the top of the bowl blank. Stop your cuts before you go off the top of the bowl. Cutting beyond the top of the bowl can cause unwanted and unsafe tear out. When shaping the outside near the top, you will likely need to start the cut to the left of the top and cut toward the bottom of the bowl blank for an inch or so. It is quite likely the top of the bowl is somewhat uneven, so you have to start your cut 'in the air' to the left of the top.

You may have to cut into the very top of the bowl blank to flatten it relative to the bottom of the bowl. You also need to cut into the top of the bowl toward the center to remove any unwanted material, such as chain saw marks. It is likely the top of the bowl blank is not cut parallel to the bottom of the blank, so you will have to cut down as deep as is necessary to flatten the outer edge of the top. This is important to allow you to visualize the overall shape of the bowl before you remove it from the lathe and mount it into the chuck for working on the inside of the bowl.

While the bowl blank is between centers, you want to finish cutting the shape as much as possible before you turn the blank around and mount it in the chuck. When you mount the blank in a chuck, you won't have as clear access to the bottom of the bowl as you do at this stage.

Gary Borders, Past President

This article is the second in a planned series of five articles on bowl turning, based on a class that Dale Larson taught and Gary attended. *Please note:* In spite of the superficial resemblance, the picture is *not* of Gary or Dale. The picture is taken from the website of professional turner, teacher and demonstrator Ashley Harwood, who is turning the outside of a bowl. She is wearing safety glasses, but a face shield would be better. You can find out more about Ashley's classes here: <https://thewoodwhispererguild.com/product/bowl-turning/>

Storekeeper Needed

Cascade's store makes turning supplies available to members at a lower cost than they are likely to get elsewhere. Steve Walgrave is currently both our Store Keeper and club secretary. Since Steve is continuing as Secretary and is also an integral part of our tech team in producing our Zoom and the in-person technology at the meetings, his talents are needed in these areas.

I am asking to replace him in the position of Store Keeper. I would like to have someone step forward and volunteer to take over this position for 2022. You may contact me by phone or by email (see below). I'll be waiting for your phone call or email so I can explain further what the Store Keeper duties are.

Suzanne Jensen, President

For Sale

Members can advertise things they are selling. To see their ads, log in and click [here](#).

Wild Lilac

When Cascade meets in person it meets at the Wild Lilac Child Development Center (WLCDC), which is located at:

[3829 SE 74th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.](#)



Dale's Open Shop



We will do the May open shop on Saturday May 28th.

We will start about 9am and go to noon or so. We encourage new and beginning woodturners

to take advantage of open shop. We always have plenty of experienced turners to help with projects and problems.

Open shop Saturday takes place at Dale Larson's shop in Gresham.

Feel free to call or email if you have questions.



Dale Larson - woodbowl@frontier.com

Women in Turning

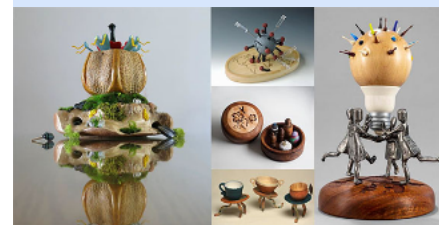
The WIT (Women in Turning) group met Saturday, May 7th, for our first beginning class. We had 8 students and 3 mentors.

Women come for all three local chapters.

Everyone had a great time and went away with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm. Sorry -- we were having so much fun that no one took any pictures. Our classes are on the first Saturday of the month. Then, from 12-2 we have an open shop for women not necessarily in the class.

For more information, or to be added to the WIT email list, please contact

Kathleen, woodspinner@gmail.com



In addition the AAW is hosting a WIT virtual presentation of projects on June 4, 2022.

Kathleen Duncan, WIT Liaison

The Company Store

The Company Store will be back at the live meetings at Wild Lilac as soon as we have our onsite storage facility there, hopefully by our August meeting. We will have all of our supplies available then.

The Company Store is here for the benefit of our members. We buy in bulk (usually with a discount) and sell at cost!

Now In Stock – The Store now carries 2” Scalloped Sanding Discs, hook & loop backed, for power sanding. Grits available are from 100 through 400. Packages of 10 or 50 available.



Made from the same PS33 aluminum oxide paper as in the sanding sheets. The scalloped edge discs wrap around the edge of the sanding pad so there is no sharp edge to scratch your work.

We continue to carry Klingspor 9x11” sheet sanding paper, Walnut Oil, EndSeal, as well as

StarBond CA glues and accelerator.

Cascade WoodTurners also has an online STORE for your turning supplies! Since we do not always have in-person meetings, and even after we do, we have created an online store for you, our members. You will find it on the Cascade Website, in the Members Only section. Orders and payments are all handled online. Once an order is created, delivery and/or pickup will be arranged. Current prices are listed on the website. Try it, you’ll like it!

You also have the option of ordering your supplies before a meeting, paying for them online, and then just picking them up at the meeting. Please order at least a day ahead of the meeting. Easy as pie!

Steve Walgrave, Secretary and (hopefully temporary) Store Keeper

Using Cascade’s Website by Steve Walgrave

We published this article last month, but thought that it might be worth repeating. After this month you won’t see it again, at least for a long time. Thanks.

Remember the Cascade Website? Do you know what’s on it? Do you know how to get to it? It’s there for you!



The Cascade WoodTurners website is a resource for you to use as often and as much as you like. As an Active (paid subscriber) member you have full access to the info and web resources of the

club. You can look up contact info for other members, view past recorded demonstrations, view Show & Tell photos, and much more. Following is a list of the many things the website contains.

But first, if you don’t remember your password, or have never logged in, contact me either at 503-997-6378 (text please) or swalgrave@comcast.net.

I will have the website send you an email (to your listed email address) with a new password. Log in with your email address and the supplied password. Then it is suggested that you immediately click on “Change password”, right next to your name at the top left of the page, and change your password to something that you

Using Cascade's Website by Steve Walgrave continued

might remember (maybe even write it down somewhere). The email with the temporary password will come from

'Cascade Woodturners Association<admin@cascaewoodturners.org>'

so it should show in your inbox, but **you** may have to check your junk file if you don't see it.

Home Page – The Home page has some info and some photos pertaining to the Association and it's meetings. Most importantly though it has the links to the other pages, in this banner:



Just click on any item in this banner to get to the respective page.

Also from the Home page, one can click on your name and update your personal information, get your membership card, set your preferences and view your current and past invoices. Also, if you wish, you can upload photos of your work into your personal photo albums for others to view.

This page also has the link to change your password (top left near your name).

Events – This page will list the upcoming scheduled demonstrations, as well as a listing of the past events for the past couple of years.

Gallery of Member Work – This page has links to pictures of the Show & Tell items that have been displayed during our meetings for the past year of two. These pictures are also a great source of inspiration and ideas for projects and personal challenges.

Newsletters – This page has links to the current as well as many many past newsletters.

Members Only – This page is a sub-menu page only available to members who are logged in, and includes the following:

- Member Directory - This will link


you to the member directory where you can find information and contact info on other members, as well a view their personal photo albums if they have some

- Information provided by demonstrators and Video Links – This page has links to recordings past meetings and demonstrations where available, as well as links to handouts, supply lists, articles, sketches and other info.

- CWA Store – This is where you can order available wood turning and finishing supplies as well as pay for them and leave notes pertaining to delivery/pickup. Available supplies include, sand paper and discs, CA glue and activator, EndSeal, and walnut oil.

- Forums – There are two Forums, the Q & A Forum, for questions and responses relative to any woodturning issues (open to all members), and the Buy & Sell forum which is devoted to listing items for sale and/or wanted to buy. Note that in either forum you can click on the "Subscribe to Forum" and you will then be email notified of entries to the forum on the day following their entry, and thus keep up to date on the forum, or on particular topics as selected.

- Minutes of Board Meetings – This page has links to minutes to all of the Board Meetings for the past several years.

 Hovering over this symbol will show links to the following:

- Supporters and Discounts – A listing of the vendors who offer discounts to CWA members or who support the Association.

- Join Us – A link to the online enrollment form, for those who are not yet members.

- Donate – A link to the Donate form for deductible contributions to CascadeWoodTurners Association.

Using Cascade's Website continued

• Contact – A listing of all current Officers and Members of the Board as well as meeting location info.

• About Cascade – The current Association Bylaws, in their entirety.

Steve Walgrave, Cascade Secretary

AAW News

2022 AAW Symposium in Chattanooga

The next AAW Symposium is scheduled for June 23-26, 2022. Registration is now open, but the cost is scheduled to go up if you register after June 1, 2022. You can find out more [here](#).



Cascade's Sponsors

Support of the sponsors listed helps make available tools and supplies for our hobby. Remember that your current membership card may good for discounts at these firms.



Gilmer Wood Company

Gilmerwood.com



Klingspor Abrasives, Inc.

Klingspor.com



Milwaukie Hardwoods LLC

Milwaukiehardwoods.com



Rockler Woodworking and Hardware

Rockler.com



Woodcraft Supply LLC

Woodcraft.com



Woodcrafters Woodworking Supplies

Woodcrafters.us

Doug Pizac's Tool Tips

Nowadays, many chucks come as one basic model that uses a separate insert for mounting onto the headstock spindle. The two are mated using a small set screw -- a weak link if you have to use a lot of torque to release a stuck chuck.

Instead of putting a steel rod or something else in the chuck's key hole and giving it a yank that might damage the internal parts, use a \$13-15 spanner wrench from Amazon on the insert itself in one of its holes. You get all the torque you need without damaging the set screw or the inner gears of the chuck itself.

And to keep the wrench handy, use a hook that has a magnet mount attached to your lathe to hang it from. Home Depot sells a two-pack for about \$5.



Cascade's Officers and Board Members

President	Suzanne Jensen	772-521-5102	suzannejensen@bellsouth.net
Vice President	Harvey Rogers	646-660-3669	harveyrogers@gmail.com
Secretary	Steve Walgrave	503-997-6378	woodsven13@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ken Kirkman	360-687-9866	kenpegkirkman@gmail.com
Web Mistress	Kathleen Duncan	360-574-0955	woodspinner@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Kevin Jesequel	971-777-3198	kevinjesequel@msn.com
Librarian	Len Otto	503-663-0794	Len@HonorYourPast.com
Video Librarian	Joyce Botsch	503-473-3889	joycebotsch@comcast.net
Storekeeper (temp)	Steve Walgrave	503-977-6378	woodsven13@gmail.com
Member-at-large	Howard Borer	503-901-3401	howardborer@yahoo.com
Member-at-large	Russ Coker	503-701-2508	racoker@comcast.net
Member-at-large	Ajit Aserappa	415-794-7968	ajit.aserappa@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Jerry Klug	541-550-6299	turningwood@bendbroadband.com
Past President	Gary Borders	360-609-1241	gbborders@comcast.net
Mentor Coordinator	Skip Burke	503-233-4263	drgramp@comcast.net

Remote Demonstration Event Calendar

The American Association of Woodturners maintains a list of remote demonstrations. Members of the AAW can access it here:

<https://community.woodturner.org/events/ird-demonstrations>

In addition anyone can register for the WIT Presents: 2022 eXchange Presentation of Projects which will be held on June 4, 2022. You can register for that here:

<https://form.jotform.com/220796376349974>

Local Classes

The following local stores offer a variety of classes on turning:✓

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 11773 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy Beaverton, OR 97005. Rockler's list of classes is here:

<https://www.rockler.com/retail/stores/or/portland-store#mt>

Woodcraft of Portland, 12020 SW Main Street, Tigard, OR 97223. Woodcraft's list of classes is here:

<https://www.woodcraft.com/stores/portland/classes>

Local Woodturning Chapters

Northwest Woodturners

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 7, 2022

Multnomah Art Center, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Rick Rich — Three Piece Dish



Southwest Washington Woodturners

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 26, 2022



Willamette Valley Woodturners

Thursday, June 9, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Willamette Valley Woodturners

Black Cottonwood

Harvey's Sad Story

I got a call from a woodturning buddy the other day, asking me if I would like some free black walnut. His buddy had taken down a tree, and had left sections of the trunk out in a field, free for the taking.

Free black walnut. Wow! So we drove out there. On the way my buddy told me that his buddy had let him know it wasn't actually black walnut, it was English walnut. English walnut. Still pretty wow!

When we arrived at the field it was drizzling slightly, but there were a lot of tree trunk sections stacked neatly in the mud. Looking at them as we drove up I saw darker heartwood surrounded by lighter sapwood, and I started to get excited.



But when we got out to inspect the wood my buddy, who knows a lot more about local trees than I, snorted and said "It's not walnut, it's cottonwood."

He didn't take any home with him, but I took one hunk to try, asking myself "how bad could it be?"

And here is how bad it can be:

Wet cottonwood is very heavy. It holds a lot of water, so it spews water at you when you spin the blank.



The shavings smell bad.

The wood dulled my tools very quickly so I had to sharpen every few cuts.



The wood is very fibrous; fibers would wrap around the cutting edge of my tools and drill bits, preventing them from cutting at all.

As the blank became less soggy, the sapwood got darker and the heartwood got lighter, making for a rather undistinguished bowl.

Dale's Wisdom

Master bowl turner Dale Larson kindly gave these comments to Harvey on cottonwood. Dale wrote:

As far as I know this is my least favorite wood in the world (approximately 70,000 species of trees). The wood smells like pee.

It has a long soft fiber and is almost impossible to cut cleanly. The grain is plain. I can't think of one positive thing to say about it.

I did turn one bowl a few years ago from the crotch of one of my cottonwood trees. It was pretty. It took massive amounts of power sanding. The only way to cut it is with a sharp gouge. Scrapers will not work and will only make the surface cut worse. I did see a few finished pieces of cottonwood burl about 20 years ago. It is similar to maple burl but with more bark pockets.

About 10 years ago a local turner was bragging to me about hauling home seven pickup loads of cottonwood. I simply asked him: Why? And that would be my question here. We have so many good woods in the Northwest to turn, why would you turn cottonwood. Ugly, smelly and miserable to turn.

My dad used cottonwood lumber to build with back in North Dakota. It was the only wood available in the Missouri river bottoms. He said you sawed it up and nailed it in place dead wet because if you waited until it was dry the boards were all bent up. The only commercial use I know of for cottonwood is as the core pieces in Douglas Fir plywood.

Dale Larson, Master Turner

And then, as I was almost done roughing the bottom of the bowl, the fibers wrapped the edge of my tool, I stupidly pressed harder, got a catch, and the tenon split off the four jaw chuck.

I put the tenonless, rough-turned bowl in a box of shavings. If I am lucky it will rot before I take it out to try to finish-turn it.

Harvey Rogers, VP



Black Cottonwood continued...

And here is a more objective view of black cottonwood from the websites of Oregon State University:

Black cottonwood is very common in Oregon. Here are some pics to help you recognize it.



Pics from: <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/populus-trichocarpav>

According to an article on the Oregon State University, Oregon Wood Innovation Center website::

- Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) is “a large deciduous tree belonging to the willow family (Salicaceae). It is one of the largest of some 40 species of *Populus* and is the tallest, fastest-growing hardwood in the western United States. Cottonwood is a well-known, common tree along rivers and streams throughout the West.”
- In Oregon and Washington black cottonwood “is third in total [timber] volume after red alder and bigleaf maple.”
- “When [black cottonwood] is wet, it has a characteristic disagreeable odor.”
- “Cottonwoods generally machine poorly. Surface roughness and torn grain result from planing and shaping; bore holes in cottonwood show considerable roughness and variation in size. The wood is subject to fuzzing and scratching when sanded, which contributes to problems in finishing.”

Info from: <https://owic.oregonstate.edu/black-cottonwood-populus-trichocarpa>