



# CHIPS & Chatter



[www.svwoodturners.org](http://www.svwoodturners.org)

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS' NEWSLETTER

## Pen Turning 101



Dennis Lillis wrote the original script and Gordon Patnude orchestrated an evening of pen turning teaching and learning for the September meeting program. Pen turning has apparently struck a chord with Gordon, as he also conducted the drive to "Turn for the Troops". These pens will be delivered to Woodcraft, who supplied the kits, and they will be responsible for distributing the pens to U.S. troops.



Several staff members from Santa Clara High School, including our own Jason Fery, tried their hands at turning a pen along with a number of Jason's students. Club members, some who brought their own lathe, guided the fledgling turners as they created their first masterpiece. The photos tell the stories and it is evident that all who participated had a good time.



Before the curtain fell on this night's production, Maestro Gordon was planning an encore performance for next year.

Bravo!



# Mike's Message

What a great time of year, woodturning wise, save the wild fires consuming our drug of choice. Just to be clear, I'm referring to the trees, not the largest cash crop of California.

Our pen turning workshop at the last meeting was well received. Gordon Patnude and Dennis Lillis planned and executed a program which allowed some Santa Clara High School students, teachers, and club members who have not turned a pen before, a chance for some guidance while producing their first pens. A good time was had by all.

We enjoyed a great picnic, coordinated by John Whittier. The weather was spectacular. The venue was serene with plenty of shade and room to set up our competition display shelves. David Feind built a wall for displaying our wall hangings. The tri-tip and side dishes were delicious. And Jim Gott goes home with the \$100 prize for the best president's challenge piece, a lovely spalted maple wall clock.

And if that's not enough, we had an all-day demo by Glenn Lucas, co-hosted by West Bay and SVW, coordinated by Bob Bley, on bowl turning techniques,

sharpening refinements, and many other tidbits that apply widely to most turning. An all-day learning experience with one of the world's premiere turners, who is also a fantastic presenter with added doses of humor, and lunch included for \$20!? Who has it better than us? (Sorry, I guess that's a Michigan thing, now.)

But hold on. What's that on the horizon? John Beaver is coming in November! Fasten your seat belts, the ride isn't over just yet.

The president's challenge for October is "Purely Sculptural - Turn a piece with no real or perceived practical function". Here is your excuse to make something that is totally useless. Next meeting is also the deadline to bring all the pens you have been turning for the troops, so Gordon can send them out.

Keep on turning,

Mike



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# Picnic 8.22.'15





# Monthly Challenge

## "Twie Turned"



Milton West, Bowl Frozen 6



Johnny Alias, Bowl, rough turned,



Dennis Lillis, Thin Natural  
Edge Olive Bowl



Mike Lanahan, Almond Bowl, rough turned  
2/24/15, lost 20% of weight and stable by 6/3.  
Mineral oil & bee's wax.



Bob Gerenser, Walnut Bowl,  
rough turned, boiled one hour,  
turned 30 days later

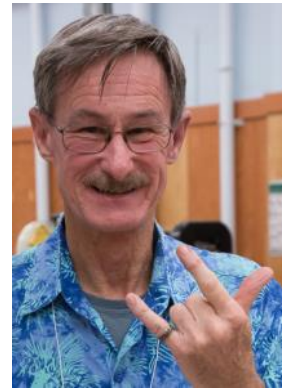


Joe Martinka, Tahoe Fir,  
no finish

# Show & Tell



Bob Gerenser, Valley Oak Wall hanging w/inlaid tree using coffee grounds



Mike Lanahan, SS Ring w stabilized Beetle nut, CA finish



Dennis Lillis, Spalted Birch Vessel



Jim Gott, Spalted Silver Maple Bowl, Lacquer Finish



Jim Gott, Walnut Bowl,

# What's the Wood?

by Dan Grebinski

We woodturner's are a curious lot. But in a craft that requires mechanical aptitude, artistic ability, and more than a dash of fearlessness, this a good thing. When it comes to questioning a new tool, technique, or finish, we delve deeper than a Senate subcommittee. From all the questions though, the one I hear most commonly is "What's the wood?"

When hearing the answer to that question at meetings and sawdust sessions, I discovered that we turn some highly common, but undocumented, woods. Such as Umm, Idunno, Beatsme, and Elifino, to name but a few. Among ourselves we're okay with using the terms scrap wood, street wood, free wood, and the likes to describe where it's from. Paying customers, on the other hand, are a little more particular. They're kind of hesitant paying \$200 for a "chunk of wood I found in the street".

We have to call it something, but what? There is already a naming convention for wood types, but it's scientific and all in Latin from the Kingdom down through the Species. Besides, it doesn't help us much because we don't know what wood it is. But why reinvent the wheel? Let's use Latin to describe the wood for its common name as is done for many species, such as *lignum vitae*. Since it's already established as a definition for wood and a familiar name, let's stick with *lignum*. So, street wood would be *lignum vicum*, garbage wood would be *lignum pergamenum*, and free wood would be called *lignum liberum*. It's truthful yet still sounds exotic. Go ahead and say it, you know you want to. "It's all Greek to me." If I had a nickel for every time I've heard that, well, I'd have 20 cents, but it gets old quick.

A word of caution though. Some people get a little strange when you start tossing Latin around. Don't be surprised if someone grabs a part of their anatomy and proclaims "Hey, I got your woodus erectus right here!" Just smile and tell them you'll keep that in mind if you ever need a blank for a mini pen or a keychain.

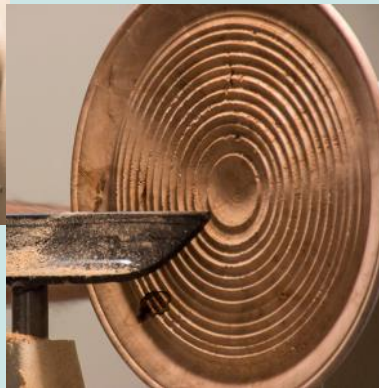
If asked for a common name, just explain that it goes by different names in different areas, but this is what it truly is. If still pressed, you can pass it off as a type of acacia, of which there are 277 varieties, or as Philippine mahogany, which have some estimates that over 400 different woods are labeled as such. I've actually seen bamboo called Philippine mahogany.

So, here's a list of some of the "common" woods we use. This is by no means a definitive list, so add your favorites and now when someone asks "What's the wood", you can tell them.

garbage wood	<i>lignum pergamenum</i>	surprise wood	<i>lignum admiratio</i>
mystery wood	<i>lignum mysterium</i>	ugly wood	<i>lignum deformis</i>
street wood	<i>lignum vicum</i>	common wood	<i>lignum communi</i>
free wood	<i>lignum liberum</i>	forgot wood	<i>lignum oblitus</i>
unknown wood	<i>lignum ignotus</i>	pretty wood	<i>lignum pulchellus</i>



# Glen Lucas's Demonstration, condensed



## Glenn Lucas Demo Comments

I've been rolling the flute of Glenn's bottom-feeder gouge (GL-6) to about 1:30 to make the bottom cut, but he holds it at almost 12:00. I've been using it wrong, or at least differently than he does.



When setting the expansion opening for the platter, he made sure he had clearance for calipers to fit between the jaws. He also had calipers with one straight side that would fit through the jaws and he used that to check bottom thickness.

He cut the tenon to hold a blank for coring to the perfect circle size. I usually leave it a bit big so when the biggest bowl blank is dry and goes oval, there is enough wood to turn it to a circle for the same chuck jaws. When is the tenon under the most stress? During coring. It makes sense. Turn down to smaller jaw size when it is dry.



How to set a sharpening jig to duplicate (or at least closely replicate) any gouge grind.

Wow! Why doesn't One Way include this in the instructions? What a great technique.



When rough turning a bowl blank to dry, leave the rim thickness at 10% of the diameter and undercut or taper down near the bottom.

When coring, core to within  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the top of the tenon. Don't worry about even wall thickness. More mass in the bottom with the tenon anyway, and it is side grain.

Reduce vibration with bowl gouge by pushing with little finger, and using index, middle and ring fingers to put tension on the gouge against the little finger

Push cuts need to be heavy enough to hold the cutting edge in the cut, like a hand plane, to reduce ridges.



Vicmarc chucks are available at Woodworkers Emporium with the spindle threads in the chuck body, without needing to add the insert which extends the chuck further away from the headstock.

"Speed is your friend, until something goes wrong."

Don't use a vacuum chuck after dark (without a UPS on the vacuum pump). A power failure kills the lights first, the lathe keeps spinning, and the vacuum is eventually lost, flinging the bowl off the lathe. Not being able to see, how do you avoid being hit?



His jig for holding the rim of a dried and warped bowl on the live center is great.

Right foot forward and rock backward to make the cut on the inside of the bowl is a great technique tip.



I like his jig for marking the perfect tenon diameter. But its value may be minimal if not in a mass production mode.

Mike Lanahan



# Meeting Minutes

## September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 Meeting,



**Greg Peck**

----- Meeting was called to order at 6:00, gaveled by Mike Lanahan.

### **6:00pm Visitors/New members:**

High school students and a teacher attended to participate in the Turning for Troops project to be led by Gordon Patnude. Dennis introduced Gordon and the students/teacher.

Attending from the school were Elle and Hawkin, Dave and Sarah, Jessica, Ricky, Luke, Zane and Parker.

Steve from the SVW club also participated in making his first pen!

### **6:00- 8:20pm Staff Updates:**

Gordon Patnude presented a pen turning PowerPoint file on the classroom monitors, introducing the basics of pen turning. Gordon thanked Jim Gott for the help in improving the presentation, with pictures. Gordon and Phil Roybal then set up at a Jet mini lathe and demonstrated how to make a pen. After a brief turning session, the rest of the students teamed up with SVW club members to learn how to make pens, from turning the blanks to round, finishing and then assembly.

Club members in parenthesis mentored the students, teacher and Steve.

Ricky (Phil R.), Luke and Steve (Mike L.), Parker and Jason (Dennis L.), Hawkin (Pete Z.), Jessica and Elle (Gordon P.), Sarah (Marcus).

### **8:25pm September's President's (Members') Challenge was shown: Twice Turned**

*See the member and their work in the photo section of Newsletter.*

### **August's Show and Tell:**

Members presented. *See the member and their work in the photo section of Newsletter.*

A few pieces of wood and a gift certificate were presented to

"pen making" participating members at end of the meeting.

**At 8:35pm, Gordon collected the many pens made for tonight's project – Over 30 pens were given to the Turning for Troops project. Thankful notes were placed with each pen by the person who made the pen. WoodCraft is very appreciative of the clubs works on this project. Make more pens and submit at October meeting!**

**At 8:45pm, Dennis announced October's presentation by Mark Nyes – Large turnings.**

**~ 8:50pm, Mike announced the Christmas party. Sign up early so the club can insure room at the restaurant.**

**~8:52pm, Meeting was adjourned after the wood and certificates were given to members.**

**THANKS, GORDON PATNUDE -- A great project meeting, a worthwhile project for our troops, fun for all!**

# Meeting Minutes

## August 5<sup>th</sup> , 2015 Meeting (Make-up)



**Greg Peck**

----- Meeting was called to order at 7:00, gaveled by Mike Lanahan.

### **Visitors/New members:**

Mark from Gilroy attended. He has a new lathe.

### **Staff Updates:**

Gordon Patnude updated that Club "Lending" Library has 187 numbers. Can borrow on honor system. A \$5 fee for late returns one month of due date.

Gordon Patnude updated the Turn for Troops project (pens). Hoping to get 60 pens turned. Kits available (provided by Woodcraft). Sign up at the meeting or on-line. Also, plan to show students how to turn pens with interactive support from Club members on the school lathes at the September Club meeting. Turn in your pens at the October meeting

Dennis Lillis talked about upcoming demos:

September – Glen Lucas

October – Mark Nyes (BAWA)

November – John Beaver, Brian

Also, an English Walnut will be available in Willow Glen August 11<sup>th</sup>.

John Whittier – Picnic August 22 11:00am. There will be a first, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, judged by attendees.

Theme is Wall Hangings. Discussed the picnic's low attendance expectations. One suggestion was to hold the picnic as part of a normal club meeting, possibly putting the picnic at the beginning of the meeting.

Paul – Roster. Visit on-line and update the file if needed.

### **August's President's (Members') Challenge was shown: UNDERCUT RIM**

*See the member and their work in the photo section of Newsletter.*

### **August's Show and Tell:**

Members presented. *See the member and their work in the photo section of Newsletter.*

Raffle followed

### **At 7:55, Break for 10 minutes followed by Program –**

#### **Barry Uden Demo; Fairing the curve and how to pick the right finish**

Barry showed how he finely creates the curve of a bowl to be a very gentle and smooth arc from the foot to the lip. He said the bowl should not have any "break" in the line, along the way. Every bowl he makes, he tries to create that form.

He then discussed finishes.



# Tips & Tricks

We here at Random Thoughts Publishing are more than happy when one “Tip” or “Trick” passes our desks on a given month. You will need to use the farthest expanses of your imagination to even begin to comprehend our joy, no, ecstasy, at having FIFTY, count ‘em, FIFTY tips delivered to our doorstep! This gem of a website comes to us courtesy of the good folks at Nor-Cal Woodturning:

The Following Notes and Tips were originally collected in an online Turners’ Forum on the SawmillCreek.org website. OPCAaw has taken the best of these, added others, combined a few and published them here, giving credit to the contributor whenever possible. We offer them here in hopes that one small nugget of information might make woodturning easier for someone looking to improve his craft. Edited by Russell Neyman, Olympic Peninsula Woodturners, July 2014. Chuck Gauge. --Brian Finney, United Kingdom.

<http://opcaaw.com/Library/50%20nifty.pdf>

## Comming Attractions...



John Beaver  
November 15,2015



### Upcoming meeting demos for Silicon Valley Woodturners

October 7 Mark Knize

November 4 Brian Haven’s Ornaments

# Sponsors



## Shavings & Sawdust

Join this Group for Home & Garden or  
Sawdust Session information.

Here are the details on Shavings:

Group home page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shavings>

Group email address: [Shavings@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Shavings@yahoogroups.com)



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# CLUB NOTES

## SVW NEEDS YOU!

**It takes more than the officers** and program chairs to make our club function at its best. If your name's not in the column at right, we still need your help in other ways to manage some of the club's activities.

This is a **HELP WANTED** ad, and we need you to respond. There are always things that need doing. In particular, we need:

- Volunteers for shop tours
  - Volunteers to present/demonstrate at meetings
  - Members to write up their profiles for the newsletter
  - Short articles or Tips & Tricks for the *Chips & Chatter* newsletter
- Please contact Mike Lanahan to volunteer and help make our activities happen.

## 2014 Silicon Valley Woodturners Officers, Staff, Volunteers, and Contacts

<b>President</b>	Mike Lanahan	(408) 926-9330	<a href="mailto:Mikelan@aol.com">Mikelan@aol.com</a>
<b>V.P./Programs</b>	Dennis Lillis	(408) 309-8060	<a href="mailto:denjlillis@gmail.com">denjlillis@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dick Westfall	(831) 688-2687	<a href="mailto:r_westfall@msn.com">r_westfall@msn.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Gary Keogh	(408) 281-9054	<a href="mailto:gkeogh@sbcglobal.net">gkeogh@sbcglobal.net</a>
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<b>Membership Chair.</b>	Paul Rygard	(408) 866-0390	<a href="mailto:prygard@yahoo.com">prygard@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Photographer</b>	Jim Gott	(408) 265-9501	<a href="mailto:jgtimp@aol.com">jgtimp@aol.com</a>
<b>Property Mgmt.</b>	Gary Keogh	(408) 281-9054	<a href="mailto:gkeogh@sbcglobal.net">gkeogh@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Librarian</b>	Gordon Patnude	(408) 267-6789	
<b>Webmaster</b>	Pete Zavela	((405)849-2858	<a href="mailto:zavelawoodturning@gmail.com">zavelawoodturning@gmail.com</a>
<b>Site Prep</b>	Johnny Alias	(408) 227-2423	<a href="mailto:vets9@ix.netcom.com">vets9@ix.netcom.com</a>
	Milton West	(408) 729-6334	<a href="mailto:miltwest@sbcglobal.net">miltwest@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Special Events</b>	John Whittier	(408) 379-3722	<a href="mailto:turninghands@yahoo.com">turninghands@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Audio/Visual</b>	Richard Scott	(408) 799-0005	<a href="mailto:rams1942@sbcglobal.net">rams1942@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Yahoo Groups</b>	Howard Cohen	(408)378-9456	<a href="mailto:howard687@yahoo.com">howard687@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Owner</b>			

## Sharing Knowledge

**MEMBERS:** Please contribute your expertise to our newsletter. The editor will help you get your article ready if need be. Deadline is one week after our club meeting.

**OTHER WOODTURNING CLUBS:** You may use materials in this newsletter for the benefit of other turners. Please credit Silicon Valley Woodturners and the newsletter month and year for any material you use, and mention our web site: [www.svwoodturners.org](http://www.svwoodturners.org). Note that if we've flagged an article as having been reprinted from another source with permission, you must secure that same permission in order to use that material.

### Volunteer Instructors / Mentors

The turners below have graciously offered to open their shops to help members who want to learn to sharpen, try something new, or master a technique that just doesn't seem to be working. We all love to share. You just have to ask.

Willing to help? Contact Mike Lanahan to join this list.

**Jim Benson** (831) 475-5615

**Jim Gott**, [jgtimp@aol.com](mailto:jgtimp@aol.com), (408) 265-9501 sharpening, design, natural edge bowls, boxes, goblets, tool control, you name it. Anything but segmenting.

**Rich Johnson**, [Rich@Latheart.com](mailto:Rich@Latheart.com), (209) 710-8795 all type to turning support available from beginner to professional.

**Mike Lanahan**, [lanahan.mike@gmail.com](mailto:lanahan.mike@gmail.com), (408) 926-9330 Pepper Mills, Segmented, and Shaving or Makeup Brushes.

**Dennis Lillis**, [denjlillis@gmail.com](mailto:denjlillis@gmail.com), (408) 353-3821 Hollowing, sharpening, and coring

Ironmen are those who successfully complete all 12 President's Challenge projects for the year. Those who meet the challenge are awarded coveted and distinctive IRONMAN name badges. A blue bar in the accompanying chart means that person has completed the project for the month indicated. You needn't be a great turner, you just need to participate. Make something in our Challenge theme and

## Editor's Note

If I've somehow overlooked your President's Challenge entry, send me an e-mail at [bob.gerenser@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bob.gerenser@sbcglobal.net)

Member's Challenge 2015	January One Tool	February Rude Osolnik	March Inside/Outside	April: Winged	May Stemed organic	June Embellish	July Faceplate w/ Bead/Cov	August Undercut Rim	September Twice-Turned	October Purley Sculptural	November: Treen	December Holiday Ornament	Picnic Wall Hanging
Alias, Johnny													
Brown, David													
Gerenser, Bob													
Gott, Jim													
Green, Herb													
Havens, Brian													
Jones, Barb													
Keogh, Gary													
Lanahan, Mike													
Lillis, Dennis													
Mackenzie, Colin													
Martinka, Joe													
Patnude, Gordon													
Plemons, Dave													
Peck, Greg													
Rygaard, Paul													
Schmida, Tom													
West, Milton													
Westfall, Dick													
Zavala, Pete													

For a more detailed description of the 2014 President's Challenges, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SVWoodturners/files/Forms/>

## IRONMAN Rules

- There are twelve challenges listed for the year and in order to qualify for Ironman you must show, by the end of the year, that you have completed all twelve challenges.
- Challenge entries should be shown at the meeting corresponding to the challenge schedule.



# Woodturning Symposia 2015

7th Annual Wisconsin Woodturners Expo, Eau Claire, WI October, 2015

Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild, Harrison, IN, October 9th-11th, 2015

Fresh Cut Symposium- North House Folk School, Grand Marais, Minn, Oct 30th - Nov 1st , 2015

## Join Silicon Valley Woodturners

Want to join a great group of turning enthusiasts in an atmosphere of sharing and camaraderie? Become a member of Silicon Valley Woodturners. We meet on the **First** Wednesday of each month. See page 2 for details. Drop in at any meeting and check things out. To join, contact John Whittier (see contact list), or just complete the application form below and mail with check to Grant. Learn more about our club on the web at [www.svwoodturners.org](http://www.svwoodturners.org).

### Silicon Valley Woodturners Membership Application

Please print and mail with a check payable to SVW for \$35\* individual (\$45\* family) to:  
Paul Rygard, 255 Prince St. Los Gatos, CA 95032

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Current Member of AAW? Yes ☐ No ☐

Member-ship*	Renewal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter April - June	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quar-ter July - Sept.	4 <sup>th</sup> Quar-ter Oct. - Dec.
Individual	\$35	\$25	\$20	\$10
Family	\$45	\$35	\$30	\$15



# Next Meeting...

**Join us Wednesday, October 7th@7:00PM**

**Santa Clara High School Woodshop**  
3000 Benton St, Santa Clara, CA

It is right across the street from the Baptist Church sign, and just past (coming from Kiely) a No Entrance sign.

**August Program:** Mark Knize

**August Challenge:** Purely Sculptural

**Dinner before the Meeting:**

Watch for email update



# FOR SALE

**Smocks**, SVW colors. \$30 (SVW patch not included). Contact John Whittier for details. (408) 379-3722, [tuinghands@yahoo.com](mailto:tuinghands@yahoo.com)



**Bandsaw Cutting Round Disk Sets, numbered, with center holes**— Select a disk size appropriate to the size blank you want to bandsaw from a log, and secure it to the log through the center hole to the log with a wood screw, and cut outside

the disk with the saw for an optimally sized and shaped turning blank. These sets of 1/4" thick MDF disks increment by 1 inch from 4" to either 12" or 20", depending on the set. 4"-12" set (shown), \$14, or the 4"-20" set, \$20. Contact John Whittier for de-

