

SOUTHERN UTAH Woodturners



American Association of Woodturners Chapter Since May 2010

JULY 2020

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Thanks to Ken Ragsdale and Jim Pope our first Zoom meeting was quite successful!

Ken and Jim started early by coaching many of us in the proper use of Zoom. We're all in their debt.

I have been talking with other woodturning clubs and have found that Zoom is the way clubs are now meeting.

The August 8th meeting will have a live demonstration broadcast to club members using the Zoom format. Pete Kaup will be making the arrangements.

On September 12th Pete Kaup is lining up a special presentation. Again this meeting will be broadcast using the Zoom format.

Let Pete know what you would like to see in October.

Bill Vincent ----- billvincent1947@gmail.com

We have tried to keep everyone informed of the current restructuring of the Southern Utah Woodturners club. Apologies to those who may have been missed. No timeline on when the High School will allow us to conduct our regular meetings. On July 11th the club held the second virtual meeting . About 20 members were present, this is less than 50% of our membership. This format has been implimented because of restrictions regarding large face to face gatherings. A regular meeting format of welcome members, treasurers report, demo and a type of raffle was held. A few problems occurred, but we are all still learning how to present this format and trying to make this as normal as possible. One of our goals is to encourage more members to become active in club activities , a difficult task without face to face meetings. Please contact Bill Vincent , Ken Ragsdale or Jim Pope for more infomation on how to become involved. See contact info at top of newsletter.

Show and tell photos need to be submitted to Jim Pope before the 20th of each month --
suwt2020@gmail.com

Show & Tell



**Above - overhead / sideview of 13" diameter
walnut cake serving platter Left -
Candle sticks from silver maple . 7 to 12" tall-**

**Right--Segmented vase from Russian olive,
walnut and tamerisk**



**Above and below Aspen wood imported from
Utah to Pennsylvania--Aspen wood bowls --**



Southern Utah Woodturners--

July 2020 SUWT Newsletter—Workshop Cleanliness/Congestion...

Ongoing safety also means keeping our workshops clean and free of congestion/clutter so that we can always turn safely. Removing shavings and sawdust following our turning sessions is only part of keeping the shop clean.

Removal of sawdust and shavings is important. The older we get the more we generally start to shuffle in our walking instead of picking up our feet. It does not take a lot of effort to tumble when a foot catches something on the floor which could be excess shavings. Also, as shavings build up it creates an uneven surface of which to stand which can affect the quality of our turnings.

A dusty environment also makes it harder to do a quality finish. Fine sawdust is a bane to good finishing and with the slightest of air movement, sometimes we do not even feel the air movement, sawdust is blown onto our workpieces and so the finish is not smooth like we desire. More work ensues to refine the finish.

More dust in the air also means more potential breathing problems. I will address this issue in a later article on breathing protection.

Secondary problems come when we crowd our shops with too much equipment or supplies. It is critical in turning or using any stationary power tool, to have a backup out or exit area behind you. Sudden changes in the work process and cause one to backup up quickly or to even fall. Make sure the area behind you is clear and if you could fall, hopefully you will not strike your head on other tools or cabinets.

Do not overload the tool storage area. Stacking tools on a flat surface may cause tools to fall on the floor or on your legs and feet. Not a good idea with sharp tools.

Finally, cleanliness reduces the risk of spontaneous combustion, a condition we do not want to happen. More on this topic in a later article.

Keep turning safely.

Brent Ross

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Text 702-481-5391

JULY , 2020

Wood Database www.wood-database.com

Whenever I have a question about wood, I call up the Wood Database. The Wood Database is an online source of information on woods of the world. There are articles about how to identify wood, mechanical properties of wood, health and safety issues. There are general articles like common U.S. woods, restricted and endangered wood species of the world, the ten best woods you have never heard of and a lot more.

The website gives both common names and scientific names and answers questions about woods such as how hard is it to work with, how well does it glue, how available is it, how durable is it, what color is it and so on. The woods that are the hardest to work with are usually listed as “turns well.”

The feature I use the most is the WOOD FINDER. There is a list of sixteen characteristics which you can select or modify to narrow the results of your search.

If you have an unknown piece of wood, carefully measure and weigh it, then you can figure out the approximate weight per cubic foot. Compare the wood to woods you have and can identify. I have woods from the softest to the hardest if you need something to compare your wood to. Then note the characteristics such as hardness, open or closed grain, difference between heart wood and sap wood, color and odor. Then do a search using those characteristics. It is possible to identify or narrow the identity to a small group of woods. One club member had a unique unknown piece of wood given to him for which I was able to find a matching wood in the data base. Will had an unknown wood that I eventually identified as a type of “cedar” which narrows it down to five different genuses.

If you really want to identify a particular piece of wood you can send a sample for identification to the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. They will give you the family and genus. If you want the specie you have to send it to a lab that identifies plants by DNA. The Forest Products Laboratory will identify three samples per year free of charge. You pay for DNA analysis. Neither will give you back your sample. One of the characteristics listed is the Janka hardness. What is the Janka Hardness scale? On the Wood Database website, it is defined by the force, in pounds, that it takes to press a 0.444 inch diameter steel ball half way into a piece of wood. Most people think oak is a very hard strong wood. White Oak has a Janka hardness of 1,350 lbs. Honey locust is 1,580 lbs. Apple is 1,730 lbs. Honey Mesquite is 2,340 lbs. Mountain Mahogany is 3,200 lbs. The hardest woods have a Janka rating of well over 4,000 pounds and are from South America, the Caribbean, Central America and Australia.

Common names used for wood can be misleading. The name “Tiger wood” is used to describe multiple woods. Some expensive and some not. The sales flyers from Rockler and Woodcraft usually include the scientific name. I use the Wood Database to verify that what they are selling is actually what I think it is. Rosewood is another name that gets used often, too often. Like the name “Patagonian Rosewood” for Cebil, Curapay and Angico Prieto. Whenever possible get the scientific name for your wood and then verify what it actually is in the Wood Database.

If you have questions regarding "Tips & Tricks" e-mail me at leonolson@aol.com

Leon Olson

**Dedicated to promoting woodturning in Southern Utah through educational demos, classes & fellowship between members.
"Learning Through Turning"**

Turn Often & Turn Safe

---Until further notice---

**Virtual "Zoom" meeting the 2nd Saturday of each month
Link to access to be emailed to members prior to meeting**

Visit our website at :

<https://www.southernutahwoodturners.com>

Email-- suwtclub@gmail.com

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