

# The Burl

A monthly newsletter for the  
**Willamette Valley Woodturners**

e-mail: [wwturners@gmail.com](mailto:wwturners@gmail.com)

We are also on Facebook



Member chapter

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**Next Meeting: 6:30-8:30 PM, April 14, 2022  
Salem 50+ Center**

## **President's Message April, 2022 Spring has Sprung!**

Hello Willamette Valley Woodturners!

Spring is springing out the buds and flowers and the sun has been out a bit more, so hopefully the end of the winter doldrums is in sight.

It was fantastic to see Nick Stagg last month and learn or relearn some stuff. Great to have a turning master in the area that can share fundamentals to everyone including those that might think they know that stuff already!

This month's demonstrator is Dan Tilden. He has worked with some of the greats in the world of turning including Christian Bouchard and I am pretty sure he has been in some YouTubes with Ashley Harwood and many others. His skills are good in many things, but I think he is known for his hollow vessels on legs. Looking forward to seeing him again!

The April 2022 issue of the AAW magazine (American Woodturner, vol 37) has arrived and it has an article on using silica desiccants to dry your wood. Their information is chock full of how to do it the right way. Since I work on the cheap side, I was interested in Darcy's idea of using kitty litter. NOTE: the type of kitty litter used contains silica desiccants and no clay products.

I was amazed at the results. Day one of my experiment was with a maple burl bowl, roughed out to about 1 inch thick and about 18x12x3 inches (oval). It registered 26% on a moisture meter. Two days later it was down to 17%.

I shuffled the silica gel beads and stuck it back in the bag. Two days later it was 12% and it was ready to go to the lathe. I did a final turning and rechecked the moisture and found it was still in the 12% range. Project done in a week from wet to dry!

Lots more testing needs to be considered on this. A burl has no grain to shrink and crack, maybe grained wood can still be susceptible to the same problems of drying too rapidly.

Kitty litter is cheaper than real silica gel but it may not dehydrate well once used. I still need to try that part.

Is it better to use a scale to determine moisture content? Maybe, but I have always considered the moisture meter as an easy quick way to get at a nearly same conclusion. And I don't have a scale.

I'm pretty sure the idea of using a desiccant is good. So, I look forward to anyone else's feedback on the idea and whether using real silica desiccants is better than kitty litter and anything else that may improve the world of dry times for wood.

Stay Safe and Stay Sharp!

Marc

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### **Upcoming Presenters and Events**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter/Event</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Follow-Up/Sawdust Session</u></b>
4/5/22	Dan Tilden: <a href="http://www.tildenwoodturning.com/#/">www.tildenwoodturning.com/#/</a>	Natural edge design and turning	Class TBA <b>Yes Sawdust Session 4/24/22, 9 AM-Noon, Darcy Tataryn's Studio</b> <b>**Please note this date is not the weekend after our meeting, but a week later, due to Easter.</b> <i>A class with Dan Tilden will be scheduled with enough interest at a later date.</i>
5/13/22	Josh Kinsey: <a href="http://www.JWKinsey.com">www.JWKinsey.com</a>	TBA	Class TBA <b>Yes Sawdust Session 5/16/22, 9 AM-Noon, Darcy Tataryn's Studio</b>

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### **April prester: Dan Tilden-turner extraordinaire!**

Dan is from Ashland and creates an astonishing array of amazing pieces as you can see on his website or on Facebook and other social media sites. New to me since I last saw Dan present is his foray into production of live-edge sinks! Should be a fascinating presentation!

Included below is Dan's description of the class he will hold on a date TBD. More info will be shared at this month's meeting.



Class 1:

## **Exploring Natural Edge Designs**

By Dan Tilden

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## **Introduction**

When I begin a piece, the main focus is capturing the natural features from its original form. Taking advantage of each unique portion allows the material to display its natural potential. Having full control over something completely original makes it easy to highlight its elegant beauty. Butchers would agree that the best meat is near the bone, and the same goes with figure and grain patterns in wood. All burl wood and highly figured material has the most interesting grain patterns, character, and beautifully figured designs near the exterior of the tree. Occasionally, I will buy or harvest turning stock seeking material with protruding branches near the foundation. I strive to highlight every inch, hoping to incorporate it in the live edge. Other examples are the roots, jutting out of the bottom which create an excellent base. I refer to this as "selective turning". When you see one or more natural features in your turning stock, it's crucial to design your piece and shape while incorporating its natural feature. The material is the main influence when looking for direction. It often speaks to you while shaping its future. The wood tells you where to go, and what some woodworkers consider a flaw, I use to its full advantage.

## About The Class

In this demonstration, we'll start off by discussing the many possibilities of incorporating a natural edge on our hollow vessels or bowls. We'll discuss how using a natural edge begins



with the first cut of the chain saw or bandsaw. I'll review the

numerous natural edge designs I've created as well as my students' designs. I want the beginning of the class to be a group collaboration, sharing the ideas and opinions of each student's experiences. Focusing particularly on their involvement with using a natural edge opening while looking at a slide of photos about the topic. I will then demonstrate turning a natural edge vessel to the class from start to finish. I'll be using a design I like to use, involving a natural edge. This class will also focus on the process and techniques of turning a hollow vessel. How to mount a piece, how to properly cut your wood, and how to measure your wall thickness for a consistent even wall thickness.



## Benefits of the Class

- Students will be a part of an open discussion, gaining knowledgeable tips from myself and others in the class.
- Students should walk away having a different perspective on how they go about their process or add to their skills they already have.
- The class will cover how to properly turn a hollow vessel using a natural edge according to me.

- Using a natural edge can maximize your expensive and rare wood.
- Teaching students how to use a natural edge will get them more excited about designing their pieces.

## Closing Statement

I really do believe looking at the raw tree and your turning stock in a different way will help you create unique designs and get yourself more excited about your work. This class will make you more aware of opportunities your woodturning stock gives you to enhance it in a naturally clever way. Let's not get too far away from the roots of this art by changing and manipulating your piece to not even look like wood. Let's instead use those natural features in a way not thought of.

Dan Tilden

## March 10, 2022 Meeting Summary

**President Marc Vickery** gavelled the meeting to order at 6:30 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Two visitors and two new members were introduced and were among the forty in attendance.

Marc reviewed the CraftsSupplies order and Sawdust Session protocols and told of a month long class taken by one of our members which was held in Maine!

**Jeff Zens** reviewed the grain sealant situation. Our Anchorseal is gone and he and others are looking at a PVA product as a replacement. The advantages include spillage not being slick on floors and ability to dilute (1:1 to 1:8) to desired consistency. The disadvantages include that it needs to be diluted (or it will be very expensive) and is quite sticky.

Also being looked at is Anchorseal II which is touted as more solid than the previous version.

Marc announced that the president of next year's Oregon Symposium turning conference has resigned (see recent email from Marc) and that holding the event is in jeopardy if a new president doesn't step up.

Jeff discussed the status and direction of the new website he is in the process of creating. He talked of a slow rollout so that most bugs will be dealt with before it is presented. Some points:

\*Jeff needs pictures to place throughout the pages

\*He would like to include a history section (Walt Theis volunteered to work on this-thanks Walt!)

\*The idea of a classified section was brought up for consideration

**VP Larry Curry** discussed next month's presenter Dan Tilden's followup class would be announced at April's meeting.

Paul Hirt announced that he and Terry Garros would be hosting a beginner's class the weekend of March 12-13. (See photos below)

**Presenter Nick Stagg** (introduced by Larry) on turning a **basic box**.

\*Nick started by reviewing some safety points: too high a speed, unnoticed bad wood, ill fitting tenon in chuck, and not retightening chuck periodically (as fibers crush), are some of the issues he's particularly attuned to.

\*Nick prepped his piece before the meeting by turning it cylindrical and cutting tenons at both ends.

\*Nick turned his box at about 1500rpm.

\*Nick used a narrow parting tool to divide his cylinder in two using the Golden Ratio (about  $\frac{1}{3}$ ).

-He cautioned us to sort of wiggle the tool side to side to avoid binding.





### Top

- With the lid in the chuck, Nick first made a clean bottom with a sharp spindle gouge.
- To set the depth, he made a small dimple and then plunged straight in with an old worn out spindle gouge he uses specifically to drill.
- Lid hollowing was done with the spindle gouge using a pulling scraping technique.
- The lid is a mortise which was cut using a square scraper (not a negative rake scraper-Nick says the sharp edge of a traditional scraper lasts a much longer time than the burr on a negative rake scraper most use).
  - \*Nick grinds his scrapers at about 60 degrees (80 degrees for exotic hardwoods)
  - \*The sides are not ground but are polished
- To cut the mortise, Nick says to be sure the rest is high to avoid catches.
- Nick makes his mortise a deep  $\frac{3}{8}$ " and is super careful about making it vertical and even, using calipers to check. (editor's note: his scrapers were SHARP)

-Nick's philosophy: plan on making two final cuts, but only make one.

### Base

- \*Nick chucked up the base, cut a clean face, made a dimple in the center, and plunged a hole just like in the top.
  - he did, however, check the depth with a depth gauge
- \*Nick showed how he hogs out the base using his tool rest hand as a pivot point.
- \*He then cut the tenon with a wide parting tool and refining it with a sharp scraper
  - reminded and demonstrated checking the fit often and to make tiny incremental changes as the difference between just right and too small happens fast
- \*He did more hogging of material with spindle gouge wing and then moved to a half round scraper that tapers
  - he honed this by hand with a 400 grit diamond stone
- \*His box flared a bit below the tenon toward the bottom.



### Mating lid and base

- Nick pressed the lid back on using a paper towel in the joint to make it tight.
- He then did some final shaping with the spindle gouge reminding us to not rub the bevel as to avoid burnishing the wood.
- His final passes were with a burred negative rake scraper.
- All final shaping, passes, and sanding went across the seam.
- Final final sanding was done with the lathe off and going with the grain.
- Since separating the base and top and the tenon take so much out of the piece, the grain won't match perfectly so Nick suggests cutting a  $\frac{1}{32}$ " "bench" to provide a purposeful gap.

### Foot

- \*Nick used a jam chuck reminding folks it's important again to sneak up to get a tight fit.
- \*Nick cut a slightly concave base with a slightly relieved bottom edge using his spindle gouge.



### Notes

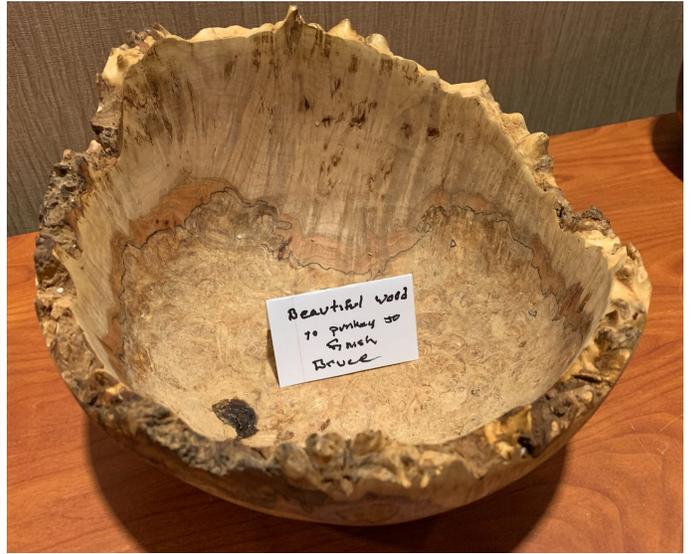
- If using a contrasting wood as an insert, Nick recommends not using super glue as it doesn't hold up long term as well.
- Nick recommends putting some small grooves in the mortise that will take the insert to give the glue more purchase.
- If gluing exotics, Nick suggests using alcohol to wipe down the area to be glued as the natural oils can weaken the bond.
- Nick demonstrated some chatter tools to be used on the end grain of hardwood projects.
  - \*he suggested separating sections with a small groove and showed how a simple light felt pen enhances the effect of the tool

**Thank you Nick** for the excellent demonstration! Your advice was valuable and your process was straight-forward and efficient. And you made it look easy (which we all know takes huge skill)!

And if you missed it, ask somebody about Nick's parrot joke. Ha!  
Also, many thanks to Jeff for the additional pics!

Nice selection of raffle items and again, the works shared in our gallery were stellar including beautiful burl, epoxy pieces, bowl and platter, and a basket illusion piece (and some 1st attempt spheres)!







## **March 13, 2022 Sawdust Session**

About 15 folks showed up on a rainy morning (which makes being inside all the more preferable) for once again a diverse range of project work including a 3-pointed bowl, a large spindle, some pens, and quite a bit of sharpening help. Thanks Darcy, Jim, Walt, and Marc for the one on one mentoring (I hope I helped as well) and to all for the positive comradery! Thanks to Marc also for the additional pics.

Please note the April Sawdust Session is moved one week back (April 24th) due to Easter. Hope to see you there!





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**Opportunity that could save your life! (maybe a slight exaggeration...)**

Former member Joe Brown of Molalla is **giving away** his older Air Mate 3 system. Joe says the battery life has shortened, but could be replaced.

Joe invites you to contact him by phone at 650-464-3253 or email at [jab1563@yahoo.com](mailto:jab1563@yahoo.com)

Thank you for your generous offer Joe!

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**Interesting couple lathes and wood**

Hello, the name is Dwain, a fellow woodworker, retired, from the original Woodcraft store on Coburg Rd. Eugene, OR.

I have an **older Jet 1014** lathe that is **missing the tail stock and the tool rest post**. I would like to find the missing pieces, along with a three jaw chuck with 1 X 8 threads, or find a buyer for it, as is. The motor and the variable speed controller work fine.

I also have a cute, small **Walker-Turner Driveline** wood lathe that I would like to find a place of honor in someone's showroom or museum (see pics below.)

And I also have some wood that may be of interest to someone in your group. One piece of spalted maple, 2 ½" x 8 ½" x 32" with some checks. I also have about 80 pounds of Lignum Videa, two pieces at 3 ¼" x 3 ¼" x 8 feet long. Each piece weighs about forty pounds.

If there is anyone in your group that has an interest in anything here, please email me. Thank you very much. Dwain

(Ed note: email via Marc at [prezwww@gmail.com](mailto:prezwww@gmail.com) )



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## Membership Rewards

**Chain Sharpening Service** from Jeff Zens: I have an electric chain sharpener and can accurately sharpen your chains and adjust depth stops for your saw chains. This service will restore the chain to “factory-new” condition. Most chains for 18" and shorter bars can be sharpened for \$10.00. Longer chains (up to 30" bars) are \$20.00. Badly damaged chains might be a little bit more. I will also tell you if the chain has reached the end of its useful life, and will not sharpen a chain beyond that point. This price is only available for club members.

### Supplies-See Jerry Lelack at club meetings

The club purchases a few supplies in bulk and sells them to members at club cost.

\*CA superglue (\$6), black or brown superglue (\$10) accelerator (\$10).

\*Half round protractors (\$6) used to measure the angle ground on a tool

\*Depth gauges (\$5)

\*HSS ¼" x 8" Round Tool Bits rods

\*Anchorseal (\$9/gal) and walnut oil (\$20/gal) are available through **Jeff Zens**. You will need to bring your own gallon containers; contact [Jeff](#) to make arrangements.

### Wood Gathering

Anyone who learns of a tree or log that is available to the club should notify **Randy Nichols**.

### From Terry Gerros

I am a distributor for Stick Fast CA glue, Sharpfast Sharpening systems, the Holdfast vacuum chucking system and Saburrtooth Carving bits. If you have an interest in these products, give me a call or send me an [email](#) for details.

### Club Member Discounts

- **Club Member Discounts at Craft Supply:** The club's order is processed the Monday following our Club meeting if it equals or exceeds \$1,000. Craft Supplies offers us a 10% discount **plus** free shipping on almost all items (lathes and other heavy items are excluded) and occasional additional discounts on certain other items and quantity purchases. If you order from Craft Supplies current sale items, you will receive the club discount in addition to the sale discount, making many items available at very attractive prices. For detailed instruction for ordering see the article in the **January 2022 Burl**, available on the club's website. Questions? See [Jeff Zens](#).
- Club members are registered with **Klingspor's Woodworking Shop** at [www.woodworkingshop.com](http://www.woodworkingshop.com) or 800-228-0000, they have your name and will give you a 10% discount.
- If you show your club card at checkout time to the cashier at **Woodcraft** in Tigard they will give you a 10% discount (May not apply to some machinery).
- **Exotic Wood** is offering a discount of 15% off any orders placed at: [www.exoticwoodsusa.com](http://www.exoticwoodsusa.com). (This includes sale items and free shipping on orders over \$300). Use promo code ewusaAAW
- **Gilmer Wood** now offers our club a 10% discount on purchases made there. If you haven't been to Gilmer's, it is well worth the trip to Portland, if only to make your mouth water and make you cry if you leave empty handed.

### Club happenings in our area

(Please visit the club's website listed below for additional information)

Northwest Woodturners (Beaverton, OR)

[www.northwestwoodturners.com](http://www.northwestwoodturners.com)

Cascade Woodturners (Portland, OR)

[www.cascadewoodturners.com](http://www.cascadewoodturners.com)

Beaver State Woodturners (Eugene, OR)

[www.beaverstatewoodturners.com](http://www.beaverstatewoodturners.com)

Oregon Coast Woodturners (Newport, OR)

[www.oregoncoastwoodturners.com](http://www.oregoncoastwoodturners.com)

Southwest Washington Woodturners (Vancouver, WA)

[www.southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com](http://www.southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com)

South Coast Woodturners (Coos Bay, OR)

[www.southcoastwoodturners.com](http://www.southcoastwoodturners.com)

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The Burl is a monthly newsletter publication of the Willamette Valley Woodturners.

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