



# Chips & Chatter

Newsletter for the Silicon Valley Woodturners

July 2025

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# President's Turn

Hi SVW, and welcome to Summer. In the months when I'd usually expect a slowdown, what a turnout we had for our July meeting. I counted over 40 people in the event room. I guess the word got out that Bob Bley's presentation on Inlay techniques would be loaded with interesting information, and it was!. Thanks Bob, for explaining how you work on some of the beautiful art you produce.

Thanks also for the short sweet turning demo portion. That's the part that really brought it home for me. As Bob mentioned, I told him I was a little intimidated by all the crushing and sifting, and later sanding of stone. But the realization that you can use almost any colored material, combined with the demo of the straightforward wood turning steps has me thinking that maybe inlay is something I finally want to try. I hope you do too, because that is the President's challenge for the September meeting. :-)

Between now and then we have our August meeting / summer picnic. Thanks to Roman for inspiring this month's challenge idea when he said "turn your plate for the picnic". So the President's Challenge for August is 'For the Kitchen'. That could be a plate, or a cup/goblet, a spoon, a handle for a kitchen tool, and since I forgot to modify that a little and say 'not a bowl', yes, we'll even accept a bowl. That being said, if bowls are what you often show, the spirit is really to try something outside your normal, be creative!

And by now you should all have plenty of wood to be creative with. Thanks to James, Kelly, Sang, Fred, Jim, and others who worked through a very large stash of wood and tools, to bring quite a haul of good turning wood to the meeting. That wood distribution not only helped us, but also the estate who needed it cleared. If you didn't get any at the recent meeting, there will probably be more wood from the estate at the picnic.

Finally, a huge thanks to all who made wig stands for our recent drive. We donated them this month. The reception they got was incredibly heartwarming and moving. You can find Angela's notes about the donation in this newsletter.

Happy turning,  
Kevin

## Announcements

**2025 Summer Picnic** - at [Cuesta Park](#) in Mountain View on Wed Aug 20 at 4pm (with eating at 5 and competition at 6). This year the picnic is hosted by the West Bay Woodturners ([volunteer signup](#))

**Inlay Workshop** - Free 2-day workshop with Bob Bley starting on Sun Aug 17 to practice hands on application of inlay process presented at the July meeting (see recap below). [Info](#) and [sign up](#). Or contact [Jim Koren](#).

# Events Recap

## Meeting Demo - Inlay

Presented by Bob Bley on July 9, 2025



*Inlay* is the decorative process of setting material into a recessed area creating a contrasting design.

In the July demo, Bob presented his techniques for applying inlays to turnings and woodworks. He has many years of experience and a lot was covered in the presentation. Details may be found in his prepared slides - or you can access the video recording on the shared area for our club at [svw.groups.io](https://svw.groups.io). Remember that the video links are not password protected, so please do not share with non-club members.

Here is a summary of the topics covered:

### 1. Stones - How to crush and process

- Suggest starting with Craft Supplies - but there are many sources
- Use uniform and consistent colors. Try to avoid color contamination.
- Stone crushing methods: Bob primarily uses two capped metal pipes, 0.75 in and 1.5 in, with one fitting inside the other like a piston. You can also use a hammer and anvil, or even a coffee grinder. Remember to protect your eyes and lungs.
- Use different size sieves to organize stones into separate and consistent sizes.
- Aside from stone, other possible materials include wood, coffee grinds or metals.
- Test your filling material using CA glue as colors may change when "wet"



## 2. Patterns - Creating and transferring

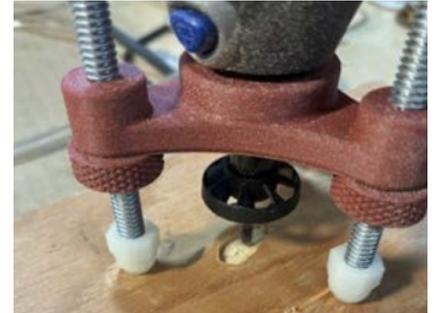
- Plenty of designs are on the Internet, but don't be afraid to make your design free hand or organic.
- Saral Transfer Paper helps to transfer your design onto the surface.
- Select an inlay color that contrasts with your wood surface. For example, white shows well on walnut.

## 3. Cutting the pattern

- Motorized tool options include Dremel, micromotors and NSK. Hand carving is also an option.
- Try to make clean vertical recesses using a sharp cutter, such as a titanium/carbide engraving bit. Avoid diamond-coated bits since they do not "cut".
- Depth is not critical, enough to cover the stones. 3/16 inch depth is recommended for translucent fillings.

- Helpful Dremel accessories:

- Standard cutting guides will help with depth control
- Fan attachment will help clear dust and shavings
- Bob has a custom made 3 point Dremel guide (image right) that handles better on bowl curves vs the standard round guides



- Seal wood with shellac before filling to reduce stains from CA glue later on.

## 4. Filling with stone

- A straw cut at an angle performs well for depositing stones or filling. You can also make your own applicator with a brass tube and handle (image right)
- If you are using different size stones, place the larger stones first before placing smaller/finer stones [Editor's Note: This is also a life/work management approach popularized by Stephen Covey. Basically, start your day with important items first. Otherwise, you fill it with small meaningless stuff without leaving space for the important stuff.]
- Use thin or ultrathin CA glue. Pour until the top of the inlay mix is wet (everything is saturated). Do this in a well ventilated room - possibly even using organic vapor masks and goggles if you feel your eyes starting to sting. (Image right: Black Hole Dust Collector prototype used by Bob during his demo)



## 5. Sanding and leveling the stone

- Recommend starting with a carbide tool to lightly remove hardened inlay material evenly. Sandpaper tends to affect wood more, so try to focus sanding on the inlay area using a stiff or rigid backing.
- It is common to get pitting or gaps after sanding. Apply shellac again to seal the surface. Then use CA glue and material to fill in the gaps. You may need multiple iterations. Of sanding and refilling.



Check out the slides and recording for details. And if you are interested in the hands on inlay workshop, look up the info in the Announcements section.

# Turning for a Cause: SVW Donates Handcrafted Wig Stands to Cancer CarePoint

Contributed by **Angela Gunn**



It all started when Kevin Lee and Dave Vannier approached me at a Silicon Valley Woodturners (SVW) meeting, asking me to be the new Women in Turning (WIT) liaison for the club. After a moment of playful banter (and discovering Dave was the current liaison!), I agreed to explore the role. My first WIT meeting then introduced me to the Wig Stand Project, and I was immediately inspired by the impact it had on communities. I knew SVW had to get involved.

On July 15th, thanks to the incredible talent of SVW members and additional donations from West Bay Woodturners, **we delivered 16 handcrafted wig stands** to Cancer CarePoint in San Jose. This non-profit supports Bay Area residents affected by cancer. The team at Cancer CarePoint was genuinely amazed by the artistry. Each stand was a testament to the skill, creativity, and care poured into its creation—far exceeding their expectations. They marvelled at the diverse woods, unique shapes, and practical features like varying heights and even jewelry holders.

**I'm incredibly proud of SVW.** Members found the project deeply satisfying, with many commenting on how it challenged them to try new techniques like glue-ups, burning, or off-center turning. Beyond the 16 stands delivered to Cancer CarePoint, about four more were sent directly to individuals or other non-profits chosen by the turners.



If you'd like to contribute more wig stands to Cancer CarePoint, please contact **Angela Gunn** or **Dave Vannier**. I hope to renew interest in this cause annually.

# President's Challenge

The President's Challenge was to make a lidded box inline with Don's demo at the previous meeting.



Jerry  
(Sycamore with 100 year  
old walnut top)



Ken  
(Redwood burl)



Felicia  
(Finished box from friend  
also no-sandpaper  
makeup)



Kat  
(Olive wood with paint  
filled groove)



James  
(Spalted birch with  
cocobolo)  
And mushroom stitch  
markers



Sang  
(Black acacia and  
ebonized finial)



Kevin  
(Carob with cherry finial)  
And baby rattle



Don  
(Amboyana burl with black  
wood rim and finial)



Dave  
(Blackwood - rose  
originally on blank from  
Glenn Krueg)



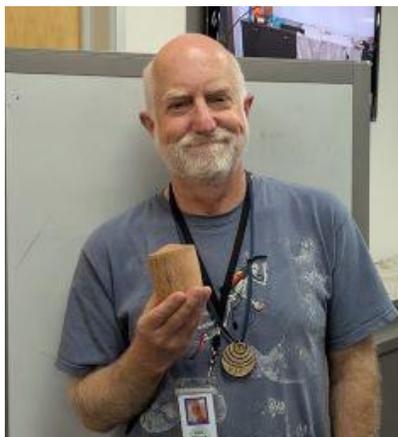
Calvin  
(Box 001 and Box 002)



John  
(Olive with turquoise  
collaboration with Dennis)



Dean  
(Punky wood from Eric)



Vic  
(Chinese elm)



Angela  
(digital version)



Michael  
([granadilla/blackwood](#))



Jim  
(with blackwood finial)



George  
(Curly maple box and  
poplar 3-corner boxes  
airbrushed)

## Wood Donation from the Ryan Estate



There was a lot of wood to select from at the July meeting. But this was just some of the wood collected from the Ryan Estate. Look for more at the upcoming picnic!

# Show and Tell



Jerry

Vase (black acacia with 3 coats of general bowl finish)  
Bowl (spalted birch with milk paint)



Kat

Vice nutcracker (walnut)



Sang

Split avocado (black acacia)  
with seed (mahogany)



John Whittier

Bowl (black acacia) using a rough turned bowl from Jim Gott (with wood from Jerry)



Jon Sauer and his 3 favorite boxes

1. Pernambuco ([brazilwood?](#)) wood with 216 ebony insets and caucus wood lid
2. Sushi design box with faceted lid.
3. [Madagascar rose](#) wood with blackwood lid and ivory inlay



Vic  
Bowl (mystery wood from rough turned bowl)

Milton  
3-corner walnut bowl and cigar pens

Russell  
Coolibah (?) burl/epoxy Vase cast in 8 in PVC pipe

## Mark Your Calendar!

Date	Event
Aug 20	<b>Picnic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time: 4pm</li> <li>- Pres Challenge: Something for the kitchen</li> </ul>
Sep 3	<b>General Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demo: Laser by <b>James Craig</b></li> <li>- Pres Challenge: Inlay</li> </ul>
Sep 20	<b>Pro Demo: Mark Gardner</b>
Oct 1	<b>General Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demo: Rose Engine by Brad bond</li> <li>- Pres Challenge: Donation to Maker Nexus</li> </ul>
Oct 11	<b>Sawdust Session: TBD</b>
Oct 29	<b>Board Meeting</b>

# 2025 Ironman Tracker

## 2025 Iron Man Status

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Joel Bauman	■											
Brad Bond			■									
Don Bonnett				■		■	■					
Edy Chung	■	■		■								
Calvin Breed							■					
Dean Caudle							■					
James Craig	■	■	■		■	■	■					
Steve Dahout	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Jerry Galli	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Angela Gunn	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Brian Havens	■	■	■									
Mark Koenig				■								
Jim Koren	■		■	■								
Kevin Lee	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Dennis Lillis	■	■	■	■	■							
Jim Loney	■											
Scott Lucas				■	■	■						
Ken Malloy							■					
Michael Maring							■					
George Mathew	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Dylan McVoy	■	■		■	■	■	■					
Vic Mitnick	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Kat Napolitano	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Jim Ostrowski	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Sang Park	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Jessica Pineda	■											
Felicia Preston	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
David Vannier	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Milton West					■							
John Whittier	■						■					
	Name Badge	Weed Pot	Offset Bowl	Wig Stand or BoC Box	Twins (identical or fraternal)	no sandpaper	Lidded Box					

# About Us

Silicon Valley Woodturners Inc. is a non-profit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) organization dedicated to education and having fun. Every position in the organization is held by volunteers. The dues we collect and the donations we get go towards teaching the members the art and craft of wood turning.

We are a local chapter (in the Bay Area of California) of the [American Association of Woodturners \(AAW\)](#).

President: Kevin Lee

Vice President/Program Dir/ Pens For The Troops Coordinator: Jerry Galli

Treasurer: Tom Stutz

Secretary: Felicia Preston

Member at Large: Dennis Lillis

Newsletter:

Photos provided by Angela Gunn.

To submit announcements or articles for an upcoming newsletter, please contact [Sang Park](#). Newsletters will typically be published 2 weeks after each general meeting.

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

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