



As the Wood Turns

The monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners



"Celebrating our 22nd year as a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners"

December Highlights:

- Curls From the President's Platter, page 2
- At the January Meeting, page 3
- Empty Bowls Contributor's Gallery, pages 6,7
- Shop Tour, page 8



Next Meeting:

January 13, 2009

7:00PM

Woodcraft Supply

1280 E. Dundee Rd.

Palatine, IL

847-776-1184

Regular Features:

- Committee Reports, pages 3 & 4
- Members' Gallery, pages 6 & 7
- Calendar, page 8

CWT Holiday Party Rescheduled



Our annual Holiday Party will be on January 13, as the December meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The party is still on, as we "Ring in the New Year."

Indigo Jazz, the elite vocal group from Palatine High School, has entertained our membership the past two years, and we're pleased to bring them back for another visit.

Under the direction of Steve Sivak, the choir is comprised of some of the finest singers and musicians at Palatine High School. It's an all-volunteer choir, rehears-

classic, "I'm a Lumberjack and I'm OK," an homage to the CWT membership. In 2006, the group, not knowing what woodturning might be, nicknamed us the



Indigo Jazz in 2007, disguised as "Lumberjacks"

ing before and after their regular classes. Last year they performed a program of traditional Holiday songs, jazz influenced modern works and a rousing rendition of the Monty Python

"Lumberjacks." Join us in January to see and hear what new surprises they have planned for the CWT.

See page 3 for details on our Holiday Party.

Empty Bowls at Oakton 2008

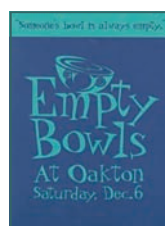
Clint Stevens

Do you remember earlier this year when dinner was a half hour late? Remember saying, "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!"? The bad news is that to many of our neighbors, this is no joke. The good news is that the Empty Bowls Project works to help four local food

banks put the humor back into this joke. On December 6th, the Oakton Community College Ceramics Club hosted this worthy event. The Chicago Woodturners participated by donating

turned artworks for the Silent Auction. The Ceramics Club had contributed hundreds of clay bowls which were given to people who donated \$12 to participate. In addition to a ceramic bowl, the attendees ate a simple meal of bread and soup,

(Continued on page 5)



Curls From the President's Platter

Phil Brooks

While working with the demonstrators at SOFA, Cindy Drozda gave me a copy of her new DVD, "Finial Star." Since Cindy and her partner David Nittman have become good friends of mine after staying with my wife and me over the previous two years of SOFA, I considered it a great gift. It's always nice to get a gift that you would have bought for yourself anyway.

This is her third DVD and each one gets better and more informative. Her first two, "Elegant Finials" and "Fabulous Finial Box," have lots of good information but are a little short on professional production; but are well worth owning. Her latest DVD is professionally done in every sense of the word and is loaded with a variety of valuable information. This DVD is one of the best I've seen in years. Cindy has really progressed over the last few years, not only as a turner but also as a pre-

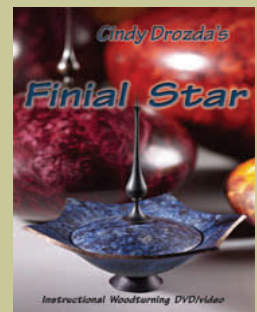
senter and teacher. Her confidence, skill and experience really come through on this DVD. In many ways Cindy has combined several videos into one, by covering a variety of topics, besides the details of turning a finial star box. Things such as the use of dyes, the profiles and sharpening of her tools and, as usual, her insight into and tips on design. She also covers her three basic cuts in making finials, as well as how to sharpen and use a negative rake scraper. One of the more unusual things about this video was her use of the large drawings behind her to really show the fine detail often missed in a demonstration. I haven't seen anyone else do this as well as she did. If you are not familiar with Cindy's work, you can see some examples of it on the cover of "The Woodturners Catalog 2008/2009" issued by Craft Supplies USA. You can also see a featured article on

Cindy and David, entitled "Creative Couples," on the first page of the AAW Journal, "American Woodturner" Winter 2008. Cindy is teaching a course at the Craft Supplies USA workshop in Utah from July 27-31, 2009 and is a featured woodturner at the Tennessee Association of Woodturners Symposium January 23-24, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee.

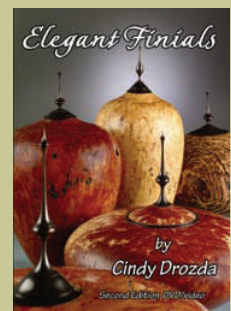
I highly recommend this DVD and will be asking Bob Fernstrom, our club librarian, to add "Finial Star" to the CWT library. If you are a beginning woodturner, check out this video from our club library for inspiration. If you are an intermediate or advanced turner, I recommend you buy a copy, since there are lots of things you can learn from this, or one of Cindy's earlier DVDs.

In the mean time, keep turning and I hope to see you all at the January club meeting when we will have our holiday party.

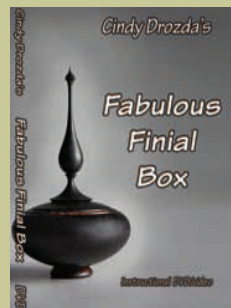
Videos from Cindy Drozda



Finial Star



Elegant Finials



Fabulous Finial Box

We'll have a review of Cindy's video "Fabulous Finial Box" next month.

If you have seen a new video that deserves mention, let your newsletter Editor know.

"Finial Star" and Cindy's other videos are available from:

Choice Woods www.choice-woods.com,

Packard Woodworks www.packardwoodworks.com,

and Craft Supplies www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Visit www.cindydrozda.com for more information.

At our next meeting on January 13, 2009



The CWT Holiday Meeting will be held on Tuesday January 13, 2009 at the CWT's usual meeting spot: the spacious and festive Woodcraft Basement. This year the plan is relax, chat with your old friends, make new friends, and have a taste of Holiday snacks and treats. We'll have door prizes, entertainment, and a gallery of your favorite turnings.

Bring a dish to share. Snacks, cookies, candy, hot dishes, and salad items are always welcome, although if you feel the need to make a roast turkey with all the trimmings, that's fine too. Just don't forget the giblet gravy! The CWT will provide Sloppy Joe sandwiches, beverages and place settings.

As of this writing, we are waiting for confirmation from our favorite choir, Indigo Jazz. Director Steve Sivak hopes to bring his elite vocal group to the January meeting, but it's Finals Week for Palatine High School. Keep your fingers crossed that we can have this talented group perform for us once again.

The Holiday gallery is always a favorite. Bring one (or a few) of your favorite turnings. They can be your own, items from your collection, turnings by famous or soon-to-be famous artists, or turnings that you just think are interesting. Share your personal favorites with the rest of us.



We hope to see all of you, along with your spouses, friends and guests at the January meeting. We promise a relaxed, unstructured social gathering, with lots of great food, great turnings, and great company. Join us as we welcome 2009!

The January meeting *will* have a short business session. Elections will be held for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer.

We promise to keep it short, so we can all enjoy the season, the music, the food, and the company of our friends.



When in doubt, a picture of a pretty girl (an Indigo Jazz member) wearing a turned cowboy hat is always a good choice



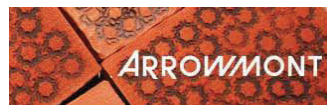
Turnings from last year's Holiday Gallery. Bring your favorite turnings to share.



AAW News and Updates

Happy New Year!

As we enter 2009, the AAW will soon be celebrating its 23rd anniversary. The AAW has come a long way from its simple beginning in 1985 when approximately 200 Woodturners attended a symposium and exhibition at the Arrowmont School of



Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. It was at that symposium that the formation of a national association was discussed. After months of planning, a board of directors was elected, and David Ellsworth became the 1st president of the new American Association of Woodturners in April 1986.

Here we are 23 years later, with 13,096 AAW members, 299 local chapters and more changes in

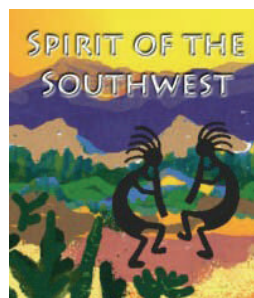
the organization than can be listed. The annual symposium has grown from that original group of 200 to almost 1600 attendees in 2008. A website was formed and it is continually being improved with association news, a photo gallery, and educational information. Numerous activities are being sponsored including the Professional Outreach Program (POP), Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG), and the Youth Turner program. All this is pretty amazing for a volunteer organization.

2009 is sure to bring a year of continued growth and change. We have 3 new board members for 2009, Dale Larson, Binh Pho and Cassandra Speier. The American Woodturner also has a new editor at the helm, Betty Scarpino. Watch for continued improvements in the Journal and news on a planned expansion from 4

to 6 issues annually in 2010.

The year is full of national and regional activities highlighted by the national symposium starting on June 26 in Albuquerque, NM. This year's symposium is full of a wide variety of events including hundreds of rotations by approximately 50 demonstrators, a tradeshow, instant gallery, youth program, Spirit of the Southwest exhibition, Spindle exhibition, chapter challenge, and much more.

You can count on hearing more about these events and activities in the coming months but if you can't wait, you can find it all at www.woodturner.org



Al Miotke



Betty Scarpino
Editor of The American Woodturner

Attendees from that original symposium in 1985 were inspired to form the Chicago Woodturners. Tom Jesinowski was our first President, and 22 years later, continues to be an active member.

Membership Updates

An email conversation between P. Shotola and A. Kuby around December 15, 2008:

PS: "Do you have content for the Newsletter?"

AK replies: "December marks the end of the turning year and your membership has expired. To avoid the embarrassment of being outed in front of all the members who actually paid their dues on time, please

send a check to Andy Kuby."

PS: "Outed? Are you sure that's the verb you want to use? I was thinking more along the lines of 'X% of 2008 members have renewed, do your part and don't become part of the Y%,' or something like that."

AK replies: "29 of 199 or 14.572864321% to date, but I'm still outing them."

Paul Shotola & Andy Kuby

There you have it folks! Only 14% of you have renewed your membership. To avoid a public outing by AK, send your check now.

**Chicago Woodturners
c/o Andy Kuby
2945 Cherokee Lane
Riverwoods, IL 60015**

Have you moved?
Changed your phone or email?

It's important that we keep our information up to date.

The CWT occasionally makes our mailing list available to companies that contribute to our raffle. These companies have agreed not to resell or redistribute this information. If you do NOT wish to be included on this mailing list, just let us know, and your information will not be sent out to Raffle contributors. We all value our privacy, and the CWT will respect yours.

Empty Bowls at Oakton 2008

Clint Stevens

(Continued from page 1)

(a reminder of meals enjoyed by the less-fortunate) and were given the opportunity to bid on selected contributions from local artists and CWT members. Our turnings were openly admired by volunteers and bid-

ders alike. And the silent bidding was spirited. Many heard the challenge from Past President Paul Shotola, and donated bowls, oil lamps, tree ornaments, pens, and vases. The event raised \$15,800 for local food banks. Our 37 donated turn-

ings are estimated to have brought in between \$1800 and \$2400.

No doubt, we will be called on next year to donate to the Empty Bowls project again. Instead of waiting for next Thanksgiving to come around before you think about it, post a note to yourself in your shop, and plan to have a couple of bowls to contribute next year. And on your note to yourself, write:

“We don’t have to share, we get to share.”

Did your contribution to Empty Bowls make a difference? The Northfield Township Food Pantry (one of the four local pantries supported by Empty Bowls) is so efficient that one dollar raised creates fourteen pounds of food for distribution to the needy.

14 pounds of food per dollar raised.

The CWT contributions generated approximately \$2,000 to support these local food banks.

The money you helped raise remains in our community, helping those who are most in need.

Your participation *did* make a difference.



Contributions to Empty Bowls at Oakton

Editor's Notes

Paul Shotola

In last month's issue, we talked about daylight-balanced lighting for photographing your work. Due to a lack of technical expertise on your Editor's part, some terms were confused. Phil Brooks points out that KV refers to the voltage required, so a 3500KV bulb would operate on 35,000 volts. Excessive for most woodturning shops. The correct term is "K," which refers to the light spectrum produced by the bulb. Phil correctly suggests using a compact fluorescent bulb (110 volt, not 35,000 volt!) with a "daylight" rating. Daylight bulbs produce light in the 3500K to 6500K range, with 6500K being the most accurate "daylight" spectrum.

Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2008

President	Phil Brooks	847-548-6477	brookspphil@sbcglobal.net	1052 Cheswick Dr	Gurnee, IL 60031
Vice President	Paul Pyrcik	630-963-9173	pppyrcik@aol.com	6108 Ivanhoe Ave.	Lisle, IL 60532
Secretary	Jan Shotola	847-412-9781	jshotola@yahoo.com	1865 Western Ave.	Northbrook, IL 60062
Treasurer	Dave Forney	847-639-6429	dave_forney@hotmail.com	707 Laurel Lane	Cary, IL 60013
Past Pres., Newsletter Editor	Paul Shotola	847-412-9781	p.shotola@comcast.net	1865 Western Ave.	Northbrook, IL 60062
Membership	Andy Kuby	847-317-1841	kubywinslow@comcast.net	2945 Cherokee Lane	Riverwoods, IL 60015
Librarian	Bob Fernstrom	847-202-0175	rfernstrom@comcast.net	863 W St John's Pl.	Palatine, IL 60067
Raffle	Gary Rotramel	630-377-5871	garyrotramel@yahoo.com	6N860 Crane Road	St Charles, IL 60175
Webmaster	Chuck Young	847-776-9966	chuck.young@comcast.net	935 N Fairway Drive	Palatine, IL 60067
Tools & Equipment	Don McCloskey	847-872-4781	mccloskey@ameritech.net	2028 Gilboa Ave.	Zion, IL 60099
Audio/ Visual	Scott Barrett	847-562-9121	dr@bdental.net	46 Bridlewood Lane	Northbrook, IL 60062
Demonstrations	Binh Pho	630-365-5462	toriale@msn.com	48W175 Pine Tree Tr.	Maple Park, IL 60151

Members' Gallery

Contributions to Empty Bowls at Oakton, December 2008



Members' Gallery**Contributions to Empty Bowls at Oakton**

Artists contributing to this worthy event include:

Tim Feeley, Phil Brooks, Bob Fernstrom, Don McCloskey, Ken Staggs, Carl Miller, Marie Anderson, Dave Buchholz, Andy Kuby, Bill Johnson, Dan Anderson, Clint Stevens, Bill Brown, John Parkes, Michael Kuehl, Bill Robb, and the cryptic but generous artists known as: MJK, UNK, and RS2008.

Special thanks go to the Master Chief, Don McCloskey. Don organized, photographed, delivered and coordinated our participation in Empty Bowls at Oakton.

Space limitations prevent us from presenting every gallery submission in the newsletter.
For gallery photos from past meetings, visit the CWT website : www.chicagowoodturners.com/gallery



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The monthly newsletter of the
Chicago Woodturners

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm till 9:30 pm
Woodcraft Supply
1280 Dundee Rd.,
Palatine, IL
847-776-1184

Visit our website:

chicagowoodturners.com

for more gallery photos,
past newsletters, expanded calendar
and late-breaking news.

Membership in the Chicago Woodturners is available to anyone wishing to increase their turning skills through education, discussion and critique. Annual dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$35.00 for a family. Visit our website for an application or contact:

Andy Kuby, Membership
Chairman

The Chicago Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Visit their website for more information.

www.woodturner.org

Shop Tour: Josh Connan's Basement Studio

Paul Shotola

Josh is well known to most CWT members for his delicately carved and colored pieces. I recently had the opportunity to stop by Josh and Corrine Connan's home, and bullied my way into the shop, camera in hand. (Be aware, folks, if you invite me to your home, be prepared to have photos taken. Sweep or don't, it's up to you!)



300 lbs. of concrete mix keep the lathe stable.

At first glance, Josh's shop is just as disorganized as mine, but a closer look reveals a method to his madness. The table saw, as in many of our shops, has become, well, a table, and piled with "works in progress." There are specific areas for turning, carving, and air brush work. Each area has dedicated dust control. Josh tells me that a dust pickup at his carving station



Josh has separate stations for airbrush, carving and turning.

is one of the best parts of his shop. The use of a cartridge-type respirator at the air brush station makes spraying paint (even water-based) much more pleasant.

Josh admits to a recent slowdown in his turning output, as he's been finishing the room next to his basement shop. The cartridge respirator keeps the drywall dust out of his lungs. The photo shows a stereotypical approach to a man-cave, with one TV and one chair. A quick conversation with Josh's wife, Corinne, set me straight. "That's not a *man-cave*, she told me. That's a *Corinne-cave*. That's MY room!" Josh plans on completion soon, and a return to his own space, producing his trademark carved and colored turnings.



The "Corinne Cave," a work in progress.

Upcoming Events

News of Art Shows, Classes, Turning Symposia and Events of Interest

February

- Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, February 15, Woodcraft Palatine
- Turning 101 with Carole Floate, February 21 & 22, Woodcraft Palatine

March

- Advanced Pens with Don McCloskey, March 22, Woodcraft Palatine

May

- Utah Woodturning Symposium, May 14-16, 2009

June

- AAW Symposium, Spirit of the Southwest, June 26-28, Albuquerque, NM

October

- Turning 2009 Symposium, October 16-18, Cincinnati, OH