

# As the Wood Turns

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CHICAGO WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION



30 YEARS OF ART, CRAFT,  
TECHNOLOGY, AND  
TRADITION.

**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

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## February Newsletter 2018

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## President's Curls

Second week of the second month and how many of us have already given up on our New Year's resolutions? I hope that didn't include the ones to participate more in CWT and bring in more Empty Bowls and Beads of Courage donations.

Congratulations to our resident Viking, Marty Knapp, whose Norge Ski club in Fox River Grove managed to get *three* jumpers on the Olympic team for Korea. I believe Marty is doing custom leather lacings for their poles.

Haven't joined AAW yet? The introductory membership is still available: \$20 for a 90-day introductory membership and another \$40 for the remaining 9 months if you decide to join, which I hope you do. (See [www.woodturner.org/](http://www.woodturner.org/) for more information.) And speaking of AAW, its signature symposium is June 14-17 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR. You can still save \$25 on the registration if you go with a group from the Chicago Woodturners of ten or more. Get the leader of your group to commit by February 28. The group must pay in full by April 2. Details at [www.woodturner.org/](http://www.woodturner.org/) Put a group together - they'll give your group their own table at the banquet!

On February 6, our members took our traveling lathes and equipment to Stevenson High School for their first Odyssey event. I hope many of you volunteered. We will have a first-hand report from Roger Basrak. These events give us a hands-on and personal opportunity to introduce turning to a wider audience, and the thrill of helping teenagers turn their first pen is too good to miss.

On February 17, George Von Driska, President of Easy Wood Tools, is scheduled to be at the Rockler store in Schaumburg from 1-3 pm. Don't miss this opportunity to hear about what they have to offer.

Two of our upcoming demos and hands-on classes have been confirmed. Emmet Kane will be here for a demo on June 9 and hands-on classes June 10-12, and our own Jason Clark will demo on Saturday, March 24, with hands-on classes following Monday-Wednesday. More details elsewhere in the newsletter. Note that CWT members will get a special deal on Jason's hands-on classes.

Don't forget Turn-On-Chicago, August 3-5. See <http://turnonchicago.com/> for a complete list of demonstrators and registration information. Discounted registration is available for CWT members.

This month's gallery review will be by Thomas Stegall. Thomas is one of our best reviewers; thoughtful, critical and always on-point. Bring a piece for the gallery table. The demonstration will be by Andy Kuby, filling in for Rich Nye.

Andy Kuby, President

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# Remembering an Artist



One of my favorite sculptor/furniture makers, Wendell Castle, died January 20 at 85 after over 55 years in sculpture and furniture. In 1996 he published “Adopted Rules of Thumb,” and true to form, on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday he updated them. For those of you still looking for New Year’s resolutions, they don’t get much better than these.

## **The Original 10 Adopted Rules of Thumb, 1996**

1. If you are in love with an idea, you are no judge of its beauty or value.
2. It is difficult to see the whole picture when you are inside the frame.
3. After learning the tricks of the trade, don’t think you know the trade.
4. We hear and apprehend what we already know.
5. The dog that stays on the porch will find no bones.
6. Never state a problem to yourself in the same terms it was brought to you.
7. If it’s offbeat or surprising, it’s probably useful.
8. If you do not expect the unexpected, you will not find it.
9. Don’t get too serious.
10. If you hit the bull’s-eye every time, the target is too near.

## **Wendell Castle’s New Adopted Rules of Thumb, 2012**

1. Distrust what comes easily.
2. You have to stand for something or you’ll fall for anything.
3. Bring conflicting attitudes to bear on the same problem.
4. We should never know for whom you’re designing.
5. Always listen to the voice of eccentricity.
6. The whole secret to designing a chair is applying the seat of your pants to the seat of the chair.
7. The problem with taking life in your own hands is you have no one else to blame.
8. If your mind is not baffled, your mind is not fully employed.
9. Imagination, not reason, creates what is novel.
10. Jumping to conclusions is not exercise.
11. Keep knocking – eventually someone will look down to see who’s there.

*Now go look him up.....*

Andy Kuby

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# Secretary's Report

Frank Pagura

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It's the first CWT meeting for 2018! It is 6:30 pm and Darrell Rader is already holding his hands-on class on tips for newbies.

The January 9 CWT meeting started at 7:00 pm. Andy Kuby thanked all members for an eventful 2017 and introduced the new board members: Andy Kuby, President; Don McCloskey, Vice President; Frank Pagura, Secretary; and Matt Schmitz, Treasurer. He also introduced our newsletter editor, John Whitehurst .

Andy noted that both the newsletter and the website have new formats, and we are all excited to see how these develop. Both Scott Barrett and John Whitehurst have worked very hard on these and should be congratulated.

Al Miotke was recognized as past president and introduced to give a brief presentation on the upcoming Turn-On Chicago! The presentation included video and bios of the highly anticipated list of demonstrators and activities. Registration has just started, and already 15 members have signed up. It was announced that CWT members receive a \$20 discount on the \$315 registration fee. The discount is only good until March 1. The discount does not apply on top of the \$50 spouse discount. The website has been having some problems so check carefully to make sure you are being charged and discounted correctly.

Al also discussed the upcoming February 6 Odyssey program at Stevenson High School and passed out a registration sheet for member demonstrators. Roger and Al will need help on February 5 in the afternoon for setup.

The Pen Wizard is missing from the CWT Tool Library. No action will be taken against whoever has it; please return it.

Volunteers are needed for the audio-visual set up, operation and, take-down at the meetings. Please see Andy or Jerry.

The club was recently presented with over 300 bowl blanks from a turner who has retired. They all dated from 1999-2000 and are dry, and some are quite large. We will be passing them out to club members with the understanding that an equivalent or larger number of bowls be donated to Empty Bowls. The first large blank was auctioned off at the meeting. Don McCloskey won by bidding to return 6 bowls for Empty Bowls.

Woodcraft has changed the program for awarding CWT Members a 10% discount. The discount will no longer be taken at the register but will instead be entered into a database under your email address. Rebate certificates will be emailed on a regular basis. The certificates will expire in 60 days. Be sure Woodcraft in Woodridge or Buffalo Grove has your correct email address.

Marie Anderson noted that Turn-On-Chicago has an Instagram account "TOC2018." Please follow us and tell your friends! Marie also noted the AAW is offering a discount to the Oregon conference for

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10 or more in a group and is asking for entries (by January 31) to the Women's Turning "Topsy Turvy." Please talk to Marie for additional information.

Demo opportunities at Rockler for February were also mentioned. George Von Driska, president of Easy-Wood Tools, will be at the Schaumburg Rockler store on February 17 from 1 to 3 PM. Don't miss the opportunity.

From time to time people approach the club for help with turning issues. Usually these are sent out to the members in an email by Andy. With his added responsibilities, Andy is requesting a volunteer to take this on. Talk to Andy to volunteer. Currently we have requests for the following. (Contact Andy for additional information if he doesn't get the emails out.)

1. Spindle turnings for 60 balustrades, 1 ½ inch diameter by 36 inch
2. A red oak molding, ¾ quarter round (split turning) 300 lineal feet?
3. Two standing walnut trees. This may be a sale, estimate 150-175 board feet yield
4. A walnut statuary stand which the owner mistakenly sanded, needs returning and finishing.

Rich Nye reported on three international guest demonstrators, one from the UK and two from Ireland. He is working on additions to the 2018 classes program. The list of demonstrators includes one of our own, Jason Clark, who will have classes in March or April. Emmet Kane is scheduled for June, and Jason Breach will be here in September. Phil Iron classes are being formalized and will be announced shortly. Rich also had an exciting bit of news: Richard Raffan will be here for all-day classes in 2019. Raffan has curtailed his international travels, as of late. This is a rare opportunity for all of us to get up close and personal with such a prominent woodturner artist!

Roger reported on membership (58 out of 168 attending), welcomed 3 new members and called out meeting raffle winners. Rich Nye was busy tonight, as he was the winner of the safety book and he will regale us with a new safety tip at the February meeting.

Tonight the review/critique was conducted by Al Miotke. As usual several outstanding pieces made quite an impression. A new twist was added to the critique activities for 2018: one item was singled out to be displayed in the new renovated CWT case at Woodcraft in Buffalo Grove. Tonight's selection was an ornamental lathe-turned lidded box by Scott Barrett. This display is an inducement to bring your work in for the critique: your work may be next in the showcase.

Beads of Courage donations are needed. Andy and Al have beads to inset in the lids if you need them. We only have three right now and need more for when the hospital calls again.

Don McCloskey did not talk about Pens for Troops, but he needs kits, blanks, finished pens and volunteers.

Meeting break was at 7:30, followed by tonight's demo. Tonight's demo on surface embellishments was presented by Frank Pagura as a substitute to scheduled, under-the-weather Ken Staggs.

Respectfully, Frank Pagura

# Membership

**Julie & Roger Basrak**

Our January CWT meeting got the year off to a great start! Fifty-eight members were in attendance. Currently there are 101 members who have paid their dues for 2018. (At the end of last year we had 170 paid members.)

There was one returning member, Bob Flaherty (from Elk Grove Village) at our January meeting. Welcome back, Bob! We also welcomed two new members. They are Peter Morjal (from Niles) and Zachary Stryker (from Rolling Meadows). In addition, Ben Frank (from Buffalo Grove) was a guest.

The mentoring sessions before the regular meeting (from 6:00 until about 6:50) will continue this year. If you arrive early, feel free to join the group at the front of the room! Or, why not actually plan to come early and join in? You might learn something new or get to know one of our newer members. Have you considered volunteering to lead or assist with a mentoring session? You can contact Darrell Rader, Don McCloskey, or Al Miotke if you are interested.

After the March meeting, we will not print name labels for anyone who has not yet paid dues for 2018. You may pay dues with cash or a check at any meeting. If you discover you didn't bring a check or enough cash, feel free to send a check (\$30 for an individual membership or \$40 for a family membership) made out to Chicago Woodturners. Checks may be mailed to Chicago Woodturners, c/o Julie Basrak, 563 W. Ruhl Rd., Palatine, IL 60074.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

# Raffle

**Sol Aufuso**

<b>Cherry Bowl</b>	Roberto Ferrer	<b>Pen Blanks</b>	Peter D'Attomo
<b>Tugua Nuts &amp; Erchin</b>	Nathan Wick	<b>Book</b>	Mary . T. Olson
<b>Walnut Blank</b>	Clint Stevens		<b>Collected \$160</b>

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# Gallery

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Jason Clark

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**Marty Knapp** showed off this unique mahogany piece at the January meeting. The three sculpted legs attached with what appears to be brass hardware provide lots of lift to the piece and with the contrasting black icicle on the bottom make for a unique piece.

**Rick Nye's** Spruce bowl features lots of carving and tons of texture and the heavy contrast between the black body and white/silver highlights enhance the visibility of the texture. This reminds me a bit of a technique many of us saw Nick Agar demo at CWT and TOC.



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# Demonstration

Paul Rosen

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## Surface Embellishment



Our demonstrator for January was CWT club Secretary, Frank Pagura. But, but, but...wasn't Ken Staggs scheduled to do a spindle turning demo for January? Yes, grasshopper, that was the case. But Ken unexpectedly came down with a bad case of the flu, so Frank graciously stepped in on short notice. Frank concedes that he usually doesn't do much embellishment or coloring of his turnings. But on particularly large items, he will use a combination of carving and wood burning to decorate his projects.

Frank has a wood burning tool, but it alone doesn't go deep enough into the wood. So instead, he uses a high-speed Dremel bit to make incisions into the wood, followed by wood burning. His technique is to turn the piece, say a large box elder bowl, to its final dimensions. Then he selects a location for a decorative band, say near the top on the outside, and marks out a pair of lines that define the limits of the embellishment. The band can be at, above, or below the surface of the piece. Frank likes to apply a finish to the bowl first, and then apply the embellishments. He uses three coats of Mahoney Oil, each separated by 24 hours.



Next, he takes the Dremel tool and begins the tedious task of making small indentations between the edges of the band. The bit used in the Dremel tool looked to be about 1/8-inch in diameter, with a spiral pattern on the outside and a flat tip on the end. Frank noted that if the pattern doesn't have a specific orientation, it won't look right. So he usually makes the indentations in the band parallel to the direction of the band. Once the initial incisions are completed, Frank follows up with his wood burning tool. Completing the band can take 30 to 45 minutes, depending upon the size of the turning. The charred appearance provides a nice visual contrast, but untreated, it will come off on your fingers. So Frank mixes up a 50:50 blend of shellac and alcohol, and applies three consecutive coats to seal the wood burned surface.

Another use of the embellishment technique is to disguise the junction between two dissimilar pieces of wood. Frank showed us a tall vase that was actually made by gluing two open-ended turnings together. He had done a masterful job of gluing the two pieces and making them look like they came from a single piece of wood. But the subtle differences in grain pattern at the glue line clearly showed that the turning was a two-piece glue-up. This became a "design opportunity." This is where Frank will apply a decorative band, which will disguise the grain discontinuity and further the illusion that the turning came from a single block of wood.

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Prior to applying texture, Frank recommends that we always try it out on a test piece first. He likes to use a No. 2 pencil for his surface drawings. Frank says, "If you see it, you can draw it. You just have to try it." That may be true, but Frank is too modest to admit that he's quite an artist. He



showed us some of his pieces, which included a circular mirror imbedded in a rectangular block that was perhaps 10 inches long and 4 inches wide. The wooden border of the mirror seemed to float within a wood-burned, dark rectangular background. Frank also showed us some leaf patterns burned into a slice of orange-colored wood, as well as his sketches on a 7-inch square of plywood, yet to be embellished. But what impressed me most were his turned baseballs, complete with simulated red stitching. The precision he achieved in these pieces was so good that at a distance, I was convinced that they were real baseballs. The seams lined up

perfectly, and each of the red stitches appeared to be of uniform length. Amazing.

As an aside, I was struck by the artistic abilities displayed, not only in Frank's pieces, but also from four others. Marty Knapp had brought in what looked like a flat plate on top, supported by four curved legs flanked by a large, central, walnut-colored finial with four brightly colored brass screws. I thought it was exquisite. And of course, Scott Barrett brought in a pair of lidded boxes with elaborate Rose Engine work on them. Not only did they fit together precisely, but the surface embellishments were impressive. And what's even more incredible is that he brings one or two of these in *every* month. And, Roberto Ferrer brought in a large, spherical turning which had multiple 4-inch diameter circles incised around the equator of the sphere, presumably done by turning the sphere on multiple additional axes *a la* Derek Weidman. And honorable mention goes to Larry Fabian, who, in the course of turning a vase, went in just a little too deep in making the neck at the top. So what did he do? He took some string and wound it around the neck to disguise the cut that went in just a tad too deep. Nice save, Larry. Taken together, I think it's safe to say that surface embellishment is alive and well at CWT.

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## CWT News

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### Register Now for Turn-On! Chicago 2018

Registration for our biennial symposium Turn-On! Chicago, which will be held from August 3-5, is now open. Visit the symposium website [www.turnonchicago.com](http://www.turnonchicago.com) to learn more about the event and the demonstrators. If you register before April 1 and have paid your 2018 dues, you will receive a \$20 discount off the registration fee. Here are two demonstrators on the schedule for this year's Turn-On! Chicago.

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### John Beaver

John is a native of Southern California, which has inspired the wave bowls that he developed and has become his signature style. John's first career was as a Hollywood cameraman and director. He then specialized in product photography for major corporations. His turning began on an inherited lathe using some glued blanks that resulted in a small vase. Later after classes at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Maine, he began to realize the potential for wood art. John currently works as a full time artist in addition to being the president of the Collectors of Wood Art association. You can see John demonstration at clubs around the country as well as displaying his artwork at major art shows around the country.



During his visit to Turn-On Chicago, John will show you how to make his signature wave bowls. In another rotation, he will show the intricacies of making his dot bangles. He will also do one rotation on photographing your artwork. This is the best photography demonstration I have ever seen. If this is an area of interest for you, don't miss this one. Finally, if you, like most of us, are struggling to find our own signature style, John will do a rotation on the evolution of his designs.



### Kip Christensen



Kip W. Christensen, PhD, is a professor in the School of Technology at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. His primary teaching areas include furniture design and prototyping. He is also an accomplished and well-known woodturner. His work has been published in over 20 books\* and in a variety of magazines and journals, and displayed in many galleries and international juried exhibitions. Kip's work is housed in numerous collections, both public and private. He has given over 150 national and several international presentations at



workshops, conferences, and symposia including the American Association of Woodturners National Symposium, the Alan Batty



Woodturning Symposium (UK), Desert Woodturner's Roundup, Pacific Northwest Woodturning Symposium, Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium, Utah Woodturning Symposium, Turn West Symposium (Canada), Craft Supplies USA, and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. In 1999 Kip was appointed coordinator of the Utah Woodturning Symposium, the longest running woodturning symposium in the world. While Kip is best known for his lidded containers, he is also comfortable working with bowls, vessels, spindles, and production turning. He has pioneered the use of elk antler as a medium for artistic turning; his work is characterized by clean lines and fine detail.

Gallery curator and author Kevin Wallace wrote, "The work of Kip Christensen is always aesthetically pure and technically precise."



Kip co-authored the books *Beneath The Bark: 25 Years of Woodturning*, and *Turning Pens and Pencils*, and has authored several articles regarding woodworking and technology education. These have been published in: *American Woodturner*, *American Woodworker*, *Fine Woodworking*, *Journal of Industrial Teacher Education*, *Journal of Technology Studies*, *Tech Directions*, *The Technology Teacher*, *Wood*, *World of Wood*, *The Router* (England), *Woodturning* (England), and *Drechseln* (Germany).

Kip is doing demonstrations on a number of topics but each will focus on proper tool control. His demonstrations include:

- 10 Projects fast and fun
- Principles and practices of clean cutting
- Turning a Box with double inlay and chatterwork
- Bracelets, earrings, and earring stand

This abstract is from the [learningturning.com](http://learningturning.com) website.

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## CWT AV Volunteer Opportunity

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Increase your skill set! Help your fellow club members get more from our meetings and demos! Join the AV team as an occasional back-up person. Duties include turning on the amplifier; connecting mics; plugging in hdmi, usb, & xlr audio cables. You would need to become familiar with Vmix software (not that complicated) and point the camera at the action. Those interested please contact Andy Kuby or Jerry Kuffel.

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## AAW News

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**American Association of Woodturners'** newest membership promotion presents a timely opportunity for chapter members to try AAW -- especially those who have been on the fence about joining. This new introductory membership enables chapter members who have never been AAW members to test the waters of a full AAW membership for three months for the reduced rate of \$20. If they wish to continue their AAW membership, introductory members will be automatically renewed one time for an additional nine months for \$40. Individuals who have never been AAW members may sign up for a three-month introductory membership using a credit card at <http://tiny.cc/ITM2040>.



**David Ellsworth: A Passion for Wood** continues through April 22 at Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, NJ. In a career spanning four decades, David Ellsworth has become one of the premier creators of turned wooden vessels, deeply influencing contemporary craft and numerous artists. He uses burls, rounded knotty growths on trees, as well as decay in some of his pieces, contrasting rotted sections alongside pristine wood. Learn more about Ellsworth's work at <https://hunterdonartmuseum.org/portfolio-items/david-ellsworth-a-passion-for-wood/>

Adirondack Woodturners Association invites all woodturners to their annual event, **Totally Turning 2018**, to be held March 24-25 at Saratoga Springs City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY. Featured presenters are: Nick Agar, Mark Baker, Nick Cook, John Jordan, Barbara Dill, Paul Petrie, Ralph Mosher, Donna Zils Banfield, John Franklin, and David Gilbert. For more information, visit <http://www.totallyturning.com>.

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Read about CWT's own **Al Miotke**'s turnings in the February issue of *American Woodturner*, Page 56. Al describes the inspiration for his turnings, and the article includes pictures of several of his works. Enjoy the pictures--and Al's humor.



*A Toot for Horton*, 2012, Various wood species, 12" x 8" (30cm x 20cm)

*Archimedes Gift*, 2016, Bubinga, maple, bloodwood, 6" x 5½" (15cm x 14cm)




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## For Sale, Trade, or Wanted

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### Shop Light, Just Like The Pros Use

Magnetic Lathe Lights. A limited number of Magnetic Lathe Lights, similar to the ones on all of the Chicago Woodturners demonstration lathes, are available for \$40 each. Contact Andrew Kuby, 847-922-8201 or [riverwoodsturner@gmail.com](mailto:riverwoodsturner@gmail.com).

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<b>Meeting Agendas</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Gallery Review</b>	<b>Demonstration</b>
<b>February 13</b>	Thomas Stegall	Andy Kuby - Bowls
<b>March 13</b>	Roger Basrak	Andy Kuby - Eggs
<b>April 10</b>	Richard Nye	Darrell Rader - Scoops
<b>May 8</b>	Rich Hall-Reppen	Jason Clark - Platters
<b>June 12</b>	Tom Boerjan	TBD - Log to Bowl
<b>July 10</b>	Paul Shotola	TBD - Boxes
<b>August 14</b>	Clint Stevens	TBD - Chainsaw Sharpening
<b>September 11</b>	Darrell Rader	Marie Anderson - Ornaments
<b>October 9</b>	Paul Pyrcik	Don McCloskey - Open Segmenting
<b>November 13</b>	TBD	TBD - Embellishments & Tricks

<b>Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2018</b>			
President	Andy Kuby	847-922-8201	riverwoodsturner@gmail.com
Vice President	Don McCloskey	847-420-6978	mccloskey@ameritech.net
Secretary & Safety	Frank Pagura	847-524-0231	fpagura@att.net
Treasurer	Matthew Schmitz	847-439-6023	angelhaus@comcast.net
Past President	Al Miotke	847-297-4877	abmiotke@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	John Whitehurst	847-356-7636	johnswhitehurst@gmail.com
Gallery Review	Jason Clark	480-668-9291	jclark58@gmail.com
Membership	Julie Basrak	847-471-2047	cwtjulie@hotmail.com
Librarian	Robert Schultz	815-245-7495	grislanders@att.net
Webmaster	Scott Barrett	847-420-5155	dr@bdental.net
Raffle	Sol Anfuso	847-963-1994	solanfuso@comcast.net

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Tools & Equipment	Don McCloskey	847-420-6978	mccloskey@ameritech.net
Audio-Video Co-Chair	Jerry Kuffel	847-895-1614	kuff@sbcglobal.et
Audio-Video Co-Chair	Dawn Herndon-Charles	630-588-8431	dcharlesster@gmail.com
Education	Darrell Rader	815-648-2197	d.rader@woodfineart.com
Demonstrations	Rich Nye	630-406-1855	nyewoodturning@earthlink.net



## About us

Membership in the Chicago Woodturners Association is open to anyone wishing to increase their turning skills through education, discussion and critique. Annual dues are \$30.00 for a single membership and \$40.00 for a family. Visit our website for an application or contact: Julie Basrak, Membership Chairman.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00-10:00 PM at Christian Liberty Academy, 502 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL. Please join us. All are welcome.

Chicago Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Visit the [website](#) for more information.