



29 years of Art,
Craft, Technology,
and Tradition.



The Monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners

March 2016

Headline News

TurnOn! Chicago 2016

The TurnOn! Chicago organizational process is in full swing. Plan now to get involved, volunteer, and mark your calendar for July 22-24, 2016. Please see page 5 for details and look throughout the newsletter for demonstrator pictures. Also each month two demonstrators will be highlighted. See page 6 for this month's presentation.

It's time to pay your 2016 dues

Our Club is the best woodturning deal in the area. You get demos, hands on instruction with the best woodturners in the world, informative and interesting meetings a really good website and a newsletter. What a deal. Please see the article on page 4 regarding membership and PAY YOUR DUES.

Mark St. Leger Demonstration and Hands On Training

Mark St. Leger gave a very interesting full day demo on Saturday, February 20, followed by one and two day hands on classes. See page 9 for details.

2016 Demo Schedule Confirmed

Rich Nye has arranged another outstanding list of demonstrators for the new year. They will offer a full day of demonstration on Saturday, one day and two days hands on offered on Sunday and Monday respectively. Remaining to join us this year are:

Max Brosi	June 4-7, 2016
Mark Sfirri	July 25-27 (Hands on only)



Stephan Hatcher - Late Autumn Early Winter



**President
Al Miotke**

Membership in AAW is the second best deal in woodturning. Consider joining today

Presidents Curls

Periodically, I receive an email from the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) regarding news, activities, and strategic planning activities of interest to chapters. A central theme of the AAW board today is improving communication with all members and providing services that increase the benefits of AAW membership for all woodturners. I thought that I should dedicate this months curls to publishing this message from the AAW Executive Director, Phil McDonald regarding the new 5 year strategic plan for the association.

Al

“After more than a year of planning that included extensive consultations with chapter officers, members, and numerous constituencies, the AAW Board was presented last week with a plan for a five-year strategic agenda. This agenda is far-reaching and built upon a foundation of nine strategic thrusts. It will touch all of our services, publications, and other resources to position AAW in the right spot amidst what has become a competitive market to deliver what woodturners want and need. This initiative cannot proceed with any measure of success if viewed as only a top-down program delivered by AAW. We will take every available measure to involve all chapters as we introduce new woodturning education publications and resources, and work together to improve the experiences of all woodturners. We are enhancing and developing the tools and resources to help turners accomplish current ambitions, recognize opportunities, and pursue aspirations. Our publications, services, and other products will allow people to grow, connect, explore, and thrive in the areas of woodturning that are uniquely important to them.

Here are a few of the positive results you'll see in the first year of AAW's plan:

- *Improved communication tools that will make it easier for chapter officers to promote the full range of benefits and services available to woodturners through a membership in AAW.*
- *An integrated learning curriculum to better meet the needs of beginning turners and chapters.*
- *A more user-friendly AAW website, which makes locating publications and services easy.*
- *An easy-to-use search function for AAW website content that supports individual learning through learning modules, and also offers uncomplicated access to 30 years of articles, projects, and tips contained in the American Woodturner journal website library.*
- *Guidelines and tools to support successful demonstrations, including good video techniques, high-quality demonstration handouts, and more.*

New recruitment programs to increase awareness of woodturning and grow the AAW membership.

The next steps to begin to organize the implementation of work plans are underway. The implementation will be supported by comprehensive communications plans to make the case behind the need for this five-year initiative and to keep everyone informed about the progress along the way.

Phil McDonald”

Alan J Miotke

Minutes of February 2016 Meeting

Marie Anderson

President Al called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Al announced that Dawn Herndon Charles will be reviewing our instant gallery this evening and our demo this evening will be led by Darrell Rader showing us a few hints about how to carve. Darrell was asked to give a brief description of the demo. Darrell said he will be assisted by Rich Nye and Al Miotke this evening as he explains various different tools that can be used to carve and/or embellish your turnings. This demonstration is meant to allow for some hands on experience so members can actually attempt to use the tools described.

Al reminded us that we are now officially in Beads of Courage mode so get to your lathe and turn a lidded box for this worthy cause. There are beads available to be used on the boxes tonight. Please feel free to take them, and return it with a completed box next month. CWT buys the beads to be used on these boxes. We will be collecting them through the May meeting. Al reviewed the guidelines for the boxes. The boxes should be approximately 6” diameter and deep with loose fitting lids with handles that are “child friendly”. No “pop fit” lids. Please allow the finish to cure so that there is no odor (leave the lids off until the finish is dry. No painted finishes.

Rich Nye announced the new guest demonstrator for June will be Max Brosi. He has not confirmed the date, but it looks like it will be the week before AAW – Demo on June 4th and hands on classes 5th – 7th. Max does some interesting pieces that appear very industrial looking. His pieces are turned on multiple centers. He comes highly recommended and everyone attending is sure to learn some new techniques.

Rich also announced that he has some silver maple available this evening and more at home if anyone is interested, see him at the break.

Mark St. Leger is our next demonstrator and will be here on February 20th with hands on classes on 2/21, 2/22-23. There are still slots available in the 1 day class on Sunday so sign up tonight! Volunteers for Coffee: Frank M.; Donuts: Lynn V.; Set up: Don M., Al M. and Stan H.; Video: Jerry; Clean Up: Rich N.; Dawn H-C; Don J.; and Ice Paul P. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. As always, if you get here early or can stay a little after the demo concludes, your assistance with set up and/or clean up is always appreciated.

While we were discussing Demo’s – Mark Sifiri will be here for hands on classes after TOC in July. These classes are filling up so check with Matt this evening.

Al asked if anyone had seen the article in the AAW magazine about CWT. Several said yes. This article is the follow up to CWT being awarded an educational opportunity grant. Darrell stated Al wrote it and gave him kudos for an excellent article.

Al thanked Roger Basrak for coordinating the Pen Turning event at Palatine High School and asked him to share a little about the event with us. Roger said the group of 9 members helped students to turn 65 pens. There were students that were coming in with passes from their teachers so that they could keep turning or turn a pen. It was very well received and all that volunteered really had an excellent time.

Al asked all in attendance to think about what happens in their communities, at high schools or park districts. We want to continue this outreach and in order to do so, we need input from the members. If you know of an event that might be open to including our woodturning, please

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CWT News

Raffle

Mary Olsen and Marty Knapp

January Winners

Walnut Block

Frank Maglino

Light Clamp

Richard Hall-Reppen

Exotic Blanks

Clint Stevens

Pen Blanks

Lynn Valentine

Sphere Calipers

Tim Halita

Next Month's Items

Come out to the meeting and see for yourself

The Club Raised \$165.00 from the February Raffle

Membership report

Julie and Roger Basrak

Sixty-eight members, 2 new members, and 3 guests were present at the February meeting. Our new members are George Charek from Streamwood and Phil Heinz from Bensenville. We would like to extend a warm welcome to both of you! Guests at the February meeting were Maria Kosari from Buffalo Grove (invited by Frank Magnifico), Chris ("Mitch") Mitchell from Chicago (who found us on the internet and contacted me for information about the club) and Nate Wickes from Palatine (who also found us on the internet).

There are currently 126 members who have paid their dues for 2016. (For comparison, we had 177 paid members by the end of 2015.) We greatly appreciate your promptness in paying!

Your CWT dues are still one of the best bargains around at \$25.00 for an individual member and \$35.00 for a family membership for an entire year. If you come to only 2 demonstrations in a year, the money you save has paid for your membership. Remember, there are mentoring sessions prior to all meetings (except the December meeting), and gallery reviews and demonstrations at the first eleven meetings each year, as well.

Dues can be paid at the meetings or by check made payable to Chicago Woodturners and mailed to:

**Julie Basrak
563 W. Ruhl Rd.
Palatine, IL 60074**

Thank you for your cooperation

TurnOn! Chicago 2016

Marie Anderson

TurnOn! Chicago 2016 is coming. During the seven months between January and July we will be showcasing the various demonstrators who have committed to being with us this year. We will start off by listing the demonstrators and giving a short précis of their work and what they will be demonstrating. This month we are showcasing Molly Winton and Mark St. Leger (see page 10).

Also, we will be using pictures of their work as fillers in the newsletter so if you see something interesting, this summer is your chance to follow up.

Our demonstrators include:

Molly Winton, surface embellishment, woodburning and miniature vessels

Mark St. Leger, Basic turning projects especially boxes

Mark Sfirri, multi-axis and eccentric turning, including spindle turning basics

Rex Burningham, Basic Bowls and goblets, including a platter with a rope twist bead

Stephen Hatcher, Inlaid stones including unique bowl and platter accents

Clay Foster, Surface embellishment and design including multiple axis vessels

Graeme Priddle, Offset turning and burning including sculptural multi-center turning

Nick Agar, Surface embellishment and design including a Viking sunset bowl

Rob Wallace, Tree identification

Ron Nelson, Basic turning including turning a trembular and thin stem goblets

Robin Costelle, Segmented turning including design and hollow forms

Frank Kobilsek, Vessels and Goblets including jewelry from the lathe

Vince Welch, Understanding sanding abrasives and how to use them.

Come on out and see the best in Woodturning.



Rex Burningham - Pens, Pens, Pens

Rex Burningham TurnOn!Chicago 2016 Demonstrator



Rex was introduced to woodturning by Dale Nish and worked as an assistant in woodturning courses while in college. Working alongside some of the world's best-known woodturners, including Dale Nish, Rude Osolnik, Richard Raffan and Ray Key, gave Rex the chance to learn from the best. He is a co-producer of 8 pen turning and woodturning projects DVDs and co-author of "Turning Pen and Pencils". He is a nationally recognized woodturner, teaching and demonstrating throughout the United States and Internationally. Rex has given over 100 national and several international presentations at workshops, conferences, and symposiums including the American Association of Woodturners National Symposium, the Alan Batty Woodturning Symposium (UK), Desert Woodturner's Roundup, Florida Woodturning Symposium, Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium, Totally Turning Symposium, Turn on Chicago, Turning Southern Style, Utah Woodturning Symposium, Craft Supplies USA, and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. He worked for several years as a VP for Craft Supplies USA a woodturning supply company heading up the new products division. He currently is teaching woodworking at Lehi High school in Utah. He is also selling his turnings in galleries and fine art shows across the country.



Steve Hatcher 2016 Turnon! Chicago 2016 Demonstrator



Stephen Hatcher showed an aptitude for realistic drawing at an early age. Upon finishing high school he earned income painting murals in homes. Though art has held a lifetime interest for Stephen, several years at the University of Washington led to degrees in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics. During his 20-year career as an electronics entrepreneur Stephen developed numerous cutting-edge devices for the wireless communications industry. Retiring from this field, Stephen turned his focus to woodturning and stone carving. Combining these techniques led to his unique style of artwork.



Darrell Rader Demonstrates Carving**Paul Rosen**

Our demonstrator for February was Darrell Rader. For our turnings, many of us are content to end with a smooth surface created with multiple grits of progressively finer sandpaper, followed by an applied finish. But how many of us take the next step using carving tools to further refine the visual/tactile surfaces of our turnings? Probably not that many. Darrell gave us an introduction to the tools and techniques for texturing and carving our turnings.

For starters, he brought in three exquisite examples: a carved bust of a woman's face, a wire-form walnut bowl, and a large walnut bowl with a leaf treatment at its rim. I thought the woman's face was exquisite. From the life-like smoothness of the face to the hair and the floral design near the base, that piece looked like gallery material to me. And the wire-form walnut bowl showed not only imagination, but precise tool control. How can someone sculpt out the majority of the bowl wall and still retain the thin vestiges of the wall without breaking the wood? I thought it was a masterful piece, combining both aesthetics and technical expertise.

To get us on the right track, Darrell suggested different sources for inspiration. A child's coloring book can give you profiles of animals, such as a horse, rabbit, flowers, or birds. You can also review the AAW journal for inspiration, or visit www.awcltd.org, which is the website for the Affiliated Wood Carvers, Ltd (AWC), a non-profit corporation that sponsors the International Woodcarvers Congress. You can join for only \$20.00/year and attend their annual meeting, held this year in June in Maquoketa, Iowa. A commercial supply house for carving tools is Wood Carvers Supply, Inc. in Englewood, Florida (visit www.woodcarverssupply.com). Or, you could try your local Rockler or Woodcraft stores.



Darrell suggests that hand tools might be a better starting point. As an example, he showed us the woman's face in wood, which he created with only four hand-carving tools. Online sources list starter hand tool kits for anywhere from \$29 to \$69.00. But if power tools are your choice, you could always start with a Dremel tool, starting at around \$40.00. Big box stores usually sell a wide variety of bits for these power texturing tools. Note: An "R" at the end of the Dremel tool model number means the tool can go in reverse. Once you enter this arena, you find a broad range of carbide bits in a variety of shapes and configurations. Then you learn about the Foredom Power Tool, which is essentially a 1/6 HP motor mounted to a flexible shaft with a bit holder on the end. Foredom Electric Company of Bethel, CT has been around since 1922, and they offer a broad and mature line of power carving equipment. Accessories include a foot switch which can turn the tool on/off or vary the cutter speed from 18,000 rpm to something lower, to enhance carving control. Darrell suggests it may be a good idea to buy from a dealer, rather than an online source with a cheaper price. Keep your receipt, as a dealer will often help you obtain repairs or replacement parts if you can document your purchase with them. The Foredom tool isn't cheap; it starts at around \$375.00. But Foredom stands behind its products, and they're fixable! A more affordable approach from Wecheer retails for around \$220.00. The Wecheer variable-speed rotary tool provides a 1/4 HP motor with collets that accommodate tool bits of 1/8-, 3/32-, and 1/4-inch diameter, as well as a foot switch. Visit www.woodcraft.com for details.

The Proxxon long-angle grinder comes with a 1/8 HP high-torque permanent magnet motor, with

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Darrell Rader Demonstrates Carving Continued**Paul Rosen***(Continued from page 7)*

speeds from 6500 to 13,000 rpm. The \$190.00 cost (online from Woodcraft) includes a 60-grit aluminum oxide grinding disc, a 100-grit flap disc, and an aluminum oxide cut-off wheel. The tool lets you grind, rough-out, and finish. Available accessories include carborundum sanding discs and carving discs.

Darrell offered a valuable safety tip for woodcarvers: If you hold your carving tool in your right hand, always keep your left hand BEHIND the tip of the carving tool. Seems quite logical. But not obvious until the cutting/carving bit slips out of the wood unexpectedly and jumps forward.

What if you need to smooth out the inside of a narrow concavity, like the bottom of a wooden shot glass? There's a miniature rotary sander/polisher for that. It's called a "Guinevere," marketed by King Arthur's Tools (www.katools.com). Invented in Sweden, the yellow 1/2 HP motor sits horizontally on a table, with a flexible shaft to which cylindrical sanding discs or the dome-shaped sanding sleeves are attached via an inflatable rubber bladder.

Experienced power carvers who have climbed the ladder from a Dremel tool to a Foreman, Wecheer, Proxxon, or Guinevere system eventually learn about the Nakanishi Espert 500, or NSK, billed as the "ultra-precision, brushless micro-grinder." This is the Ferrari of power carving tools, with a list price of around \$2000.00. Gulp! It's quiet. It has a DC motor in the handpiece, with a precisely controlled digital speed ranging from 1000 to 50,000 rpm. You probably don't want to run carving burrs at speeds higher than 15,000 rpm.



If the NSK is a bit of a stretch for your budget, consider the RAM Micromotor system from www.treelineusa.com. At \$275.00, it's a bit more affordable, and it rotates up to 45,000 rpm (without the digital readout in the NSK). The RAM accepts both 1/8- and 3/32-inch bits and offers an optional foot switch. A quick-change bit system (just twist to remove) is promoted.

What about pneumatic dental drills? Yes, you too can use that 400,000 rpm dental drill for carving or piercing, made popular by the likes of Binh Pho and Scott Barrett, DDS. Advantages of the pneumatic dental drill are that it cuts like butter, and it will not follow the grain. Positioning the tool tip is effortless. The disadvantage: it reminds me of being in a dental office (sorry, Scott).

Finally, consider a wood burner. The wood burner is usually used to burn in floral accents or make basket illusions, *a la* the late David Nittmann. But the wood burning tool can be used with the various carving tools to enhance the appearance of your three-dimensional carvings.

Darrell also brought in a Trent Bosch Versatile Carving Stand, available at www.trentbosch.com for \$160.00. The sturdy metal stand is designed with a 1-inch diameter shaft that fits in the lathe banjo where you would normally insert your tool rest. The top end has a 1-inch x 8 TPI threaded shaft which you can use to mount a bowl on a threaded glue block. An articulating clamp on the top lets you adjust the bowl position for carving purposes.



If you'd like to see further examples of carving on turnings, go to Google and enter names like Jacques Vessery or J. Paul Fennell. Click on "Images" to find a wide variety of first-class carvings to whet your imagination.

Mark St. Leger All Day Demo, February 20, 2016**Paul Rosen**

Editor's Note: Your editor wants to thank Phil Heinz for the excellent pictures which he provided. However, through no fault of Phil's the pictures cannot be edited using the tools available. Therefore, please go to the various websites listed in this article for a wealth of pictorial material. The Chicago Woodturners were honored to welcome back Mark St. Leger for an all day demo on February 20, 2016. We had 38 attendees who survived the windstorms of the previous 60-degree day, or about 25% of the current membership. For those who could not attend, Mark is of short stature, but he's blessed with a *deep* voice that really makes the PA system unnecessary. Mark followed in the footsteps of his father as a carpenter/cabinet maker by trade, who "accidentally" fell into teaching industrial arts when he was asked to give a woodworking demonstration to a local high school. Fast forward a quarter century later educating high school students, and Mark has recently retired from teaching. But he is also widely known as a regional/national demonstrator, having been active in a number of east coast turning clubs, as well as publishing several articles and demonstrating for various organizations, including the American Association of Woodturners.

Mark has always had an engaging style with his audiences. The Saturday demo was no exception, as he solicited advice from Don (who made the mistake of sitting in the front row) on how deep he should carve his pop-up top, or enlisting Lynn to tell how much time he had left to complete his 3-minute egg. When you sit back and consider turning styles, Mark is similar to Jimmy Clewes--they both like to turn their pieces at over 3000 rpm! But where Clewes was talking almost non-stop throughout the course of his demo, Mark is more like Dick Sing. The latter pair talk only when they have a point to make, or a joke to tell. But all three have superb tool control, making everything look easy. And when either Mark or Dick give a demo, the audience is silent. You can hear a pin drop. Why? I think it's because everyone is engaged, keenly intent on learning each little nuance to enhance their woodturning skills.

Mark likes to turn what I call kinetic miniatures--things like a pop-up top, a thin-stemmed top, or his own creation, the Rock-A-Bye-Box. He is also frugal in his wood consumption. Many of his pieces are no longer than three inches, and less than an inch-and-a-half square. When he isn't using his Oneway Talon chuck to grip the wood (remember to tighten the two grub screws!), he likes to turn a No. 2 Morse Taper on one end of the wood so he can jam it into the headstock. Will that have an adverse effect on the bearings? (Ask Don McCloskey.) For the Saturday demo, Mark went through a series of seven projects, ranging from simple to not so simple. Following is a brief summary of each.

Three-Minute Egg

Mark made the project look deceptively simple. It's not...unless you have mastered turning beads with a detail gouge or a skew chisel. He likes to use a Oneway "safe drive" in the headstock for 99% of his turnings. That way, if there is a catch, the wood simply stops turning, instead of fragmenting/exploding off the lathe. Mark stressed the "ABCs" of woodturning: Anchor/Bevel/Cut, in that order. Avoid the ACC's of woodturning (Anchor/Cut/Catch). Mark started with a maple block that had a No. 2 Morse Taper turned on one end. That taper was gently hammered into the recess of the empty headstock. He used his skew chisel to pare away wood from the fat end of the egg (tailstock end), and gradually pare away wood nearest the headstock for the smaller tapered end of the egg. His sanding would normally start with 180 grit, proceeding through 220, 320, 400, and finally 600.

Note: You can go online to www.carolinamountainwoodturners.org/articles/415 for a written summary of a March, 2012 demo covering many of the projects Mark did for us in February, or

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just Google “Woodturner Mark St. Leger” to find online articles and videos of Mark’s work. Also, consider visiting Mark’s website, www.markstleger.com. There you will find links to his published articles, a turning video soon to be released, and some tools. Mark doesn’t actively promote the sale of his tools, but you might be interested in his custom thread-chasing tool, or possibly his set of three Hunter #1 carbide insert tools, which are cutters, not scrapers.

Tippy-Top

Directions for turning appear on Mark’s website. Start with a small blank, 2-1/4-inches long and 1-1/4-inches square. Mount between centers and turn to a cylinder. Turn a No. 2 Morse taper on one end: 5/8-inch at the fat diameter, and 9/16-inch at the lesser diameter. Remove the headstock drive and firmly tap the turned taper into the headstock. Turn the handle of the top to 1/4-inch diameter, 3/8-inch long. Chamfer the tip. Rough shape the base into a squat sphere. Hollow-out the handle end, about 3/8-inch deep, essentially extending the length of the handle by an additional 3/8-inch. Mark used a special tool he made out of 3/8-inch square high-speed steel, ground at the end as if it were a spindle gouge. Then he ground a negative rake on the tool, so it could be used as a scraper. Finish tuning the outside into a squat sphere. For ornamentation, Mark used a piece of Formica to burn in two rings near the equator of the sphere.

Alternate approach: Mount the turned cylinder on your drill press, and with a 1-inch Forstner bit, drill a hole half the depth of the intended sphere. Replace the Forstner bit with a 1/4-inch brad point bit, and drill further into the center of the larger hole left by the Forstner bit. Mount cylinder in a scroll chuck and shape the sphere. Then insert a 1/4-inch diameter dowel rod into the center of the previously drilled hole. Shape and part-off the base.

FWIW, to date, I have made three Tippy Tops. The first was a disaster. Then I made two that look really nice, each using one of the foregoing methods. Both spin well, but neither one turns over. Hmm. What am I missing here?

Acorn Box

Start with a 3-inch long block of hard maple, about 1-1/2-inch square. You’ll also need a 1-1/2-inch square block of a dark wood, 1-inch long. The dark wood can be cocobolo, walnut, or zircote--your choice. Glue these pieces end-to-end. Here’s a trick: mix Titebond glue 50:50 with water, then apply to the two ends that will be joined. Wait 5- to 10 minutes. Why wait? The diluted glue will be absorbed into the “straw structures” of the end grain via capillary action. This will create a stronger bond. (Trick, courtesy of Michael Hosulak.) Then apply Titebond full strength to the two surfaces, and clamp. For complete turning instructions, go to online article from Mark’s March, 2012 demo at the Carolina Mountain Woodturners, referenced above.

Tool commercial: To hollow out the inside of the acorn top, as well as the body of the acorn box, Mark used a Hunter No. 1 carbide cutter held at about the 7:30 position. Once engaged, rotate to 8:00 to 8:30 position, but don’t go to the 9:00 position. That’s too aggressive. Hold tool handle in a plane parallel to the floor. The tool goes for about \$90.00 online, or you can get a set of three for \$250.00 on Mark’s website, or at www.packardwoodworks.com. On the other hand, if you’re handy at making tools, buy three pieces of cold-rolled steel and three of the carbide cutters, which retail for about \$20.00 each. FWIW, the Hunter No. 1 is great for erasing the nub at the bottom of box or vessel. “Say no to nubs.”

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*(Continued from page 10)***Thin Shafted Spin Top**

Make the top with tightly grained blackwood (or boxwood) and curly ash or figured maple. The blackwood shaft of the top is 1/16-inch or less in diameter at completion--this project is a skill builder. When the finished top spins, the tip of the shaft moves in an arc, so it looks like you're seeing two shafts (when viewed from the side). The finished shaft is about 2-inches long, and the disk of the top is between 1- and 1-1/8-inches in diameter, and about 1/16-inch thick.

Start with a 9/16-inch square of blackwood, 3-inches long. With a carving knife, slice off the corners of the square and jam the chamfered edges into the open Morse taper of the headstock using a small hammer or wooden mallet. Turn to a cylinder. Starting at the distal end, begin to reduce the diameter of the blackwood to 1/16-inch, using the index finger of your left hand to oppose the pressure of the gouge in your right hand. Gradually proceed up the length of the shaft, moving towards the headstock, by continually reducing the wood diameter to 1/16-inch. At about 1-3/4-inches

in, turn a 1/4-inch tenon, which will fit the center of the disk. Mark used a round, 1/4-inch skew to size the tenon. Carefully sand the 1/16-inch shaft with 220 grit sandpaper, then 320, 400, and 600. Apply finish.

Turn the disk. You can mount a blank in the chuck, or turn a tenon on one end of the blank to fit the No. 2 Morse taper of the headstock. Drill a 1/4-inch diameter hole in the blank, perhaps 1/4-inch deep. Mount the blank on the lathe, reduce it to a cylinder, and then pare away one surface slightly less than 90-degrees, and sand. Next, use a skew chisel (or small spindle gouge) to pare away the opposite surface of the disk. Sand, and part-off.

Fit the disk over the top of the shaft, using super glue to bond it to the 1/4-inch tenon on the shaft. Super glue is sometimes difficult to apply. Mark likes to express a small volume onto a waste block, and then uses a paper clip to pick up and dab the super glue precisely where he wants to apply it.

Mark also demonstrated how to hand-chase threads on the outside and the inside of a cylinder, how to make his signature "Rock-A-Bye-Box," and how to make a sphere. If you wish to pursue any of these, visit his website, or look up some of the videos on www.youtube.com.

Michael Blankenship, Blind Woodturner**Don McCloskey**

Michael Blankenship a woodturner friend of mine who is blind was featured on a PBS news show recently. If you want to see something truly amazing watch this YouTube video of him turning. By feel he makes some of the most perfect shaped turned objects of any turner I have met in the my 33 years of turning. I have known him for a few years and he even came to my shop one day and we just turned and had fun. He also will be a demonstrator at this years American Association of Woodturners (AAW) symposium in Atlanta this June. Hope you enjoy this video. A link to the video is shown below. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhIUF_GFFMY&sns=em

Early History of Chicago Woodturners

Al Miotke

Last fall the AAW requested me to provide some information about our chapter's early history since the Chicago Woodturners is one of the original chapters created after the formation of the AAW. Fortunately we have four current members that were part of chapter the year it was formed. Many thanks to Tom Jesionowski, Dick Sing, Bob Bergstrom, and Bill Hochmuth who met with me and provided invaluable memories regarding the early days of our club. The AAW published our history in a recent newsletter sent to AAW members. If you have not had a chance to read this article, it is reprinted here.

What motivated the founders to start a chapter? Initially, there was no organization available to give woodturners a chance to talk and discuss concepts. Two avid woodturners from the Chicago area, Tom Jesionowski and Dick Sing attended the Utah symposium which sparked interest. Subsequently, Dick Sing attended the first AAW symposium in Lexington Kentucky which fueled more interest in forming a chapter. Tom Jesionowski then took the lead, contacted the AAW, and requested a list of woodturners in the Chicago area. He then began contacting these individuals by phone to discuss the idea of forming a chapter. A number of people showed interest so there were two meetings at Tom's home to formalize the chapter's organization. During the second meeting, officers were created and Tom was elected as the first president.

The original name of the chapter was Northern Illinois Woodturners. In 1991 the members decided to change the name to Chicago Woodturners to more accurately reflect the area that the club services.

How many joined the new chapter? Six individuals met to form the chapter. In addition to Tom, they included Dick Sing, Bill Hochmuth, Jack Turley, John Cascarano, and Lee Rouch but in the first year the group had grown to about 13. The club has continued to grow to its current size of approximately 175.

Where did the first group meet? After the two initial organizational meetings at Tom's home, the first official meeting was held at Dick Sing's home. Meetings then rotated to various members homes for a period of time. After more members joined, meeting moved to the conference room at the company of one of the members, followed by an area high school, then the basement of a local Woodcraft store where the club met for about 15 years.

How much were the dues? Originally there were no dues, just a group of woodturning enthusiasts getting together to share their passion. A few years later, dues were established at \$25/year. 29 years later, the dues have not changed.

Are there any original members still involved with the chapter? Three members from the 1980's are still involved with the organization; Dick Sing, Bill Hochmuth, and Bob Bergstrom.

What are some of the favorite memories of the chapter? The original meetings were very informal but a lot of fun and very educational. Whoever hosted the month's meeting held it in their shop. The host for the month was also responsible to put on the demonstration. The host normally had a cooler with drinks along with deserts or other snacks. It was a great opportunity to see other turner's shops, equipment, tools, and projects.

In early years, members had to re-arrange their shop to make room for seating. A positive of hosting a meeting was that you had to clean your shop whereby finding all the tools you thought you had lost.

In the early years, the members were from all over the Chicagoland area. That meant that some months you had to drive for over an hour thru rush hour traffic to get to a members home for a few hour meeting. We were so hungry for information that we didn't care how long it took.

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Early History of Chicago Woodturners Continued

Al Miotke

(Continued from page 12)

Over the years the body of work changed significantly. It started with all bowls with small feet and an occasional platter; pieces with cracks, bark inclusions, wormy wood or mixed media were verboten. After a few years you began to see natural edge bowls and hollow forms. Coloring and texturing came much later.

What are some of the milestones of the chapter?

1987 – Chapter formed

1991 - Changed chapter name from Northern Illinois Woodturners to Chicago Woodturners

1995 - The chapter began seeking out world renowned turners to visit and demo in Chicago. Initially it was up to 3 per year. Today it has increased to 4-5 per year.

2008 - Held its first regional symposium (Turn-On! Chicago)

2009 - Became a 501 (c)3 organization

How has the AAW affiliation affected the chapter? Initially the AAW simply provided the mechanism for woodturners to get together and share ideas. In later years, it also began providing guidance for best practices on topics such as safety, teaching methods, techniques, and organizational structure.

Walnut Tree Harvest

Al Miotke



A few weeks ago all CWT members received an email notifying of a walnut tree that was coming down in Libertyville. 5 members took advantage of the opportunity to get some free freshly cut walnut. Andy Kuby, Al Miotke, Frank Magnifico, Terry McCammon and Tim Kalita wielded chainsaws and stacked logs as



everyone helped cut up a 6ft high pile of branches, some up to 14" in diameter. After almost 3 hours everyone left with sore backs and exhausted, but with a smile knowing that they had vehicles piled full of walnut logs. Keep a lookout for a wave of walnut turnings later this year.



Minutes of February 2016 Meeting

Marie Anderson

(Continued from page 3)

contact any of the members of the educational committee or the CWT board. Darrell added, if you are interested in helping with an outreach program or just want to have a say in what we do to educate the public about woodturning, you are welcome to join the educational committee.

Turn on Chicago 2016 registration is open! Al reminded everyone that the deadline to receive the \$20 member discount is March 1st so get your registration in before then. Scott said we have had at least 800 different visits to the website and registrations are coming in well. If you have not been to the website, you can find the registration material as well as the newly completed rotation schedule, demonstration bios and venue information.

Bob Schultz thanked everyone for coming out to Bull Valley Hardwoods for their grand opening. He said there was a crowd for the demonstrations he and Don McCloskey put on. They do not currently have a lathe however the owner said he intends to get one so that he can have regular demonstrations. Bull Valley Hardwoods is located in Woodstock behind the Harley Davidson dealer at Route 47 & Route 14.

Rich Piper won the AAW Scholarship to Arrowmont. He said he will be taking a class with David Ellsworth and he is very thankful for the opportunity. He is a newer turner and is looking forward to learning all he can from David.

Al introduced Darrell Rader to give an update on the educational committee activities. Darrell asked if we have anyone who is available for Mentoring this month. It was decided that there will be no additional mentoring sessions this month. Darrell then did a quick survey of our members regarding ownership of lathes – 5 attendees did not own a lathe; 15+/- own Mini lathes. How many in attendance turned last month? Most of the attendees. How many turned last week? Many of the attendees raised their hands. This is exciting!

Al announced that Lars Stole has advised that due to his work responsibilities he will no longer be able to hold the position of club safety officer. Lars was not able to attend this evening, but he was thanked for the time he spent and wished well (he is traveling very extensively for the next year or so). Al then announced that Frank Pagura has agreed to take this position in the club – Frank was not able to attend this evening.

Mark Hubl announced that he received an inquiry from the Illinois Wood Utilization Team about a juried event that is happening at Hamburger U (on the McDonalds campus in Oakbrook, IL). Mark has the details, but the deadline for submitting your application for this event is 3/1/16.

Jason Clark announced that 6 weeks ago he purchased 400 pieces of various burl – Douglas Fir, Pine or Spruce. He would like to recoup some of his costs for these pieces so if you are interested, please contact Jason. (NOTE: He brought along a very nice burl bowl this evening to share the quality of burl that he is talking about.)

Marie Anderson mentioned that she had attended a meeting of the Central Illinois Woodturners last night and met one of our demonstrators for TOC 2016 – Frank Kobilsek who will be demonstrating the technique of adding paper and milk paint to your turnings. Marie noted that their meetings are a bit different than CWT – they use a show and tell format for their instant gallery – no critique. The most interesting part of the evening was seeing that they have an upcoming guest

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Minutes of February 2016 Meeting Continued

Marie Anderson

(Continued from page 14)

demonstrator coming on February 27th. You may know this guy – our very own Clint Stevens. They are looking forward to it. If you are interested, the demonstration will be held in Peoria, IL and you can find more information on their website.

Marie also reminded everyone that the CWT educational opportunity grant forms are due this evening. The winner(s) will be announced at the CWT monthly meeting in March. Don McCloskey stated that he has received several this evening.

Roger Basrak gave the membership report – Tonight there are 68 people in attendance with 3 guests and 2 new members this evening. To date there are 124 paid members which is a good start on our renewals. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible and thank you for your cooperation! Roger did the door prize raffle and several people received a gift certificate.

Don McCloskey announced that the club tool lending library has a mini lathe that is available to check out that is here this evening. If you are interested, you may check out the mini lathe for a month to use at your home. (This is available to members only so be sure to get your membership renewed today!)

Marty Knapp and Mary Olson conducted the raffle. Dawn Herndon Charles gave an excellent gallery critique. There was a short break and then Darrell, with his able assistants Al and Rich showed everyone how to use some very interesting carving power and hand tools.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Anderson, Secretary



2015 Meeting Agenda

Month	Gallery Review	Demonstration
January	Roger Basrak	Ken Staggs— Tops
February	Dawn Herdon-Charles	Darrell Rader - Power Carving
March	Clint Stevens	Don McCloskey - Celtic Knot Goblet
April	TBD	Don McCleary - TBD
May	TBD	Al Miotke - TBD
June	TBD	Marie Anderson - TBD
July	TBD	TBD
August	TBD	TBD
September	TBD	TBD
October	TBD	TBD
November	TBD	TBD

Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2015

President	Alan Miotke	847-297-4877	abmiotke@comcast.net	920 Sumac Lane	Mount Prospect, IL 60066
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Raffle Co-Chair	Mary Olson	(847) 397-1420	honeycup8@yahoo.com	2804 Mill Creek	Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Raffle Co-Chair	Marty Knapp	847 639-2468	sueknapp918@sbeglobal.net	601 Woodbine	Fox River Grove, IL 60021
Tools & Equipment	Don McCloskey	847-420-6978	mccloskey@ameritech.net	2028 Gilboa Ave.	Zion, IL 60099
Safety	Lars Stole	773-244-6553	Lars.stole@me.com	1238 W. Eddy St.	Chicago, IL 60057
Audio & Video Co-Chair	Jerry Kuffel	847-895-1614	kuff@sbeglobal.net	532 Berkshire Ct.	Schaumburg, IL 60193
Audio & Video Co-Chair	Dawn Herndon-Charles	630-588-8431	dcharlesster@gmail.com	1545 Wiesbrook Road	Wheaton, IL 60189
Educational Committee	Darrell Rader	815-648-2197	d.rader@woodfineart.com	10703 Allendale Rd.,	Woodstock, IL 60098
Demonstrations	Rich Nye	630-406-1855	nyewoodturning@earthlink.net	40W257 Seavey Road	Batavia, IL 60510

Members Gallery of Items Critiqued at the February Meeting



Dawn Herndon-Charles



Larry Fabian



Ken Staggs



Vince Robisch



Marty Knapp



Darrell Rader



Rich Nye



Burt LeLaud



Andy Kuby



Roberto Ferrer



Jason Clark



Stan Herman



David Bertaud

Editor's Choice

Tom Boerjan



Tom:
I enjoy all of the work you bring to our meetings. This month however you sold it. The lamp is clever and well executed. The lidded bowl really got me and the vase finished off the effort. Nicely played.

You can agree or disagree with my choice. The fact that we live in a democracy does not change the fact that I am the editor.

For Sale, Trade, or Wanted

Back by Popular Demand

A limited production run of the famous LED lamps as produced by Andy Kuby. Interested parties should contact him at RiverWoodsTurner@gmail.com



Items of interest to woodturners for sale,
wanted, trade or free are welcome.
Non-commercial ads only, please.

Events of interest to woodturners are also welcome.
To place an ad, contact Terry McCammon
Terry.W.McCammon@gmail.com

Events

TurnOn! Chicago 2016 The 2016 edition of TurnOn! Chicago has been announced. We will be showcasing details as time matures but mark your calendars for July 22-24, 2016. We will return to The Conference Center of the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL.



Visit our website
chicagowoodturners.com

**Monthly Meetings
are held on the 2nd
Tuesday of each
month at:**

**Christian Liberty
Academy
502 W Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights,
IL
7:00-10:00 PM**

**Please join us
All are welcome.**

**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:**

Julie Basrak

**Membership
Chairman**

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