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As the Wood Turns

March, 2022

Vol. 34, Issue No. 3

Chicago Woodturners Newsletter

A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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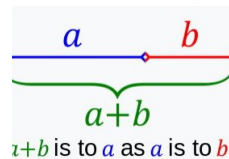
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- Join Chicago Woodturners!
- Tip of the Month
- Classifieds
- Mark Dreyer & John Underhill—AAW Demo
- Beads of Courage

The Search for The Golden Ratio

The subject of The Golden Ratio keeps popping up everywhere I go. From the Doctor's Woodshop website to The Woodturners Worldwide Symposium the number 1.618 keeps flashing.



If one was to Google "The Golden Ratio" there are 1,700,000,000 search results. If you search on Amazon, the number is more manageable.

Euclid's Elements, first printed in 1482, was not on Amazon, but there were plenty of Golden Ratio books available to read or download.

I'm looking for the "Golden Ratio for Designing Bowls and Pens" book. Where's the one that applies the Golden Ratio to turning bowls and making pens?

I did buy The Golden Ratio by Gary Meisner, published in 2018. 536 years later, maybe reads well and is relevant to the modern day woodturner?

Well, it doesn't, but it is filled with detailed explanations, history and geometric constructions.

Every book on the Golden Ratio has examples of images, buildings and even the faces of models that support the theory.

I dug through my drafting tools and found a pair of proportional dividers. I set it to 1.618 and walk around measuring everything within arms length.



There is an abacus on my wall. Probably an antique, it looks a hundred years old. Would you believe it? A perfect Golden Ratio? A coincidence or by design?

I created a Golden Ratio rectangle (upper right) so that I could overlay it on pictures of my bowls. It should tell me where my curves could be better. It's not clear if I'm doing it right.

You can make your own pair of

Golden Ratio dividers (Page 16). With it, you can look for the Golden Ratio, but even better yet, use it for designing your turnings!

How have you implemented the Golden Ratio in your work?

As I dig further into this ancient topic, we'll explore real life usage in the workshop in the coming issues of As the Wood Turns.

I may have to write my own book on Golden Ratio for Bowls and Pens!

Send me your feedback at phil@windycityturnings.com

Editor's Corner | *Phil Moy*



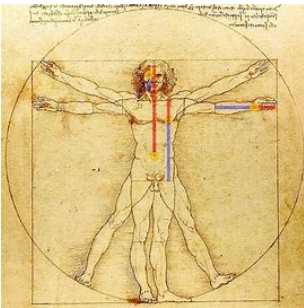
Phil Moy

I graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology (many years ago) and majored in Engineering Graphics (EG). The EG curriculum included mechanical drawing, descriptive geometry, technical illustration and a few other theoretical graphics classes. That was when T-squares, triangles, drawing sets and lead pencils were mandatory tools.

When I set up my shop, I kept a big drawer for those items that I couldn't bear to throw away just because AutoCAD had made them obsolete.

I found a YouTube video about creating ogee curves. How to draw an ogee curve, using arcs and tangent points. It was heartwarming to see that somebody would use a compass and pencil to create pleasing curves.

At the Worldwide Woodturners Symposium, someone in a chat said that when you concentrate on the curve too much, you are a graphic artist, not a 3D sculptor.



Leonardo da Vinci

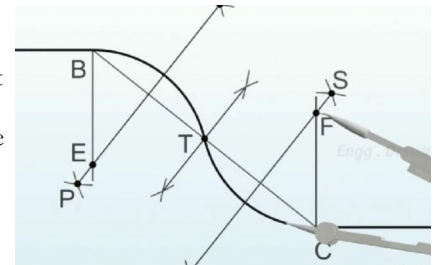
That was after seeing Rebecca DeGroot sketch out curves on paper for her walking bowls.

There is a difference between freeform, inspired design in real-time on the lathe (another way to say "just start turning".) and having a clear idea of what shape you desire.

Understanding that one curve needs to be tangent to another curve helps you identify and eliminate strange ripples in your turning (I'm sure you've been there!).

If one could turn a sphere without using a template to check the roundness, well, you are far along on your turning journey!

That same person is probably one with the Golden Ratio. I think that Jacques Vesery is one of those people. Maybe Rebecca DeGroot too. I can't wait to bend his ear on this topic of Divine Proportions. at Turn On! Chicago 2022!



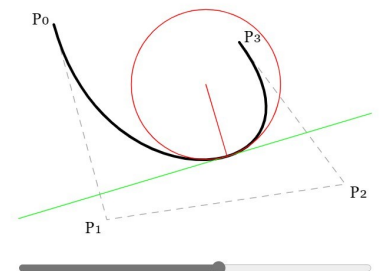
How to use math to draw better looking curves

Dennis Hotson at 99Designs posted an article online about using drawing packages like Adobe Illustrator.

If you go to his article (link below) what's most interesting are a number of interactive curve examples where you can drag a control bar to see how a smooth curves are generated and changed.

The ability to visualize a smooth curve is so important to turning.

With interactive tools, like last month's Creative Woodturner app, the more you see pleasing curves, the more easily you can translate it to the woodshop



[How to use math to draw better looking curves - 99designs](#)



Andy Kuby

NEXT CWT MEETING
March 8 via ZOOM

WIT
 Women in Turning

President's Curls | *Andy Kuby*

March 2022

It's winter and we're still locked up with snow, ice and COVID. While the worst seems to be passing (again) we still need to be protective of others and ourselves.

That's why we cancelled the in-person meeting for February. Hopefully, we'll be able to get together in person on March 8th.

(Editor's note: March 8 meeting will be by Zoom)

Our online demonstrations and gallery are great but up close and personal is better. Wood is a tactile medium.

Thanks again to Phil Moy for taking on the newsletter, I'm enjoying the break from publishing and Phil is doing a much better job than I ever did.

Please give him a hand by submitting articles, tips or just a heads up regarding upcoming events. We all have something to offer.

Speaking of events, let's hope that the pandemic, and weather, cooperate so we get to benefit from these upcoming **live events**:

AAW Symposium Chattanooga, June 23 -26, 2022.

This year the demonstrators include lots of local talent. As of Valentine's Day the Chicago Woodturners had over 21 members who indicated they would be attending.

Turn-On! Chicago Northbrook, June 28-31, 2022.

After having to cancel for 2020 we are looking forward to an in-person event in a new venue. Register early!

Midwest Penturners Gathering, April 22-23, 2022.

A local event with national demonstrators and a great trade show! Not just for penturners.

Chicago Woodturners Beginning Turning Classes.

For our members who want some help getting started, or just need a bit of refreshing.

March 5 and 19, 2022, at the Chicago School of Woodworking. Advance registration required.

Looking forward to actually seeing you all again.

Be safe, stay sharp, **Andy**

Women in Turning (WIT) | *Marie Anderson*

If you received this before noon on March 4th, be sure to go sign up and take advantage of the WIT Presents event featuring Tania Radda on March 5th.

This is a look into Tania's journey as a woodturning artist using a visual presentation of things that have inspired her and a narrative of her creative process. This is not a demonstration, rather more of an introduction. Tania brings a playful, colorful creativity to her work that draws people in. Please join us as we get to know her a little better.

(Registration is free for this

zoom presentation but you must sign up by noon on March 4th.

The 2022 Virtual WIT eXchange is set to kick off registration on March 8th. This is a Women in Turning collaborative project for any women makers. The focus will be centered around woodturning, but women artist in any media are encouraged to participate to jump start their creativity.

After many discussions, the WIT committee decided to implement a nominal registration fee of \$20.00 this

year. We do not want to discourage anyone's participation so if you have any issues or concerns about the registration fee, please contact me directly.

No experience is necessary, just an interest in expanding your creativity to the next level. You will enjoy an environment of mutual support as you learn and share your talents with other women.

I invite and encourage any women who have an interest to sign up. Feel free to call me if you have questions about what this is all about!

Marie

Meet the Woodturner | Dawn Herdon-Charles

Dawn joined the Chicago Woodturners in September of 2011. Less than a year before joining she took a class with Carole Float and Carole advised her to join.

When I asked Dawn what she liked to make most she said “shavings and beautiful cuts”.

Dawn has attended many symposiums and likes them when she can drive to them with friends. She has been a videographer and really enjoys doing that since she sees first hand what so many talented turners do.

Dawn has a Nova DVR XP 220 lathe. Her workshop is in

the basement where she has a separate room for the lathe etc. and another room with her sanding equipment.

Dawn really likes the work of Rudy Lopez and Max Brosi.

Dawn tries to find time to turn while having a full time job as an Information Technology Consultant for computer systems.

Dawn’s other turning hobby is doing work on the Rose Ornamental Lathe. It was fun learning more about Dawn.

Another great Meet the Turner interview!

Brenda Miotke



Dawn-Herdon-Charles



Beginner's Woodturning Class & Mentoring



Basics of spindle turning

Basics of bowl turning

Sat., March 5, 2022
9 am to 4:30 pm \$60

Sat., March 19, 2022
9 am to 4:30 pm \$60

- Basic of using a lathe
- Lathe safety
- Turning between centers
- How to properly use tools for spindle turning
- Spindle roughing gouge, spindle gouge, parting tool
- Making beads and coves
- Sharpening systems and techniques.
- Other projects to sharpen your skills.

- Using a 4-jaw chuck
- More on Lathe safety.
- Use of a bowl gouges and scrapers
- More on sharpening techniques
- Practice turning bowls from start to finish.

Cost for each class is \$60, checks payable to Chicago Woodturners.

Fee covers the cost of supplies for the day. Wood and turning tools will be provided or you can bring your own. Bring your own safety gear!

If you have questions or to sign up, contact Al Miotke at abmiotke@comcast.net.

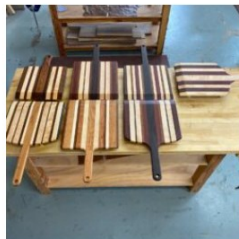
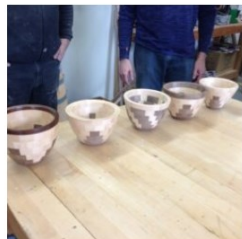
Thanks to COVID we have not held a class for new turners for 2 years and its long overdue. One of the benefits of membership is mentoring each other to become better at our craft.

To assist our newer turners, we will be holding two all day Saturday classes to teach the basics of both spindle turning and bowl turning.

This is a hands-on class that is held at the Chicago School of Woodworking.

Multiple mentors will assist you.

CHICAGO SCHOOL OF WOODWORKING
EDUCATING THE QUALITY MINDED HOBBYIST IN THE ART OF WOODWORKING
5680 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago, IL 60646
Phone: 773.275.1170
chicagowoodworking.com



The Chicago School of Woodworking was established in 2007 to train students in the art of furniture making. Since then, our program has expanded to include the arts of turning, scroll saw, marquetry, Chip Carving, speaker making and cabinet making.

We are committed to providing students the knowledge and skills to create functional and beautiful furniture that can be enjoyed for generations.

We have chosen machinery and tools that are safe, up-to-date, and well maintained, so students can focus on learning and enjoy the varied aspects of building a quality piece of furniture or crafting wood art.

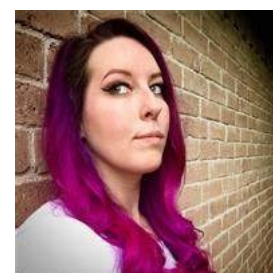
Find out more about our offerings and class schedules on our website!

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Making the Walking Bowl

Live! with Rebecca DeGroot



Hands on with Rebecca DeGroot

Saturday, March 12, 13 and 14, 2022

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Cost: \$150.00 per day, \$400 all three days

Renown artist Rebecca DeGroot shares her woodworking and artistic skills with participants in this exciting workshop at the Chicago School of Woodworking

Fresh off of demonstrating at the Worldwide Woodturners Symposium in January, Rebecca comes to you in person to help you create your very own walking bowl.

The class will take you through making a bowl, turning spindle legs, cutting, reassembling and carving the legs, spout, handle and knob.

Skill level: Students of all skill levels will be able to attend one, two, or all three classes.

SOLD OUT!
But Rebecca is doing
the CWT Interactive
Demo for our March
8th meeting!

All classes should be paid for by check to Chicago Woodturners and sent to:

Chicago Woodturners
c/o Michael Canfield



chicagowoodturners.com

Rebecca graduated from the Kendall College of Art & Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan with two bachelor's degrees in Art Education and Sculpture and Functional Art. Rebecca juggles her full-time career as an art educator and her passion for woodworking.

Rebecca finds her inspiration in various living things and objects that she interacts with regularly. Simple things like insects or even coffee cups can send her scrambling for her notepad to transform her imagination into possible projects.

She's never far from sketching strange creatures or making lists of ideas she is longing to try. Her days of teaching Art 1, Sculpture, Ceramics, Jewelry, and AP 3D Studio Art are fulfilling and the passion she shares with her students is the same fuel that keeps her in her shop late into the evenings letting her imagination run wild

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February 2022 CWT Minutes | *Frank Pagura*

We are meeting on Zoom tonight.

Our demonstrator is Phil Moy, he will show us how to make some beautiful, closed end pens.

The gallery is going to be reviewed by Rich Hall-Reppen.

AAW news The AAW is offering a club discount if ten members sign up together, Andy is organizing this a signup email will be sent out next week. In addition to a registration discount, we will be provided a reserved table at the banquet.

WIT news WIT exchange on March 8, 2022 This is a free event but you must register to receive your meeting number.

TOC news Al reported that registrations are open, cost is \$265. Plus, banquet and daily lunch options which need to be preordered. Check the TOC site for full details.

Dave Bertaud is continuing to sign up vendors for the trade show.

Brenda is requesting that if you plan to donate to the Auction please do so as soon as possible, she would like to catalogue, photograph your item so it can be posted for everyone to preview.

Discussion took place regarding requesting items for the auction from well-known artists and demonstrators.

Rich Nye emphasized that a policy should be in place for a percentage of the sum the item brings at auction to be returned to the artist.

Scott Barrett indicated that consideration should be given to membership complaint that there were not many moderately priced items for them to bid on, in the past.

Kurt has a volunteer sign up form, please reach out to him with the preferred activity you can help with, and he will assign you accordingly.

Mentorship. Things look hopeful for a return to normalcy, if you can contribute with new member turners or special turning skills see Andy and sign up as a mentor. Andy announced that, in order to be covered by club insurance, Mentors must mentor club members and advise via email when a mentorship session is set up.

Member news Up-coming event of note, Mark Dreyer's Midwest Pen Turners Gathering will take place on April 22-23 in our own backyard, very easy, not out of town travel, with the latest and greatest in pen turning.

Membership Brenda reported that two new members signed up, Tim Rand of Evanston and Donald Pellegrini of Orland Park.

Pens for Troops Dave Warren has secured a good source of pen kits at a great price. Board approves purchase of kits. He will let everyone know when the shipment comes in. See him if you can help him to make pens.

Beads Of Courage Andy will arrange for a trip to drop off the boxes and bags during the first week of March, if you have completed boxes let him know. A thank you from Lurie (Page 10)

CWT Safety Tonight, safety presentation dealt with a few safeties tip provided by members. Our newsletter, As the Wood Turns, will have the presentation for you to review. (Page 8)

Gallery Review By Rich Hall-Reppen

Demo Phil Moy demonstrates making closed end pens. Read all about it in Paul Rosen's Demo Report. (Pages 11-13)

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pagura, Secretary

NEXT CWT MEETING
March 8th via Zoom



Dave Bertaud



Jason Clark



Todd Coben



CWT FEBRUARY 8, 2022

SAFETY PRESENTATION

For this presentation I would like to share a few tips I received from your fellow members.

- 1) Tom Boerjan wants to remind everyone to unplug tool battery charges when not in use. Usually these chargers, which we all use, wind up being plugged in and staying on for ever. With age and use these chargers can fail and become the source of a potential fire. Tom suggested plugging them in to a dedicate power strip with an off-on power switch, then power can be turned off when not in use.



- 2) Al Miotke gave me a tip on how to keep a face shield from fogging up. He suggested cleaning the shield with a dryer static cloth. *This really works!*

A clean face shield is more likely going to be used regularly, and we must agree that seeing what you are doing is going to improve your safety.

- 3) I would like to add a few safety tips myself. Keep your shop floor clear of tripping hazards. Sweep up accumulation of shavings and sawdust often from your path, this will avoid slips and slides.

Remember bumping into metal machinery can produce nasty scars.



“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. “

Be a safe and happy turner!

Your CWT safety officer,

Frank Pagura





We kick off this inaugural column on creating custom writing instruments!

We salute the penmanship of the monks who wrote volumes by hand to John Hancock signing the Declaration of Independence with a flourish.



Dip pens are probably the first closed end pen, or was it the quill pen?

In this column we will pass along and share tips to penmakers. We'll feature new products from different vendors and celebrate the fact that two thumbs are not a writing grip.

The Icon Pen Kit

“Uniquely designed to accept Bic® Refills, the Icon Pen Kit is slim, striking and comfortable with a writing experience you know and love. Simply pull a refill from any Bic® pen and insert it into the Icon.

Features a removable cap with clip to prevent the pen from rolling and a rubber comfort grip.”

MSRP: \$7.95



Pen Kit Review

For \$2.00 you can buy a 10 pack bag of Bic Stic®, does the prospect of 20 cent refills appeal to the custom pen buyer?

The Icon Pen Kit is a one piece body, a 3 inch, 7mm brass tube with an end cap and a tip. A gold plated cap completes the kit.

It's easy to turn, finish and assemble, less than 30 minutes once you get familiar with the components. The kit uses regular 7 mm Slimline bushings, so if you already have some you don't need a new set of bushings.

A major decision in turning is how much taper? A straight cylinder echos it's original plastic body, although a perfect 3 inch cylinder is actually harder to turn than sleek taper!

I used Beli for the body (pictured left), and it

looks like it would be a nice pen for a hotel registration desk or in a bank lobby. Acrylic blanks would look nice and perhaps hold up better in a frequent use environment.

Changing the refill is simple. No parts to unscrew, just a firm grip and pull it out of the tip! Need a refill? Find any Bic pen!

There is room to laser engrave a company name or personal message on the body.

The real question for this kit is how to price the finished product. Given a cost of materials under \$10 depending on what blank you use, do you price this pen at \$30 or \$40 to cover your time?

Over the top for a pen kit, or a great kit for the cost conscious client?

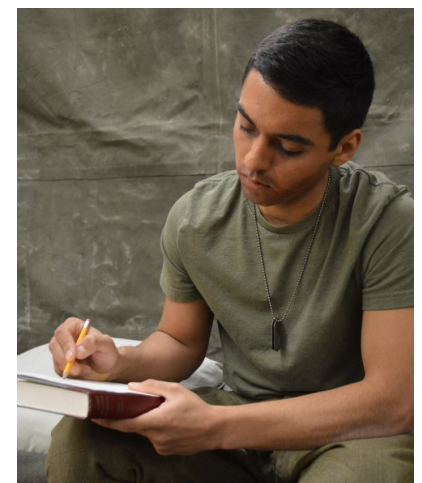
Love to hear your comments!

Pens for Troops | Dave Warren

We have identified a supplier for pen kits at an amazing price. CWT will be purchasing kits and we're looking for wood and acrylic blanks as well as help in drilling, gluing and squaring off ends.

We will be doing pens at Turn On! Chicago 2022.

Also more finished pens for the troops are still welcome!



Is that a No. 2 pencil this soldier is using to write home?

Let's get this man a real pen!



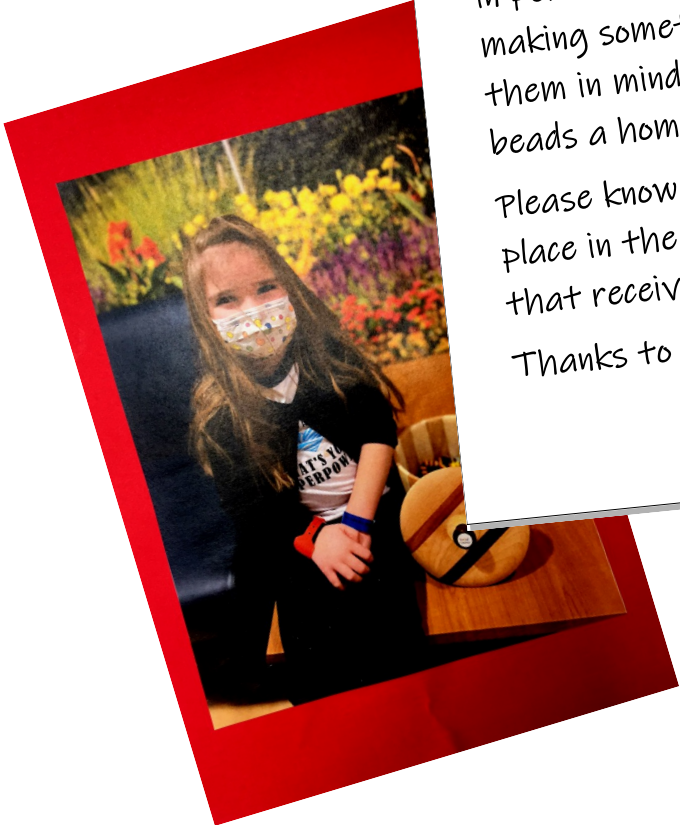
Beads of Courage

Al Miotke and Andy Kuby made a delivery of 32 boxes and bags to Cindy Maysonet of Lurie Children's Hospital on February 24, 2022.

Thanks to Rich Piper, Stan Hermann, Al Miotke, Frank Pagura, Sol Anfusio, and my apologies to anyone I inadvertently left out.

These should last Lurie for the next couple of months. Please keep those boxes coming in so we have enough ready when they need them again.

February, 2022
 To The Chicago Woodturners,
 There aren't enough words for me to express my gratitude for all you do for our patients.
 They are touched to learn that individuals they have never met in person are hard at work making something special with them in mind. You give their beads a home
 Please know you hold a special place in the heart of each patient that receives your gift!
 Thanks to each of you!
 Cindy Maysonet



Every time a bead is given, courage is honored, suffering is alleviated, resilience is strengthened, and the experience of human caring is affirmed. Beads, the earliest art form known to humans, serve as visible, tangible symbols of human experiences that need and deserve to be expressed.

Making Closed End Pens by Phil Moy | Paul Rosen

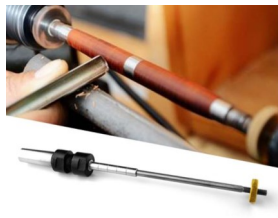
February 2022, CWT Demonstration

Our demonstrator for February of 2022 was Phil Moy. For many of us, turning a ball point or fountain pen was our first foray into wood turning. But Phil wanted to take pen creation a step further, by eliminating the normally present end caps, making a closed end pen. Here's his take on different ways to make a closed end pen. In the process of doing so, he learns a few things about making pens!

A discussion about making closed end pens can start with a look at the opposite, making open end pens.

The Classic Cigar pen kit, is an open end pen kit. It's one that I think every new penmaker should begin with. The construction of this pen generally follows this sequence:

- Cut blanks for both cap and body
- Drill a hole through the blanks
- Glue a brass tube inside with CA or epoxy
- Use an end mill or disc sander to square the ends
- Assemble bushings and blanks onto a pen mandrel
- Turn to the desired shape, apply finish
- Assemble with pen press



It is relatively easy to create a quality pen using pre-packaged pen kits.

Bushings (bought separately, of course) determines the diameters required for a smooth fit between the body, tip and couplers, as well as for the cap components. Two brass tubes, four **open ends** that are capped with pre-made components. 90% of the pen kits sold are open end pen kits.

These open end pen kits are truly well designed. The many variations of kits using this core construction technique and the almost infinite types of blanks gives one plenty of options for custom penmaking.

But this core construction methodology also has a drawback. The brass tubes determine your pen length, and the bushings control the diameters at different places. In terms of shape, or creating pleasing curves, you have a fixed distance and specific endpoints to work with.

For example, the Slimline pen kits have bushings are a little bit over 7mm and come with pre-cut brass tubes. Many of the pens pictured on the right look like they've gained some COVID pounds and their belts are too tight!



So what if one didn't use the end cap?

Then I had an epiphany.

Epiphany #1

A closed end pen is not an object in itself, it's a construction technique, a design methodology.

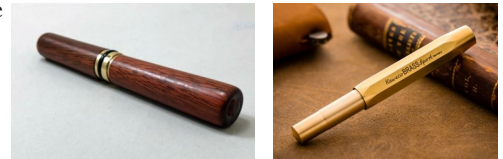


Epiphany #2

How you build a pen offers options for controlling your pen's look and feel.

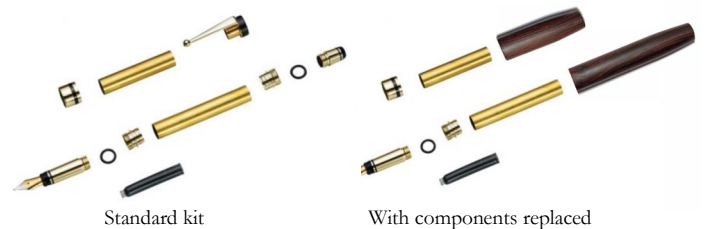
For an open end pen, the brass tube acts as a spine for the pen. There are parts of the pen that need to screw together

My first closed end pen was in the Oct. 2021 Instant Gallery. It was inspired by the Kaweco Brass Sport fountain pen.



I cannibalized a fountain pen that I made early in my penmaking and it wasn't selling.

With the Fountain Pen kit, there are two ends that you can close: the top of the body and the top of the cap. And you have control over shape and length of the pen!



Here's how I made my first closed end pen. I call it the Frugal Penmaker's Closed End Method because I used what I already had in the shop.

- 1) Take a blank that is 3/4 in by 3/4 in x 8 to twelve inches long. Turn the center, but leave two inches on each end square. You can use the drive spur that came with your lathe and a live center at the tailstock. The two inch square ends give you some stability for clamping, drilling and cutting.
- 2) Decide which end will be the cap and which will be the body. (Figure 1) Since you've turned the center of the blank, it's easier to see the grain and decide which end is up. Cut the blank leaving plenty of room for the brass tube length. The square ends help keep the blank level,

Making Closed End Pens (cont.)

February 2022, CWT Demonstration

- 3) Drill a hole for the brass tube, just slightly longer than the tube. Don't drill all the way through! If you are using a drill press and a pen vise, the squared ends give you more surface area for clamping. Glue your tube, use an end mill or sand to square the end.

The Frugal Closed End Pen Process



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

- 4) Using a pen vise and drill press to drill the blanks works, but if you have a 4-jaw chuck with pen jaws and a Jacobs the level of precision goes up dramatically!
- 5) An adjustable pen mandrel, works as a closed end mandrel! (Figure 2) The mandrel is in the headstock, and the squared end is in the tailstock. (Figure 3)
- 6) Repeat for the body.
- 7) Press the components together to assemble the pen!

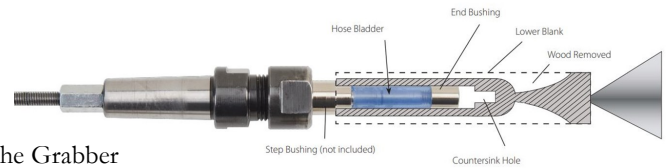
Other Mandrels for making Closed End Pens

There are a few commercial solutions for a closed end pen mandrel. There's one from Craft Supply, a pen mandrel that uses a locking pin. It comes in different diameters, 10.5, 12.5, 25/64, 27/64, 7mm. It requires the use of a collet chuck and a collet.



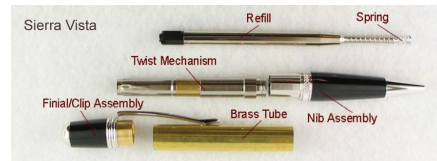
There are a couple of solutions for a collet chuck. The drawbar collet holder (also from Craft Supply) is an interesting device that holds your collet in your morse taper, and when the knob is tightened, the collet tightens around your pen mandrel. Beale offers a collet chuck set also.

The Grabber



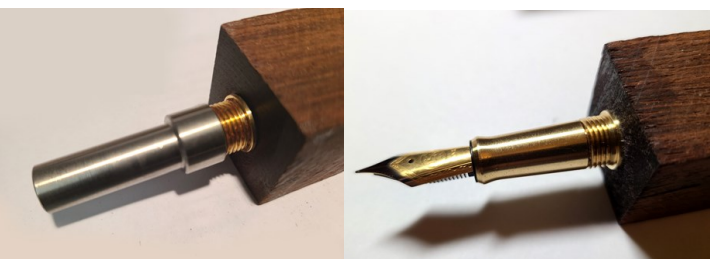
PSI and Extoic Blanks has a "Grabber" mandrel that uses an diaphragm to hold the blank in place. It is a combination draw bar and pen mandrel in one device. Tightening the nut expands the diaphragm. It can handle different diameters via different tubes

So can any pen kit be converted to a closed end pen design? A look at the components will tell you if you can. For example the Sierra Vista pen kit has a finial/cap assembly that can be easily replaced with a closed end design.



Pen Kits just for making Closed End Pens

How about a kit specifically for making a closed end pen? Bullseye Turning Supply offers closed end pen kits. The Artemis and the Apollo are fountain pen and rollerball pen kits. The Artemis offers a slightly larger section. No end caps to throw away! Required are a set of custom mandrels, one each for the caps and the body.



Making Closed End Pens (cont.)

February 2022, CWT Demonstration

After holes are drilled into the blank (not all the way through, of course), an insert is glued in place. The insert serves two purposes, internal threads for the mandrel, which matches the thread for the pen section and nib!. The insert's external threads are used by the cap!



One huge plus here! It is possible to put the body or the cap back on the mandrel to tweak your pen's shape, add other coat of finish. It's something you can't do with an open pen design. Once assembled, you can't put it back on a lathe for changes!

So how about a clip? How about a finial, maybe with your logo on it? Now that your tailstock is out of the way, you can do whatever you want at the end of the pen, your closed end pen mandrel holds everything in place.

Do you have to open the end of the cap to attach a clip? Perhaps, add a finial to hold the clip to the pen. But then, have we come full circle?

The 2021 Chicago Pen Show, my first pen show, was eye-opening. There were custom made pens that did not look like a "kit" pen. In fact, they looked like closed end pens. Pens that didn't rely on open end kits. These were "kitless" pens, where everything (except the fountain pen nib) is made from scratch.

In fact, I was told, "Drop the word "kit" from your vocabulary". No matter what you use, you are making a custom writing instrument. However, many pens made with "kits" are easily recognized, and at a show where other tables carry drop dead, gorgeous (commercially made) pens with a 3 or 4 digit price tag, how doe one turn a \$7.00 pen kit into a Cinderella pen?

I guess the answer is you can't, but the closed end options presented here do give you more design and customization options in making a pen.

Making a Pen from Scratch, aka "Kitless Pen"

So instead of a kit, you could start with raw materials, and make everything (except the fountain pen nib) from scratch. Total design freedom! However, there is a steeper entry fee into "kitless pens." You don't need a metal lathe. But you will need multiple sets of taps and dies, one tap for the nib, one for die the nib section, a tap for the cap. A kit to adapt your wood lathe to use tap and die sets.



Perhaps another rabbit hole in the world of turning?

Webster's Dictionary

epiph·a·ny | \ i- ' pi-fə-nē : a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way

Epiphany #3

It's not about open end or closed end. There's a lot of techniques, components and materials that can be used to design a custom pen. Innovation continues and with it creativity is limitless..

PS: Someone tell PSI to drop the word "kit."

Below is a summary of the costs involved for the different ways to make a closed end pen. Depending on your budget, and some trade offs, you can make pen making a craft of your own!

Category	Items	Cost
Mandrels	Adjustable pen mandrel	\$25
	Pin Chuck Mandrel 10.5, 12.5, 7 mm & 25/64, 27/64	\$16/ dia.
	Grabber Mandrel 10.5mm, 12.5mm, 9/16 in	\$35
Closed End kits	Apollo kit + mandrel	\$17 + \$15
	Artemis kit + mandrel	\$20 + \$15
"Kitless"	Tap & Die set, per diameter	\$300
	Lathe adapter kit for tap & die	\$170
Clips	Beaufort clips, pkg of 5	\$20
Chucks	4 jaw chuck with pen jaws	\$250
	Drawbar chuck	\$27
	Collet 1/4" and 3/8"	\$13 each
Blanks	8" to 12" resin or Alumilite	\$8 and up

Vendors	
Bullseye Turning Supply	www.bullseyeturning supply.com
Craft Supply USA	www.woodturnerscatalog.com
Exotic Blanks	www.exoticblanks.com
Turner's Warehouse	www.turnerswarehouse.com
Rockler	www.rockler.com
Woodcraft	www.woodcraft.com

Tips for the Month



Clint Stevens

This weekend, I finally invested in a Oneway Wolverine grinding jig to go along with my Rikon low speed grinder.

For one side of the grinder, the Wolverine has a sliding bar that accommodates different tool lengths.

The other side has a platform toolrest with a speed handle that locks in the angle of the platform. It seems that it was not possible to thread the handle on all the way because the platform got in the way and the bolt was locked up.

Dick Sing was sitting next to me at the MPG meeting at Woodcraft. I was ready to tell the staff I had a defective handle. I told Dick about the problem and showed him the speed handle.



Dick showed me that the part with the hex head is spring loaded, and if you push it in, the bolt spins freely and you can screw it on.

Oneway could have mentioned this in the instructions. Well, thank God for Dick Sing!

How fast is too fast for lathe speed?

In a Fine Woodworking article, Mike Mahoney of Orem, Utah offer some advice on lathe speeds.

He recommends always starting slow, but how fast is too fast?

Dale Nish has a formula to help judge your speed. It's a ratio of diameter to speed.

Pen blanks and spindles can run much faster because they are smaller diameters.

The bottom of the range, a 6, is a little bit puzzling. Maybe the speed of a foot powered treadle lathe (below) can fit the equation. How fast can a treadle lather go?.

Diameter x RPM = A number between 6 to 9000

	Dia.	RPM	Result	
Bowl / Platter	10 in	600	6000	●
	10 in	1000	10000	●
	6 in	1000	6000	●
Pen Blank	6 in	1600	9600	●
	3/4 in	1750	1313	●
	3/4 in	2400	1875	●
Spindle	2 in	2000	4000	●



Scott Barrett



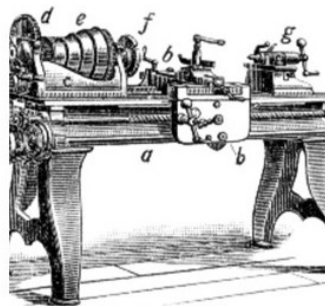
Chester Knight's Treadle Lathe

And while we're talking about older lathers, Turners Warehouse sent this picture in their latest newsletter!

Ever wonder who invented the lathe?

Henry Maudslay, (born Aug. 22, 1771, Woolwich, Kent, Eng. —died Feb. 14, 1831, London), British engineer and inventor of the metal lathe and other devices.

I'm sure things are a lot different now.



Lathe, p. 1218.

Instant Gallery

As usual, our monthly Instant Gallery was highlighted by awesome entries from our members. More submissions are throughout the newsletter. Rich Reppen-Hall conducted the review. The full gallery is available on-line at chicagowoodturners.com.

Frank Magnifico

The inside out ornaments are all made with either four square or eight diamond shaped segments. All seven inches long.

Walnut, Maple and Cherry with Walnut Oil finish.




Frank Pagura

PINFIN, is the bowling pin challenge collaboration of Brad Davis and Frank Pagura. Frank did the body turning and Brad did the fins, painting and texture work on the base. He also added The Rolling Stones tongue!




David Warren

The rings are made from an old skateboard with a mystery bent wood core, Lignum Vitae on bamboo bentwood core with a glow/green inlay and granadillo and aluminum on a walnut bentwood core



Brenda and Al Miotke

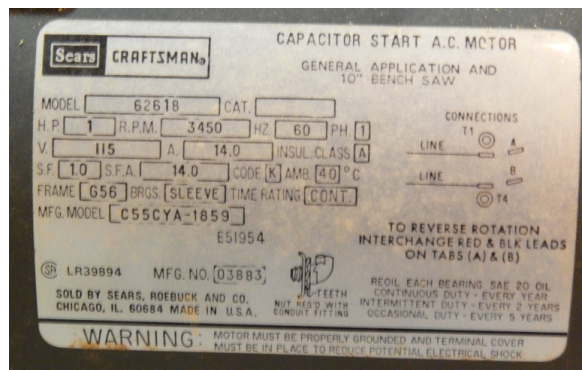
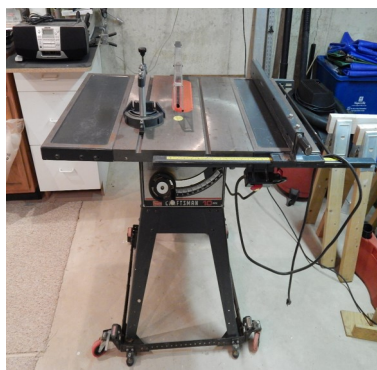
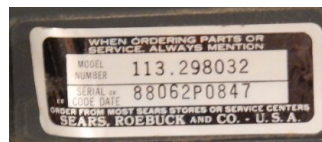
Collaboration of Maple, Purpleheart and Acrylic Pen Blanks. 10-inch diameter



Classifieds

Item	Contact	Email & Phone
16-ounce squeeze bottle of Mahoney's Walnut Oil, Utility Finish. \$12 each. Limited amount available	Andy Kuby	studio@riverwoodsturner.com
WoodRiver Pen Drilling Vise w/ 7mm and 10mm, Drilling Guide & Stop collar Slightly used—\$25.00	Phil Moy	phil@windycityturnings.com
Craftsman Table Saw, Model 113.298032 Complete and in excellent condition. Located in a basement in Naperville, IL. Originally purchased in 1990.	Andy Kuby	studio@riverwoodsturner.com

Please make a reasonable offer, this will go fast. Contact Andy Kuby at 847-922-8201 See attached pictures for further information.

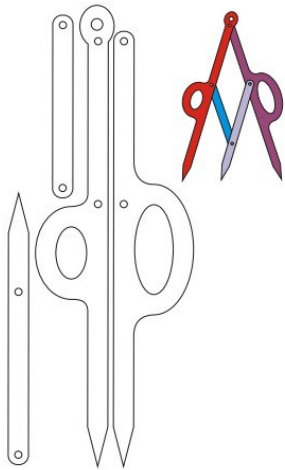


“I’m a member of the Chicago Woodturners!”

A **10% member discount** is offered by both Rockler and Woodcraft. It’s a CWT membership benefit that’s easy to overlook. (And if you look trustworthy, they might not even ask you for your CWT membership card!)



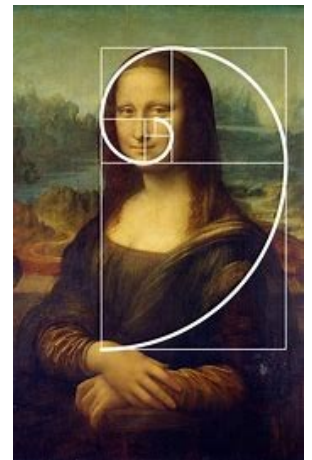
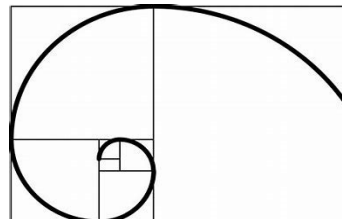
Make your own Golden Ratio Dividers



At the Doctor’s Woodshop you can download a template for making your own Golden Ratio proportional dividers (he calls it the Fibonacci gauge)

www.doctorswoodshop.com/Extras/Woodturning-Guides

Speaking of another application of the Golden Ratio, I measured the tin of Reindeer Poop on my desk. Coincidence or by design?



Last Cut

This issue is a little heavy on pens, but it’s that time of the year! Like Paul Rosen noted, many people start their lathe journey making pens.

In future issues, we’ll explore more woodturning topics, creativity and the art of design

The Chicago Pen Show goes back to its regular schedule in April. Last year’s show was delayed into May, due to COVID 19. Held a week after The Penmaker’s MPG, at the Marriott Northwest in Hoffman Estates (yes, the same hotel).

I am really looking forward to the show. Why go? Inspiration just oozes from the vendors. The \$12,800 Namiki Emperor Ryu Dragon Limited Edition fountain pen is breathtaking (Available on Etsy if you want one).



Sleek pen designs from the most influential pen companies are places to see what professional pen designers can create. They are trained professionals, and there is much to learn from the fruits of their labor.

There are many “kitless” pens to see, from booths like Hardy Penwrights, Hinze Custom Pens, Iron Feather Creative, Desiderata, Ryan Krusac Studios and The Chicago Pen Company. They all set a very high bar in making custom writing instruments.

They create pens that capture the heart and soul of the writer as well as the penmaker. Meeting the penmakers in person is the same to meet the turning professionals at Turn On! Chicago and the AAW Symposium

Go sign up for the Penmaker’s MPG on April 22, learn about new materials and different techniques! Then go back to the Marriott a week later to see how other penmakers push the limits!

See you at the March 8 meeting!

Send in those letters to the Editor!

Phil



Andy Kuby



The Largest and Longest Running Pen Makers Symposium

Save the date - April 22 and 23, 2022

This one is going to be bigger and better than ever - let's get back together.
You won't want to miss this one.

The Midwest Pen Turners Gathering (PenMakers International Annual Symposium NFP) is coming back in person and it is a cannot miss.

Register Early For Better Odds To Winning

If you came to an event in the past you know we give away a lathe and many more big and small prizes. The big prizes are tickets based on the earlier you sign up. Every month early, gets you an extra ticket.

You know you are coming - sign up NOW!

Changes From The Past Chicago MPG

New Hotel - Marriott Northwest (Hoffman Estates)

Bigger Hotel - Bigger Rooms -

More Vendor and Demo Space

Meals - We can only provide an optional dinner on Friday -

Pizza Lunch on Friday and Saturday - there will be food carts on-site

More details will be coming out in the next few weeks. We have already worked out details with a dozen demonstrators.

Vendor emails went out and we have numerous commitments already.

Watch for details as we have them. "See you again" in April!

This is going to be fun! The MPG Planning Committee

Register at midwestpenturnersgathering.com





AAW News



**AAW Annual International
Woodturning Symposium**
Chattanooga, Tennessee
June 23 - 26, 2022

Whether you're a **NEW TURNER** or a **PROFESSIONAL**...

Reunite and connect with other turners who share your interests. You'll find demonstrations targeted to your skill level. Over 3½ days, you'll have 100 compelling presentations to choose from to help you enrich your woodturning experience, including:

Presenters

- Trent Bosch
- Kip Christensen
- Barbara Dil
- Cindy Drozda
- Keith Gotschall
- John Jordan
- Michael Kehs
- Eric Lofstrom
- Glenn Lucas
- Mike Mahoney
- Hans Weissflog
- Dennis Belcher
- Jason Clark
- Rebecca DeGroot
- Mark Dreyer
- Linda Ferber
- Janice Levi
- Sammy Long
- Wayne Miller
- Mark Palma
- Dennis Paullus
- Paul Russell
- Doug Schneiter
- Jason Swanson

- Bowls & Platters
- Embellishment, Carving & Finishing
- Segmented Work
- Hollow Forms & Boxes
- Pens
- Inspiration and Creativity
- Spindles, Finials, Multi-axis
- Tool Making and Tool Handling
- Small Treasures

Experts from around the globe will come together again to share their techniques and insights to help you bring your woodturning abilities to the next level. You'll find demonstrations targeted to your skill level and areas of interest from these incredible featured demonstrators (left).

Back by popular demand

The AAW is offering a chapter group discount for the 2022 AAW Symposium. This offer, for AAW and chapter members, extends a savings of \$30 per symposium registration - a savings of at least \$300 per chapter group of 10 registrations. (Editor's note: This offer expired in February)

Chapters that elect to participate will also receive one complimentary reserved table at the Saturday evening dinner (tickets for the dinner must be purchased).

Eligibility

The discount is available to AAW chapters and chapter members who are AAW members.

Additions

Add-on registrations and tickets are also available for purchase (not at a special bulk rate):

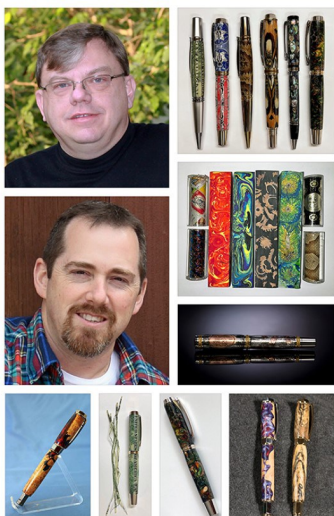
- Saturday night dinner tickets are \$60 per person.
- Spouse symposium registration is \$196 per spouse (for spouses who wish to attend woodturning rotations).

Payment

- Checks are the only form of payment accepted. Credit card payments will NOT be accepted. Personal checks or a chapter check made payable to the "American Association of Woodturners". The cost savings of check vs. credit card (and accompanying charges) is how AAW makes this discount feasible!

AAW Presents: From Penturning to Pen Making with Mark Dreyer and John Underhill

Saturday, February 19, 2022



Attendees for this session came from all over the US as well as Germany, Norway and Canada.

It was to be an ambitious effort, take a two day seminar and condense it to two hours.

The emphasis in this session was on acrylics, turning acrylics and casting blanks. One attendee actually asked ‘When are you going to discuss the creation of wood pens, or I want my money back!’

Mark went through marking and turning blanks and brought some interesting tips using the transparency of a blank to create different effects. He promotes painting the drilled hole rather than the brass tube. Since the finished wall thickness is so

thin, the inside color becomes part of the effect!. Using white, black, or even rainbow of colors will create a new look!

John Underhill took over and detailed the materials and the setup for casting your own blanks. Using ‘found objects’ with a clear cast expands your creative limits. From pine



cones to seashells, military buttons to stickers and postage stamps there is no limit when you have a couple gallons of

resin or Alumilite in hand. Starting around \$300, a pressure pot, molds, tints and a number of things taken out of the kitchen, you can be on your way to being a penmaker rather than a pen assembler!

John also went through layering and mixing colors to create explosions of color in a blank. Whether it was using horizontal molds or John’s custom designed vertical molds, the idea or creating one of a kind blanks is tool in your toolbox.

A very fast paced session, chock full of tips for the sharp eye.

Mark and John will also be at the International Penturners MPG, doing additional demos in person (with a little more time), answering questions and continuing to drive the boundaries of penmaking!

Check AAW Calendar

AAW Virtual Events

Saturday, March 5, 2022 2:00 p.m. CST

WIT Presents: Tania Radda Record Power Live Woodturning Demonstrations from Australia and England Register at AAW.org

A series of free ‘Interactive Remote Demonstrations’ (IRD’s). To be put on their mailing list for upcoming demonstrations, send an email with RSVP in the subject line to miked@recordpower.co.uk Your log-in details will be sent in return.

Pat Carroll’s Meet the Woodturner

A free series of discussions with woodturners from all over the world. Anyone who wishes to join should email Pat at meetthewoodturner@gmail.com and you will be put on the mailing list for future events.



Tania Radda



Turn On! Chicago 2022



This will be our first symposium since 2018 and we have a fantastic line-up of demonstrators that are new to Turn-On Chicago. Regardless of your skill level or area of interest you will find rotations of interest to you. Need Wood, Tools, Supplies? Our Tradeshow will have a wide variety of products for you. Below is a summary of what this event has to offer.

11 demonstrators doing 49 rotations .

Large classrooms

Tradeshow

Instant Gallery with a people’s choice award.

Raffle with over \$1000 in items to win.

Friday evening Pen turning and WIT event.

Spouses making BOC bags.

Saturday evening banquet and auction.

To learn more, visit: www.turnonchicago.com.

Our demonstrators are some of the best in the industry! Over the coming months all the demonstrators will be highlighted.



Jacques Vesery

Jacques is an artist and sculptor from Maine who strives to create an illusion of reality with his unique organic forms. Jacques has lectured on design and his sculpting concepts extensively both internationally as well as in the U.S. You can see his work in over 30 publications, numerous museums, and private collections. During the symposium Jacques will do 6 rotations including the following topics:



- Concepts in Design and Form
- Texture for Color Becomes Second Nature
- Inspiration, Challenge and Evolution
- Collaboration: Playing Well with Others



Eric Lofstrom

Eric will visit the symposium from his home in California. He is known for a variety of unique styles as shown in the attached photos. Eric is an excellent teacher and has demonstrated at the AAW national symposium and many regional symposiums. His focus will be on proper use of the lathe, tool control to achieve sharp clean lines and posture to minimize fatigue His turning will then be embellished with a variety of interesting techniques



As an artist, Eric strives to create clean-lined forms with minimal distraction using grain, color, and texture. Currently, his work represents curiosities relating to water, energy, and the human spirit. His rotations will include:

- Triple axis raindrops
- Turning a square rim bowl
- Skew skills

Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

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Special Events Manager	Marie Anderson	630-222-0277	danmar12@yahoo.com
Outreach Coordinator	Brenda Miotke	847-682-1176	bkmiotke@comcast.net

It is even more fun when you bring a friend!

Reasons to join Chicago Woodworkers

- Monthly meetings
- Access to club member expertise and mentors
- Classes and hands-on sessions with name turners
- In-person demonstrations, product discounts, raffles
- and generally a good group to hang out with....

Membership Fees

\$30 Individual membership
\$40 Family membership.
\$10 Under age of 25

Yearly membership fees for Chicago Woodturners are due at the beginning of the year. You can join at anytime of the year!

Pay with cash or a checks at the monthly meeting. (Make checks payable to 'Chicago Woodturners')

Application forms are found online! Contact Brenda Miotke for more information.

By email:
bkmiotke@comcast.net

Or by snail mail

Chicago Woodturners
c/o Brenda Miotke
920 North Sumac Lane
Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056



*Join the movers
and shakers of
woodturning in
Chicago!*



34 years of craft, technology and tradition

**Join us for our monthly meetings,
all are welcome!**

In person meetings are on the
2nd Tuesday of each month

MEETING LOCATION

Christian Liberty Academy

502 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL. 60004.
6:00 pm Social Hour, 7:00 pm to 10:00 PM

Free parking, enter South Door
on East Side, 2nd floor

2022 Calendar of Events

CWT Meetings

Jan 11	May 10	Sept 13
Feb 8**	June 14	Oct 11
March 8**	July 29 *	Nov 8
April 12	Aug 9	Dec 13 **

** Zoom

*July 29—Turn On! Chicago

**Dec 13—CWT Holiday Party

Mark your Calendar!

- Apr 22-23** 2022 PenMakers International Symposium
Marriott Northwest, Hoffman Estates, IL
- Apr 28-May 1** Chicago Pen Show
Marriott Northwest, Hoffman Estates, IL
- June 23-26** 2022 AAW Symposium
Chattanooga, TN
- July 29-31** Turn on Chicago!
Northbrook, IL



Visit the Chicago Woodturners at
chicagowoodturners.com



AAW Annual International Woodturning Symposium Chattanooga, Tennessee June 23 - 26, 2022



AAW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and craft of woodturning worldwide through education.

With more than 16,000 members and over 365 local chapters globally, AAW members include amateurs, hobbyists, professionals, gallery owners, collectors, tool and equipment suppliers, and others.

Join the AAW and have access to the largest portfolio of woodturning-related material in the world!

Hone your knowledge and skills using AAW's online learning portals, exclusive print and digital publications, curated educational videos, high-quality safety resources, and more.

Visit the American Association of Woodturners at
woodturner.org