



## **July Newsletter** 2018

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## **President's Curls**

July 2018

Summer is in full swing, and Turn On Chicago will be August 3, 4 and 5. This is the Chicago Woodturners signature event and not to be missed. Only once every two years does an opportunity this good come this close to home. This year's demonstrators include John Beavers, Rudy Lopez, Betty Scarpino, Kip Christensen, John Jordan, Harvey Meyer, Jennifer Shirley, Vince Welch and



Rob Wallace as well as some of our local stars: Jason Clark, Al Miotke, Bob Leonard and Mark Dreyer. These are all excellent demonstrators; no matter what your skill level, you will learn something, besides being entertained. Please see <a href="http://turnonchicago.com/Demonstrators.html">http://turnonchicago.com/Demonstrators.html</a> for further information.

The tradeshow has multiple opportunities to discover that one tool you need to be complete. Choose from Frugal Vacuum Chucks, Advanced Lathe Tools, John Jordan Woodworking, Thompson Lathe Tools, Big Monk Lumber, Exotic Blanks, Vince's Wood-N-Wonders, Woodturning Tool Store and Chefware Kits. If they don't have the tool that's keeping you from greatness, it's going to be a long search.

Betty Scarpino and Kip Christensen will be reviewing the Instant Gallery, so get a piece ready because you couldn't ask for better combination. Saturday night we'll gather for a banquet and auction. This year Rob Wallace has again agreed to call, and with an auctioneer this knowledgeable, it should be entertaining as well as educational. We need you all to attend and bid, since the proceeds from this event fund all the good works Chicago Woodturners does in the intervening two years. All this, an occasional cookie and three meals a day, what more could you ask for? We have some slots still available. Sign up now if you haven't already.

At our last meeting we reversed the order of the Demonstration and the Critique. I thought it went well, but we need some feedback before we try this again.

As discussed, at the September meeting we will have a sale, barter, give-away table. We'll set up a row of tables down the center of the room. Bring in all those extra tools, pieces of wood and miscellaneous goodies. There will be time at the beginning of the meeting and the break for negotiations. We'll try not to cut into Marie's Ornament Demo too much.

The July meeting demonstration is by Dave Bertaud on Wire Inlays, and the Gallery Review is by Roger Basrak. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Andy Kuby, President

# Secretary's Report

## Frank Pagura

JUNE 12, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Brief introduction reminder: This is the first meeting to reverse the Demonstration and the Gallery Review slots. Tonight's demonstrator is Roberto Ferrer. Tonight's gallery reviewer is Tom Boerjan.

Tim Putnam's bowl blanks are at the back free for the taking. Just bring back a finished Beads of Courage or a bowl for Empty Bowls to next month's meeting.

The symposium in Portland held this coming weekend, promises to be a rewarding experience. A contingent of CWT members are scheduled to attend. (See below for the Portland report.)

PORTLAND SYMPOSIUM, One man's view

The AAW Symposium in Portland, Oregon, June 14-17 was attended by a record number of members this year. The Portland Convention Center is an outstanding modern facility well suited for the symposium. It included a large gallery hall and a spacious vendor display hall. All the rotation rooms were conveniently located and easy to reach. The demonstrators included some of the veteran, well known wood artists and a new crop of rising stars in the turning world.

This is a brief description of only two of the rotations I attended. First is Sally Barnett. What attracted me to Sally's demo originally was a picture I saw of her Corvus Nero Collection. Her demo blew me away: simplicity at its best, perfect form, the best expression of texture and use of color I have seen in years. Her artistic and elegant work forces me to reconsider my reluctance to use color in my turnings.

Second, I attended a Ray Wright demo because of a relaxed conversation we had when he was GUIDED to a table used during breaks from demos where I was sitting planning my next move. Ray is completely blind. While we talked I found out he was a demonstrator, intriguing enough, but the description of his demo is what did it. Ray concluded by saying, "I really don't know what you will learn about TURNING by watching me. I do believe you will learn about perseverance, adaptation to life challenges and solving problems though!" With a smile he finished by saying," If you are handed a lemon, it is best to make good lemonade "His demo was inspiring, reassuring and funny all in one. I left that room with a renewed feeling of gratitude for all my blessings and the urgency to tackle more challenging projects in the future.

The goal of the AAW Symposium is to expose members to the best turners and wood artists in the world. This was the case in Portland.

It is my experience, though, that some of the best learning takes place with those relaxed exchanges between turners waiting at breaks between rotations. Where else could you have the opportunity to sit and have a cup of coffee (a cup of tea if it involves Hans Weissflog) with woodturners from Germany, Israel, Australia and Chicago? As they say, this alone is worth the price of admission.

If you are not a member of AAW, consider it and take advantage of the wealth of resources. If you are hesitant, they have a three-month trial special which makes it painless.

#### BACK TO CWT MINUTES

Membership renewals will soon be due for CWT and for AAW. With typical trade membership costing well over \$500 these days, the memberships to CTW and AAW are the well kept secret. Look at it this way: where can you attend a meeting including peer review of your work, a demonstration, tip of the month and the choice of sitting next to the *creme de la creme* of the Chicago turning community? And do this for less than the price of a \$3 hot dog!

Scott and Rich reported about the article, "Chicago Woodturners Fulfill a Student Request," a wonderful recognition of the outreach opportunities many of the CWT members are involved in. Andy forwarded the article to the AAW, where you can read it in the next journal publication.

Andy acknowledged that Colin Crawford had sponsored Brad Crawford to attend TOC, Colin said, "So other students could have the same opportunity he had."

The CWT website was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place nationally by AAW. We're not resting on our laurels, though, we're looking for number one! Members were requested to see Don or Andy for what to include.

Demonstrators and gallery reviewers are needed for upcoming meetings. This is a good opportunity to add your expertise and viewpoint; remember craftsmanship and art do not improve in a vacuum.

The Beads of Courage project was highlighted by Dan Gascoigne newspaper article in the Dixon Daily Gazette, June 12. The article has a good description of Dan's work and the Beads of Courage program. Dan turned a miniature barrel to hold the beads. I was particularly impressed with Dan's signature style: he puts a heartfelt personal message with a hand written note in each barrel.

Empty Bowls is December 1 at Oakton College with a 10 am start. Help should show up at 9:00 to assist with set up. If you plan to attend, go early; by 12:00 last year most of the bowls were gone! Rich and Marie are organizing an Empty Bowls Turning Event, so stay tuned.

Pens for Troops is a fun, fun event taking place August 3, 7:00 to 7:30 during Turn On Chicago!.

Matt Schmitz has demonstrator schedules and will take your registrations: \$30 for the demos and \$125 per day for hands-on classes. Kip Christensen will be doing one- and two-day classes after TOC, on August 6-7.

Jason Breach's demo will be September 22, with hands-on classes scheduled for September 23-25.

Dave Bertaud discussed his emails to the club members announcing sales opportunities and the news, apologizing for the multiple emails.

Tonight's Safety Tip is given by Don McCloskey on Band Saw Safety. See hand out attached.

Andy reported that we are still low on pre-registrations for TOC, about 125 total. Only 49 CWT members are signed up, which means that 100 have not! All new members should be reminded that this experience will make climbing the learning curve more like a stroll in the park! Demonstrators like Kip Christensen, Rudy Lopez, Jennifer Shirley, Rob Wallace, John Jordan, Vince Welch are all excellent teachers with a wealth of experience and remarkable techniques. It's a good show close by with lots of inspiration for one and all.

Auction pieces are being actively solicited by Rich Nye. We have an incredible response from professional turners but need probably 20 or so pieces from members. We have quite a few pieces which are works in progress. There are a lot of pieces that should be selling for \$500 or more.

Posters are still available from Julie Basrak, who is keeping a spreadsheet of locations.

Frank Magnifico is still looking for additional volunteers and is ready to train.

Roger reported, 142 paid members, 65 attending, 2 guests. Raffle took place, no amount reported.

Demonstration by Roberto Ferrer, (tonight the demo precedes the Gallery Review) followed by Tom Boerjan Gallery Review.

Respectfully Frank Pagura, Secretary

# Membership

#### Julie & Roger Basrak

The June meeting of Chicago Woodturners was held on Tuesday, June 12. Sixty-four members (of 142 who have paid dues for this year) were in attendance. We had two guests: Rick Abbott from Arlington Heights and Earl Edelcup from Lincolnshire.

Have you had a chance to attend one of the mentoring sessions before a meeting (from about 6 until about 6:50 p.m.)? All members and guests are invited to attend and participate. Do you think you

might like to lead or assist a mentoring session? Please talk to Don McCloskey, Al Miotke, or Darrell Rader if you're interested. Thanks!

Although you can join (or pay dues) at any time, the dues for Chicago Woodturners cover the calendar year. You may pay dues with cash or a check at any meeting. If you discover you didn't bring a check or don't have enough cash with you, feel free to send a check (\$30 for an individual membership or \$40 for a family membership) made out to Chicago Woodturners. Checks may be mailed to Chicago Woodturners, c/o Julie Basrak, 563 W. Ruhl Rd., Palatine, IL 60074. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

## Raffle Winners

Sol Aufuso

Curly western big leaf maple blank	Rich PipMarer	Cherry Burl Blank	Jim Jackson
Walnut Blank	Don McCloskey	Pen Blanks	Mary Olson
Bottle Toppers Blanks	Mark M'Cleary	Collected \$152	

## Demonstration

Paul Rosen

#### **Machine Carved Wall Hangings**

Roberto Ferrer was our demonstrator for the month of June. I've watched Roberto bring in beautiful turned bowls and platters with gorgeous inlays in the rim. I saw his previous demo where he showed imaginative turned/carved animal and humanoid heads inspired by Derek Weidman. But this evening, he showed us how he makes his intricately designed wall hangings.



I call them "wall hangings" because I'm not really sure what category into which they fit. They *are* done on the lathe. But Roberto's electric bill must be the lowest for any woodturner in the county because he never switches on the electricity! The lathe head is simply an indexing tool, turned manually, and used in conjunction with an ingenious holder that can raise or lower a right-angle grinder, mounted on the lathe bed ways.



To show us how his system works, Roberto started with a rectangular piece of hardwood, about 1-1/2 inches x 7 inches x 15 inches. He likes to use straight-grained hardwoods, like oak, walnut, or honey locust. His first step is to draw diagonal lines connecting opposite corners of the rectangle. The point of intersection for the two lines becomes the center of his workpiece. At that center point, he takes his 2-inch Forstner bit and drills a circular depression, which will hold a custom-made glue block. The glue block is a short cylinder, turned to exactly a 2-inch outside diameter, and threaded on one end so that it can screw onto the threads of his headstock. The unthreaded end is glued into the workpiece with thin cyanoacrylate (CA) glue.

Roberto has a 3-inch Arbortech wheel on his angle grinder. That wheel has three carbide teeth in it, which will carve a groove in the workpiece, about 3/16-inch wide. Roberto had started out holding the grinder by hand, but his fingers got really tired, trying to manipulate the tool. So he built a jig. The jig holds the grinder. But it also lets him lower or raise the height of the jig (y-axis), as well as move deeper or shallower in relation to the workpiece (x-axis). In addition, the jig lets him move the grinder in and out, in relation to the lathe bed (z-axis).





With all that grinding, the carbide tips need to be periodically refreshed. So Roberto has devised a clever holder for the carbide tips that lets him hone the tip of each cutter with a diamond hone on his electric drill.

What makes his system even more innovative is a pair of rosettes he uses in conjunction with the grinder-holding jig. One rosette has six lobes equally spaced on a 6-inch diameter disk that fits over the threads on his headstock. A second rosette has only two lobes, but the concept is similar. The lobes on the rosette contact a pin that sticks out of the left side of his grinder-holding jig. So when he

turns on the grinder, he rotates the headstock wheel manually with his left hand, while exerting pressure toward the headstock with his right hand. This way, the pin follows the lobes on the rosette. You can call it a poor man's Rose engine if you like, but it produces magnificent results.

Roberto has used different cutters in his grinder, other than the Arbortech. He's also used diamond cutters from Harbor Freight with success. You can get them in three grades: coarse, medium, or

fine. Final carvings on his pieces are done with a flat disk. He uses a speed regulator (again from Harbor Freight) to reduce surface RPM and get better edge control.

After finish sanding with the grinder, Roberto does hand sanding to eliminate swirl marks. He'll start with 60-grit sandpaper and go all the way down to 800-grit. He'll even use a speed regulator on his electric drill to do final machine touch-ups.



Finally, Roberto will use Swiss carving tools whose sharpness is maintained by white ceramic sharpening sticks, following manual sanding. Carving can take a day and a half for each piece. He'll also use a torch to burn on a finish. Roberto confessed that he doesn't own a commercial wood burner, but he does have a modified car battery charger (6 amp/10 amp/50 amp) to selectively apply wood burning to his pieces.

To add color, Roberto uses air brushes. He typically uses black ink, silver, or gold metallic paint. And to seal his work, he uses Velvit oil, usually three coats, but sometimes five or six. Some of the rectangles were jet black, dark red, or selectively dyed. He even had some circular pieces, about the size of a small pizza, with intricate flutes as well as carving marks. By the time he's finished, some of his pieces will have up to 30 hours of work in them.





After the demo, I walked up to Roberto and asked him how much he sells his pieces for. His answer surprised me. He said, "I haven't sold any so far." But he did have an invitation to exhibit at a Highland Park Art Show set for June 23-24. Here's hoping he had a warm reception for his works.

Talk about creative. I'm willing to bet there's no one else in the club who produces the kind of work Roberto does. It's individual. It's unique. And, it's well done!

# **Gallery**

#### **Jason Clark**



The two pieces I wanted to highlight this month are not from the normal monthly Instant Gallery; instead they are two pieces that will be auctioned off at Turn-on Chicago in about four weeks.

The first is a small lidded box by Turn-on Chicago demonstrator Jennifer Shirley. Jennifer is known for her small boxes with decorative lids. Sometimes these lids are hammered copper, but more recently she's been experimenting with lids using precious metal clay, like the silver on this small black box.

Graeme Priddle and Melissa Engler are partners in life as well as in woodturning. Graeme's New Zealand influence comes through in almost everything he does, despite moving to North Carolina in the last couple years. This vase evokes the sea, not only with the color but also with the carved rolling waves and with the smaller burned-in breaking waves.

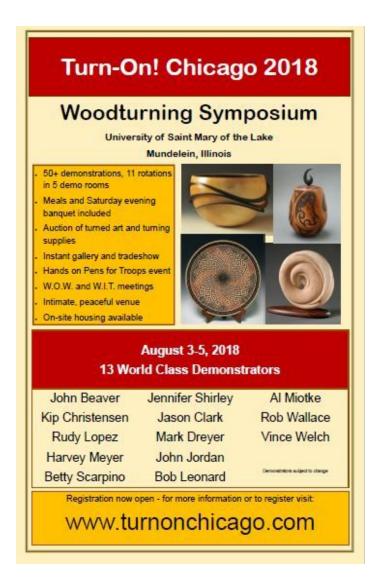
Both pieces will be up for auction with the proceeds going to support CWT educational efforts.



## **CWT News**

## Register Now for Turn-On! Chicago 2018

The Chicago Woodturners are on target to host another five-star symposium. Past symposium attendees and demonstrators have told us this many times. Thanks to everyone who is already volunteering and those who will be helping in August. We can do it only the support of our members.



With only a month to go, many CWT members have not yet registered. If you are not already registered, I hope you are considering attending. This event is a significant opportunity for every woodturner in the Chicago area and it's designed to be both enjoyable and educational for EVERYONE whether you are just getting started or are an experienced turner. Only a handful of clubs in the country have the ability to put on a regional symposium with 12 experienced educators from all around the country. It's an opportunity to see the best without the added expense of traveling. Some of you might not be able to attend all three days due to work or family commitments. Consider registering for two days or one day. I am confident that you will be glad you attended for whatever time you have available. Go to www.turnonchicago.com for information on the event and to register.

## **Bandsaw Safety**

Don McCloskey vividly described how quick and harmful an accident can be if one is not attending to safety when using a bandsaw. Attached to the end of the newsletter is a handout covering safety rules for using a bandsaw. Consider printing these out and posting them near your saw.

#### **Gascoigne Beads of Courage Story**

At the last meeting, Bob Gascoigne mentioned a newspaper article describing his admirable work for Beads of Courage. The story depicts Bob's compassion approach to creating the his Beads of Courage work. You will find the story inspiring.

Attached to the end of the newsletter is a PDF of the article. If you find this hard to read, you can also find the article at the following web address:

http://www.saukvallev.com/lists/2018/06/11/71ef9378a54746e5bea07d2535897c8b/index.xml?page=1

#### **DuPage Woodworkers Annual Auction**

The DuPage Woodworkers Auction is coming July 28 and Chicago Woodturners members are invited to participate. The idea is to take stock of what you have collecting dust and polish it up for sale to generate cash to buy something new. If you have items to offer at the auction, please send a brief description to Jerry Johnson: jlj1625@aol.com.

The annual action will be held on Saturday, July 28, at St. James the Apostle Church, 480 S. Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn starting at 9 am with registration beginning at 8 a.m. Rules:

- -Items must be of a woodworking nature.
- -No side sales will be allowed. Items brought to the sale will be auctioned.
- -All items are guaranteed by the seller to be in working order unless specified, "as is."
- -Sellers have the right to bid on their items to protect the selling price.
- -No large quantities of lumber. (Stock must be reduced in size so one person can carry it.)
- -Cash is the method of payment.
- -A 10% selling fee will be charged on items sold for non-members (rounded to the nearest dollar.)
- -Once an item is sold, the buyer is responsible for that item.
- -All buyers and sellers must register and have a buyer's number to participate.
- -If a seller must leave before the auction ends, the club will issue a check later for the seller's proceeds.
- -At the end of the auction it is the responsibility of each seller to remove all of his or her unsold items.
- -This is meant to be a fun event. Common sense will prevail.

## **AAW News**

Are you a segmenter who wants to learn new techniques? Are you new to segmenting and interested in learning the basics from some of the best? Do you want to see one of the largest and most amazing Instant Galleries of segmented work ever assembled? It's all happening this fall when the Segmented Woodturners, an international on-line chapter of the AAW, will be hosting the **6th Segmented Woodturning Symposium** from October 11–14 at



As the Wood Turns

the Marriott St. Louis West Hotel, featuring 45 demonstrators, including CWT's own Al Miotke. Registration is at <a href="https://www.segmentedwoodturning.org">www.segmentedwoodturning.org</a>. (See at right segmented vase by Scott Holman.)

After being inspired by Turn-on Chicago, you might want to journey to Texas for the Southwest Association of Turners Symposium. Each year, the SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT) holds one of the largest woodturning symposiums in the world. In 2016, more than 800 attendees enjoyed this outstanding event in Waco, Texas. SWAT is an all-volunteer organization, which allows the price to remain affordably low. The symposium features nationally and internationally recognized turners, as well as outstanding regional turners selected from participating clubs and across the country. The 2018 Symposium will again be held at the Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas. The SWAT Symposium will offer something for every level of Woodturner. For more information, see <a href="http://swaturners.org/">http://swaturners.org/</a>

## For Sale, Trade, or Wanted

## **Shop Light**

Magnetic Lathe Lights. A limited number of Magnetic Lathe Lights, similar to the ones on all of the Chicago Woodturners demonstration lathes, are available for \$40 each. Contact Andrew Kuby, 847-922-8201 or <a href="mailto:riverwoodsturner@gmail.com">riverwoodsturner@gmail.com</a>.

#### **MSA Respirator**

Used once, multipurpose, MSA respirator (Mine Safety Appliance) full face dual cartridge respirator. Model # 10041139.

On Amazon for \$120~238, available here for \$60.





Contact Peter D'Attomo zorro4122@yahoo.com, 630-819-0084

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Meeting Agendas					
Date	Gallery Review	Demonstration			
July 10	Roger Basruk	Don Bertaud - Wire Inlay			
August 14	Clint Stevens	TBD - Chainsaw Sharpening			
September 11	Darrell Rader	Marie Anderson - Ornaments			
October 9	Paul Pyrcik	Don McCloskey - Open Segmenting			
November 13	TBD	TBD - Embellishments & Tricks			

Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2018					
President	Andy Kuby	847-922-8201	riverwoodsturner@gmail.com		
Vice President	Don McCloskey	847-420-6978	mccloskey@ameritech.net		
Secretary & Safety	Frank Pagura	847-524-0231	fpagura@att.net		
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Gallery Review	Jason Clark	480-668-9291	jclark58@gmail.com		
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Librarian	Robert Schultz	815-245-7495	grislakers@att.net		
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Raffle	Sol Anfuso	847-963-1994	solanfuso@comcast.net		
Tools & Equipment	Don McCloskey	847-420-6978	mccloskey@ameritech.net		
Audio-Video Co-Chair	Jerry Kuffel	847-895-1614	tokuffe@gmail.com		
Audio-Video Co-Chair	Dawn Herndon-Charles	630-588-8431	dcharlesster@gmail.com		
Education	Darrell Rader	815-648-2197	d.rader@woodfineart.com		
Demonstrations	Rich Nye	630-406-1855	nyewoodturning@earthlink.net		



#### **About us**

Membership in the Chicago Woodturners Association is open to anyone wishing to increase their turning skills through education, discussion and critique. Annual dues are \$30 for a single membership and \$40 for a family. Visit our website for an application or contact: Julie Basrak, Membership Chairman.

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

Chicago Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Visit the website for more information.



# Band Saw Safety Rules

The Band Saw has a thin vertical blade that allows cutting curves, resawing, and large depth cuts on thick material. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the KCWG Band Saw. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

#### **Band Saw Safety Rules from Mark Adams:**

- 1. Follow the 3" rule from the blade; always keep fingers 3" from the blade.
- 2. Check the blade tension and tracking before starting.
- 3. Don't cut stock that is not flat on the bottom without a jig.
- 4. Keep a balanced stance at the band saw.
- 5. Never clear small pieces while the blade is moving.
- 6. Never use your thumbs to push toward the blade.
- 7. Never back out of a curve cut while the machine is running.

## Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

- 1. A two foot perimeter around the saw should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.
- Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield must be worn. Hearing protection should be worn.
- 3. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and tie back long hair.
- 4. Give the work your undivided attention.

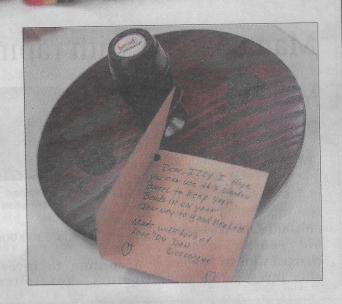
#### **Operational Safety Rules:**

- 1. Approach your work in the KCWG Shop and on the band saw with a safe attitude!
- 2. The teeth of the band saw blade should point down toward the table.
- 3. The blade should be 1/32" from the rear roller bearing behind the blade.

- 4. The blade alignment tracking should be at the center of the wheels.
- 5. Make sure that the upper and lower wheel guard doors are closed when running.
- 6. Keep the blade guard & guide only 1/4" above your stock.
- 7. Keep bystanders away from the right hand area of the saw. Broken blades have a tendency to fly out to the right.
- 8. Always keep your fingers and hands away from the path of the blade.
- 9. To control the stock, use push sticks, feather boards, or any other safety device when cutting small or short stock.
- 10. Use a "V" block when cutting cylindrical stock.
- 11. Cut at a moderate feed rate into the blade. Do not force a cut.
- 12. Cut relief cuts prior to cutting long or tight curves. The relief cuts will free the blade of the tension of the tight curve and the wood will fall away. The blade size will dictate the radius of the cut.
- 13. If you need to back out of a cut, shut the machine off, after blade stops, and then back out.
- 14. If a blade breaks, shut the machine off and stand clear until everything stops.
- 15. If the work is too large for one person to handle, get help holding the stock.
- 16. When cutting with the table at an angle, clamp a block to the table to prevent your stock from slipping off the table.
- 17. Always disconnect the power before changing the blade or performing any other maintenance operation.
- 18. Turn off the band saw and wait until comes to a complete stop. Never stick an object into the blade to stop the machine quicker. Let it stop on its own.

# They're on a Toll

... and they're helping cancer patients



A Dixon man is rolling out the barrels and a pedaler with Petunia City roots is rolling across the U.S. and they're both helping people on one of life's most difficult journeys





Alex T. Paschal/apaschal@saukvalley.com

ABOVE: Dan Gascoigne of Dixon talks about the process in which he builds wooden barrels for the Beads of Courage campaign. The campaign gives colored beads to children as they battle cancer. Each bead represents a milestone in their fight. AT TOP: Gascoigne writes a note that is included which each of this barrel boxes, his signature style.

## SUMMONING UP SOME COURAGE

BY GAVIN T. JENSEN gjensen@saukvalley.com 815-625-3600, ext. 5523 @GavinTJensen

DIXON - The smell of smoke filled Dan Gascoigne's garage as he stippled the side of a small barrel with his wood burner.

"This is the first time a box is going to someone

that I know," Gascoigne said.

At the request of a family friend, the 67-year-old retired carpenter was making another barrel for Beads of Courage, a nonprofit support program

for children being treated for cancer.

The program lets children choose a bright-colored bead every time they are treated, or hit a treatment milestone.

COURAGE CONTINUED ON A5

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Each color is significant – white for a round of chemotherapy, yellow for an admission to the hospital, silver for a blood draw, brown for hair loss, even glow in the dark for radiation treatment. A child can accumulate hundreds, even thousands, before treatment is over.

And they need a special place to keep

those keepsakes.

That's where Gascoigne and his hand-

made barrels comes in.

Izzy Doyle, now 2, was diagnosed with leukemia at 15 months. She has accumulated her fair share of beads while undergoing treatment at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chica-

Learn more online

According to its website, "Beads of Courage helps more than 60,000 children in eight countries record, tell and own their stories, using colorful beads as meaningful symbols of courage and hope along their treatment journey."

Find it on Face-book or go to beadsofcourage. org for more information on the program, or to donate or buy products that support the program.

go, where Gascoigne sends his barrels.

Izzy's barrel is made of red oak, hand-turned on a wood lathe, dyed a leathery shade of brown and sealed with lacquer. The inside is waxed to seal in the odor from the finishing methods, the outside is decorated with handburned bands and hearts.

Four years ago, the Chicago Woodturners Club was looking for volunteers to make the barrels, and

Gascoigne jumped at the opportunity.

His first barrels were small, and meant for two patients. When he was asked to build more, he discovered that one patient had to use two because of the sheer amount of beads she had accumulated.

"So I made them bigger," Gascoigne said.

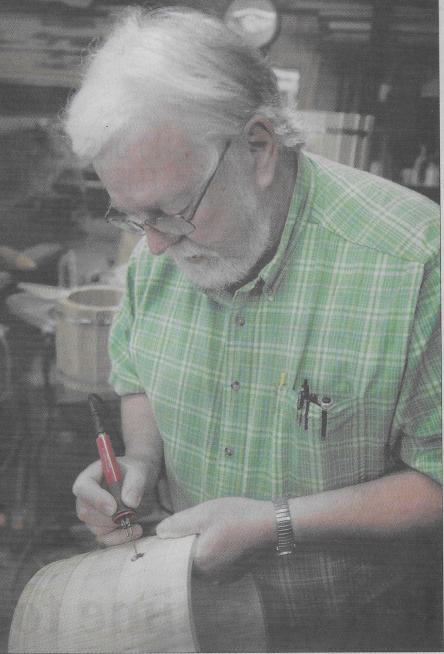
Monday, he had a dozen barrels-in-progress lying around his garage, all in different stages. It takes a couple hours to complete one, he said.

Inside each barrel is a list explaining what Beads of Courage are, and what each means. Gascoigne's finishing touch is a hand-written note to each child who will get his barrel.

"It's my signature style."

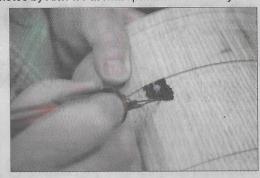
When the Woodturners Club calls for more barrels, he'll head right back to the garage and start the process all over again.

"I do it because the kids need it."



Photos by Alex T. Paschal/apaschal@saukvalley.com

**ABOVE & RIGHT:** Using a wood burner with a ball tip, Gascoigne stipples bands into the barrel. He also uses this technique to add patterns to the lids.





LEFT: Gascoigne uses a bird's-mouth bit to angle off a bit of wood from each stave before joining them in a concentric pattern. He then glues and clamps them together before the barrel goes to the lathe to be smoothed out.

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