

# As the Wood Turns

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CHICAGO WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION



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

**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

## July Newsletter 2019

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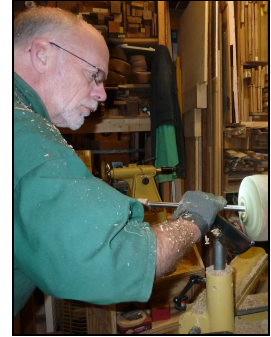
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# President's Curls

July 2019

The Fourth of July and our nation is 243 years old. Congratulations and thank you to all who made this possible by hard work, sacrifice and commitment through the past 250 plus years. Pause a minute during the BBQ and fireworks to give some thought to the blessings we have and what it takes to keep them going.



It's mid-year and at last it's beginning to feel like summer. Not consistently dry enough to turn outside but at least now we can keep the shop doors open. I haven't been able to get the chainsaw to the piece of ash sitting on my sawbuck, but I doubt it has dried out much!

Max Brosi will be here for an all-day demonstration July 20, and hands-on classes July 21-23. Another of our not-to-missed demonstrators brought to us through the hard work of Richard Nye. Don't miss this one.

During the last month, I got a chance to take a class in segmenting from our own Al Miotke. I had not considered this technique as part of my tool kit, but after working with Al for a couple of days I now see the possibilities, and how far I'd have to go to get any good at it.

AAW Symposium this month!

Be sharp, be safe



*Andy Kuby, President*

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# Secretary's Report

**Frank Pagura**

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Andy got the meeting started at 7:00.

Tonight's Gallery Reviewer is Roberto Ferrer.

Threading is tonight's Demo, and it will be given by Dave Bertaud and Andy Kuby.

We have new postcards to use at events, which are on the back table. Carry some of these with you, and hand them out whenever you have a chance.

## AAW News

Check out the Newsletter for information on six months free AAW membership for those who have not been members in the past.

Raleigh Symposium Lanyards were handed out to members registered to attend. These one-of-a-kind wood pendants were custom made by the tag team of Andy Kuby and Scott Barrett.

AAW is requesting volunteers for the Youth Program and Instant Gallery. See Sign Up Genius in the Volunteer section of the AAW Website.

## CWT Guest Demonstrators

Andy reported that the Saturday, June 1, Priddle and Angle Demo was well attended and the hands-on classes were almost full.

A discussion regarding member feelings about guest demo schedule took place.

We have 5 guest demonstrators on the schedule this year, and it appears it may be too many. The possible solution may be to go back to the past 4-guest demonstrator schedule and add a mentoring bowl class as a replacement.

The Education Committee will consider this and come up with a resolution.

An interesting slide show was shown featuring Max Brosi doing Multiple Axis turning, since he will be our next demonstrator on June 20-23.

Jacques Vesery, Form and Embellishment, will be September 7-10.

## Turn On Chicago

Al had no new announcements. He only confirmed that all six featured demonstrators are all locked in: DAVID ELSWORTH, MICHAEL HOSALUK, CYNTHIA GIBSON, CHRIS RAMSEY, AVELINO SAMUEL and ERIC LOFSTROM

## Education Committee Report

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July 2019

Rich Hal-Reppen reported that during the June 5 committee meeting, WIT Grants were discussed and changes were made.

Future grants will favor outreach programs, supporting activities such as the art center events and senior center workshops, which have proven successful in the past.

Rich also requested new member volunteers for the Educational Committee to make sure more membership opinions are included in the planning.

Darrell Rader was recognized for the many years of contributions to the committee, because he will retire and move to sunny environs in North Carolina shortly.

#### Upcoming Events

Andy announced that Peter D' Attomo was awarded a certificate of free registration to the Ohio Valley Symposium, October 18-20.

Illinois State Fair, Fox Valley Competition entries close July 15. See Andy for entrance forms details. The Fair runs from August 8 to 18.

#### WIT

Women in Turning is offering a special \$150 sign up for the September event at Arrowmont School of the Arts. The club is picking up the difference in the classes fee. See Marie if you are interested.

#### Community Outreach

Empty Bowls: Don McCloskey is taking in bowl donations for the December 7 event.

Beads of Courage new drop-off location is being negotiated. Keep bringing in containers.

Pen for Troops is ongoing. Mark Dreyer brought in 150 pens donated by Midwest Pen Turners Gathering.

#### Member News

Marcia Jundanian has taken on the responsibility for the library. Welcome her and help as much as you can.

Tool sales, screen frame, large projection screen, speaker and Halo lighting fixtures are for sale. These will be posted on the website soon.

Roberto Ferrer needs someone with a large band saw to cut a slab.

#### Safety

The final report on the danger of dust particles was presented, and a handout was distributed.

#### Membership Report

Stan recognized two guests and announced three new members: Keith Rose, Boris Prgocrazhsky and Richard Ibers

See details in membership report in the newsletter

Raffle

See winners and details in Sol Anfusio Raffle Report.

Gallery Review By Roberto

Check out Jason Clark Report for pictures and details.

Demo on Threading, by Dave and Andy.

Check out details in Paul Rosen's Demo Report.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pagura, Secretary

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# Membership Brenda Miotke & Stan Herman

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As of the June meeting, CWT had 143 paid members. 73 were present at the meeting.

New members:

- Kenneth Rose and Boris Prgocazkaskiy - Des Plaines
- Richard Stiers - Crystal Lake
- Donna Warren - Fox River Grove

Guests:

- Jeff Heller - Antioch
- Steve Hertzelt - Arlington Heights

Raffle Winners:

- CD of Turn on Chicago: #106-Clay Krazwiz
- \$10 Certificate @Woodcraft #084-Bob Youngmen
- \$10 Certificate @ Woodcraft #097-Bob Dewitt
- \$10 Certificate @ Woodcraft #082-Julie Basarak
- \$10 Certificate @ Woodcraft #064-Marty Knapp

Although you can join (or pay dues) at any time, dues for Chicago Woodturners cover the calendar year. You may pay dues with cash or a check at any meeting: \$30 for an individual membership or \$40 for a family membership made out to Chicago Woodturners. Thanks!

We look forward to seeing you at the July meeting.

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# Demonstration

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Paul Rosen

## Making Threads in Wood

For the June demo, CWT President Andy Kuby and VP Dave Bertaud combined their talents to show us different ways to make threads in wood.

Perhaps the earliest attempts were to turn a cylinder of constant diameter, manually draw the threads, and then use a chisel and file to carve out the threads. Tedious. And while you could make male threads, how would you go about making matching female threads?



“Thread chasing” is the answer. Two special threading tools are used, one for the male threads, and one for the female threads. You need to set the lathe at a low rpm (200 rpm or below), and you need to develop a technique. You cut the male threads on a constant diameter cylinder, held in a scroll chuck. And you do it in a rhythmic motion where the tool tip moves in an oval, repeatedly engaging and disengaging the spinning cylinder. The cuts get slightly deeper with each pass. A similar technique is employed in cutting the female threads, using the female threading tool, plus a third positioning tool that hangs over the tool rest. Perhaps one of the best teachers/practitioners of this art was the late Alan Batty. You can still view his tutorial video on youtube. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0iEd0kD0S4>

The video runs slightly over one hour. It’s a little long, but it is thorough. The problem with manual thread chasing is the learning curve. It takes a while to get good at it. And there is the pitfall of “drunken” threads, i.e., deviations from a perfect spiral caused by tool presentation at a less-than-constant rate. Drunken threads will not mate properly.



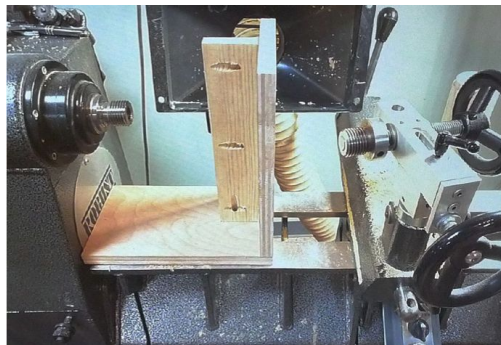
A second approach to threading is to use a tap and die set. As the name implies, there are two pieces: one for male threads, and one for female threads. These typically come in 1/2-inch, 3/4-inch, 1-inch, 1.25-inch, and 1.5 inch kits, available on Amazon for less than \$70.00 per kit. I can speak from personal experience; these are fun to use and yield good results, even for a novice. For a more mechanized version, the Beall Tool Company makes a



threading machine that helps to automate threading on a wooden cylinder. Beall uses a 1/4-inch diameter 60-degree pointed router bit that sits in a small router, attached to a special frame. You thread the dowel manually into a female die that guides the dowel cylinder under the spinning router bit. Once the thread gets started and the router bit is adjusted to the proper depth, you can easily turn out good threaded rods in quantity.



So what can you make? Andy showed us some threaded acorn boxes, about the size of a quarter, as well as a six-sided threaded nut, bolt, and washer he made out of walnut. Really nice work. You can also make threads on the end of broom handles, not to mention threads for wooden clamps. And piano stools with a large, central threaded wood dowel were once popular because the seat height could be adjusted infinitely, to fit both adults and young students. Large diameter threads have also been used on woodworking vises (if you're American, or "vices" if you're British). Woodcraft currently offers such a vise, with a 45mm (1-3/4-inch) diameter screw mechanism made of birch, made by Sjobergs, for only \$115.00. Go to [www.lakeerietoolworks.com](http://www.lakeerietoolworks.com) if you want to purchase even more robust versions of a wooden screw vise, at three times the price. But threaded boxes seem to capture the imagination of many woodturners. As an alternative to the more common "friction fit," a threaded box raises the level of difficulty, as well as the "awe" factor, in an already challenging project.



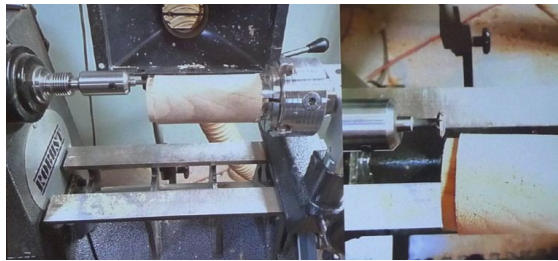
Dave Bertaud showed us the EZ Threading COMBO Jig with Sphere Cutter Add-On, available from [www.chefwarekits.com](http://www.chefwarekits.com). Made in Merrimack, NH, the Model 509 thread-cutting jig starts at around \$300.00, but if you want the sphere cutting attachment as an add-on, it will cost you an extra \$100.00 or so. The jig itself comes with a 1-inch

diameter shaft that fits into your tool rest. Setup is critical, as the jig must be precisely parallel to the bed ways, and perpendicular at its end. You mount your scroll chuck on the jig, which is available to cut either 10 tpi or 16 tpi threads. The actual cutter looks like a router bit with a series of 60-degree teeth at its edge; it mounts into an adaptor that fits snugly in the headstock No. 2 Morse taper. Mount the top of your box into the scroll chuck. The jig allows you to move the scroll chuck in and out, in relation to the cutter,

which rotates at 2500 rpm. Slowly rotate the chuck, and the jig will move the box top slowly toward the headstock, as cuts are made. Male cuts are made to a depth of 0.065-inch, but not all at once. Dave likes to make threads incrementally, with 3 to 5 passes, with a final light pass, just to clean up the edges. Once the male threads are completed, use a caliper to measure the distance between the “valleys” on the threads. That measurement will be used for starting the female threads. For a 7-minute tutorial YouTube video, visit this link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzZS4yJIMtE>



Dave says one advantage of the Chefware system is that it lets you rotate the jig out by about 45-degrees, so you can check the fit on your threads once the male and female threads have been cut.



Andy showed us the Baxter Thread Master Jig, designed by the late engineer/auctioneer, Willard Baxter. I was at the 25<sup>th</sup> AAW Symposium in St. Paul, Minn., watching a demo by the French turner, Jean Francois Escoulen. As Escoulen finished his piece, a booming baritone from the back of the room startled the audience with the declaration, “Let’s have an auction.” Willard never needed a microphone, and his auctioneer patter was all but unintelligible, except for “...fifty dollars, fifty dollars, can I hear sixty dollars, 60 dollars...etc. But I digress. The legacy of Willard lives on in his Threading Jig, which now goes for around twice what Andy paid for his, at about \$700.00. A version of Baxter’s jig is available for just about any lathe ever made. You can review the available options at this link:





<https://bestwoodtools.stores.yahoo.net/bathma.html>

The jig is available in 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 or 20 tpi. And it is also available to fit the common headstock sizes: 1-inch x 8 tpi, 1.25-inch x 8 tpi, as well as metric sizes like those from Oneway or European lathes. Andy likes to use cherry and walnut for his threading projects. You would think something like oak would be a good choice for threading, but its open grain makes it very difficult to thread, per Andy. The message here is clear: check out which wood species are recommended before threading. Andy says the Baxter jig can be used on pieces up to 5 inches in diameter. But due to wood movement, which will cause threads to bind, you're better off doing smaller diameter pieces. In Andy's experience, he'll use the Baxter jig for threading end grain, but hand chasing for threading cross-grained woods. And like Dave, Andy doesn't try to make the 0.065-inch threads in one go; he usually increases the depth of cut in consecutive 0.010-inch increments until he achieves the desired depth of cut.

What about applying CA glue or Mahoney's Oil to the completed threads? Andy chooses to use neither. He might apply wax to lubricate his completed threads, but that's about it. And Andy pointed out a dilemma that occurs with threading. Sometimes, the wood grain at the outside of a threaded box doesn't match after initial threading. So you may need to grind back the "shelf" multiple times to make the top and bottom grain match on a turned box. And I recall from Carole Floate one nugget on the subject of how many threads should be used on a lidded container: "The box should close with three to three-and-a-half turns." So don't get carried away. True, you could make more threads, but nobody really wants to kill 15 seconds trying to open a threaded lid.

For what it's worth, you might also be able to pick up second-hand threading jigs in places like EBay. For example, Bonnie Klein marketed a popular threading jig for years, but she has gone out of that business. As I recall, her jig was compatible with Jet mini-lathes.

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## Gallery

**Jason Clark**

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This month we feature two pieces that are very different, both in scale and in execution, but they have one thing in common: they're both memorial pieces. Donna Warren's oak necklace is her first ever turning and was made in remembrance of a loved one lost.



Vic Primack's large cedar chalice was also made in the memory of a relative that has passed with the monogram of the individual burned onto the surface. Thank you, Donna and Vic, for allowing us the privilege of helping you honor those that have passed.

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## CWT News

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### Calling all Women In Turning! By Marie Anderson

Registration for the 2019 WIT eXchange is now open and filling up quickly. If you have not yet registered for the WIT eXchange at Arrowmont this coming September 5-7, get to your computer and sign up today! This event is specifically for the ladies of CWT. It is three days of intensive FUN, FUN, FUN! You will get pushed to your creative limit, learn from some of the most innovative women in the world, forge new friendships, strengthen your skills, possibly meet a bear, definitely ache from laughing too much and get to work in the newly remodeled wood studio at Arrowmont. This is a low pressure, inclusive environment that stresses relationship building along with skill building. You will come away from this experience wanting more of it all!

If you are on the fence about attending, please take a few minutes to chat with Julie Schmidt, Dawn Herndon-Charles or Marie Anderson. We all attended the eXchange last year and will be attending again in September.

### Chicago Woodturners 2019 Demonstrators

**Max Brosi, July 20-23, [www.facebook.com/maxbrosiwoodturning](https://www.facebook.com/maxbrosiwoodturning)**

Max Brosi's work is in a constant state of evolution towards a more raw, honest, and calm aesthetic. Everything is in a state of transience, wood warps, metal corrodes. The result of

these natural processes is a heightened aesthetic character in the material. The static becomes dynamic, the perfect becomes imperfect.



Many years of working with wood have taught Brosi to design movement into his work by utilizing the natural tendency of wet oak to warp as it dries. Sandblasting reveals the hidden three-dimensional texture of the grain and rays. He uses simple geometric forms like cylinders and spheres,



frequently turned over several axes on the lathe, to explore a visual concept and tell a story. This story can be a social or political commentary, or just a simple exploration of form. The distortion and texture of the warped wood breathe life into the starkness of geometric form and soften the brutality of cold, rusty steel. This tension between materials excites Max.

←Freedom of Speech



↑Tetrahedrone

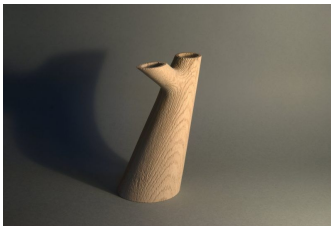


↑The Machines

Split ↓



←Profile



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**Jacques Vesery, September 7-10, [www.jacquesvesery.com](http://www.jacquesvesery.com)**

Jacques Vesery is an Artist/Sculptor from Damariscotta and has lived in Maine for 20 years. Striving to create an illusion of reality, his vision and inspiration begin with repetitive patterns derived from the “golden mean” or “divine proportions”, The marriage of pattern, form and proportion conveys a sense of growth from within each piece.



His work is in numerous public and private collections including the Detroit Institute of Art, the Contemporary Art Museum of Honolulu, Yale University Art Gallery and The Carnegie Museum. He is a Maine Arts Commission Fellow for 2000 and winner of Sculptural Pursuit Third Annual Sculpture Competition in 2006.

Jacques has lectured on design and concepts within his work in France, Italy, England, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and 28 U.S. states.

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## Calendar of Events 2019-20

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July 11-14 - AAW 33rd Annual International Woodturning Symposium, Raleigh, NC

July 20 - Featured Demonstrator, Max Brosi, all-day demo

July 21 and 22-23 - Featured Demonstrator, Max Brosi, hands-on classes

September 4-6 - AAW's Women in Turning (WIT) eXchange, hands-on event, Arrowmont.

September 7 - Featured Demonstrator, Jacques Vesery, all-day demo

September 8 and 9-10 - Featured Demonstrator, Jacques Vesery, hands-on classes

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September 20-22 - Turning Southern Style Symposium, Dalton, GA

October 17-20 - OVWG Turning 2019 Symposium, West Harrison, IN

November 1-3 - SOFA Chicago, Navy Pier, CWT hosts woodturning demonstration area

December 7 - Empty Bowls Event, CWT participates in Oakton Community College Ceramic Department's fundraising event

January 1, 2020 - Turn On! Chicago 2020 registration opens

June 4-7, 2020 - AAW 34th Annual International Symposium, Louisville, KY

July 23-25, 2020 - Turn On! Chicago 2020 - Pheasant Run, St.Charles, IL (New Location)

*Submitted by Marie Anderson*

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## For Sale, Trade, or Wanted

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

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<b>Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2019</b>			
President	Andy Kuby	847-922-8201	riverwoodsturner@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Matthew Schmitz	847-439-6023	angelhaus@comcast.net
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Librarian	Robert Schultz	815-245-7495	grislanders@att.net
Webmaster	Scott Barrett	847-420-5155	dr@bdental.net
Raffle	Sol Anfuso	847-963-1994	solanfuso@comcast.net
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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 all wishing to increase their turning skills through education, discussion and critique. Dues are \$30 for a single membership and \$40 for a family. Visit our website for an application.

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.

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