



# As the Wood Turns

*The monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners*



"Celebrating our 21st year as a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners"

## August Highlights:

- Mark Sfirri Demo & Classes
- Dave Reilly August Demo
- Turn-On! Chicago notes, page 2
- Roy Lindley July Demo, page 3
- Moulthrop exhibition at Racine Art Museum, page 4

## Next Meeting:

**August 12, 2008  
7:00PM**

**Woodcraft Supply  
1280 E. Dundee Rd.  
Palatine, IL  
847-776-1184**

## Regular Features:

- Members' Gallery, page 5
- Upcoming Events, page 6
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## Mark Sfirri Demonstration on September 13

**Paul Shotola**



Can you do this? Can you even think of this? Me neither. But Mark Sfirri can, and he can teach all of us how to produce works like this, but more importantly, he will teach us how to think a little off-center.

Mark's turnings push the boundaries of spindle turning, utilizing multi-axis techniques to create unique, creative works of art. Don't know what "multi-axis" means? That's ok, Mark will make everything clear on September 13.

Mark Sfirri is an accomplished

teacher. In fact, his day job is head of the Fine Woodworking program at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA. Mark's work is in some of the finest collections of art and sculpture, including the Mint Museum, the Mason collection, and of course, the Louisville Slugger Factory and Museum.

That is an impressive resume in itself, but Mark is also featured in the AAW publication "Turning Twenty - Still Evolving," recognizing turners who have made a place for themselves over the past twenty years of woodturning in the art world.

Mark's demo day may include useful turnings such as a pad-foot table leg, but knowing Mark's sense of humor, most of his production will be in useless but thought-provoking turnings



such as an off-center lady figure, a rolling pin that your Mother-in-law may laugh at, and baseball bats that were rejected from the bat factory.

Join us on



September 13 for a playful, but informative look at wood turning, suitable for turners of all levels and experience.

Admission to this all-day demonstration is \$30.00. Doors open at 9:00 am at Woodcraft Supply in Palatine. This is a special event certain to make you think (and turn) a little off-center.

### Sfirri Hands-On Class

**As of this writing, there are still two openings for Mark's class**

Mark Sfirri will host a two-day session, with six students. Day One of the class will be on Friday, 9/12/08, and Day Two will be on Sunday, 9/14/08, flanking the Saturday demonstration on the 13th.

Tuition is \$220.00, and registration is now open. Contact Jan Shotola at 847-412-9781

or [jshotola@yahoo.com](mailto:jshotola@yahoo.com) to reserve your spot in this fascinating class.

## Dave Reilly to demonstrate carving techniques

**August CWT Meeting**

Dave Reilly has been teaching woodcarving for more than 20 years. As a demonstrator at Turn-On! Chicago 2008, Dave showed many of us how to add carving elements to our turnings. A full rotation schedule prevented many of us from attending Dave's demonstration, but he has consented to

review and expand upon his TOC demo at our August 12 meeting.

Reilly teaches carving at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, and at our local Woodcraft stores. Carving adds the next level of interest to your turnings, and Dave will help you get started.



*Turned and carved by Dave Reilly*

## Recapturing the Moment—Turn-On! Chicago 2008 Marie Anderson

The planning is done; the set-up is in progress. We're here and it's really going to happen! We have finally made it! I was ecstatic and scared to death. You know that feeling you get when you drive really fast over a small hump in the road, then hit the dip immediately following it when your stomach drops out...(as a kid we called them "Hazels"), yup, you got it... THAT was the feeling and it just kept coming all weekend long.

Will the vendors all get here? Will the attendees like the demonstrators, the topics, the venue, the t-shirts, the food? Anything?! *What have we forgotten?* How will the auction do? Do we have enough help? *As I hyperventilate...* Will any of these volunteers **EVER** speak to me again? *What have we forgotten?* **ARE WE CRAZY?** Phew, what a roller coaster ride!

So it went. Registration area, Instant Gallery, Auction, Demo Rooms, Equipment, Sound, Cameras, and Vendors, all being set up, all done by volunteers, all sharing one common goal, all working together. It was an incredible thing to be a part of.

Then, an amazing thing happened...our first non-member attendee came through the door and wanted to know where he could get lunch...*(Lunch? It was Thursday and we had not planned for lunch... or dinner for that matter...because it was Thursday...THURSDAY...TOC hadn't started yet...well, mostly not yet. Oh dear Lord, why didn't we plan for that? I thought...)* but with a smile I said, "sure there are several fast food places in town just a short drive, in a very pleasant area, enjoy exploring today because you are going to be much too busy to explore tomorrow so now's your chance!" *(Ya, that works...phew...)* He happily went on his way.

Did you know you can set up a 1642 Jet lathe in only 14 minutes? It's true, Jon Keith timed us. Five times, in five classrooms. I was breathing a little easier... that's when I was reminded that I had to go pick up one of the demonstrators,... and, actually should have left ½ hour before...oh SHOOT! So, I leave and 5 minutes later got the call that surprise!, "my flight got in early...where are you?" *Oh boy, here comes the Hazel again...* So, I'm on my way and thank goodness the traffic was all going in the opposite direction so I made record time. Just about the time he got his bags, I was there... Then the next phone call...hey Marie, I can't do the first rotation, can we switch demos? *(OK, there goes my blood pressure...)* sure, no problem... and thankfully, it wasn't. Wow I thought, we really do have this under control...or at least we are faking it well at this point...tomorrow will tell...

Friday dawned VERY early for all of the volunteers. Jan Shotola's team had to finish setting up the registration area. Vendors needed to be into the trade show area by 11:00 am when we expected the first of our attendees to show up. In short, everything was on schedule and under control...that is until one of the vendors' specially made carts didn't fit through the 36" wide door. On to plan B...Thanks to a lot of very willing volunteers, that little problem was solved. Everyone was doing their jobs, very

efficiently. Quietly and in the background, Phil Brooks had made sure we planned for every contingency, and we knew what had to be done and the right people were in place to keep it running smoothly. *(Thank-you to all our wonderful volunteers!)*

By the time the Friday "early arrivals" had begun to trickle in, Jan's team was ready to greet them. Carole Floate's team at the Instant Gallery was ready and waiting. Thankfully, someone had the sense to put a sign up in the conference center building to keep the attendees out of the flow of vendor traffic into the trade show area. Our volunteers showed up and jumped into their respective jobs with gusto. Soon, the attendees were arriving in droves. The registration went like clockwork, T-shirts and raffle tickets were being sold.

At 12:30, Paul Shotola donned his "MC" hat and welcomed everyone to the very first Turn On! Chicago symposium. It was a *moment*, let me tell you! He introduced our demonstrators, announced the schedule changes and sent them all on their way to start their weekend of woodturning fun. The entire team held our collective breath...*"Hazels" were coming at an accelerating pace...* we would soon know how everyone else thinks we did... *OK, what's next, what else needs to be done, what have we forgotten? ...*

Before the first rotation even started, we were getting comments from the attendees...nice venue, great line up of demonstrators, registration was very smooth...by the time the second rotation ended and everyone headed to the dining hall, the comments included great food, nice rooms, beautiful venue, great weather, nice people, *(now the Hazels were feeling great!)*. The "meet and greet" social was a huge success. People really enjoyed the "family atmosphere" that was becoming apparent. They were taking the time to get to know the other attendees, the demonstrators and re-connect with old friends. Our entertainment for the evening was pianist Vivian Morrison who played smooth and sweetly through the evening while we socialized.

By this time, any attending member of our club could tell you that we were all on Cloud Nine. The sense of pride in what we had accomplished reached beyond just the committee heads, it included all the volunteers, and club members from both CWT and Windy City Woodturners. The demonstrators, the employees from USML, the attendees, the volunteers, the trade show vendors...everyone had something positive to say. It was quite a rush...

Saturday again came early. The breakfast crowd was a bit disappointed with the delayed start of breakfast, but that was a minor blip. There were people walking out with packages from the trade show. The vendors and demonstrators were smiling. Mary Lacer (Assistant Director of the AAW and wife of Alan Lacer) stopped to personally congratulate both Jan Shotola and me on the wonderful job our teams were doing on our first symposium. *(Is there a cloud 10? 11? 12?!)*

Behind the scenes, Tom Waicekaskas, with the assistance of the always smiling

instant gallery team, photographed the entire instant gallery including the late arrival pieces. (A CD/DVD will be available for purchase for \$15.00 if anyone is interested.) Paul Pyrcik and his team transferred the auction items to the dining hall and set up the auction. Joyce Sullivan averted a near disaster with the credit card machine, finally getting it up and running just about an hour before the start of dinner *(what a woman!)*. John Hill "trained" the auction spotters and Phil Brooks made sure the data base was set and ready to go for the auction. The team was working together! Phew, lots to get done.

After a wonderful dinner (seriously, the food was great), the 66 member TOC team was introduced from the committee heads to the last volunteer (recruited just before dinner) and took a well-deserved bow. It was announced that the raffle for the 2 Jet mini lathes raised over \$1,500. Mary Lacer made several comments and then John Hill, auctioneer extraordinaire was introduced...let the auction begin! Two hours later, John had parted us from our money and had us laughing as it happened. To John, an auction is a competitive event. Bidding against your spouse is not only allowed, it is encouraged!.....and the auction raised more than \$12K. This money is earmarked to be used for woodturning education in the Midwest. The auction also included a lathe that generated \$400 to be donated to the Friends of Phil Brenion Fund. The generosity of our attendees is second to none. One can only say THANK YOU!

Sunday's activities: more turning, and spending money (tools, abrasives, lathes, and wood...the wood, you should have seen the beautiful pieces of wood leaving that room...I expect to see some of them back at our club meetings in their "new form" in the next few months!) The highlight of the morning was the instant gallery critique hosted by David Ellsworth and Alan Lacer. David and Alan graciously took questions and reviewed individual pieces after their critique was finished.

Sixteen attendees were rewarded in a random drawing for turning in their event evaluation forms (essential for the committee to plan future events) with Gift Certificates from Choice Woods, TOC t-shirts and DVD's & demo pieces from Jacques Vesery. Thanks for filling out those forms and thanks to the contributors.

By Sunday's end, everyone was exhausted, but still "high" on what we had accomplished. Even through the clean-up process, the adrenalin kept us pumped...and by 5:50pm, the last vendor had left, the last woodchip had been vacuumed up and the place looked like it did (no, actually better than) it did when we arrived. All because of teamwork. I'd like to leave you with comments from two of our demonstrators: One of our Featured Demonstrators told me that this was "the best regional symposium I've attended" and David Ellsworth succinctly stated: "Well done!" One more thing...are you ready to do it again in 2010?



Marie Anderson  
Turn-On! Chicago  
Co-Chairperson

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Darrell Rader takes a closer look at the TOC Instant Gallery

The September issue of "As the Wood Turns" will include many photos and commentary on our first symposium. If you have photos to share, send them to your Editor at: p.shotola@comcast.net. If you prefer to post your pictures to an on-line gallery such as Flickr or Picasa, send me the link information. I'll make sure that your turning friends have access.

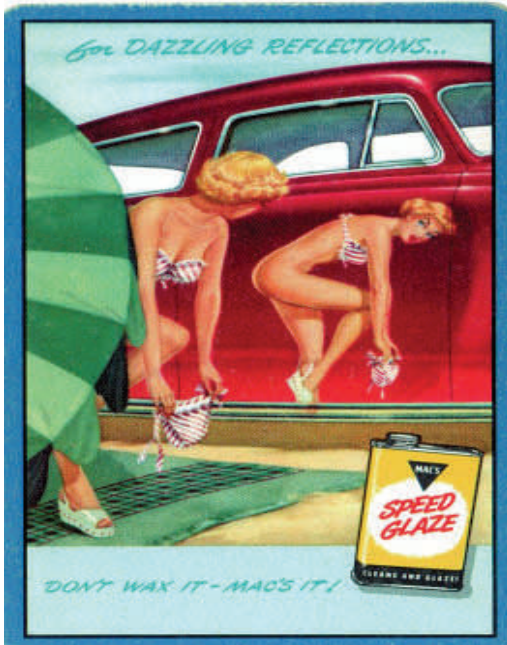


## July Meeting: High Gloss and More with Roy Lindley Clint Stevens

Roy Lindley shared his deep knowledge of finishing for woodturnings, many of these insights gained through the restoration of a vintage Corvette. Wood, metal or fiberglass, the techniques for a top-coat remain the same. The July CWT attendees came away with insights to sanding, acrylic paints, lacquer, spray guns, and wet sanding. As if that weren't enough, Roy discussed color enhancements, including his method of applying acrylic paints to a turning with Saran wrap.

colored base coat is first applied with a brush and allowed to dry. Roy plans a color scheme for his turning, using lighter and darker shades of the same color. The different shades are created by cutting the intended over-coat color with white or black paint. Using a specialized artisan tool (crumpled plastic wrap), and a dabbing technique, the color is applied. Roy begins with the lighter tints on the bottom of the turning, and progresses through the darker tints at the top. Multiple

Roy's common-sense philosophy is that the quality of turnings can be ruined by a finish that shows a lack of care. A finish should be deliberate, and will take a lot more time than just doing an ill-considered job. In your heart, you always knew there were no short cuts. Roy thins Deft lacquer, and applies many thin layers. Lacquer has the ability to dissolve into the previous coat without feathering at the edges. These qualities are important to build up a thickness that will stand up to progressively fine-grit wet sanding.



One of Roy's finishing methods is to apply acrylic paints (Liquitex brand) much like decorators do rag or sponge painting. A solid light-

layers of clear coat lacquer are used to embed the acrylic paints, then wet sanded to produce the high gloss finish.

If our gallery turnings suddenly have turnings with stunning high gloss finishes, we will know who to thank. Great job, Roy Lindley! Shoot, I still haven't written about Roy's instructions on aniline stain, grading systems of sandpaper, how to set up an air brush, or how techniques known to old hot rod enthusiasts can help finish woodturnings. What the heck, I'm going to take the next five or six pages and do Roy's demonstration justice...

*Maybe next month, Clint, but thanks for asking. There may indeed be a book in Roy, but space prohibits the full edition this month. Ed.*



**Roy Lindley**

"There is no way to cover Roy's demonstration in a small review. That guy has a book in him."

Clint Stevens



### Clean-up Volunteers:

**August:** Dennis Sullivan & a volunteer

**September:** Dan & Marie Anderson

**October:** your name here

To volunteer your help, contact Bill Robb at 847-931-1876 or akmtms1@comcast.net

### Club Demonstrators and Gallery Reviewers

Paul Pyrcik

	Demonstrator	Subject	Gallery
<b>August</b>	Dave Reilly	Carving on turnings	Tom Waicekauskas
<b>September</b>	Don McCloskey	Unique & Fancy Pens	Dan & Marie Anderson
<b>October</b>	Josh Connan	To be announced	Pixie Eslinger
<b>November</b>	Phil Brooks	Safety Overview	Paul Shotola
<b>December</b>	Holiday Party		

## Moulthrop Exhibition in Racine

In a rare exhibition, the Racine Art Museum will present work from the Moulthrop family. A true dynasty in woodturning, the Moulthrop's (father Ed, son Philip and grandson Matt) represent three generations of turning.

Ed Moulthrop (1916-2003) was one of the pioneers of modern woodturning, creating spectacular bowls and vessels from wood considered "flawed" due to disease, or fungal growth. Ed also pioneered the use of PEG to stabilize his enormous turnings to prevent cracking and distortion. In the early days of the woodturning movement, there were no lathes available commercially that could handle the huge log sections Ed used, so he built his own. I recall an article in

*Fine Woodworking* making reference to the use of a truck transmission as a speed control. Ed also made his own tools, with handles five to six feet long, as again, commercial tools were not available. His work is in the most prestigious collections and museums around the world.

Ed's son, Philip continues his father's use of wood from the southeastern United States. In 1997 Philip gave up law to follow his heart and become a full-time woodturner.

As a third generation woodturner, Matt Moulthrop has spent his entire life surrounded by wood. He is continuing the legacy of the Moulthrop family by turning simple, elegant forms that capture and enhance the natural beauty of

the material.

Matt learned his woodturning skills the old-fashioned way; he apprenticed with the masters. Matt spent a total of nine years apprenticing first with his grandfather Ed, and then his father Philip. Now an established turning artist, Matt uses the simple, elegant forms that enhance the natural beauty of the material.

The Racine Art Museum is presenting an exhibition of art from all three Moulthrops, through September 14, 2008.

Contact the Racine Art Museum at 262-638-8300 or visit [www.ramart.com](http://www.ramart.com). Admission to the Racine Art Museum is a mere \$5.00, with discounts for Seniors, Students, and children.

Paul Shotola



Ed Moulthrop



Philip Moulthrop



Matt Moulthrop

As a student of woodturning, you owe it to yourself to attend the Moulthrop exhibition at the Racine Art Museum. The museum, in hosting such a prestigious event, deserves the support and participation of woodturners and artists everywhere.

## Editor's Notes

While this issue of "As the Wood Turns" is a short one, in September we'll have a quick tour of Clint Stevens amazing shop, a closer look at some of the Gallery art-

work, more Symposium coverage, and an introduction to SOFA Chicago. Keep a close eye on the calendar, because Fall (I'm writing this in August, and the

thought of Fall coming gives me the Winter chills) has a lot of turning events that you won't want to miss.

Paul Shotola

## Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2008

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## Members' Gallery, July 2008

The July gallery was reviewed by Chuck Young, our Webmaster. Chuck is an accomplished turner, and incorporates carving, piercing and plenty of color into his work. Despite being saddled with one of those "pesky day jobs", Chuck manages the CWT website, rides fast motorcycles and occasionally gets to stand at the lathe. His comments on the gallery were both illuminating and thoughtful.



Max Schoenberger  
Mulberry Potpourri Holder



Bill Brown  
Walnut, Wrought Iron Stand



Francisco Bauer  
Small Bowls, Various Woods



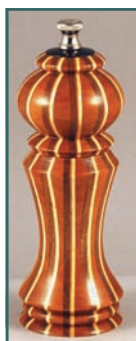
Bill Brown  
Walnut Bowls



Jason Swanson  
Segmented Pen



Jason Swanson  
Spin Top



Jason Swanson  
Purpleheart, Yellowheart, Ebony



Paul Shotola  
Madrone, Wenge



Dick Sing  
Inlaid Platter (1989)



Dennis Sullivan  
Parallam, Iron, Copper Wire



Max Schoenberger  
Cherry



Tim Feely  
Maple



Paul Shotola  
Sugar Maple



Tim Feely  
Water Buffalo Horn, Walnut

## Editor's Choice



Fran Islin  
Red Oak Burl

Sometimes, simpler is better. Fran's little round vessel is a study in understatement. No beads, no carving, nothing but pure form. The simplicity lets the wood speak.

Including the little rim of sapwood keeps the whole piece organic and natural. The sapwood makes a natural frame for the opening.

I'm pleased to say I have a Fran Islin work in my humble collection of turnings, displayed right alongside a Weissflog and a Ray Key. Visitors to our home always remark on the little (1.5" tall) pagoda, probably because in its simplicity, it sets a mood and tells a little story, much like her spherical vessel.



Space limitations prevent us from presenting every gallery submission in the newsletter.

For gallery photos from past meetings, visit the CWT website :

[www.chicagowoodturners.com/gallery](http://www.chicagowoodturners.com/gallery)

Each month, your Editor will select a Gallery turning that he feels showcases a unique design feature, technique or use of material. Selection is purely personal and arbitrary, and probably won't reflect the opinions of anyone but the Editor.





## As the Wood Turns

The monthly newsletter of the  
Chicago Woodturners

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Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm till 9:30 pm  
Woodcraft Supply  
1280 Dundee Rd.,  
Palatine, IL  
847-776-1184  
Guests and visitors are welcome

### Visit our website:

[www.chicagowoodturners.com](http://www.chicagowoodturners.com)  
for more gallery photos, past newsletters, expanded calendar and late-breaking news.

Membership in the Chicago Woodturners is available to anyone wishing to increase their turning skills through education, discussion and critique. Annual dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$35.00 for a family. Visit our website for an application or contact:  
Andy Kuby, Membership Chairman

The Chicago Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Visit their website for more information.  
[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

# Turn-On! Chicago 2008

Thanks to all of the volunteers, demonstrators, and especially the attendees for making our first Midwest Symposium such a success!



## Upcoming Events

News of Art Shows, classes, turning symposia, and other events of interest

### August

- Pen Turning 101 with Don McCloskey, August 16, Woodcraft Supply, Palatine, IL
- American Craft Exposition, August 22-24, Evanston, IL [www.americancraftexpo.org](http://www.americancraftexpo.org)
- Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, August 24, Woodcraft Supply, Woodridge, IL

### September

- Mark Sfirri demonstration, September 13, Woodcraft Supply, Palatine, IL. 9:00 am
- Mark Sfirri Hands-on class, September 12 & 14, Woodcraft Supply, Palatine, IL.
- Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, September 27, Woodcraft Supply, Woodridge, IL

### October

- Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, October 11, Woodcraft Supply, Palatine, IL

### November

- Michael Hosaluk demonstration and classes. Nov 1-4. Details to be announced.
- SOFA Chicago. November 7-9, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL [www.sofaexpo.com](http://www.sofaexpo.com)
- The Freedom Pen Project, November 11, Woodcraft Supply, Palatine, IL [www.freedompens.org](http://www.freedompens.org)
- Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, November 22, Woodcraft Supply, Palatine, IL

### December

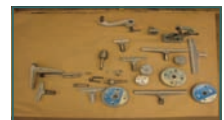
- Empty Bowls. Dec 6, Oakton Community College

## For Sale

Items for sale or trade by and for the CWT membership.



Delta Lathe, #46-542. \$500.00. 15 years old, light use. 115/220 V, variable speed. 12" X 39" capacity. Includes many accessories, including an outboard stand. Lathe works fine, has been upgraded to a larger lathe by the school. For sale by the School of Art Institute of Chicago. Contact Steve Meyer: [bsfd2586@yahoo.com](mailto:bsfd2586@yahoo.com)



Items of interest to woodturners for sale, trade or free are welcome. Non-commercial ads only, please. To place an ad, contact the Editor.