

As the Wood Turns

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHICAGO WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION



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

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

August Newsletter 2019

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President's Curls



August 2019

Max Brosi was here for an all-day demonstration July 20 and hands-on classes July 21-23. If you were not able to attend or take a class, you missed a great teacher and the chance to learn how a master creates his signature pieces. Learning how to turn a consistently sized (and round!) sphere was worth the cost of admission all by itself.

The AAW Symposium has come and gone. I do not get a chance to attend very many of these, but each time I can't help but come home energized and ready to create, overloaded with ideas and techniques. This year I had the honor of being a videographer and work closely with a few of the demonstrators. Finally, I was able to put up on the screen all the detail shots I always wanted to see. The Chicago Woodturners were well represented - every time I looked around there were more of us. I did search the trade show for the one tool that was keeping me from greatness but ultimately realized I already had it, but just didn't know which one it was.

It's craft show and farmers' market season, and many of us are out each weekend with our white tents hoping to attract enough sales to amortize the new tool we bought at the trade show. Some of us are teaching, some are selling, some are demonstrating, but all of us are sharing the joy this art/craft brings us. Turn on Chicago!

Be sharp, be safe



Andy Kuby, President

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Secretary's Report

Frank Pagura

MINUTES JULY 8, 2019

Business meeting started at 7:00 PM. Tonight's gallery reviewer is Darrell Rader, and the demonstrator is Vicki Biberian, on the subject is Finishing.

Andy announced that new postcards to use at events are available. See table in the back.

AAW NEWS

AAW is offering a free six months membership for those who have not been members in the past,

Andy handed out the final lanyards for the Raleigh Symposium July 11-14.

CWT NEWS

2019 upcoming guest demonstrator is Max Brosi July 20-23. His "Multiple axis turning slide show" was shown.

Clint and Dave will see to providing water, coolers, ice and coffee for the Saturday all-day demo at Liberty.

Sept 7-10 are the dates for Jacques Vesery Form and Embellishment demo and all-day classes; see Matt for signing up.

TURN ON CHICAGO

No full report tonight. Al Miorke is already on his way to Raleigh for the Symposium where he will be a demonstrator.

We know that six featured demonstrators are confirmed and locked in: David Ellsworth, Michael Hosaluk, Cynthia Gibson, Chris Ramsey, Avelino Samuel, and Eric Lofstrom.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

No meeting scheduled for this month, reported by Rich Hall-Reppen.

Darrell Rader is retiring to North Carolina.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ohio Valley Symposium, October 18-20.

Bull Valley Hardwood will have demonstrators, Michael Roper on August 2-3 and Stuart Batty on August 19-23.

BEADS OF COURAGE

Beads of Courage beads for your lids are available from Andy. We are accumulating stock, so keep bringing your vessels in, and remember to check your glue joints on segmented work.

PENS FOR TROOPS

Turning is ongoing, so see Don McCloskey. Check out the pens in the gallery tonight.

MEMBER NEWS

Marcia Jundanian is our new Librarian. She and Scott have been working on upgrading computer records to organize the library inventory.

Check out the new books, graciously donated by Carol Floate.

The screen and frame have been donated to the Windy City Club.

JULY SAFETY

Air Compressor failure is this month's safety topic. Dave and Andy presented and passed out a handout. Frank is MIA, on his way to the Raleigh Symposium.

MEMBERSHIP

Stan welcomed guests and four new members. See Membership Reports for complete details.

RAFFLE.

Nice selection of prizes. See proceeds amount and winners in Sol Anfuso's Report.

DEMONSTRATION.

Vicki Biberian Finishing Demo. Check out Paul Rosen Demo Reports.

GALLERY REVIEW.

Darrell Rader's wealth of experience makes the review interesting and helpful..

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pagura, Secretary

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Membership

Brenda Miotke & Stan Herman

New Members

- Lars Stole- Chicago. Renewed lapsed membership
- David Dooley-Glenview.
- William Hochmuth. Renewed lapsed membership
- Alan Vermont-Schaumburg
- Alfred Stengel-Lake Forest

Guests

- Erik Erf-Chicago
- John Flader-Round Lake
- Doris Barnett-Spooner, Wisconsin
- Jim Gillen-Lombard

Winners of \$10.00 Craft Supply Gift Certificate

- #177 Lon Skydell
- #148. John Flanders
- #122. Alfred Stengel
- #153. Scott Barrett
- #130. Bob Barbieri
- #151.
- #178. Jim Gillen

July 9 Attendance 62

Paid Membership 150

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 next meeting.

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Raffle Winners

Sol Aufuso

Shaping Tool	Joel Lamplough	4"x 4"x 12" Spalted Maple	Don Johnston
Banksia Pod	Frank Magnifico	4"x 6" Spalted Ambrosia	Dawn Herndon-Charles
6 Piece Measuring Set	George Charek		

Collected \$80

Demonstration Report

Paul Rosen

Max Brosi Demo



Max Brosi was our professional demonstrator on July 20. Max was born in Germany and moved to Ireland to pursue a career in furniture making and woodworking. In 2006, he graduated from Furniture Design and Manufacture, The Furniture College, Letterfrack, County Galway. He subsequently expanded his skill set to include boat-building and hollow wooden surfboard construction.

Max is a relatively young woodturner (I'm guessing late 30s) but extremely creative and prolific. Visit his Facebook page, and you'll get an idea of the different directions his woodturning imagination has travelled. My initial impression was that he liked to do woodturning forms of plumbing, with multiple pipes heading in different directions. But he also does hollow open vessels, turned, sandblasted, and charred or limed, to emphasize the grain pattern in woods that a visually impaired person could enjoy just by

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touch. He's also done a whalebone form, along with pieces that look like calcified vertebrae, and some spheres with three circumferential coves that he calls "Intergalactic Explorers." The latter are charred and sandblasted and, if you let your imagination run, resemble what might be spherical space ships. With his passion for different surface treatments, there is ironically one tool he never uses: sandpaper! But he did share with us that one of his favorite tools for refining the inside surface of his hollow vessels is a Japanese, battery-powered toilet bowl cleaner. It works well, in his experience.



To achieve these forms, Max likes to start with a solid block of wood, perhaps 13.5-inches on a side. Rich Nye had provided some freshly cut maple, which is similar to the sycamore Max has in Ireland. He first turns it to a cylinder, and then refines it to a large sphere. I'm listing the discrete steps at the end, in the event you want to pursue his process. If not, you should appreciate that he ends up boring six holes with a large Forstner bit mounted in a chuck

attached to the tailstock. Here's a hint he offered on sharpening your Forstner bit: don't rub your sharpening stone on the flat, as we are traditionally taught. It takes forever. Instead, sharpen the two smaller cutting bevels. Make a test cut. If shavings come predominantly off one side of the bit, re-sharpen that side, so the two bevels will be cutting at about the same level, as evidenced by dual shavings coming off the bit.

With the six holes established, Max refined the outside diameter of each tube. But after having mounted the blank on three different axes, there were still some "corners" that had to be removed. So he used a Foredom flexible shaft sanding system with a red abrasive tip to carve away the corners.



I had to leave the demo early, so I missed the part where Max showed us how he turns the Intergalactic Explorer, and whatever followed that. But do visit his website and Facebook pages, as well as the online galleries that showcase Max's works. Max says he enjoys experimenting with certain types of turned forms until he gets bored. Then he pursues new

lines of design. Considering all the things he has done to date over his relatively brief turning career, we have a lot to look forward to in the coming years from Max Brosi.

Step-by-Step Sphere Turning

1. Turn blank to a cylinder.
2. Measure cylinder diameter with large calipers.
3. Mark center of cylinder.
4. Scribe a line, one diameter distance, to either side of center mark.
5. Trim ends of cylinder that extend beyond the two scribed marks near each end of the cylinder.



6. Determine radius of cylinder by taking half the distance between the center and end diameter marks.
7. Scribe radius marks to either side of center mark. (Cylinder is now divided into four equidistant circles. Five lines total.)

8. Starting at the circle marks #2 and #4, turn away the wood laterally, until you have a pair of straight lines that are about 45-degrees sloping down toward each end of the cylinder surface.



9. Viewed from the center of the cylinder, you should have a shape that looks like an octagon.
10. Mark another series of circles on the cylinder, exactly halfway between the existing circles.
11. Turn a flat, straight line that connects the two circles you just scribed on either side of scribed lines No. 2 and 4.
12. Repeat this technique with any pair of circles on either side of an edge, until the facets begin to approach the geometry of a sphere.

The foregoing technique is a crutch designed to help you shape the cylinder into a sphere. With practice, you may not need to scribe all the lines. But in the beginning, the protocol of scribing lines is designed to help make turning a sphere more accurately.

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Photos from Max's Hands-on Class





Vickie Biberian-Norman Refinishes Wood



Our guest demonstrator for the July meeting was Vickie Biberian-Norman, Creative Designer and Director of Operations at Revive and Decor. Vickie comes to us with a 15-year background of having done trade shows in the wood finishing industry. She has expertise using a variety of different strategies for finishing/refinishing wood. She is asked to revitalize the finish on tables, chairs, furniture, cabinets, and even wooden fireplaces. Examples of her work can be seen online at [facebook.com/reviveanddecor](https://www.facebook.com/reviveanddecor).

She began her presentation by donning a pair of blue, nitrile gloves and listing the tools of her trade: paper towels, blue painter's tape, foam brushes, rags, #0000 steel wool, denatured alcohol, shellac, polyurethane, AquaCoat, and miscellaneous wood finishes.

Vickie likes to start by wiping down unfinished wood with denatured alcohol. The change in tone will show how the piece will look when finished. AquaCoat is a clear wood grain filler. It is typically applied prior to painting and staining. Vickie applies it with a credit card, making sure not to use "a heavy hand." AquaCoat is used to fill the small, nearly

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invisible pits and valleys in wood. It dries clear, and if you make a mistake, you can simply wipe it off. She uses four coats for producing the kind of fine finish you see on pianos or guitars. Let AquaCoat dry for 24 hours between coats, and then seal with shellac. Paint if desired. The good part about AquaCoat is that you can use it at any stage of a project. Apply first as a wood filler or at the end as a sealer, and remember when applying, a little goes a long way. The product is actually made in Elgin, IL, and you can pick it up in places like Rockler or Woodcraft. AquaCoat is not inexpensive, with a quart costing as much as \$36.50, but it is also available in pints for smaller projects.

Vickie loves shellac. But she cautioned that shellac in a can is different from shellac in an aerosol container, despite the fact that the ingredients listed on the respective labels are identical. In her experience, shellac from the can will tend to leave a yellow tint, whereas shellac from the spray aerosol does not. She noted that shellac from the spray can will actually dull the wood finish. But the key to using shellac from the aerosol can, per Vickie: “Always shake it first, and apply a thin coat.”



Vickie also likes to use Universal Sanding Sealer. She applies it with a foam brush, going in one direction only. She uses a very thin coat. This is used in place of the AquaCoat.

What should follow after the paint or stain? She prefers to use a flat coat of polyurethane first. She then finishes with final coats of shellac, and then lacquer.

Vickie is particular about foam brushes. She uses lots of them. Her preferred sources are from Benjamin Moore, or in bulk from Habitat for Humanity. She finds the brushes from Home Depot or Menards to be less desirable.

“Cerusing” is a technique designed to draw out the detail and character of the grain in a piece of wood. It takes its name from a type of white, lead-based skin cream originally used in cosmetics back in the 1600s by members of high society. The ceruse pigment was later repurposed as a wood preservative and furniture finish. It produces a weathered, white look that enhances grain pattern in the wood, especially oak. Think of cerused oak as an alternative to whitewashing or bleaching. See examples on Vickie’s website.

Another embellishment to consider is Shou Sugi Banto, which is a technique using a propane torch to char the wood, which then can be stained. (Shou Sugi Ban is actually a brand of yakisugi, a traditional Japanese method of wood preservation. Yaki=to heat with

fire; sugi=cypress. In the West, it is referred to as “burnt timber cladding.” The Japanese would char the outside surface of cypress with fire, for maybe one or two minutes, and then extinguish the flame without destroying the wood. The benefits? Water-proofing, durability, and resistance to insects. Buildings clad with Shou Sugi Ban (Ban means “plank”) look like they’re made of blackened plywood. Youtube shows some interesting videos on this practice.)



For stains, Vickie likes many different brands of stains. One of her favorites is the Bona brand sold at Chicago Lumber. One coat is fast drying, with no odor. Vickie likes to use a gray stain on oak. When it dries, it looks like elm. Another thing about oak: it’s native hue is pink. If your stain has any red in it, the oak will turn blue. (Nobody wants a blue table.)

Vickie is also a fan of the American Walnut gel stain from Old Masters. She’s had good results with it. Just apply and let dry. After it dries, Vickie likes to seal the finish with aerosol shellac. Then follow with two or three coats of Minwax Spray Lacquer.

Consider drying time. Stains take 15 days to dry. And paint stains tend to dry faster than wiping stains. How much faster? Read the label on the can. Polyurethane takes 30 days to cure. So if you’re finishing a hardwood floor with polyurethane, don’t put anything on that floor for 30 days.

Do you like milk paint? Want to see the wood grain? Then water down the piece first. Vickie recommends priming the piece before applying milk paint. And if you want a modern finish, follow the milk paint with a coat of spray shellac from the can.

Vickie loves to use Deft Clear Wood Finish. In her experience, it works well on larger pieces, like tables. But a word of caution: If you leave wet spots in the valleys of the wood, it will crack in six months. So don’t leave any wet spots. Allow ample amount of dry time in between coats.

Much of Vickie’s business comes by word-of-mouth from satisfied customers. She typically has six to ten pieces in the works at any given time. If you have any pieces you’d like to have refinished, or have any questions, please feel free to contact her at your convenience (Tel: 847/219-2023).

Gallery

Jason Clark

This month we feature a mixed media piece by Julie Schmidt. Julie has turned a very pleasing bowl with a natural edge out of Box Elder. On the outside she added an acrylic paint "dirty pour" which is a technique that's very much in fashion these days. The paint is



modified with "extenders" or "flow control" agents and then poured from a cup onto the surface. Sometimes additives like silicon oil are used to create "cells" where the paint colors don't mix and can give very interesting effects. Great job Julie!



CWT News

CWT Inspires Creator Fair at Library



On Saturday, August 3, six members of Chicago Woodturners participated in the Creator Fair at the Barrington Area Library. The main goal of this event is to have a variety of projects available that patrons would not have a chance to do on a regular basis and to introduce them to new projects/crafts/hobbies.

The CWT members were: Marie Anderson, Roger Basrak, Andy Kuby, David Longaker, Frank Pagura and Mary Olson.

We had a display of various articles made by club members and demonstrated how to make simple projects. The Library purchased

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fifteen pen kits that we helped those who were interested (both young and old) complete.

A great time was had by all who participated, and we hope that we can participate in the future.



Chicago Woodturners 2019 Demonstrators

Jacques Vesery, September 7-10, 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

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

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

For Sale, Trade, or Wanted

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

Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2019			
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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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