



As the Wood Turns

The monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners



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

September Highlights:

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- Dave Reilly's August demo, page 4
- Symposium updates, page 5



Andy Kuby helps Lyle Jamieson out with some of his "magic" blue tape.

Next Meeting:

September 9, 2008
7:00PM

Woodcraft Supply

1280 E. Dundee Rd.

Palatine, IL

847-776-1184

Regular Features:

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Mark Sfirri Demonstrates at the CWT



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'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 Fac-

Mark Sfirri's turnings push the boundaries of spindle turning, utilizing multi-axis

tory 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 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



September 13

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.

Mark 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 to reserve your spot in this fascinating class.

Don McCloskey Pen Demo

Tired of the same old pens? Try using rifle cartridges. Try some corn cob (really, we're not making this up). Perhaps a multi-layer glue-up that forms a Celtic knot interests you. Don McCloskey will give you everything you need to know to produce some unique

pens, using unique materials. Don has been teaching popular pen-making classes at Woodcraft, and he'll use the input from his students to present this fascinating demonstration. Raise your skills from mundane to unique with Don's demo in September.

September CWT Meeting



Pens by Don McCloskey

Curls From the President's Platter

Phil Brooks

In last month's newsletter Marie Anderson, co-chairperson for the symposium, wrote an interesting and entertaining article about her emotional rollercoaster ride leading up to and during the symposium. I thought it would be interesting to discuss what events took place, over the previous 18 months, to make that symposium a reality.

We started with steering committee meetings to evaluate the feasibility of holding such an event. First we visited numerous facilities before finding the right venue. Next we put together a list of the major tasks that we needed to do and things we needed to spend money on to come up with a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and an estimate of a detailed budget. We estimated 3 budgets, based on 150, 200 and 250 attendees. Our admission fee was set to break even with 150 attendees. The WBS tasks then grouped into categories to define the various committees we needed.

As in any endeavor, success is always based on getting the right people in the right job. Given the list of committees, we identified who would be the best person to be the committee chairperson for each committee and then convinced them to take the job. They in turn, identified

people who they wanted to be on their committee and convinced them to join the group. We then presented our plan for the symposium to the membership for their approval.

Using the WBS we broke down the tasks even further and used this breakdown to create a detailed schedule of each task, showing when the task should be started and finished. Every month after that, the committee chairpersons met to monitor and mark the status on the schedule. I felt strongly that we needed to do this religiously, since there is a tendency to think there is plenty of time to do things later and we would wind up running out of time with too many tasks left to do. Although we probably had too many tasks, and now that we know what to focus on, we can significantly reduce the number. We tracked over 200 tasks for TOC 2008.

Sometime during the last 4 months, it became apparent that we were going to be handling a lot of data and generating a lot of paper so I wrote a relational database. The database allowed us to record data once and use it many different ways. We used it to create the letters of confirmation and their address labels, name tags for attendees, demonstrators, trade show vendors and

"banquet only" guests, as well as housing and attendance reports. In addition, we used it to record the items donated for the auction, create bid cards and print out invoices after the sale.

Finally, we used the database to create demographic information, to be used next time, to see where our attendance came from, by AAW chapter and by state. Looking at the demographics, we found that the symposium had 196 fulltime attendees, 34 one day attendees from 32 AAW Chapters coming from Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin; plus 1 from England. Our attendance at the banquet/symposium was 256.

In summary, in order to have a successful symposium, we needed to have a good venue, a large group of talented and dedicated people, a detailed schedule and a realistic budget and a means of monitoring the status of the schedule and budget every month. Since that is what we had, I knew the symposium was bound to be a success. My most sincere thanks and gratitude goes out to the 80 people who made this symposium successful. Without their talents and determination this would not have happened.



Phil Brooks, CWT
President and Board
Liaison to the TOC
Steering Committee

Symposium attendees traveled from Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin; plus 1 from England. The "Long Distance" award went to Jim & Jacque Thompson from Broken Bow, OK. That's a distance of over 850 miles. For coming that far, they received a nice prize donated by Woodcraft and a round of applause.



Cindy Sing, Mary Lacer
and Carole Floate:
"The Auction Babes"



You have to make
sparks to produce a
keen edge

Sparks From the Grinding Wheel: Notes from your Editor Paul Shotola

Your newsletter is in need of a person (or persons) to report on the American Association of Woodturners, the AAW website, and review articles published in the AAW journal, "American Woodturner". Your job would be to gather information on the AAW and condense that info into a 200-300 word monthly column. The subject matter would be entirely up to you. We encourage submissions on any and all of the varied programs and subjects of AAW involvement.

Multiple columnists are invited. Perhaps this month you're inspired, and next month another reporter has content. That's ok, and even recommended.

Contact me for guidelines. Writing skills are secondary to a desire to report the activities of our national association. Your membership is counting on you to keep them informed.

Michael Hosaluk: Demonstration & Classes in November



Canadian turner Michael Hosaluk will be demonstrating at the CWT meeting space in Palatine on Saturday, November 1, 2008. One of the founders of the American Association of Woodturners, Michael is known for his innovative and playful approach to turned art. Hosaluk is the original force behind the Emma Lake Collaboration, a biannual event that unites artists in a collaborative event. A frequent demonstrator at AAW national symposia and instructor at many schools, including the Marc Adams school in Indiana, Michael's work is featured in galleries, museums and collections world-wide. In 2002, Michael's book, "Scratching the Surface", an exploration of surface treatments in woodturning, was released. As the 2005 recipient of the prestigious Bronfman award, Michael's efforts to promote art and craft were recognized by the Canadian government

Michael frequently collaborates with other artists, including Michael Lee, Binh Pho, and Mark Sfirri, as evidenced by the work "Strange Fruit."

Michael frequently collaborates with other artists, including Michael Lee, Binh Pho, and Mark Sfirri, as evidenced by the work "Strange Fruit."



The Chicago Woodturners look forward to Michael's return to Chicago with an all-day demonstration on Saturday, November 1, with both one- and two-day hands-on classes to follow.

Michael Hosaluk's Hands-on Classes will be held at the CWT meeting space at Woodcraft Supply in Palatine, IL

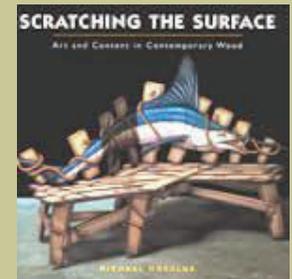
Sunday, November 2, 2008 (one day class): Tuition \$120

Monday & Tuesday, November 3 & 4 (two day class): Tuition \$240

Classes are suitable for turners of all experience levels. An experienced teacher, Hosaluk will help turners of every level to expand their turning vocabulary. Classes are limited to six students per session.

To register for a class, contact Jan Shotola, CWT Secretary

jshotola@yahoo.com 847-412-9781



Dave Reilly's Carving Demo: August Meeting

Clint Stevens

Think great carvers. Who comes to mind? George Washington Carver? Norman Bates? That guy at the Japanese steakhouse? Done? Let's focus on WOOD carvers. Here's a great carver: Dave Reilly. Dave is a carver, teacher, demonstrator, and our witty good friend from the Windy City Woodturners.

Dave introduced several lathe accessories to aid carving on woodturnings. This included an indexing plate, a pencil rest for accurately marking the turning, and an ingenious adjustable mount for turnings and face plates. The mount owes much to the easy availability of a 1" x 8 TPI threaded rods (I got mine at my neighborhood hardware store.)

Carving involves a few specialty hand tools, and Dave gave us the run down on them with some blissfully straightforward wisdom. The Tao of Dave says that the tool used depends on the type of carving being done. Large carvings call for large handled tools and a mallet. For small carvings, palm tools (Flexcut spring steel, for example) are just fine.

According to Dave, all carving tools are "good." It's not necessary to have all tools, just keep in mind that octagonal handles don't roll toward the end of the bench. Round handles are prone to such shenanigans.

Sharp tools are no less important for carving as they are for woodturning. Dave reviewed the basics of sharpening to help us out here. If you are foggy on the necessary skills to a sharp tool, they are:

1. Grinding – Give that tool some shape.
2. Honing – Grab your Arkansas stone and sharpen that tool.
3. Stropping – Didn't forget that, did you? Good, now it's carving time.

A specialty source for sharpening equipment and carving tools is Wood Carvers Supply in Florida. The website is well laid out and easy to use.

Now that Dave had "whet" our appetites to carve (I'll groan for both of us), he explained the fundamentals of carving woodturnings. Plan your carvings such that the cuts do not run against the grain. Wrap one hand around the

tool, place the heel of that hand on the carving, and use the fingers of the other hand to help control the cutting edge. Rub the bevel as usual, and with gentle controlled pressure, surprise, you are carving. For larger projects, or contrary woods, gentle tapping from a mallet might be in order.

Did you miss Dave Reilly's reading list? Here it is:

Carving on Turning, by Chris Pye; Essential Woodcarving Techniques; by Dick Onians; How to Carve Wood, by Richard Butz; and of course. The Boy Mechanic, by the editors of Popular Mechanics

Dave introduced us to the fascinating concept of a "humility block" in old Amish quilts. The story goes



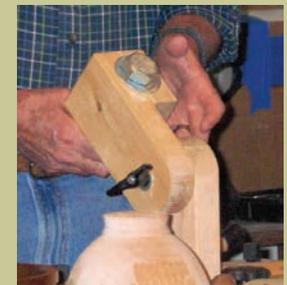
that quilters would intentionally have one block with an obvious error. Since only God is perfect, it would be prideful to make a perfect quilt. How about that? I've been turning Amish style for years without realizing it.



Dave Reilly

Reilly will be teaching at the Marc Adams School in 2009.

www.marcadams.com
Private lessons are also available:
630-243-9348



Membership News: Who's New

Andy Kuby

We were pleased to welcome four guests at the August meeting. Jim Decker, is from Libertyville, IL, and is a member of a storytelling club that meets the same night as CWT

meetings, but we hope to see him at future club meetings, and possibly favor us with a story or two.

Our three other guests share the same last name, so it shouldn't be difficult to welcome them at future meetings. David and Joe Simon are from Mt. Prospect, IL. David has done

some turning in high school and wants to learn more. Murray Simon is from Northbrook, IL.

We're always happy to have guests at our meetings. Guests are added to our Newsletter mailing list to make sure that they are kept current on CWT events.

CWT membership now stands at 193.

Guests and visitors are always welcome at our meetings. Admission is free! Members bring their own chairs, but there are always plenty of extras. We'll find a spot for you.

Symposium Updates

If you were at the August meeting, you witnessed the “high” that was still wafting about after the symposium. If you were at the August meeting, you may have noticed that there were smiles and pats on the back and a renewed sense of camaraderie among the attending members that hasn’t been seen in a while. If you were not there, you really missed the contagious energy that was humming throughout the evening! You also missed the results of the evaluation forms that we asked the attendees to complete before they departed TOC 2008. I’d like to take this time to run them by you one more time.

First, special thanks to Sherry Stevens for taking all the “raw data” and transforming it into a very useful and understandable form that makes this report much more meaningful!

We asked the attendees to rate us on various things we believed would assist us in making TOC 2010 much better. Here’s what they said: 96% strongly agreed or agreed that the pricing was appropriate for quality of demonstrators and venue. 97% Strongly Agreed or

Agreed that our venue was well suited to host TOC 2008. 99% agreed that the Instant Gallery is an important part of any Symposium and of those, 96% thought our gallery was laid out well & showcased the pieces well. The trade show got high marks as well with 89% of attendees saying this is an important part of the symposium, 99% were neutral to strongly agreeing that we had a good variety and most importantly, 89% said that they would purchase from these vendors based on meeting them at our symposium. The demonstrations got high marks with 99% of attendees agreeing we had a good variety of demonstrations and 91% said that the demo line up was a major reason for attending this symposium. We need to work on our room assistants because we only had 82% of attendees agreeing that the room assistant kept the camera focused on the demonstration making it easy to follow along with the demo...we will turn this around next time by training room assistants throughout the year (so go ahead and volunteer to run the camera at the monthly meetings...get in

some practice!) We also had some last minute glitches with the AV equipment but overall, we got 84% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the AV equipment was appropriate for the symposium...we will be updating some of the equipment to assist in bringing this number up into the 90% range or above next time. The Auction garnered a 95% agree to strongly agree that we had an excellent variety of pieces available. However, the most important number is the number we all can be especially proud of: 99% of the attendees agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend this symposium to a friend or club member. For our first symposium, these numbers speak volumes!!! I think it is only appropriate to salute all of you for the hard work, late nights, sweat and determination you put into making this the best first time symposium any of us could have imagined. Thank you all once again!

Next month I hope to be able to report on the educational opportunities that will soon be made available through the proceeds of the TOC 2008 auction and raffle.

Marie Anderson



Binh Pho



Jacques Vesery



Brooks & Company



Bob Bergstrom



Lyle Jamieson

On the Raffle Table

Paul Shotola

What’s the raffle “Bring Back” all about? That’s a common question, especially from our newer members. Here’s the deal:

Each month, there’s a special item on the raffle table donated by a CWT member. By purchasing raffle tickets, someone wins that item. The following month (here’s the “Bring Back”) the winner brings in an item for the raffle, and the cycle continues. The item may be anything a turner may desire: wood, tools, a finished turning, there’s no other rules. Last month, the prize was a stack of roughed out, dried bowls. We’ll see what the winner “Brings Back” in September. Gary promises to have a full table of great items, so stop by and get your tickets!

Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5.00 and the value pack buys 13 tickets for only \$10.00. Support the raffle, and you support the CWT.

Members' Gallery

Reviewed by Tom Waicekaskas

The August Gallery was encouraging, in that many newer members brought their work in. Some folks consider that a brave move, as newer work can receive some criticism. The review is meant to be inspiring, uplifting, and educational. The intent is always to help us move forward, improving our eye and sense of balance. Technically, it's important to see what others are doing, and learn how they are doing it. Thanks to Tom Waicekaskas for reviewing the August submissions, and thanks to the artists who put their work on display for our collective benefit.



Andy Kuby: Buckthorn



Phil Brooks: Wine Stoppers



Bill Brown: Cherry



Andy Kuby:
Firewood Stool



Ken Staggs: Walnut



Don McCloskey: Celtic Pen



Ken Staggs: Spheres



Michael Kuehl:
Cocobolo, Blackwood



Hugh Pearl: Abalone, Mesquite, Corian Pens



Josh Conan: Textured Top



Ken Staggs: Sugar Maple



Bill Brown: Cherry



Bill Robb: Maple & Birch
Burl, Bloodwood



Ken Staggs: Box Elder



Mark Johansen: Tulipwood

Editor's Choice



Bill Brown
Cherry platter with
wrought iron stand

Bill's work is simple, but complex. I can hear you now: "Paul, you've been reading too many ART books!" Work with me, folks. Bill's platters are subtle shapes, sometimes with textured or burned rims. This cherry example showcases the symmetry of the nicely centered grain, and doesn't need additional embellishment. The iron stands are interesting by themselves, but the black finish and restrained ornamentation make them a frame that focuses the eye on the turning.

Simple, yes, but Bill's turnings have a complexity that deserves a closer examination of the whole: grain, embellishment (or lack of) and stand included.

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. When you're the Editor, you can do this, too.

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



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The monthly newsletter of the
Chicago Woodturners

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:

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

Upcoming Events

News of Art Shows, Classes, Turning Symposia and Events of Interest

September

- .Mark Sfirri demonstration, September 13, Woodcraft, Palatine, 9:00 am
- .Mark Sfirri Hands-on class, September 12 & 14, Woodcraft, Palatine
- .Turning 101 with Carole Floate, September 20, Woodcraft, Palatine
- .Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, September 27, Woodcraft, Woodridge

October

- .Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, October 11, Woodcraft, Palatine
- .Carving Workshop with Dave Reilly, October 13, Woodcraft, Palatine
- .Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, October 18, Woodcraft, Woodridge
- .How to Turn a Bowl with Carole Floate, October 25 & 26, Woodcraft, Palatine
- .Artistry in Wood, North Suburban Carvers, October 25 & 26, SuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton. Terry Pijut: 847-458-2919

November

- .Michael Hosaluk demonstration and classes, Nov 1-4. See page 3
- .SOFA Chicago. November 7-9, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL www.sofaexpo.com
- .Sharpening Carving Tools with Dave Reilly, November 10, Woodcraft, Palatine
- .The Freedom Pen Project, November 11, Woodcraft, Palatine, www.freedompens.org
- .Turning 101 with Carole Floate, November 15 & 15, Woodcraft, Palatine
- .Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, November 22, Woodcraft Supply, Palatine,
- .Turn a Christmas Ornament, Woodcraft Staff, November 22, Woodcraft, Woodridge
- .Turn a Bottle Stopper, Woodcraft Staff, November 29, Woodcraft, Palatine

December

- .Empty Bowls, Dec 6, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL
- .Carve a Walking Cane with Dave Reilly, December 8, Woodcraft, Palatine
- .Turn a Bowl with Carole Floate, December 13 & 14, Woodcraft, Palatine

Club Demonstrators and Gallery Reviewers

Paul Pyrcik

	Demonstrator	Subject	Gallery
September	Don McCloskey	Unique Pens	Dan & Marie Anderson
October	Josh Connan	Making Carving Tools	Pixie Eslinger
November	Phil Brooks	Safety Overview	Paul Shotola
December	Holiday Party		

For Sale

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

Tools for sale: General woodworking tools and equipment, including routers, sanders, saws, including a band saw, scroll saw and an Atlas 42H metalworking machinist lathe. Contact: Peter Jackiw, (630)264-1929, Kp2jacks@comcast.net for a detailed list and pricing.

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