

As the Wood Turns

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHICAGO WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION



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

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

October Newsletter 2019

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President's Curls



October 2019

The end of the year rapidly approaches and elections loom. This year the President and Secretary will be up for consideration. Nominations will be accepted during the October meeting, and elections will be held at the November meeting.

Our annual holiday party is scheduled for the December meeting. Don't come to Christian Liberty because we will all be at Fox Run. Marie has graciously accepted responsibility for arranging this again with her able assistant, Brenda.

Jacques Vesery did the gallery review for our last meeting and showed us how this should be done. I hope you brought a piece for the table. This is one of the reasons we bring in these demonstrators and professional turners.

SOFA will be November 1-3, with our setup on Wednesday, October 30. The volunteer schedule has been sent out. This year VIP passes will be available for those of you who did not volunteer.

AAW and Rockler plan a Pen Turning event at the Schaumburg Rockler store on Saturday, November 9. Classes will be held at 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm. Rockler will provide lathes, kits, and accessories. CWT will provide two teaching assistants for each of the classes and chapter information/brochures. This event will be an excellent opportunity for us to talk about woodturning, CWT, and AAW membership.

Turn on! Chicago.

Be sharp, be safe.

Andy Kuby, President



Secretary's Report

Frank Pagura

September 10, 2019 Minutes

Tonight's business meeting will be kept to a minimum to allow ample time for our Gallery Review. Our review is by our guest demonstrator Jacques Vesery.

The Demo by Roger Basrak, "Burl Cap Bowls," has been rescheduled to the October meeting.

AAW News - Andy has committed the club to provide assistant demonstrators for the Rockler Pen Turning Event on November 9. This has been a good promotion event for CWT in the past. See Andy for details.

CWT Guest Demonstrators

This past weekend's Jacques Vesery demonstration concluded our 2019 Guest Demonstration series. Stay tuned for announcements about our exciting 2020 series.

SOFA - Al Miotke

SOFA sponsors our booth for woodturning demonstrations on November 1-3. Al has additional details for all who have signed up to volunteer.

TURN ON CHICAGO - Al Miotke

A coordinating meeting is scheduled for September 19 at CLS. You will receive an email announcement. Please attend to help transition to our new venue. We are all looking forward to Pheasant Run on July 23-26, 2020. The six featured demonstrators are all set. They are David Elsworth, Michael Hosaluk, Cynthia Gibson, Chris Ramsey, Avelino Samuel, and Eric Lofstrom.

Education Committee Report - Rich Hall-Reppen

Two Open Shop Days are scheduled at Chicago School of Woodworking to make bowls for the Empty Bowls project at Oakton College on November 20 - 27. Smaller bowls blanks are needed; please bring them to the next meeting to the open shop.

Mentoring help at our club meeting is needed. See Rich to sign up. We also need to update the mentor list on our website and should include people who can assist with lathe and tool maintenance.

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The education committee is scheduling a number of Member Challenges with more information to come.

The next meeting is on October 24 at CLA.

UP-COMING EVENTS

Ohio Valley Symposium Oct.18-20.

Beads of Courage – We’ve made contact with Lurie, so expect a delivery schedule soon.

Pens for Troops – Pete D’Atomo has brought in some pen kits; see Don McCloskey.

Ladies Night at Bolingbrook Rockler, September 13 starting at 5:30pm.

Windy City Club will be doing demonstrations on Pole and Treadle Lathes at the Lisle Depot Days on Saturday, September 14 and Sunday September 15.

MEMBER NEWS

Women in Turning will have a report on the Arrowmont September 5-7 event at the October meeting. Marie, Dawn, Julie and Cathi attended.

Louis Skydell is organizing a Tool Sale for March 2020. Please attend the Windy City Tool Sale on September 17.

Marcia Jundanian is still looking for a small library cart; see her if you can help.

Chuck Brown has asked for some help duplicating some spindles for an Oak Park stair.

Vessel Challenge – roughed out vessels from John Eslinger will be raffled off at the November meeting.

At the February meeting we will have a hollow form challenge where these vessels and others you might have will be judged by members. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Frank Pagura made a platter for Darrell Rader who is leaving the club to retire to sunny North Carolina. Numerous other members collaborated by making many “cookies” to put on the platter. The platter was passed around for all to sign.

SAFETY TIPS

Frank’s 10-Minute Safety Presentation was postponed to November.

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Tonight's presentation was by Dave Bertaud and Bob Lenard regarding the rubber boot on the capacitor for the vacuum pumps in the Frugal Vacuum setup. Please check for deterioration of the boot, and replace as required.

MEMBERSHIP – Stan Herman and Brenda Miotke

It was announced that current membership is 153 with 54 attending tonight's meeting. Two guests were recognized, two new members were added, and two returning members signed up.

RAFFLE – Sol Anfusio

Check winners' details in Sol's Raffle Report.

Extended Gallery Review is by Jacques Vesery

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pagura

Membership **Brenda Miotke & Stan Herman**

It was announced that current membership is 153 with 54 attending tonight's meeting.

Two guests were recognized, two new members were added, and two returning members signed up.

If you have paid your membership dues for 2019 and have not received a membership card yet, contact Brenda Miotke either by email (abMiotke@comcast.net) or at the next meeting.

- for a \$10 Craft Supply Certificate: Bob Gordon, Andy Kuby, Peter Paul, Gary Klein, Mark Dryer, Rich Piper, Bob Leonard, Marty Knapp, Bruce Anderson, and Jim Kilmer.
- for an Easy Level: David Warren.

If you have paid your membership dues for 2019 and have not received a membership card yet, contact Brenda Miotke either by email (abMiotke@comcast.net) or at the next meeting.

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.

Raffle Winners

Sol Aufuso

Walnut wood	Ken Staggs	Sanding disk Glue bottle applicator	Derek Cadmus
Pre-turned Cherry burl	Nathan Wick	Chatter Tool	Joel Lamplough
Black Walnut wood, Pen blanks	Ken Staggs		Collected \$75

Demonstration Report

Paul Rosen



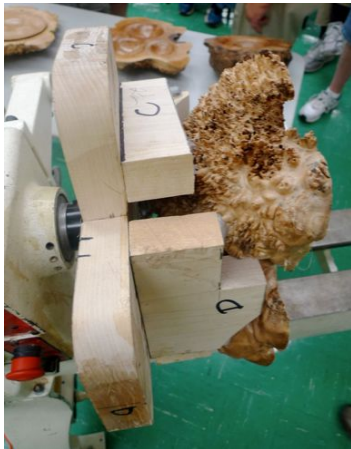
Our demonstrator for September was to be Roger Basrak, who planned to show us how he makes beautiful turned bowls from burls. But because Jacques Vesery's critique was running longer than expected, CWT president Andy Kuby decided to re-schedule Roger's presentation for a later meeting.

A burl is an unusual outcropping on a tree trunk that can range in size from a 16-inch softball to something larger than a basketball.

What causes a burl to form is uncertain, but the grain pattern inside a burl can be quite lovely for the woodturner. Roger brought in about a half dozen examples of his bowls

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turned from burls. I asked Dr. Ron Bukowy to hold one upside down, and you can see that the outside surface has many unique contours with small, finger-like projections.



The challenge with turning a bowl from a burl is figuring out how to build a sturdy jig to hold the burl in the lathe. Roger had a rather elaborate one already attached to the headstock, ready to be turned.



But we'll have to wait for Roger to share his secrets on how to turn a burl into a bowl, as he graciously consented to return for a future meeting.



Jacques Vesery Demo



Our professional demonstrator for September was artist/sculptor, Jacques Vesery. Interesting guy. Originally from New Jersey, his last art class was in seventh grade. In high school, his education shifted towards industrial arts, where he showed promise, winning 22 awards for a cast bronze bell, photography, printing, and architectural design. At age 18 he entered the U.S. Navy and spent four years as a Quartermaster (navigator) and ship's photographer on a nuclear-powered submarine, followed by a year driving a Zamboni machine in a Hawaii ice rink. (How many of us could put *that* on our resume?) Returning to the East Coast, he became a firefighter for the New Jersey Forest Service, as well as the New Jersey Search and

Rescue for four years. Jacques moved to Maine and became a stay-at-home dad for his two sons where his wife, Minda, completed her medical school residency in Family Practice. You can read up on further details by visiting his website, www.JacquesVesery.com.

As an artist, Vesery pays particular attention to the shape/profile of his creations. To emphasize the point, he turned three vase-like vessels, each with a slightly different profile.



To focus our attention on form (and eliminate any distraction from wood grain pattern), he took each and spray-painted it black. Then he set them in a row, side-to-side, on the lathe bed and elicited comments from the demo attendees. "Which do you like best?" he asked. And then, "Why?" Was it the height to width ratio? Was it the shape

of the curves? Was the waist too high? Too low? Was the base too large? Too small? Will it still look good if we turned it upside down?

It turns out that artists are sensitive to certain principles of design. For example, the eye likes to see the widest point of a vessel at about 1/3 of the way down from the top. If an object is criticized as "too skinny," it probably means the ratio of width to height is wrong. It turns out that there are mathematical guidelines relating to how a form will be perceived as aesthetically pleasing. These are referred to as the golden ratio, the golden mean, divine proportions, and Fibonacci numbers. The golden ratio, applied to say, a rectangle,

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stipulates that the height divided by the base should equal 1.618, represented by the Greek letter *phi* (ϕ). Expressed algebraically, where $a > b > 0$:

$$(a + b)/a = a/b = \textit{phi}$$

Fibonacci numbers represent a sequence in which each number is the sum of it plus the preceding one. Starting with 1, such a sequence would appear as:

1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89 ... ad infinitum

Examples of these sequences in nature can be found in the branching of trees, the arrangement of leaves on a stem, fruit sprouts on a pineapple, the flowering of an artichoke, the uncurling of a fern, and the bracts of a pine cone.

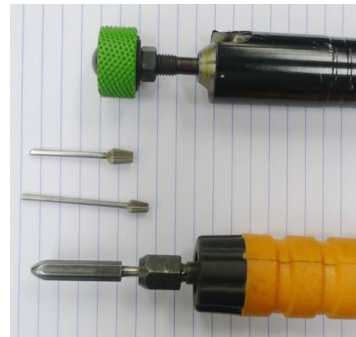
Vesery's work includes texturing, carving, and coloring wooden forms. If you look online for examples of his work, you see he is both prolific and imaginative. Most of his works are one-off. He tries not to make any two the same. But there are some similarities, as in his Pleiades Series of footless bowls, his Sea Forms, which are not actual shells but look like they might be, and his Amphora series. (Amphora vessels were used to transport vegetable oils or wine; they were transported in ships, stacked in hulls, or in sand on beaches.)



Vesery's surface texturing techniques include rotary tools from Mastercarver, which are similar to a Foredom tool, but less expensive. The basic Mastercarver model with foot pedal, which he uses, is available from www.woodcarverssupply.com in Florida. You could also use a Wecheer (available from Woodcraft) or a Dremel rotary tool, but you get tired holding the heavier Dremel

tool in your hand over time. Micromotor is another option. It takes only certain types of bits, but they turn at a robust 45,000 rpm. Piercing tools, like an NSK dental drill, spin at 400,000 rpm, but with marginal torque. One advantage of pneumatic tools is that they don't overheat with time. The disadvantage: you always listen to an air compressor in the background.

Vesery likes to use three handpieces: one reciprocating, one that takes 3/32-inch bit with an ejector, and one with a Jacobs Chuck that can accept 1/4-inch bits. For the reciprocating cutters, Vesery prefers the Flexcut brand exclusively. (Ryobi makes a reciprocating cutter, but the motor is in the handpiece, which leads to fatigue over time.) One of his favorite bits is a



bud-shaped stump cutter. His preferred wood for carving is cherry, simply because it is in the middle of the hardness spectrum, ranging from basswood to oak or hard maple.

With the rough texturing on a piece completed, Vesery moves to his custom-designed woodburner. In his experience, the smaller woodburners, such as the Cub or Razer, don't have enough power. "If you're pushing down hard (during woodburning), you don't have enough power," he said. He fashions most of his tips from 19-gauge nichrome wire, although he will use 18- or 20-gauge wire as necessary. Vesery emphasized that he is not in the business of selling woodburners (he's made only 8 or 10 of them so far), but he does make his design available for seminar attendees at \$100 for the handpiece, and \$300 for the burner itself. (Looking at the burner design, it reminds me of something Steve Jobs/Jony Ive would have designed. There is an on/off switch, LED light, and rotary heat control on one end, with AC-line out, handpiece plugin port, and cooling fan on the other. Simple, and completely intuitive. And it's quite attractive in a small, flat black metal box.) Just remember to do your woodburning on a slightly inclined chair, with padding. That way, the smoke will go straight up, and you won't breathe the fumes.



With the burning completed, Vesery scrapes off loose charred wood using a fine brass brush he sources from a jewelry supply company, and then blasts the surface with compressed air. Next comes the application of color, using acrylic paints, a Deer-Foot brush, and a dry brushing technique. Royal is the brand name for his Deer-Foot brush. They can cost \$35 each, but they're cheaper online (about \$5 each) if you buy them in quantity.



Vesery likes to use the Golden Matte fluid acrylics or the slightly less expensive Blick Matte finish. He'll use Dark Blue, Raw Umber, and Dark Green. As a palette surface for mixing, Vesery uses a polypropylene Denril product available from Dick Blick art supplies (www.dickblick.com). The Denril is like Mylar, but it doesn't absorb the paint. He will place one or two drops of the acrylic on this surface, and then repeatedly tap it with the Deer-Foot brush, perhaps up to 40 times, and then rapidly brush it onto the surface of his workpiece in a back-and-forth motion. A foam brush will also be used, but only to apply highlights. The sequence of color application is always darkest to lightest. For example, do you want red? Then start with burgundy, followed by umber, and then red. By the time of completion, each piece will have as many as 20 layers of color, which makes them durable. He tells the story that one of his customers had a laminated cutting board made by Vesery. "It lasted 15 years, but it recently broke into five pieces," she said. "We always put it in the dishwasher after we use it."



For a sampling of Vesery's work, visit his website, or go to Pinterest or Facebook. The quality of his work is stunning, as well as intricate. I was amazed at the detail in his leaves, uh, no, feathers, especially on an egg. And, if you're interested in acquiring a piece of his work, just go to del Mano or any one of a number of high-end art galleries where his work is on display.



Gallery

Jason Clark



Burls are always a bit of a gamble. You never really know what's inside until you cut it open. Marty Knapp and John Dillon both showed off some of their latest work featuring burls.

Marty's piece has more of a vase shape and features a nice natural edge.

John's bowl has a very classic shape that really shows off the burl figure in the grain. I'm sure both John and Marty were happy when they saw the burl figure in their respective pieces.



CWT News



To honor long-time member of CWT, Darrell Rader, members of the club turned a special plate and an assortment of delicious looking wooden cookies, which was presented to him at the September meeting. Darrell will be moving out of the state, but his service to CWT and its members will long be remembered.

Special thanks to the following members and their contributions to plate and its goodies:

Dawn Herndon-Charles: bench cookies

Marie Anderson: peanut butter, chocolate chip and drop cookies

Roger and Julie Basrak: sugar cookies

Marcia and Mark Jundanian: pecan sandies

Jason Clark: chocolate drop cookies

Rich and DebHall-Reppen: mint chocolate cookie

Roberto Ferrer and David Bertaud: muffin box

Andy Kuby: donut Box

Frank Pagura: platter and Oreo cookie box



Also, thanks to all the CWT members who signed the platter.

Calendar of Events 2019-20

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

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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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www.chicagowoodturners.com

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