



As the Wood Turns

May, 2023

Vol. 35, Issue No. 5

Chicago Woodturners Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Editor's Corner	2
President's Curls	3
April Minutes	4
Safety Report	5
Interactive Demo	7-8
WIT	10
Mentors	13
MPG 2023	14-15
Segmenting	16-17
Last Cut	18
AAW News	21

A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

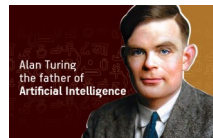
Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Woodturner

Lately, there's been a lot of talk about Artificial Intelligence (AI). The feelings range from AI is the savior of mankind to AI is a threat to our existence.

In 1950, Alan Turing, one of the founders of computer science asked "Can a computer be created

that actually thinks, be intelligent,

have a mind? And if there was one, how would we know if it really is a computer?



The Turing Test was developed to answer that question. Every year, computer scientists look for the computer that answer questions just like a human. Turing predicted

that was possible by 2008. It took a little longer, in 2022 ChatGPT passed the test, or fooled the human judges.

You can turn create elegant bowls on your lathe because you are in control of your tools. But you can't tell it to it "Give me a beautiful bowl"

Microsoft's Bing uses ChatGPT. I ask Bing, "**Can AI help the woodturner?**" Here's what Bing had to say:

(Continued on page 9)



A computer generated turned Chinese Ball

Special points of interest:

- AAW Symposium 2023
Louisville, Kentucky
- FOCUS on the Arts
- Woodturning Cruise in Norway
- CWT Mentors
- CWR Safety Report
- CWT Woodturning Classes

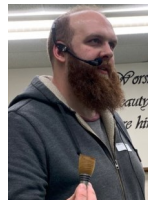
CWT MEETING

Tuesday May 9, 2023

7 pm to 10 PM

In-Person Meeting /
Hybrid @ Christian Liberty

National AAW recognition of CWT members!



Congratulations to Kurt Wolff-Klammer and Marie Anderson for making AAW headlines!

Kurt is featured in AAW's Toolbox newsletter for his umbrella ornaments.

Marie Anderson is a featured artist in AAW's 2023 Virtual WIT Exchange. Her works were show at on April 29.

Kurt and Marie are examples of the great talent within our ranks!

Turn an Umbrella Ornament
By Kurt Wolff-Klammer
While not a bowl in its final form, part of the process to make this ornament is to create a mini natural-edge bowl. Learn how to make your own with Kurt Wolff-Klammer's article "Turn an Umbrella Ornament" from the December 2020 edition of *American Woodturner*.

[Click here for a direct link to the article](#)



WIT EXCHANGE VIRTUAL 2023

Registration is NOW OPEN!
Costs are \$49.00 for May
2023 Virtual WIT EXCHANGE
Presentation of Projects

Share this year - there will be 2 live showings to accommodate our international viewers! April 28, 2023 at 10am and April 29th 10am to 4pm EST
This event is FREE, but you must register!
Visit: <http://www.cwtexchange2023.com>

Special Thanks to

Editor's Corner | *Phil Moy*



Phil Moy

This month's issue leads off with artificial intelligence, also referred to as AI. It's a topic that deserves your attention because it's coming whether you like it or not.

Computers can do things much faster than humans, 100,000 times faster. That's not smarter, that's just speedier. When you ask a computer a question, it can look up more things much faster, and that kind of makes the computer smarter.

Can a computer think? Dall E2 is able to combine images in new ways. It's ability to access more images that our brains can hold and create new variations will be much faster and plentiful than we could ever match.

So ignore or embrace AI? I think that's a great friend to hang out with! After all, you are the average of your five closest friends. Make AI one of them! Use AI as a reference point, for new ideas, for inspiration, to look at more ways to turn a bowl.

OpenAI is the creator of ChatGPT and Dall E2. Find them at www.openai.com. Using OpenAI is free, but there is a cost to using Dal E2. You need tp purchase credits with a credit card.

Why talk so much about AI?

Here are some interesting lines from "The Future of Work" by Darrell M. West (The Brookings Instituion, 2018)

...new technologies (meaning artificial intelligence) have enabled people to be very productive while working just a few hours. So an individual can devote most of their waking hours to education, personal interests, volunteering and community betterment... a digital economy characterized by less work and more leisure time... Some people are using their leisure time to develop hobbies, such as knitting, crocheting, rebuilding car engines, gardening or **woodworking**.

What does that mean for woodturning, AAW and CWT? We should see more people turn to woodworking as their leisure activity choice. By association, discover woodturning. So it's up to us to promote and market woodturning to a new audience.

A new influx of turners is great news for us! Otherwise they'll take up crocheting and knitting!

Phil



Letters to the Editor

Comments, complaints or ideas? *Send them to the Editor!*

Email them to: editor@chicagowoodturners.com

As the Wood Turns is a monthly publication of the Chicago Woodturners, a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners.

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Newsletter Editor, Phil Moy	



Est. 1988

CWT MEETING

Tuesday May 9, 2023

Format: Hybrid

Join us In-person or by
Zoom!



[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/86470744339](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86470744339)

Meeting ID: 864 7074 4339

Passcode: 750155

Interactive Demo by
Roberto Ferrar

President's Curls | *Rich Hall-Reppen*

May 1, 2023



Whew, we had a very busy April. Between our monthly meeting with the demo by Keith Lackner (and a record raffle revenue), Beginning Bowl and Spindle classes, Focus on the Arts, Midwest Pen Gathering and the Open Shop Day, we had over twenty different members volunteering for these events. Some of our members helped out at all of these events and we all thank you for volunteering your time and talents. The Chicago Woodturners is lucky to have so many members that volunteer to help educate the community about woodturning throughout the year.

Vice President Rich Nye has scheduled Roberto Ferrer as our Club Meeting demonstrator on May 9. Roberto uses the lathe and router to create amazing, artistic wall hanging pieces. Rich has also scheduled Joss Naigeon for the Club demo at our June meeting and hands on classes on June 17, 18 & 19. Joss has been an instructor at the Escoulen school in France for the past ten years and is a demonstrator at this year's AAW Symposium in Louisville. Joss has created some very interesting sculptures and pieces using the local French boxwood that has been killed by an insect. Check out her website at <https://jossnaigeon.fr> and sign up for the hands on classes.

Your Board of Directors met via zoom on Thursday April 27. In addition to the five Board members, we had seven other CWT members attending. Just a reminder, that all members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. We reviewed our finances for the year to date, upcoming demonstrators and gallery reviewers, and upcoming classes and events.

We reviewed the 2022 US Tax Return that was just filed by our new accountant on our behalf, updated insurance policy for the club. Our tax returns are considered public information since the club is a registered educational charity. If any member wants a copy, let me know and I'll email you a copy of the 2022 Form 990-EZ filed with the IRS.

Also discussed, Turn-On! Chicago 2024 planning and the By-law update project. We heard about a very interesting project led by Andy Kuby and Roberto Ferrer, the Chicago Collaborative. It is tentatively scheduled for early October.

The Board approved lending some of our mini-lathes to the AAW for a Learn to Turn event at this year's AAW Symposium in Louisville. Mark Dreyer is leading the program for the AAW and is looking for any members who can help for an hour or two during the Symposium.

Our next Open Shop Day is scheduled for Sunday May 28, 2023 at the Chicago School of Woodworking from 9 am to 3 pm. It is open to all CWT members, but you need to let Andy or Al know prior to showing up.

Bring some wood to turn, your tools if you have them and use the Club's lathes. If you don't have tools, the club has some tools you can try out before you buy yours. (There is a big moving sale coming up Memorial Day weekend! You should be able to buy some great tools at a great price). If anybody wants to volunteer to be the mentor for Open Shop or any of the other Open Shop Days going forward, please talk to Andy.

Keep turning and make sure to bring in your latest turnings for our Gallery Review.

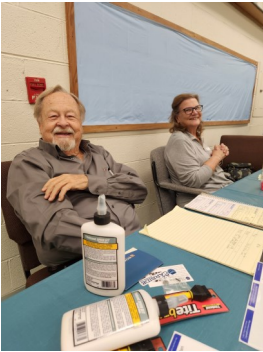
Rich



Paul Prycik banking raffle tickets.

The money raised by the raffle goes towards club activities. A record amount was raised in April, driven by some great raffle selections

April Minutes | *Frank Pagura*



*The Membership Dues
Collection Team*

Tonight's demonstrator is Keith Lackner, he is going to show us all about casting.

Rich Nye is our gallery reviewer.

Rich Hall-Reppen indicated that there are 18 members taking advantage of the **AAW Symposium** sign up discount and going to the Louisville symposium. See Mark Jundanian if you are interested in participating.

AAW is featuring Derek Weideman animal making virtual demo, this promises to be a very entertaining event.

CWT first class on spindle work was held on April 1, 2023. The bowl turning class will take place on April 15, 2023.

OPEN SHOP Time will be available at the Chicago School of Woodworking on the last Sunday of every month for the fosterable future. This is free of charge to CWT members, see Andy or Al to sign up. There are safety forms to turn in before you come.

Focus on the Arts at the Highland Park High School plans are almost complete, Brenda could use a few more back up helpers see her if you can help. Set up is on April 18 at 5:30 PM with classes starting at 8:30 AM on April 19 and 20, 2023. Security forms must be filled ahead of time on the HS site to be admitted.

Rich indicated there is a possibility to participate in exhibiting wood turned pieces at the **Illinois State Fair** in Springfield. Details will be provided via general email.

Turn-On! Chicago will be August 1-4, 2024, the hotel contract is almost completed, it will be turned in shortly. Al and Kurt will be working on securing the demonstrators for the event.

Kurt has many of the committees in place and assignments scheduled. He could use a few volunteers to lighten the loads. This is a good opportunity to contribute your talents to the Premier Club Event that supports most of the club activities.

Midwest Pen Gathering April 21-22, 2023 is almost here. If you need more details, see Mark Dreyer

Beads of Courage Andy reported that there is a little delay in organizing the Boxes and Bags delivery due to a change of personnel at Lurie's. He will keep us posted as soon as the issue gets resolved. In the meantime, keep bringing in completed boxes for this worthwhile cause.

The **Mentor List** is posted on the CWT home page, if you need assistance, take advantage of a mentor it will lessen your struggles and make you a happier turner.

Safety Presentation

Frank listed the major causes of possible injuries at the lathe. They were divided in two categories, the ones that produce immediate hurt and the ones that may take months or years to manifest. All this is just a reminder that when safety becomes a habit our turning life is more enjoyable and rewarding.

Membership Brenda indicated we have 40 attending members in person and 13 online for this evening's meeting. 2 new members signed up recently.

AAW Learn to Turn Mark Dreyer made an announcement, he could use some help with a new program at the AAW symposium in Louisville. Mini lathes will be set up to allow the community to turn a pen.

These pens will be turned from blanks made from baseball bats billets donated by the Louisville Slugger company. Marks needs help with making the blanks and turners for the event, see him if you can help.

The **CWT library** has books on turning, magazines, and articles available to check out. See Marcia Jundanian, she can show you around.

Instant Gallery Rich Nye had a full slate of gallery pieces, ranging from 'The First Bowl' turned by a new turner to real masterworks.

Keith Lackner followed with a lively and informative demonstration about casting, turning, and finishing.

Dutifully submitted by **Frank Pagura, Secretary.**



Safety Report | *Frank Pagura*

This evening the safety presentation deals with actions and conditions which have caused turners injuries operating a lathe.

It is divided in two categories, the first are the things you do which cause immediate and consistent HURT.

The second are things that may take months and even years to manifest but can cause permanent damages.

FIRST

- 1) Starting the lathe with the chuck key still inserted
- 2) Starting the lathe, with an off-balance piece chucked in, without checking the speed dial.
- 3) Standing, consistently, in the RED ZONE also known as the line of fire.
- 4) Using a roughing gauge on the inside of a bowl.
- 5) Not wearing a full-face shield.
- 6) Working in a cluttered environment, with too many tools perched precariously on the lathe bed.
- 7) Wearing open toe sandals and flipflops.
- 8) Ignoring sudden vibrations and warning noises while turning.
- 9) Turning at too a high speed for blank quality and tool mastery.
- 10) Wearing loose and dangling clothing parts which can get tangled in the spinning wood.
- 11) Working tired and losing concentration.
- 12) Ignoring needed equipment maintenance.

SECOND

- 1) Turning and sanding without breathing protection
- 2) Ignoring allergic reactions to wood and wood dust
- 3) Ignoring pains and aches caused by improper lathe settings and stance.
- 4) Spending long stints at the lathe with insufficient lighting.
- 5) Working with excessive noise without protection.

I am sure you can come up with a few more, but these are a good starting point for your habit analysis.

Remember you control your working environment, habits, and responsibility for your safety.

BE A SAFE AND HAPPY TURNER

From your CWT safety officer

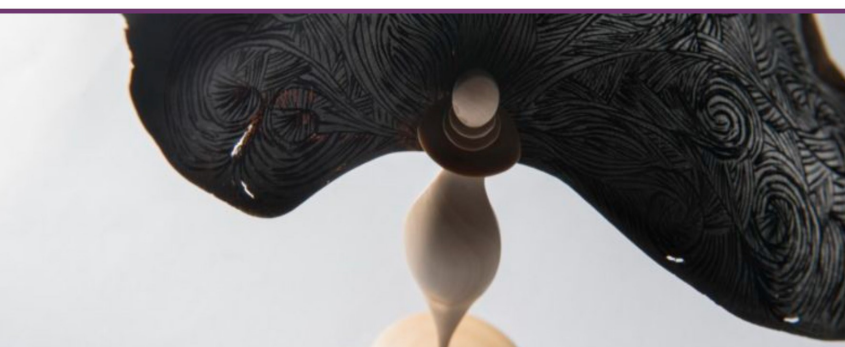
Frank Pagura



Instant Gallery | *Rich Nye*

April's Instant Gallery Review was conducted by Rich Nye who offered insightful comments on the work brought in by CWT members.

Pictures of April's submission can be found on the CWT website!



Joss Naigeon: CWT Club demo in June Hands on classes on June 17, 18 & 19.

Joss has been an instructor at the Escoulen school in France for the past ten years and is a demonstrator at this year's AAW Symposium. Joss has created some very interesting sculptures and pieces using the local French boxwood that has been killed by an insect. Check out her website at <https://jossnaigeon.fr> and sign up for the hands on classes.

FOCUS on the Arts – Highland Park High School

On April 19th and 20th , CWT participated in an art project at Highland Park High School called FOCUS on the Arts. We taught juniors and seniors how to turn pens. We had 18 volunteers and managed to help 140 students turn a pen.

On Wednesday evening we participated in Art Night when the school opens the doors to the community to come and learn about what each participant is doing. We had a great time and so did the kids!



Interactive Demonstration | *Clint Stevens*



Keith Lackner

Keith Lackner, Wood and Resin Artist

Baseball legend Jay Hanna Dean is affectionately known better as “Dizzy” Dean. “Dizzy” once observed, “It ain’t bragging if you can do it”. I’m here to tell you, Keith Lackner cannot be accused of bragging. He visited CWT and gave us a step by step demonstration on just how he creates mind blowing wood and resin projects that he calls “Resin Infusions”.

The wood that Keith uses are various burls. His most successful wood and resin projects appear to have heavily irregular borders with a variegated color pattern. The ragged contrast between the wood and resin is striking, almost shocking. Such turnings demand to be admired.

The resin that Keith uses is the Alumilite brand. It’s available as a binary resin with parts “A” and “B” sold as a set. Each part is one gallon and the pair costs about \$200. At that price, it’s important to read the directions carefully and use only what is needed.



Once the required volume is determined (measuring volume with beans or rice), resin parts A and B are measured out individually by weight, not by half of the total volume. The



ingredients have a different specific gravity.

One cup of epoxy weighs 265 grams. Parts A and B will be poured out at 132.5 grams apiece. Even though the volumes will be slightly different, the resultant 265 grams will yield one cup of resin. Mix and pour the resin slowly to minimize bubbles.

Keith mixes the combined resin with a hand held drill paint mixer. Slow thorough mixing will allow the resin to cure as expected without bubbles. Precision is essential. Bubbles or excess heat can ruin a blank. Once mixed, the desired Alumilite or automotive color or colors can be introduced. That variegated appearance to the color profile can be kept by not overmixing the colors.



Once poured, place the blank in a pressure pot. Pressure in the pot will be slowly increased to 80 psi. If the pressure is built too quickly, the intake air could ripple the surface of the blank. That would take a toll on the desired effect.



Once cured, the blank can be mounted on a lathe and turned. Only now can the advantage of turning resin become apparent. Unlike wood, resin has no grain direction, therefore no shape or curve limitations as is the case with wood.



However, resin can chip or shatter. To avoid this, take small cuts with a carbide cutter with the cutting edge set to 30 degrees. Lathe speed is an important factor and is usually set at 1800 to 2000 rpm. The turning is then sanded with Abranet mesh abrasive through 800 grit. Finish with steel wool and then Micro-Mesh sanding pads or Yorkshire Grit Microfine Abrasive Paste..

Soooo, there are a few very important rules to help ensure lovely results.

First, pay attention to preparation. Remove all bark from your burl. Clean the burl of dirt, grit and whatever nasty grime that it may have acquired before you received it.

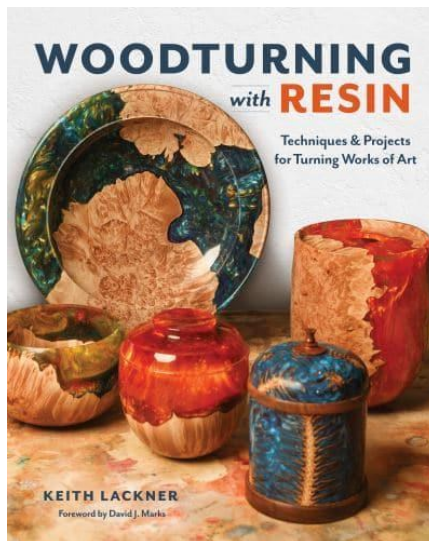
Remember, the resin should bond with the surface of the wood. Foreign material will only get in the way.

Secondly, Moisture is the natural enemy of resin. When you first receive your burl, moisture content might be as high as 37 percent. Leave the blank on the self until its moisture content is below eight percent. Dry your burls slowly over time to reduce the chance of cracking. At eight percent moisture, it's ready to work with resin.

Thirdly, color selection and introduction to the resin will make or break your turning. Properly crafted, the Aluminite or automotive dyes will take on a near preternatural effect. Subtle color shifts can appear to be ribbons of the Aurora borealis, ripples of ocean water or bands of subtle shades of layered sand in a dune.

If you would like to explore Keith Lackner's processes further, grab a copy of his book **"Woodturning with Resin: Techniques & Projects for Turning Works of Art"**.

My copy was inexpensive and was quickly elevated



Author Keith Lackner

Available at fine woodworking stores and also on Amazon

to standard reference status in my library. Like most of my favorite books, it has lots of pictures.

Keith Lackner came to us with a caravan load of equipment and a library of great techniques.

He takes all of that back to his shop along with the deep appreciation of his large audience.

Come back any time, Keith.



Keith Lackner

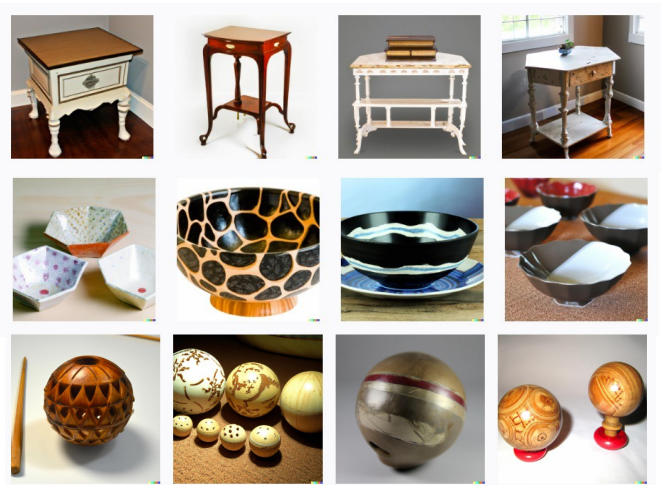
Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Woodturner | (cont.)

“I’m sorry but I couldn’t find any evidence that AI has been used in woodturning for automating the process or improving its efficiency. However, AI has been used in woodturning to generate art designs that can spark ideas and enhance creativity at the lathe.”

So maybe AI could provide design ideas, inspiration. But answers in text isn’t good enough, show us some pictures!

Enter DALL E2!

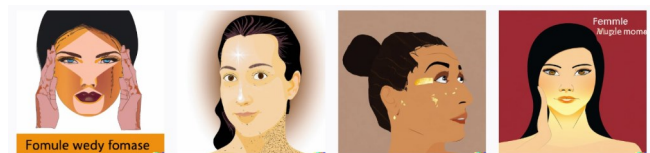
DALL·E2 is an AI program that creates original, realistic images and art from a written question based a vast database. It combines concepts, attributes, and styles. I asked DALL E2 to “Design a colonial end table” DALL E2 gave me a set of 4 images (right, upper row)



How about “Create a segmented bowl” Dall E2 created 4 more images (right, middle row)

Or “Create a wood turned Chinese Ball”.

Really, not bad. Better than I could do with a blank piece of paper and pencil. Are they good looking designs? They do provide some inspiration? The design for the Chinese Ball is a challenging image, not one I would have come up with!



“Show me a beautiful woman with golden proportions features”

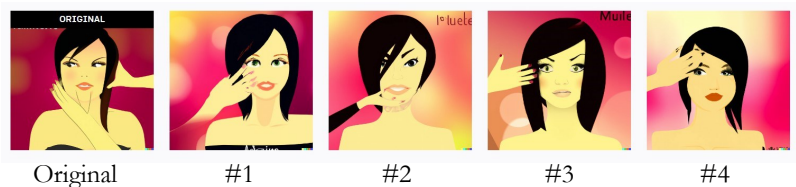
Let’s try a few more requests!

“Show me a beautiful woman with golden proportion features” Dalle2 gave me four images.



Of the four images, I pick image #4 and ask for “Variations” (Right, second row)

This time I pick image #1 and ask for variations. #4 looks great! Never would I have drawn that face. Good job, Dall E2!



Back to AI and the woodturner. “Show me a vase with golden proportion curves”

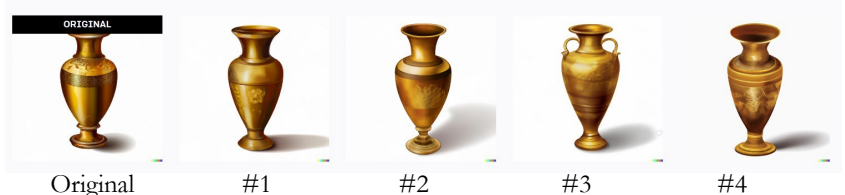
I pick image #1 and ask for variations. A nice collection of interesting shapes!



What you ask and how you ask is critical. Offering more detail in your request gives Dall E2 more guidance. Dall E2 offers examples of how to ask questions to get specific results.

The conclusion? Just like any tool, you have to learn how to use it to get a result. You get to be the ‘eye of the beholder’ and determine if you think it is ‘beautiful’

In **Last Cut** (page 19) we explore how you could use the output of Dall E2 right now.





Women in Turning

Women in Turning (WIT) brings together women worldwide who share a passion for woodturning. WIT is dedicated to encouraging and assisting women in their pursuit of turning, to sharing ideas and processes to further members' skills and creativity, and to increasing participation of women in the field of woodturning.

The Women in Turning committee has officially announced the newest nationwide WIT initiative based on a suggestion from one of the WIT liaisons suggestions - Turning and donating Wig Stands to those receiving wigs at no cost.

WIT is partnering with groups across the country to get these to women primarily but also to men and children. Most organizations are distributing their wigs in-person to clients and the wig stands would be given out the same way, eliminating the need for shipping. All of these personal gifts of wig stands will give a lift to others who are going through a tough time.

As the WIT Liaison for our club I am asking if our club is interested in participating in this initiative?

This is a great group project and perfect for skill building since there is spindle work and bowl work involved.

There are several clubs including the Central Illinois Woodturners that have been turning and donating wig stands for years. One of the great things about their program is their partnership with a local high school arts program. The woodturners turn the stands, then drop them off at the high school to be decorated. The kids are exposed to woodturning and their art is exposed to a larger audience than they may have had without this partnership. All great ways to give back to the community and get kids interested in woodturning. Win, Win!

Please let me know if you are interested in participating in this initiative. If so, I will distribute a plan with dimensions that WIT has put together to make participation easier.

Also, if you were not able to attend one or both of the 2023 Virtual WIT EXCHANGE presentation of projects on April 29th, the recording should be available on the AAW website by the time you read this.

If you are interested in expanding your creativity, you should make the time to view the recording. It is (or will be soon) posted on the AAW website (Women In Turning page). You will gain an understanding of how 21 teams came up with their projects from 2 inspiration words. (NOTE: If you are going to Louisville, some of this year's projects will be on display in the instant gallery.)



On May 6th the next WIT Presents presentation will feature the president of the Registered Professional Turners (RPT) of the United Kingdom - Jay Heryet. Jay is also a very well known woodturning artist in the UK.

Her presentation will include her journey as well as information about her latest project "the emerging artists" program which is mentoring some of the newest talent in the UK.

(Oh, and don't forget Mother's Day is May 14th this year!)

Segmented Turning Class at CSW

Are you interested in learning more about segmented turning? Al Miotke is teaching a 2-day class that will take you thru all the steps in the process and each student will leave with a finished segmented bowl.

The class is taught thru the Chicago School of Woodworking on Saturday April 29 and May 6. Tuition: \$275, 9am to 4pm

You can register thru the school's website www.chicagowoodworking.com.



Open Shop Day at the CSW | *Andy Kuby*

On Sunday, April 30, 2023 we held the second open shop day. It was a busy day with 7 lathes in action from 9am until about 2:30. There was some mentoring taking in addition to a lot of individual turning complimented by good comradery. There will be a third Chicago Woodturners Open Shop Day on May 23rd at the Chicago School of Woodworking, 5680 North Northwest Highway, Chicago. The Chicago Woodturners partner with the Chicago School of Woodworking which gives us access to a well equipped shop for our lathes and other equipment. After the May open shop the Board will consider the future of this program. If you want this to continue please attend the Open Shop Days and send comments to the Board.



Clint Stevens at CSW (2022)

If you plan to attend please sign up in advance with either Brenda Miotke (bkmiotke@comcast.net) or Andy Kuby (studio@riverwoodsturner.com). Remember, this is your equipment, use it.

Andrew Kuby

Laser Pointer Kits

MIDWEST WOODWORKING ELECTRONICS

Green

Red

Designed for woodturners to create the world's finest custom laser pointers

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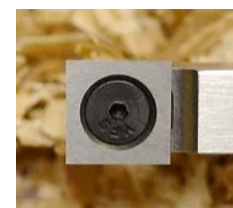


A Tip from Christy at Easy Wood Tools

Having trouble loosening the screw on that cutter?

Christy had a few tips for us. She says that spraying Goo-Gone or mineral spirits will loosen the screw and clean out the hole for the hex key. A clean hole helps the key get a better grip.

She recommends a new screw every time you replace the cutter. That's why a screw is supplied with every new cutter. Don't over-tighten the screw, it's not necessary to hold the cutter in place.



Editor's note: I have used a pair of pliers on a cutter that absolutely won't come off. It works great but trashes the cutter. Time for a new blade and a screw!

CWT Mentors

Want to speed up the learning process?

Let a CWT Mentor help you.

Leverage the wealth of woodturning knowledge at CWT!

Levels

B—Beginner

I—Intermediate

A—Advanced

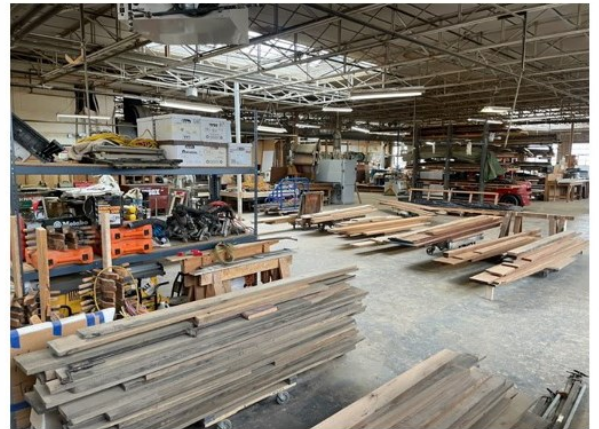
Name	Town	Levels	Areas
Marie Anderson	Itasca	B, I, A	General turning, brainstorm with anyone
Dave Bertaud	Libertyville	B	General turning
John Dillon	Elburn	B	General turning
Tom Evoldi	Evanston	B	General turning, natural edge, thin wall, hollowing and carving
Reto Gallati	Chicago	B	General turning
Rich Hall-Reppen	Geneva	B, I	General turning
Andy Kuby	Riverwoods	B, I, A	General turning, spindles, bowls, platters, pens, multi-axis, ornaments, finials and other topics
Terry McCammon	Wilmette	B	General turning
Al Miotke	Mt. Prospect	B, I, A	General turning, segmenting
Phil Moy	Lombard	B	General turning, pens
Rich Nye	Batavia	B, I, A	General turning, carving, texturing, painting, burning
Frank Pagura	Elk Grove Village	B, I, A	General turning

Herner-Geissler
No reasonable price refused.
Woodworking Corp.

400 N Hermitage Ave
Chicago, IL 60622
312-226-3400
Hours: M – F, 7:30AM – 2:00PM

58 years of accumulated inventory for sale.

- Solid wood – domestic & exotics
- Veneer (raw & veneered panels) domestic & exotic
- Chemetal and other laminate sheets
- Machines/tools/clamps/hardware
- Too many items to list



(See more at Facebook Marketplace – HG Sales or stop by M – F, 7:30 till 2PM)

EXOTIC BLANKS



exoticblanks.com

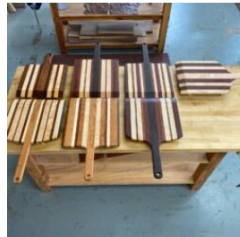
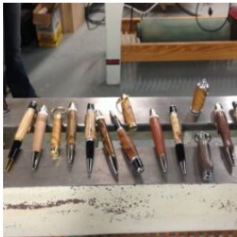


The Chicago School of Woodworking was established in 2007 to train students in the art of furniture making. Since then, our program has expanded to include the arts of turning, scroll saw, marquetry, Chip Carving, speaker making and cabinet making.

We are committed to providing students the knowledge and skills to create functional and beautiful furniture that can be enjoyed for generations.

We have chosen machinery and tools that are safe, up-to-date, and well maintained, so students can focus on learning and enjoy the varied aspects of building a quality piece of furniture or crafting wood art.

Find out more about our offerings and class schedules on our website!



CHICAGO SCHOOL OF WOODWORKING

EDUCATING THE QUALITY MINDED HOBBYIST IN THE ART OF WOODWORKING

5680 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago, IL 60646 | Phone: 773.275.1170
chicagowoodworking.com

MPG+ Small Turning Expo | April 21-22, 2023

The Chicagoland MPG conducted another successful symposium on a very rainy weekend in Chicago. Actually, it was rain, hail and snow.

Nevertheless over 300 attendees had the opportunity to see, learn and mix with woodturning professionals, some woodturning legends as well as fellow woodturners.

It was the 16th gathering of MPG in the Midwest. Founder Greg Cozad and past president Rich Coers were there. Event organizers, Mark and Donna Dreyer, John Underhill, Ed Brown and countless volunteers ran this year's event.

Chicago Woodturners was there with setup, lathes and Audio Visual support in all of the presentation rooms. Andy Kuby, Al Miotke, Frank Pagura and Rich Hall-Reppen providing their expertise.

With 20 presentations over two days, the rooms were packed and the deep dish pizza from Lou Malnati's was the Friday night highlight. Attendees came from 20 states, including Texas, North Carolina, Ohio and Kentucky. Canada! Plus there were a few from across our northern border, coming in from Canada.

(A shout out to the Ohio IAP members who came, and to Bob Jackson (RIP), former head of the MPG when it was in Ohio.

The topics included pen turning techniques, segmenting, Celtic knots, kitless penmaking and casting.

WIT was there through Linda Ferber and Marie Anderson. This year also included Small Turning demonstrations of ornaments, martini glasses, and laser

pointers by Dick and Cindy Sing, Kurt Wolff-Klammer, Al Miotke, Steven Price and Ty Stoffer,

Sessions in 3D printing and sales & marketing rounded out the selections.

The vendor room was also packed, expanded from last year's MPG. Fox Valley Gallery of Woods, The Pensmiths, Best Value Vacs and Underhill Casting Solutions to name a few.

Typical of MPG events, there were generous prizes, from JET, Easy Wood Tools, Best Value Vacs, Exotic Blanks and others. Bob Barbieri walked off with the grand prize, a JET 1221 VS lathe.

Over \$9,000 in door prizes and raffles provided some dramatic drawings!

What's coming in 2024? Mark your calendars, April 19 and 20th are already set in stone. There's sure to be more in every way next year!



MPG+ Small Turning Expo | *cont.*



2024 PenMakers International Chicagoland MPG

April 19 & 20, 2024

For information, visit midwestpenturnersgathering.com

7 Tips for Better Segmented Turnings | *Al Miotke*

Introduction

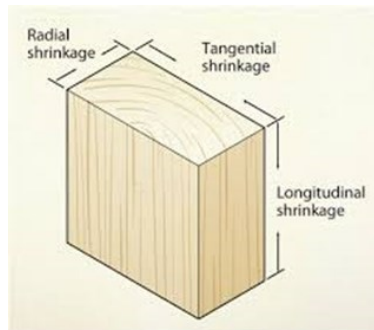
Are you interested in segmenting but are not sure where to start? Maybe you have tried segmenting but found that you had too many unanswered questions? If either of these describes you, hopefully the following 7 tips will help.

Tip No. 1 A Good Plan is Mandatory.

Segmenting is one of the areas of woodturning where a solid plan is critical before you walk into your shop to start cutting wood. The design can be completed using pencil, paper, and a calculator or one of the commercially available segmenting CAD programs

Tip No. 2 Avoid Cross Grain Issues

This is a common error in some segment designs. We all know that wood moves with changes in humidity and the magnitude of movement is different in the three planes of a board (photo 2). The longitudinal shrinkage is essentially zero. The tangential movement is typically twice the radial shrinkage but varies by species for any change in humidity. We all see it when a rough turned bowl turns oval or you see a gap develop in the molding of your home. But often time we forget this characteristic of wood when making a segmented piece.



Tip No. 3 Create Rings with Tight Joints

Having every joint tight is a cornerstone of high quality segmented construction and it takes a little practice and patience. A single gap of just .001 inches will be visible in the finished piece and will show up as a dark unattractive line. This is most critical when using light colored woods like maple or holly but it will be visible with any wood species and should always be avoided. Don't think that a gap can be filled with glue or filler. The gap might even look minor when viewing a ring but when the piece is sanded to 600G and has a finish on it, the defect will be magnified

many fold.

So how do you avoid gaps? There are four key factors to consider.

First is proper calibration of your cutting tools, whether it's a table saw, miter saw, or disk sander. It is critical that the table relative to the blade is a perfect 90 degrees.

Second is to make sure that you have sharp blades or sandpaper. Dull blades will cause burning of the wood and will result in kerf marks. When cutting, take it slow. A slow cut will be a smoother cut.

Third is to get your segment angles as accurate as possible. This requires a good jig for your table saw or miter saw. The Wedgie sled has become my personal favorite for most applications.



Photo 5

Fourth, Make sure that there are no gaps before gluing the ring. Every ring should be dry fitted first. If there is any doubt, use the half ring method. Glue two half rings together with the halves separated by a half dowel so you have a single point of contact between the rings.

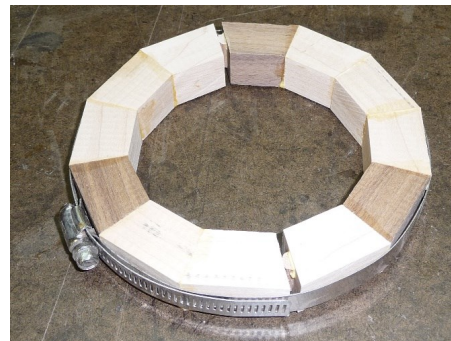


Photo 6

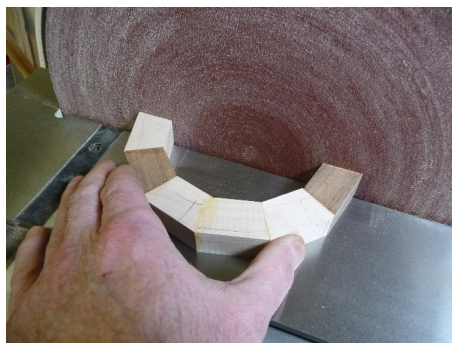


Photo 7

Tip No. 4 Use the Appropriate Bottom

Many segmented designs use a solid piece of wood as the bottom of the bowl or vessel. For many designs where the base is small, this is perfectly acceptable but it should be noted that there is grain misalignment between the base and segmented ring it is attached too. This can be negligible or a major design issue depending on the diameter of the bottom, and wood selected.

Tip No. 5 Center the Ring Properly

When gluing two rings together its important the new ring is centered as closely as possible relative to the previous rings. An off center ring can cause issues with wall thickness when turning. This is one reason to cut your segments with a little more width than you think you need.

Tip No. 6 Use Good Clamping to Avoid Gaps

Have you heard the phrase “You can never have too many clamps”. Well it is also true in segmenting. There are many approaches to gluing rings together. One of my favorites is to glue rings together with a series of clamps. This is the best way to be confident that you have tight glue joint all around the circumference of the ring.



Photo 12




Photo 13

Tip No. 7 Build the Feature Ring First

If your design includes a feature ring, consider making it first. The feature ring is usually the most complicated and time consuming part of the design so it makes sense to tackle it first. It is also easy to miscalculate the diameter of this ring because of the numerous glue-ups that are often required.







The goal of this article is to address seven of the most common challenges that people have when getting started in segmenting. If you can get comfortable with these points, you should be on your way to making high quality segmented designs.



Segmented Woodturners
Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

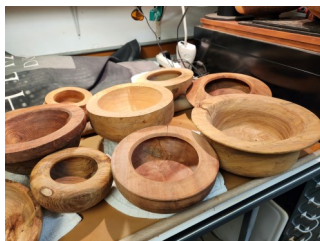
A leading international non-profit organization advancing both the art and craft of segmented woodturning thru educational activities for all interested parties from beginners thru studio artists.

Exploring Possibilities

To learn more or join:
www.segmentedwoodturners.org

See reverse side for a list of membership benefits

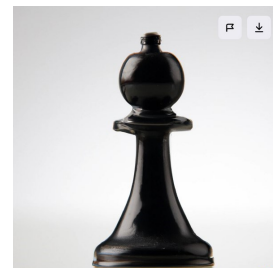


My haul of rough turned bowls from RJR Woods at MPG.

Last Cut | Phil Moy

So can you use Dall E2 to do something useful right now?

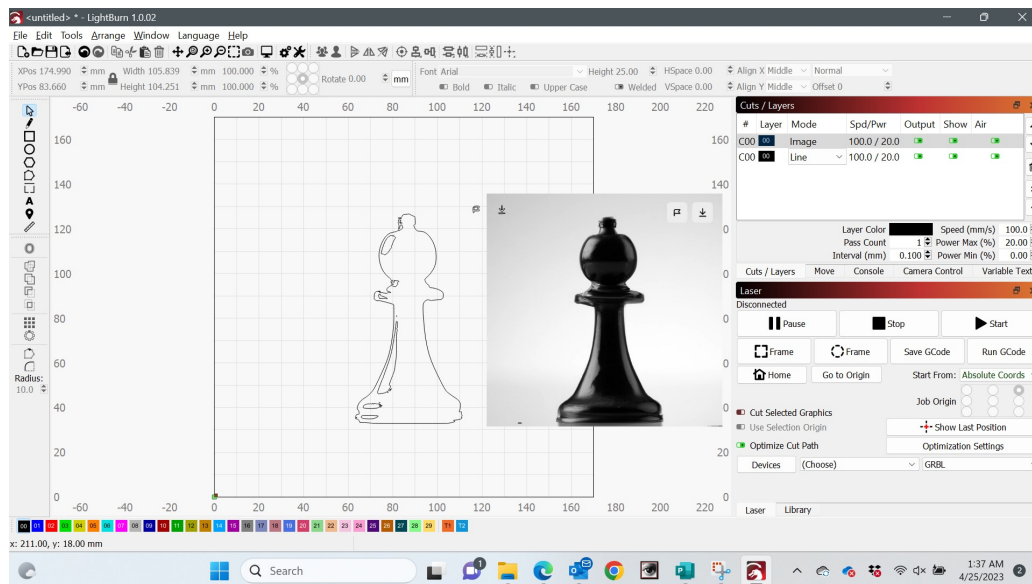
I asked Dall E2 for the front view of a chess pawn, and it (he, she) gave me the image on the right. It looks like a 3D rendering of a pawn.



I took the image and brought into Lightburn, the software that drives my Neje Laser Engraver, Here's what it looked like on my laptop, after using "trace image". Lightburn gave me the profile of the pawn as a single line!



Closeup of pawn profile



Having this profile is great because the elegant proportions of the pawn has been captured. Now I can use it in different ways:

1. I can cut the exact shape out of thin plywood using a powerful laser engraver or CNC machine.
2. I can use the laser engraver to cut a paper template, which can be glued to a thin sheet of wood or metal to create a template for turning. Cut out the shape with a scroll saw, touch up or add detail (like sharper corners or beads).
3. Put that template on a lathe duplicator, and I can make 16 pawns in a jiffy!
4. I can scale it to make 2" pawns or 2 foot pawns!

From AI generated image, to real data that can be used in the shop! Things you can do today!

Probably not too far away, we'll have an AI app that you can talk to, design 3D objects, and print to your 3D printer in plastic, wood or metal!

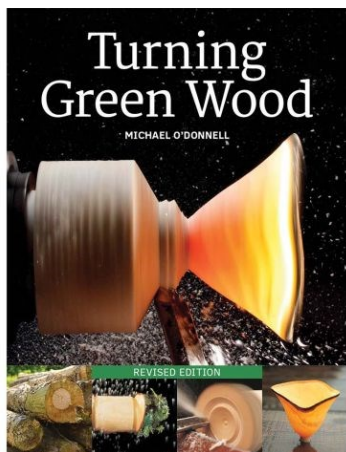
Next week, there's a seminar to see a hand held scanner scan objects and convert it to a file that can be 3D printed immediately! Complex parts, like engine blocks and manifolds!

Just another example of the amazing advancements in computer technology applied to creating 3D objects.

So far, humans are still in control. Just be careful when DALL E2 starts dating your CNC machine or Powermatic! Who knows what creations they will give birth to!



Turning Green Wood | Phil Moy



Turning Green Wood

Michael O'Donnell

Jan 28, 2020

Publisher: The Guild of Master Craftsmen Publications

Retail: \$24.95

Available at Rockler and Amazon, in paperback and Kindle

The picture of the translucent natural edge bowl on the front cover is enough to make you buy this book to add to your library!

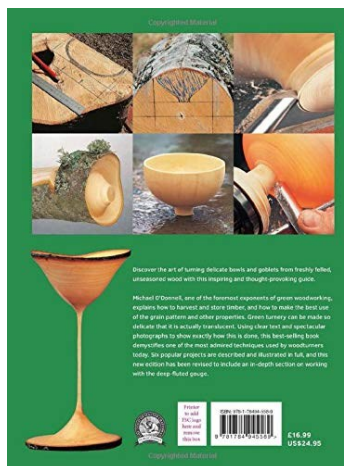
This is actually a great book for the beginning woodturner. Part One, Planning & Preparation covers the full range of turning, from the anatomy of a tree, the effect of side grain vs. end grain, how to maximize your desired bowl shape based on what part of the tree is on your lathe, tools, turning techniques and finishing.

The beginning turner is going to turn kiln dried wood, what else can you buy at Rockler and Woodcraft? Pen blanks don't come as green wood.

The reality of turning wood fresh off a chainsaw is another step in the woodturning journey. In that step, all of the aspects of turning actually answers questions that arise as your turn kiln dried blanks.

Part Two, Turning Goblets and Bowls, is full of beautiful photos, detailed cross sectional drawings that that you through making a variety of shapes and objects.

Editors note: It was at AAW Symposium in Chattanooga that I first saw a green wood bowl turned. It was the Stuart Batt vs Mike

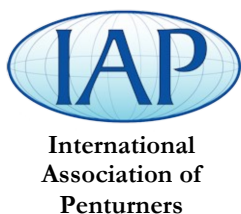


Mahoney "Battle of the Bowls"

Barbara Dill put in the winning bid for one of the bowls, and it was a beautiful glowing bowl, about a foot in diameter.

I didn't know it was green wood. It was amazing to see wood shavings spinning high into the air, and the aggressiveness of the cut was attributed to the level of experience.

Having just acquired a silver maple burl that broke off during an ince storm, this book becomes an invaluable reference for deciding what bowls to make as well as the green wood turning experience!



The Chicagoland Chapter of the International Association of Penmakers meets every third Saturday of the month, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Woodcraft.

Join us, learn more about making custom pens and meet some of the best penmakers in Chicago!



7440 Woodward Avenue Suite, Woodridge, IL 60517

Woodturning Cruise Norway

It is now only 56+ days until we sail, and we still have some available cabins for sale. Just now we had to make a major decision: to sail or not to. Our final decision was to sail, despite the fact that we had not filled all the cabins. We knew that many passengers had booked their flights, made arrangements months in advance and we could not disappoint all of these wonderful people who had already booked their cabins. But to fully finance the trip we need more passengers to fill the few remaining cabins. So we are doing something we don't normally do but presents a huge, rare opportunity:

Late booking discount!

Right now you can book a cabin with 25% discount as long as we have available cabins! Take advantage of this unique offer which probably never will happen again!

Visit our website and check out available cabins, the price has already been reduced! If you need more assistance or have questions:

Send an email to booking@woodturningcruise.com



**LAST MINUTE BOOKING
- FEW CABINS LEFT -
25% OFF
BOOK NOW!**



woodturningcruise.com

Norway

AAW Chapters in Illinois

Club	Contact	Website
Central Illinois Woodturners	Normal, IL	centralillinoiswoodturners.com
Chicago Woodturners	Arlington Heights, IL	chicagowoodturners.com
Flatland Woodturners	Champaign, IL	flatlandwoodturners.com
Lincoln Land Woodturners	Springfield, IL	llwonline.com
Northern Illinois Woodturners	Rockford, IL	northernillinoiswoodturners.com
Quad Cities Woodturners	Rock Island, IL	qcwoodturners.com
South Suburban Chiselers	South Holland, IL	illianawoodturners.wordpress.com
Windy City Woodturners	Naperville, IL	windycitywoodturners.weebly.com



AAW's 37th Annual Symposium is the biggest woodturning event in the world and has something for everyone, no matter your experience level.

- **Learn from Top Turners** – More than 30 live demonstrations, presentations and panels by some of the best turners from around the world.
- **World's Largest Woodturning Trade Show** – Get an up-close look at the latest tools and supplies.
- **Connect** – Meet woodturning hobbyists, professionals, artists, collectors, and vendors.
- **Exhibitions and Gallery** – Get inspired by hundreds of unique pieces from all over the world.
- **Family Friendly** – Enjoy woodturning activities for kids and the whole family.
- **Experience Louisville** – The home of the Louisville Slugger, iconic bourbon, Kentucky Derby and more.



AAW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and craft of woodturning worldwide through education.

With more than 16,000 members and over 365 local chapters globally, AAW members include amateurs, hobbyists, professionals, gallery owners, collectors, tool and equipment suppliers, and others.

Join the AAW and have access to the largest portfolio of woodturning-related material in the world!

Hone your knowledge and skills using AAW's online learning portals, exclusive print and digital publications, curated educational videos, high-quality safety resources, and more.

Visit the American Association of Woodturners at woodturner.org



Est. 1988

35 years of craft, technology and tradition

Join us for our monthly meetings, all are welcome!

MEETING LOCATION

Christian Liberty Academy

502 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL. 60004.
6:30 pm Social Hour, 7:00 pm to 10:00 PM

Free parking! Enter South Door on East Side,
Chapel, 2nd floor, NE corner

2023 Calendar of Events

CWT Meetings

Jan 10	May 9	Sept 12
Feb 14	June 13	Oct 10
Mar 14	July 11	Nov 14
April 11	Aug 8	Dec 12

Events

May 6	Bowl Turning Class	Chicago School of Woodworking
May 4 –7	Chicago Pen Show	Marriott Northwest, Hoffman Estates, IL
June 1 to 4	AAW National Symposium	Louisville, KY

Can't make it in person? Join us via Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86470744339>

Meeting ID: 864 7074 4339

Passcode: 750155



It is even more fun when you bring a friend!

Reasons to join Chicago Woodworkers

- Monthly meetings & newsletter
- Access to club member expertise and mentors
- Classes and hands-on sessions with name turners
- In-person demonstrations, product discounts, raffles
- and generally a good group to hang out with....

Membership Fees

- \$30 Individual membership
- \$40 Family membership.
- \$10 Under age of 25

Yearly membership fees for Chicago Woodturners are due at the beginning of the year. You can join at anytime of the year!

Pay with cash or a checks at the monthly meeting. (Make checks payable to 'Chicago Woodturners')

Application forms are found online! Contact Brenda Miotke for more information.

By email:
bkmiotke@comcast.net

Or by snail mail

Chicago Woodturners
c/o Brenda Miotke
920 North Sumac Lane
Mount Prospect, IL 60056



Est. 1988

*Join the movers
and shakers of
woodturning in
Chicago!*



Visit the Chicago Woodturners at
chicagowoodturners.com