



West Tennessee Woodturners Newsletter



June 2013

Volume 5 Issue 6

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Officers and Board Members

- President: Bob Hobbs
- Vice President: Kirk Smith
- Secretary: Chuck Jones
- Treasurer: Paul Reed
- Librarian: Bill Wyche
- Member: Norm Fowler
- Member: Jerry Dawson
-
- Web Site: Chuck Jones
- Newsletter: Chuck Jones

Visit West Tennessee Woodturners
On Line at
www.wtnwoodturners.com

Gibsons' All Day Demo

Mike and Cynthia Gibson will travel from Hoschton, Georgia to share their respective talents with the club at our next meeting June 8, 2013. This will be an all day demonstration commencing immediately following our brief business meeting at 9:30 a.m. and continuing to about 4 p.m. Please come prepared to enjoy the whole day.



Mike has been a woodworker and woodturner for many years. More recently his wife Cynthia began embellishing some of Mike's work with pyrography and ink. Their efforts have grown to a very high level of international recognition. They are currently best known for their wood turned and decorated teapots, however they have also produced numerous hollow forms and other items with similar embellishments.



© Michael Gibson

Even if you are familiar with their work it is worth your time to take a visit to their website at MichaelGibsonWoodturner.com for a better perspective on them and their work.

This promises to be a very interesting presentation, both from the standpoint of learning about how Mike constructs those teapots, and how Cynthia does her outstanding decorations.

Stone and Wire Inlay



At the May meeting Jerry Hosier made a presentation on stone and wire inlay. He went step-by-step through the process of each technique in a manner that was informative and enjoyable. Jerry also left a lot of excellent information on where to obtain the tools and materials for these embellishments, as well as some previously published articles on the subject. Anyone who did not receive the handouts can contact the club secretary for a copy.

Jerry lives in Collierville and is a member of Mid-South Woodturners Guild, Tennessee Association of Woodturners, and West Tennessee Woodturners. We are very fortunate to have him as an active member of our club. He obviously came into the demonstration well prepared and did an outstanding job by any measure, especially for someone who claims not to be a professional demonstrator. Good job Jerry and we appreciate it.

(See additional photos of Jerry's demo on page 7)

Minutes of May Meeting

Meeting was opened by Bob Hobbs, President

There were 19 members and 3 guests present.

After welcoming visitors and general announcements, Bob asked if anyone had any business issues to bring before the meeting.

The following announcements were made (not necessarily in this order):

- The annual membership fee for 2013-2014 is now due and payable to the club treasurer.
- President's Challenge for June is "Embellished Bowl".
- The June demonstrators will be Mike and Cynthia Gibson from Hoschton, Georgia. The meeting and demo is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend and stay for the entire time. We have had occasions in the past where a large crowd in the morning has diminished to a very small crowd in the afternoon. This leaves an extremely bad impression. The demonstrators travel long distances and work very hard to prepare their presentations. Even though there is usually some remuneration involved, in almost all cases when their time and expense is taken into consideration they are working for little or nothing. As a matter of common courtesy we should at least stay for the entire program.
- Bill Wyche is coordinating the club activities at the Jackson Farmers Market again this year. Please check with him on any questions.

Chuck Jones reminded everyone that a draft revision of the club by-laws had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Chuck then moved that these revised by-laws be adoptive by the membership, the principal change being that the method of electing board members and officers would be changed to allow that board members be nominated and elected directly by the membership, leaving the newly elected board to then select individuals for the various officer positions. The motion was seconded by Paul Reed and following discussion it was passed by affirmative voice vote.

Bob announced that it was time for the club to elect seven Board Members to serve for a two year term. He further stated that Bill Smith, current Board Member and Treasurer, has requested his name not be put into nomination for re-election to a board position.

Jerry Dawson was nominated from the floor. Since there were no other nominations, the following outgoing board members agreed to stand for re-election: Bob Hobbs, Kirk Smith, Chuck Jones, Paul Reed, Jr., Bill Wyche, and Norman Fowler.

Tate Thomas moved that nominations cease and the nominees be elected by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Bill Smith. Motion carried by affirmative voice vote.

Paul Reed agreed to accept the Treasurer position.

Thus it was decided that the club Officers and Members of Board of Directors for the upcoming two years will be:

Bob Hobbs, President
 Kirk Smith, Vice President
 Chuck Jones, Secretary
 Paul Reed, Jr., Treasurer
 Bill Wyche, Librarian
 Norman Fowler, Board Member at Large
 Jerry Dawson, Board Member at Large

Cecil Cravens made the motion that Bill Smith be granted a Lifetime Membership in the club. The motion was seconded by Paul Reed and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Cecil Cravens asked that the club members be made aware of, and express their thanks to C. H. Williams and Jack Couch for the efforts they put forth each month toward cleaning and preparing Cecil's workshop for the club's meeting.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned and Jerry Hosier was introduced as the demonstrator for the day.

A Word From Bill Smith

I want to extend to all the Officers and Membership of the WTWT a huge heartfelt thank you for granting me the Life Membership Award. I feel very honored and grateful. It is a sincere pleasure to be a member of this club.

Wood Shop Estate Sale

Saturday, June 15, 2013 —9 AM to 1 PM —3634 Clairice Cove —Bartlett, Tennessee 38133
The Door Opens at 9 AM —No Early Birds except for free wood

Long time MSWG member Swann Parks passed away on April 23. Hershel Miller and Emmett Manley have been working with Mrs. Parks to develop a plan to clean out the huge shop that Swann had developed over a lifetime of woodworking and woodturning. Swann was a mechanical engineer and meticulous in everything he did, including the organization and maintenance of all of his equipment and supplies.

Just about everything will be sold at 50% OR LESS of current catalog value. In addition, dry fine lumber will be sold at very low prices. Lots of walnut, cherry, maple, holly, even some zebrawood and other exotics. Less than 25% of the wood has even been uncovered -- there are racks of wood remaining to be explored.

One entire outside room is filled with quality unfinished wood which needs to be cleaned out and people are encouraged to take all they want. We are talking FREE. In fact, much of the inside wood will also be free. There is a large cabinet filled with chemicals, finishes, glue, etc. -- take everything you want and leave a modest donation for Mrs. Parks.

If you did not receive an email message with additional details go to [WTW Web Site](#)

Tools For Sale

Delta midi lathe model LA200 with 2 extra belts (not variable speed) \$150

16" Craftsman Scroll Saw, 2" max Cut \$50

Craftsman Router Table \$15

10 Boxes of Plastic letters for signs, etc. \$25.00

Robert Roy

731-267-0675

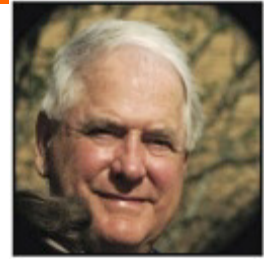
robroy9@hotmail.com See WTW Web Site for Pictures:

Calendar of Events

June 8	Regular Meeting	Program: Mike & Cynthia Gibson—Teapots & Pyrography—All Day President's Challenge: Embellished Bowl
June 28-30	AAW Annual Symposium	Tampa Florida
July 13	Regular Meeting	Program: Jack Couch—Segmented Vessel President's Challenge: Platter
August 10	Regular Meeting	Program: Robert Reeves—Duck Call President's Challenge: Vase
September 14	Regular Meeting	Program: Jim Adkins—All Day Demo, Platter with Indian style design. President's Challenge: Japanese Bowl
September 20-22	Turning Southern Style	Dalton GA
October 5	Autumn Outdoor Festival	Program: Joel Benson President's Challenge: Segmented
October 11-13	Pink Palace Crafts Fair	Memphis
November 9	Regular Meeting	Program: Josh Williams—Open Segmented Bowl President's Challenge: Square Bowl
December 14	Christmas Luncheon	President's Challenge: Ornament

WOOD SPIN

Emmett Manley



Warming Up at the Lathe

Athletes warm up before an important event and woodturners can also benefit from some shop foreplay. Before tackling a bowl, a hollow form, or some demanding spindle project; make a bottle stopper, an egg, a fan pull, or some other quick item. Within 20-30 minutes your mind and body will shift into the turning mode while gaining focus and attention.

Not only will you be more efficient after warming up, you will be less likely to suffer a cold start accident. While I have no data to back me, I suspect that a high percentage of shop accidents happen early in the shop period, or late in the shop day, when the craftsman is tired. Which leads into another point -- don't tackle complex or dangerous projects when you are tired or lacking motivation and attention. Rather, you can do some cool down turnings of simple items, or, one of my favorite end-of-session activities is merely to get ready for a future shop day.

Prepare some blanks on the lathe; make a bunch of cylinders that are two inches, three inches, and four inches in diameter as you will always need them later. And label the wood, or later you won't remember whether a piece is walnut, sweet gum, or mahogany. Consider preparing some glue blocks, squaring the faces, etc., all those routine time-consuming tasks that have to be done at some point. What a luxury it is to walk into the shop your next visit and see your blanks lined up ready to go, even to the point of having wood mounted on glue blocks with tenons prepared for four jaw chucks.

Some days I step into the shop and just don't feel like undertaking some demanding project I have on my list; yet, I want to turn some wood or do some-

thing useful. One fun thing for me is just to practice various cuts. Throw a piece of wood on the lathe and practice all of the skew cuts -- V cuts, facing cuts, rounding cuts, scraping cuts, peeling cuts, and planing cuts. When you are not worried about messing up, you develop skew proficiency very quickly. When you are comfortable with skews, the other tools seem almost too easy to use. You may even discover that you are beginning to like

skews. Practice to obtain future desired results -- for example, pretend that the center of the bowl you are about to hollow is the bottom of that future bowl. You can then practice decorating the bottom of a bowl and as soon as you get a perfect bowl bottom, cut off that waste wood and do another one, space permitting. I'm not fond of finials, but if I put a small scrap spindle on the lathe and start making the elements that go into a finial, I feel more confident when I mount a piece of ebony and make a finial for real.

Here is a good exercise/warmup -- practice turning from the left side -- this is easy once you realize that you are NOT turning left handed, you only have the tool on the left side. You control the tool, whether it is positioned left or right, WITH YOUR BODY. Bill Grumbine made a profound statement in a course I attended -- "you turn with your body, and it makes no difference whether you hold the tool against the right or left side of your body."

Convert mindless removal of wood into meaningful practice activity. Since the wood is going on the floor anyway, why not put the sacrificial wood to good use? Use different tools, different cuts, different angles, rotate a gouge open and closed as you cut and see



(Continued on page 5)

... Wood Spin (Continued from page 4)

what happens. If you get a catch -- great

See if you can get that catch again and thus determine why you got that catch. Only if you understand the cause of a catch will you be able to avoid catches.. Grumbine has a process he terms "forensic woodturning" in which he advocates conducting an autopsy of each mishap by placing the offending tool in position on the wood wound and then turning the lathe spindle by hand. By using this super slow motion the source of your problem is clearly revealed.

Here is a fun game. Pretend you don't have any gouges or skewers. You have only your scrapers and parting tools -- make something with just these tools,

eggs or bottle stoppers come to mind. Your results may surprise you and regardless of the quality of the product, you will learn a lot. A severe version of this game would require that you use only one tool. After several such exercises it will become apparent that technique is more important than tools, and that an experienced woodturner using a sharpened screwdriver will outperform a new woodturner who has access to every possible tool.

There is much one can do in the shop that is not directly related to the fabrication of a specific product, yet is valuable and educational.

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Emmett Manley &
Mid-South Woodturners Guild "Turner Talk"
February 2013 Edition.

President's Challenge – Kitchen Ware

The winner of the challenge this month was Norm Fowler's basket of spatulas and spoons.

(That's not Norm.)



Jerry Dawson

Mezzaluna Mincing Set--Walnut--Walnut Oil



Norman Fowler

Spoons & Spatulas



Chuck Jones

Pepper Grinder--Figured Maple--Dye, Oil



Chuck Jones

Salt/Pepper Shakers--Maple--Milk Paint, Oil

Instant Gallery



Chuck Jones

Pecan—Poly Oil, Wax, Buffed



Cecil Cravens

Dodecahedron Box—Mahogany, Maple, Ebony



Cecil Cravens

Natural Edge Bowl—Red Gum—Acrylic



Cecil Cravens

Bandage view



Nick Matos

Vase with inlay—Maple?—Poly



Nick Matos

Vase with inlay—Maple?—Poly



Chuck Jones

Platter—Elm—Boor Dye, Oil, Buffed



Jerry Dawson

Knife—Walnut Oil



Jack Couch

Segmented Bowl—Maple—Poly



C. H. Williams

Segmented Lidded Pot—Walnut—Danish Oil



Norman Fowler

Duck Calls



Randy Pitts & Jerry Burch

Bowl—Cherry—Mahoney Finish



Cecil Cravens

Dish—Box Elder—Acrylic

Jerry Hosier Demonstration





American Association of Woodturners

Message From Stan Wellborn

Greetings Fellow Woodturners,

Special Spindles

Each month, the Montgomery County Woodturners in Maryland host a pen-turning session with military personnel who are part of the Warriors In Transition program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. These soldiers - many recently returned from combat zones - are re-assimilating to stateside duty or civilian life. They don't talk much about their experiences overseas.

Although I have not participated in these sessions as often as I would like, I can attest that the experience is inspiring. We usually get six to eight participants who spend two hours learning the basics of spindle turning on mini-lathes - and each soldier walks out proudly with a beautiful pen in hand. These men and women are in the Life Skills Transition Program at Walter Reed and may not have serious physical injuries, but they do carry less-obvious impairments that can produce frustration and withdrawal. As we all know, time spent at a lathe wonderfully focuses the mind and affords a useful learning experience - and a fun and nonthreatening way to interact with others.

Another nearby chapter, Capital Area Woodturners, has turned hundreds of canes for injured veterans, each topped with magnificent eagle heads crafted by area carvers. Members also have made literally thousands of tops for children living at Fisher House, a housing complex that provides a temporary home away from home for families of military patients getting care and counseling at local Veterans Administration hospitals and base medical centers.

Whether they are pens or canes or tops, making these spindles available to those who need them is rewarding for everyone. Letters of thanks come from enlistees and officers who say they are planning to get into woodturning when their service ends. Others send notes of appreciation for their hand-made canes, and children treasure their spin tops, saying they will keep them forever.

Woodturners are a caring, sharing bunch. Many of your chapters already participate in similar programs around the country. And if not, I'll bet there is a VA facility or military base not far away that would welcome some turning sessions. During this Memorial Day season, take some time to impart your turning skills and knowledge to those who have served our nation and who may carry their scars on the inside. You will be glad you did.

Please feel free to contact me about the programs we do in our local chapters.

-Stan Wellborn
stan@woodturner.org

AAW Board Member



Stan Wellborn

