

SHOP TALK  
Page 2

WOOD SPIN  
Page 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
Page 6

THE COBBED WEB  
Page 7

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES  
Page 10

UPCOMING  
DEMONSTRATIONS FOR  
2010  
Page 12

FEBRUARY DEMO RECAP  
Page 13

INSTANT GALLERY  
Page 14

THE 2010 AAW  
SYMPOSIUM IN  
HARTFORD, CT  
Page 15



Bob Speier: Editor

## Mike Zinser: Platters



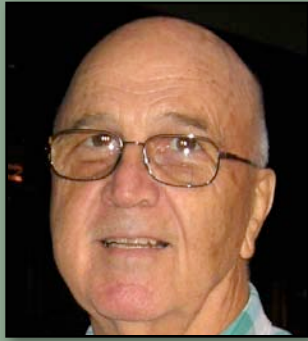
some time as a board member, president, treasurer and am currently vice president of our club.

When I retired in 2001 after 36 years with F. W. Dodge Division of The McGraw Hill Companies, I started moving my woodworking more toward woodturning, though I still enjoy furniture making. Through the TAW scholarship program I have had the opportunity to take some classes to further enhance my turning skills. I turn as a hobby, making Christmas and other gifts for family and friends and though I said I would never be interested in turning pens, in the past few years I have turned some pens through the Woodcraft Store for the "Turn for the Troops" program.

Turning platters became a passion after taking a Frank Penta scholarship class at John C. Campbell Folk School. That year I turned 18 platters for family members Christmas gifts. I'll try to remember and present what I learned in that class.

I remember my first woodworking experience with my grandfather making a set of wood bookends for my dad. That was almost 60 years ago and I still have them. In high school I took a shop class, had fun, but was not very good. I have just "piddled" with woodworking ever since.

In the early 90's I met Charles Alvis, then the president of the Tennessee Association of Woodturners, at the TACA Crafts Fair here in Nashville, and while I had a lathe I had bought in the 70's, I had only used it for furniture parts. It never occurred to me to turn bowls or platters, spindle turning seemed fine with me. Soon thereafter I joined the Tennessee Association of Woodturners and have spent



# SHOP TALK

with Terry Lafferty  
by: Ray Tanner

This is a shop which shows active use. It is a bit disordered and a bit crowded, but large enough for the majority of turning projects and some cabinetry construction. Terry Lafferty (a semi-retired criminal court judge) has all the

plaques for some of his jurist friends. At present he is making blanks for Celtic cross pens using a Glen Alexander designed angle jig. The plywood jig table has two runners beneath it which slide in the grooves of the table



A Plethora of Tools

necessary tools and quite a collection of special jigs and devices for pen making. He is currently organizing his hand tools, turning blanks, pen kits, and parts for future lathe projects. His aspirations and accomplishments include pens, turkey calls made with slate and glass discs, small bowls, goblets, and clock and gavel

saw and keep the work accurately aligned. Terry owns a Jet spindle sander which he was advised would be indispensable in his shop but has seldom been used! On the contrary his table, jig, mitre and band saws and his planer, router, drill press and air compressor are indispensable. Obviously his 8" bench grinder

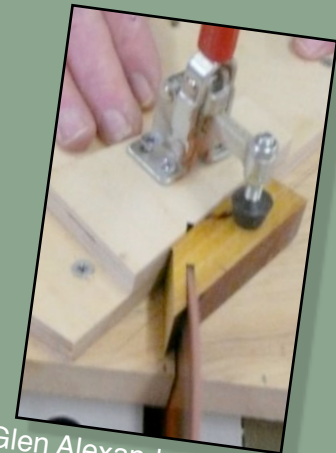
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Large Tool Cabinet



Celtic Pen Blank



Glen Alexander Pen Jig



Terry Lafferty

is an absolute necessity, especially so as it is fitted with a Wolverine grinding system.

Terry uses a battery powered air supply hood and face shield to eliminate breathing dust, provide safety and prevent his glasses fogging over, when working at one of his two Jet lathes (one a Mini, model 708375 and the other a model JWL 1236). Other features of his shop include a wall mounted air conditioner, a sawdust collector for his table saw and a ceiling mounted air cleaner. He has plans to install a full shop sawdust collector system in the near future. Storage for tools and wood utilizes wall shelving and cabinets. He has a cabinet under construction with two thick hinged doors on floor rollers. The cabinet and door interiors will be peg board. Small objects (e.g. pen parts and blanks) are kept in inexpensive plastic

drawer units bought from local stores.

There is a fire extinguisher handily located on one wall of his shop. This is an important accessory but not one found in all shops.

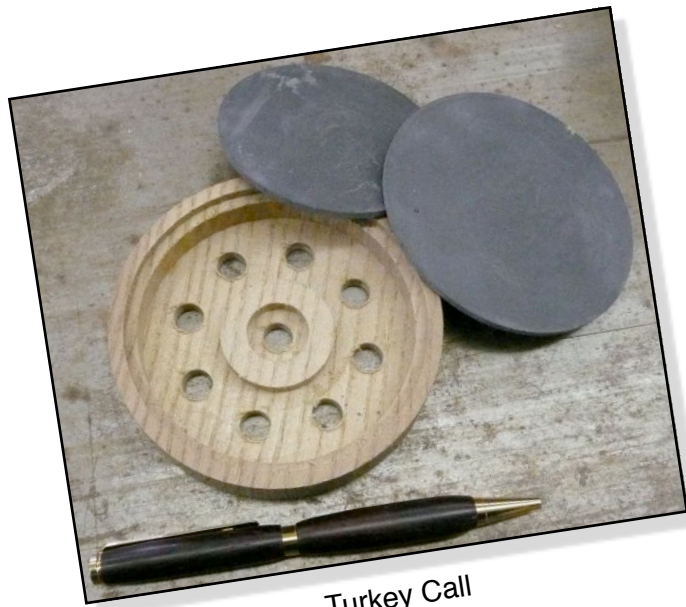
Terry is relatively new at woodturning: he took a week's course at Arrowmont and greatly appreciates the good instruction and inspiration he receives at MSWG meetings and workshops and from various members on an individual basis.

*"The willingness of our members to allow a visit to their shop is greatly appreciated and enables this column to continue. I wish to express my gratitude to all those who have allowed me to intrude. All articles are submitted to the shop owner for review prior to publication."*

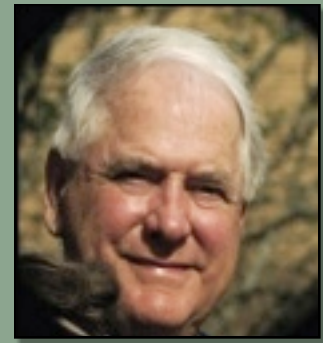
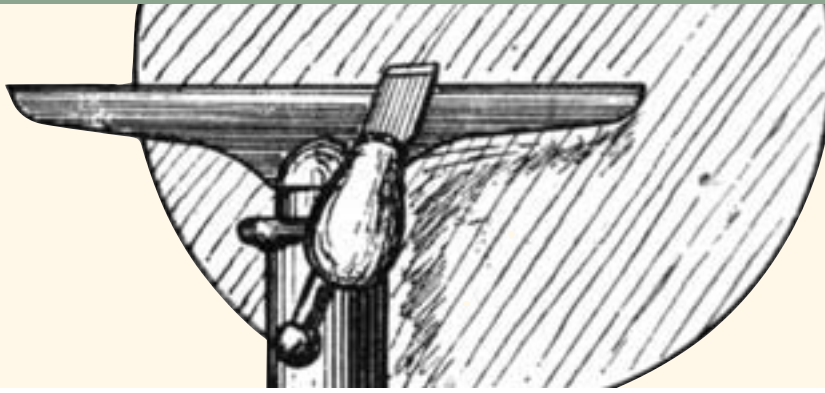
– Ray Tanner



Plastic Drawers



Turkey Call



# WOOD SPIN

## WHY DO PEOPLE TURN WOOD?

by: Emmett Manley

Originally, wood was turned strictly for utilitarian purposes: to get a needed tool handle, containers for food and water, wagon spokes, table legs, and the like. Form followed function and there was no Ellsworth to dictate turning standards.

Today, we don't depend upon the village blacksmith for tools or some guy with a treadle lathe for our rice bowls and we can turn wood for other purposes. Moreover, like the six blind Indians describing an elephant after each felt a different part of the animal, we are often victims of limited individual perspectives.

People are wired up differently, and they turn wood for many and varied reasons. My initial interest was to get a better view of the inside of trees and to learn more about trees by studying them from a different viewpoint. Woodturning has helped me understand the structure of wood: differences in grain pattern, growth rings, ease of splitting, density of wood, moisture content and

rate of moisture loss, reaction to light, heat, and water, resistance to rotting and insects, acceptance of chemicals, warping, cracking, on and on.

Another fascination with woodturning developed with the realization that I could rescue a piece of wood doomed to rot, destined for burial in a landfill, or firewood, and make that wood into something attractive and useful and which then might live on for another 100 years. Or, making an item from a removed tree which had some special emotional or historical significance "memory wood" is a common term for such situations. So, the rescue/living on aspect of woodturning provides me with satisfaction.

And then the inside of trees can be so unbelievably beautiful -- the inherent beauty of walnut, the richness of cedar, the iridescence of osage orange, the kaleidoscope of treasures offered by spalted wood, all

make woodturning much like opening Christmas presents or Mrs. Gump's box of chocolates.

So, the wood itself is my primary attraction to woodturning, but there are other reasons I enjoy woodturning and for many, these reasons are more important than the wood. For such people, wood is but a means to some other end; whereas, for me, woodturning is a way to get to the wood, to learn more about the wood, and to appreciate the beauty revealed.

Obviously, there is the challenge presented by woodturning, which is a difficult craft, at least it has proven to be a demanding undertaking for me. I enjoy the challenge plus, the frequent opportunity for problem solving, and I often spend an hour trying to salvage a piece of wood which should have been discarded. There are those who appear to have a knack for turning wood and who are making spectacular

(cont. on next page.)

items within a few months. Not me, I have had to sweat out everything I have learned and then struggle to remember techniques at a later time. Woodturning has never been boring to me.

Still other folks focus on the product -- they care little for the inherent beauty of the wood but emphasize whether all tool marks have been removed, the shape of the item meets whatever standard they believe is proper, how thin the walls were made, and all sorts of technical and artistic standards. To some extent, I can appreciate the emphasis of such techno-artists, but I don't feel obligated to follow their standards. I personally like heavy sturdy items as bowls with some heft and wall thickness (but I do turn some items very thin).

Men have always been fascinated by tools and getting into woodturning provides rationalization for the purchase of an almost unlimited number of tools, so this is another attraction of woodturning. There are those who hope to make a little money selling their products, but few make more money than their expenses and just about all woodturners keep their day jobs.

Competition and blue ribbons motivate some woodturners; unfortunately, the trend seems to be that the further you stray from woodturning and the more you get into embellishments, the more

acclaim you receive as a woodturner. Excuse the revealing editorial, but more and more woodturners are coming out of the closet and declaring themselves wood artists. Not that there is anything wrong with that.

I really like the fact that wood can be turned so many different ways -- if you go duck hunting you use a shotgun, if you get in a sand trap you grab a sand wedge, but woodturners may tackle a similar piece of wood with a spindle gouge, roughing gouge, skew, parting tool, scraper, or some other device. And they may push or pull their gouge and use their skew long point up or long point down, and never use a scraper inside a bowl, or always use a scraper inside a bowl. And everyone is certain their method is best. So, there is a lot of room for experimentation, improvisation, arguments, and using your imagination, thus more fun.

So, let's appreciate the other parts of the woodturning elephant.

#### A LITTLE HUMOR

A farmer stopped by the local mechanic shop to have his truck fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home. On the way, he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and a gallon of paint. He then stopped by the feed store and picked up a couple of chickens

and a goose. However, struggling outside the store, he now had a problem - how to carry his entire purchases home.

While he was scratching his head he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, "Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?" The farmer said, "Well, as a matter of fact, my farm is very close to that house. I would walk you there, but I can't carry this lot."

The old lady suggested, "Why don't you put the can of paint in the bucket. Carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in your other hand?" "Why, thank you very much", he said, and proceeded to walk the old girl home. On the way he says, "Let's take a short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time."

The little old lady looked him over cautiously, and then said, "I am a lonely widow w/out a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and have your way with me?" The farmer said, "Holy smokes, lady! I'm carrying a bucket, a gallon of paint, 2 chickens and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?"

"The old lady replied, "Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the paint on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens."



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by: **Bob Speier**

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE FOR MARCH

After a very informative demonstration by Robin Costelle I want to challenge all to turn a "finial or pedestal (foot)" and bring it to our March Meeting. Please don't worry about quality, this is an exercise in spindle turning.

I want to thank all those that helped setup and clean up after the meeting. I can't tell you how much it helps Board Members with their chores. It's also what makes you all more a part of what's going on with the Guild.

Along with Committee Roster the Board is in the process of developing a process of recruiting and mentoring future board members and officers. This process would include a chain of command that would take someone to be President of The Guild if that's what they would like to do. This process would give a board member time to get their feet wet without jumping into the swamp all at once. Please take the time to consider your involvement in the Guild.

The election of a Life Time Member of the Guild is ultimately a board decision, however if anyone would like to offer up a current member to a board member PLEASE do so. The Life Time Members Plaque is in the final stages of production and should be present at the next meeting.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2010

President  
**BOB SPEIER**

1st V.P.  
**KEITH BURNS**

2nd V.P.  
**JOEL BENSON**

Secretary  
**LONNIE EPPERSON**

Treasurer  
**MATT GARNER**

Librarian  
**JOHN WILLIAMS**

Members at Large  
**MIKE MAFFITT**  
**KEN WALLS**  
**SKIP WILBUR**

Webmaster  
**TREY CAMPBELL**

Newsletter Editor  
**BOB SPEIER**

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS / GUESTS

Another great attendance at our February meeting with 3 new members. Let's all welcome Wright Pillow from Collierville, TN. Wright has been turning for 35 years. David Wendelken from Fayetteville, NC son of Bill, and, last but certainly not least, Dale Langsford from Nettleton, MS. South of Tupelo.

Welcome to the Mid South Woodturners Guild.



# THE COBBED WEB

## Do It Yourself Tools and Jigs

by: Mike Maffitt

Wow! I chose this month to do a search on "Woodturning DIY Tools and Jigs" and you'll never guess what I found. A whole heap of videos, pdfs, how-to websites and all kinds of interesting stuff. It's interesting that when you start searching for information for the next installment, you find some great links that would have been perfect to use for the previous month. That is the fun of looking and digging into these websites because you never know what gem you are going to dig up next.

In case anyone was wondering where I came up with the name for this article it is a play on the word "cobweb". The word "cobbed" means "broken, cut or trimmed into pieces of a convenient size, or formed into small blocks". See, you learn something new every day. By the way it was on the web. Look it up.

This month we are looking for DIY Tools and Jigs. Let's go for it.

Search hint: Woodturning club newsletters are a treasure trove of information. Look [here](#): I am sure these are not all of the clubs that exist but when you get through perusing these let me know and I'll help you find the rest. For some quality newsletters check out the newsletters of these clubs, Montgomery County Woodturners, Chicago Woodturners, and Greater Vancouver Woodturners. These three newsletters won first, second and third in the "Best Local Chapter Newsletter Contest" in 2009 which is put on by AAW.

There isn't a really good way to write a description for each item this month so I am going to break these into categories as best as I can. On the front end, each category has videos available on Youtube, Google Video, Yahoo Video, etc. so please check those out. The information that is available on tools and jigs covers quite a bit of information. We'll see if we can get it all gathered up.



Woodcentral's Longworth Chuck

### **Tool Sharpening**

If you look at the various ways people come up with to sharpen turning tools you will see a theme developing. The favorite jig people try to copy is the "Wolverine" style sharpening system. Some copies look very successful and others are somewhat passable.

Darrell Feltmate's version in wood is [here](#): Chris Pooley at the Woodworkers Institute has a metal contraption that he put together [here](#): Big Tree Tools has a belt sander setup [here](#):

(cont. on next page.)

A nice homemade grinding jig is [here](#):

### **Turning Tools**

There are a great many sites that offer ideas for tool making. What is offered covers quite a few different tools and some are very cleverly made. Larry Sefton should have some in here but I couldn't find his web page.

A newsletter article on making an *Alan Lacer styled hook tool* [here](#): Version #1.

a web version [here](#): Version #2.

Alan Lacer's class handout [here](#): Version #3.

A Shop Built *texturing and spiraling tool* [here](#):

A *negative raked scraper* at Hilton Handcraft of the Ozarks [here](#): <http://www.hiltonhandcraft.com/Articles/The%20Negative%20Rake%20Scraper.pdf> .

A *3 edge pyramid point tool* [here](#): <http://www.hiltonhandcraft.com/Articles/Making%20a%20Pyramid%20Tool.pdf> .

A shop made *chatter tool* [here](#):  
Making a *wooden handled skew* [here](#):

This appears to be a Fennell handout for making several tools including, *hollowing tools, indexing wheel, grooving tools, "Johnson" caliper, hammered texturing* With a Dremel engraver [here](#): <http://www.ovwg.org/New-OVWG-Site/Techniques/Fennell%20Home%20Made%20Tools.pdf> .

A 32 page PDF entitled "Make tools and jigs for wood turning". [here](#):

Homemade *Jamieson hollowing tools* [here](#):

A homemade *center finder* [here](#):

Woodturning Online's *pen press* [here](#):

Woodcentral's *hollowing rig with laser* [here](#):

### **Various Jigs For Woodturning**

Jim Barry's Woodworkers Workshop has a nice assortment of *jigs and fixtures* [here](#):

Kevin's Woodturnings lists *7 different jigs* [here](#):

Wood Magazine article of a *stacked bowl blank press* [here](#):

A *steady rest for a 10" mini lathe* [here](#):

*3 wheeled steady rest* [here](#):

Various pictures of some *jigs and chucks* [here](#):

Making a *string steady rest* [here](#):

### **Chucks**

A nice selection of PDFs including *vacuum chucks, a ball turning jig, making a Singapore ball and bowl making* [here](#):

*Chucks for reverse turning bowls* [here](#): <http://cumberlandwoodturners.com/Tips/Methods%20and%20Jigs%20for%20Reverse%20Turning%20Bowls.pdf> .

Woodcentral's *Longworth chuck* [here](#):

Woodcentral's *Cole Jaws* [here](#):

A site with photos of some *chucks* [here](#):



Woodturning Online's Pen Press

### **Building A Lathe**

George F. Farrell's version of a *lathe* [here](#):

A smaller version at Instructables [here](#):

### **Websites with Everything**

Laymar Crafts site [here](#):

Woodturning Online [here](#): [http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning\\_articles.html#](http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_articles.html#) .

### **Miscellaneous**

An article on *hardening and tempering* [here](#):

Hilton Handcraft's *log lift* [here](#):

Hilton Handcraft's *easy-lift sawbuck* [here](#):

A *frame miter sled* for segmented rings [here](#):

A *compound miter sled* for segmented rings [here](#):

(cont. on next page.)





George Ferrell's Homemade Lathe

I hope these links are helpful and I would sure like to see the results of any attempts to make any of these items, especially George Ferrell's lathe.

Till next time, keep looking and happy turning.

### LOCAL SUPPLIERS

#### **COLCO FINE WOOD & TOOLS**

2631 Jackson Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38108-3319  
(901) 452-9663

#### **HARDWOOD INCORPORATED**

200 Progress Road  
Collierville, TN 38017-2716  
(901) 853-4317

#### **THE WOODWORK SHOP, INC.**

8500 Wolf Lake Dr. #101  
Bartlett, TN 38133  
901-755-7355  
[www.thewoodworkshopinc.com](http://www.thewoodworkshopinc.com)

### MSWG MENTORING PROGRAM

This Saturday afternoon will be the first of four hands on instruction classes offered to all members of the MSWG for 2010.

This class will be on the most important aspect of turning, sharpening. Bring your tools and be prepared to watch, learn and participate.

This is the beginning of our "mentoring" program many have been looking forward to. The frequency of the classes will depend on the participation of the members. For now we have planned to offer one class per quarter.

Should you plan to attend, please let us know so we can have the necessary stations and instructors on hand. You must be an AAW member to operate the lathes and use the grinders. If not a member feel free to come and watch.

Be at Joel Benson's at 2:00 p.m. to participate in the class. The class is planned to last approximately 2 hours.

Joel Benson's address is 5050 Hwy 194,  
Rossville, TN 38066.

If you have any questions please call 901-756-9315 or 901-299-2481 or email Bob Speier at [robtSpeier@aol.com](mailto:robtSpeier@aol.com) .

# MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

by: Sandi Speier



## Call to Order:

February 10, 2010 MSWG Membership meeting was called to order by President Bob Speier at 9:00 a.m. and Mr. Speier welcomed our visitors.

## Financial Report:

Matt Garner, Treasurer reported MSWG

- Education Fund balance \$1,848.59
- General Fund \$3,902.79
- Education Fund is owed \$648 from the General Fund for advancing monies to acquire the new video system.

## Roster Photos:

Mr. Speier reported that we are close to having 100% of the members photos included in the membership roster. He thanked Matt Garner for his help. And, he reminded any members whose photo is not included to see Matt Garner.

## 2010 Membership Renewals:

Mr. Speier reminded the members to renew membership dues.

## MWSG Board Membership:

Mr. Speier announced that Nancy Boatwright tendered her resignation from the board citing a very busy personal life. Mr. Speier appointed Lonnie Epperson, who is already a board member, as Secretary. Nancy's resignation leaves a Board position open and Mr. Speier appointed Skip Wilbur to complete the remainder of this position's term.

## MSWG Committee Structure:

Mr. Speier commented that the new Committee Structure has been very helpful in "getting things done" and increasing member participation. Mr. Speier asked for two more volunteers for the refreshment committee. Committee members need to be on-site no later than 8:00 a.m. in order to have the coffee ready by 8:30. Mr. Speier also asked for one more volunteer for the Set-Up Committee. Richard Hiller volunteered.

- Refreshment Committee: Chairperson-Matt Garner
  - Volunteers: George Yohanek, Larry Marley & Bill Covington
- Set-Up Committee: Chairperson-Keith Burns, 1st Vice President,
  - Volunteers: Jerry and Deborah Houser, Richard Hiller

## Website Manager:

Mr. Speier announced that website management will transition from Trey Campbell to Mike Maffitt.

## Newsletter Design:

Mr. Speier announced that Mike Maffitt will be in charge of redesigning the newsletter format and thanked Mike for a job well done so far.

## 2010 MSWG Perspective:

Mr. Speier and Mr. Garner reminded members about the 3rd consecutive MSWG Perspective:

- Going Vertical with Domestic Woods-
  - Walnut and Cherry 4x 4x 6 blanks that can be purchased for \$5 each.

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**President's February 2010 Challenge:**

Mr. Speier thanked the members for producing and donating tops, and other small trinkets that Mike Maffitt, who's church sponsors a missionary from Kosovo, will send to the missionary to give to children when he visits area villages.

**President's March 2010 Challenge:**

- Based on the February 27, 2010 demo by Robin Costelle the Challenge for March will be "anything with a finial".

**MSWG Sponsors "Hands On" Mentoring Classes:**

Beginning March 13, 2010 MSWG will be sponsoring a series of "hands on" mentoring classes for members of the guild. Joel Benson, 2nd Vice President, will host the classes in his shop in Rossville. The first class will start at the most important fundamental - sharpening. Mr. Speier asked for volunteers for instructors with a reminder that instructors and participants must be AAW members.

**Open House:**

Woodwork Shop will be sponsoring an Open House April 16-17. Glen Alexander will be one of the demonstrators.

**Instant Gallery Critique:**

Mr. Speier announced that he had received many positive comments about the January 10, 2010 Instant Gallery Critique. He stated that last month's critique did go on too long and that he, Keith Burns and Dennis Paullus will work on a format to improve the process.

**Upcoming Demonstrations:**

March-09:

Mike Zinser turning platters with off-center enhancements

April-09:

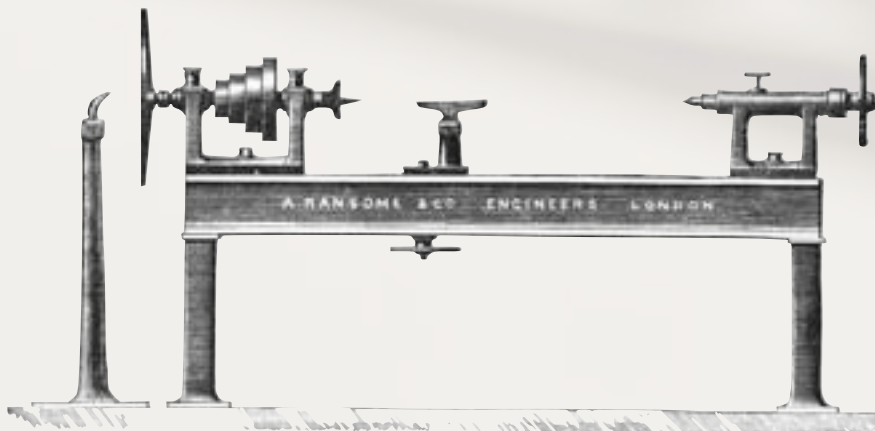
Jimmy Clewes

May-09:

Chucking without a chuck

Mr. Speier then asked Keith Burns to introduce the demonstrator for the meeting: Robin Costelle.

Respectfully submitted – Sandi Speier



# 2010 UPCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS

- **March**

- Mike Zinser - Platters

- **March 13th**

- Glen Alexander - Segmented Bowls

The Woodwork Shop, Inc.  
8500 Wolf Lake Dr. #101  
Bartlett, TN 38133  
901-755-7355  
Demo Starts at 10:30

- **April 24th and 25th**

- Jimmy Clewes

- **May 22nd**

- Members Demo - Chucking Your Work

- **May 28th**

- Richard Raffan - Nashville

- **June 18th**

- 20th AAW Symposium - For Information Follow This Link  
<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/>

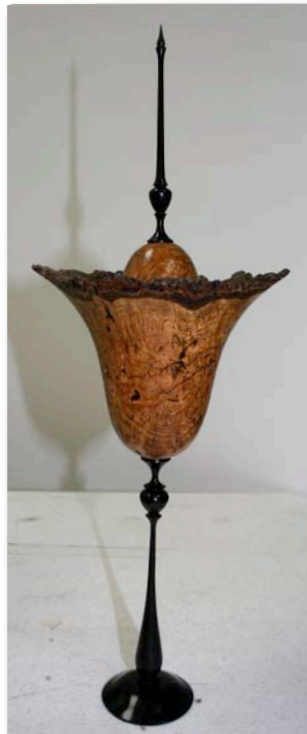
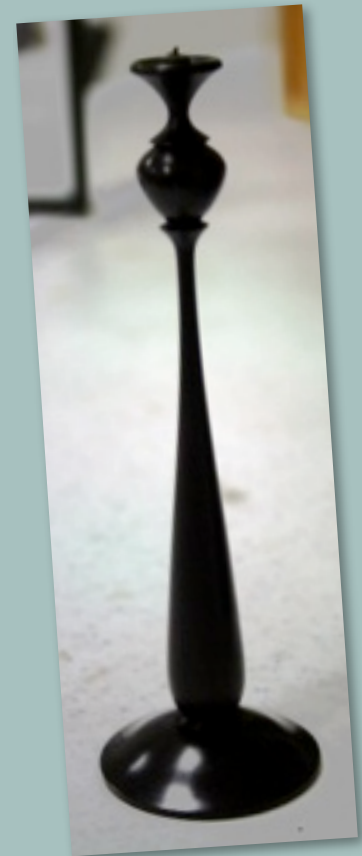
- **June 26th**

- To Be Announced



# FEBRUARY DEMO

## ROBIN COSTELLE



On February 27th we were blessed to have Robin Costelle come and share his wisdom and talent all the way from Fern Creek, Kentucky where he is the President of the Louisville Area Woodturners. We would like to thank Robin and his commitment to his craft and the wisdom and ease with which he presented his demonstration.

Robin didn't leave home until 2:00 a.m. and arrived early in the morning and still gave a stellar talk. You are the champ Robin.



# THE 2010 AAW SYMPOSIUM

Friday June 18 through Sunday June 20, 2010  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT at the [Connecticut Convention Center](#).

The Annual AAW symposium is the highlight of the woodturning year. We meet in a different location each year, rotating throughout the regions of the continental United States. The symposium has become the most attended woodturning event in the world.

Each symposium features three days of woodturning demonstrations and meetings. These are lead by numerous talented experts:

- Internationally known woodturners
- The highest quality woodturning instructors
- Knowledgeable local talent

Multiple rotations are held simultaneously so the attendee has many different types and styles of woodturning demonstrations available. Many of the demonstrations are held multiple times so the attendee has the opportunity to attend sessions they may have missed.

Each symposium has had a unique flavor, but most of them have had the following features:

- A rotation schedule of more than 100 class-room type demonstrations and panel discussions, hosted by the world's best woodturning professionals.
- An instant gallery like no other on earth. This gallery includes pieces brought to the event by the attendees.
- A banquet in the middle of the weekend.

- Special interest night, where like-minded turners get together for some fun.
- An auction of tools, wood, and fine woodturnings. Funds from the auction fund scholarships for woodturning education.
- The largest woodturning trade show anywhere. This includes tool and lathe manufacturers, or their representatives as well as vendors of wood and other materials, and supplies related to woodturning.

*Please visit this link for more information*  
<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/>

