



TURNER'S TALK

THE MID-SOUTH WOODTURNER'S GUILD



Mike Maffitt: Editor





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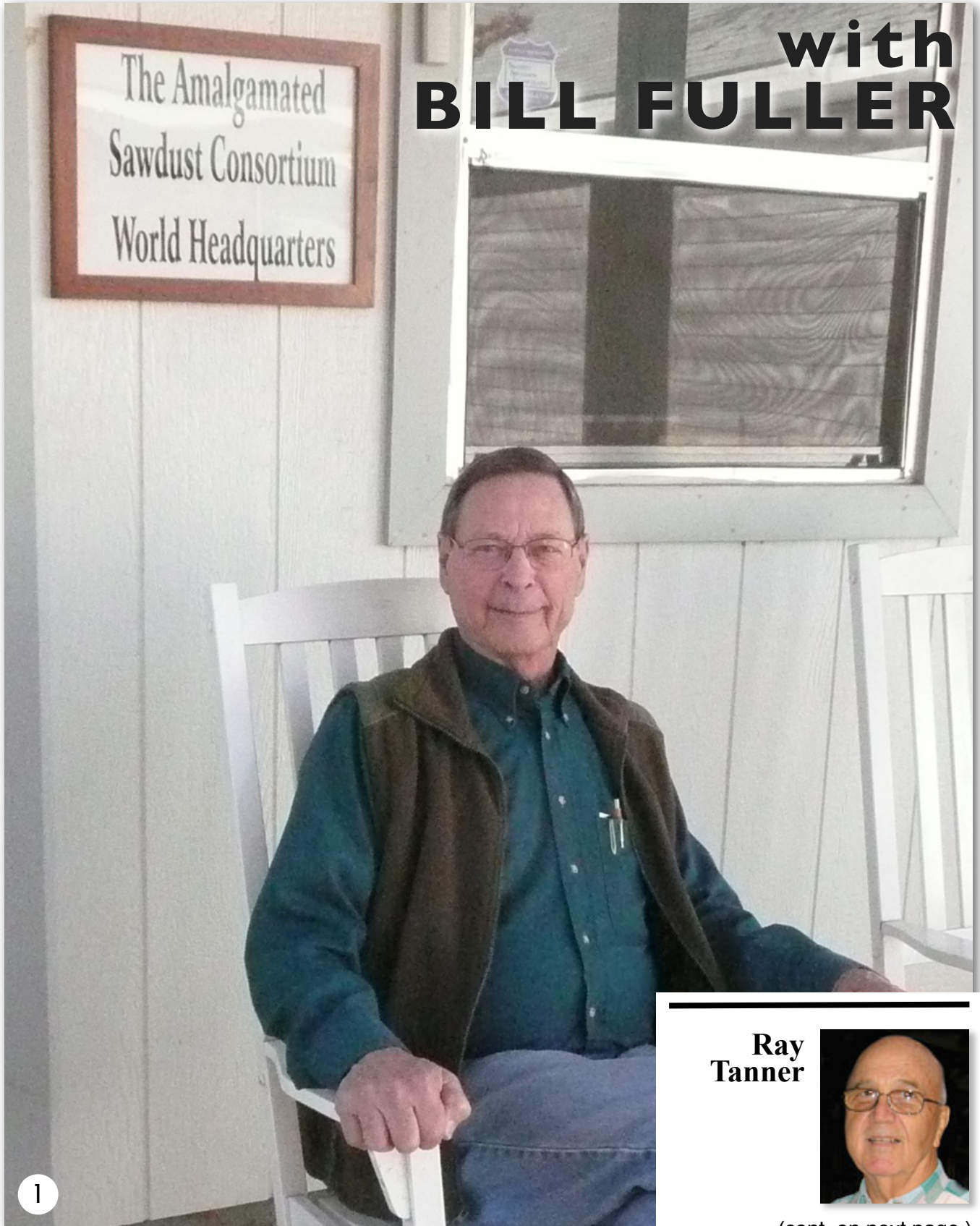
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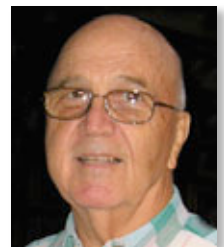
SHOP TALK

with
BILL FULLER



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**Ray
Tanner**



(cont. on next page.)



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On the phone Bill Fuller¹ described his shop as looking like “a goat had exploded inside”, but when I visited the next day it was in full working order. Since it is 13’ x 15’ and contains all his tools and stored lumber, he utilizes roller based machine tools and a pair of sturdy portable workbench supports² to save space. His table saw is a portable contractor model which folds compactly. The high, open attic space³ with a divided ceiling and a sliding overhead center



3

shelf (supporting an air filter) provides ready access to almost as much storage area as his shop below. Long boards are stored upright in one corner and sturdy shelving holds hand tools and parts⁴. Heavy insulation and the wall mounted heater/air conditioner suffice to adequately control his shop’s

temperature both winter and summer.

Bill worked for about 7 years from age 15 with his carpenter father. He still has the Lufkin folding rule his father bought him almost 55 years ago. After college Bill worked in the transportation industry (including John Morrell and Hunter Fan) ending up in charge of inventory control for the Memphis City School system. Following retirement five years ago, part time work at Colco further whetted his interest in hardwoods. Bill built a long drop-leaf cherry table⁵ to match the width and height of his dining table. It is used as an extension when the whole family is present. He has also made several cigar humidors⁵ with dovetail joinery lined with aromatic cedar. He continues to make furniture and built the



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rolling cabinet on which his Jet Mini, small drill press and 1" belt/disc sander⁶ are mounted. He inherited an old lathe about 8 years ago and added turning to his flatwork interests.



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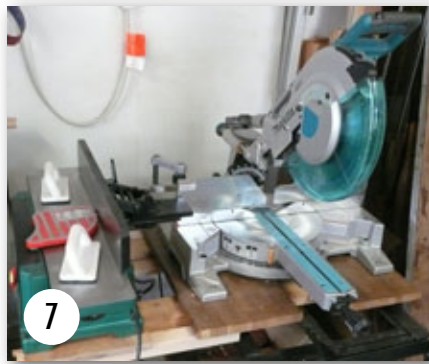
Bill uses an 8" bench grinder, and recently added a fine compound mitre saw and a 6" jointer⁷. His older mitre saw⁸ and 6" grinder⁹ are for sale. His turned work^{10,11} (bowls, lidded boxes, eggs, mallets and pens) employs common and rare woods (e.g. afromosia and obeche) and are very attractive. Bill's other achievements include a just completed biography of his father and he is the author of a children's book, numerous poems, and a murder mystery recently performed at his church.



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Recently Jim Tusant has been helping him with more advanced turning skills.

opinions differ on the value of drilling a pilot hole prior to hollowing a bowl, or the value of microwaves in drying woodturnings. While we cannot change facts, we can make informed evaluations and perhaps support or refute a lot of woodturning opinion and old woodturners' tales.

A detailed description of the scientific method would burn up all of our remaining space but basically the method is a way to ask and answer questions by making observations and doing experiments. One asks or ponders a question, then constructs a hypothesis which is then tested by doing carefully designed experiments. After which you analyze your data and draw a conclusion.

A famous medical physiologist, Carl J. Wiggers, tells a story from his youth. As a child he was fascinated by the wind blowing and he wondered how wind came about. Then he observed that every time the trees started moving their branches and limbs, the wind would blow, so it became obvious to him that movement of tree limbs was the origin of wind. However, when he was ten years old, his family took an ocean voyage to Europe and he found that the wind was blowing in the middle of the ocean, far from any moving trees.

We see the same line of reasoning in woodturning. Sand dulls tools, osage orange dulls tools, therefore osage orange contains sand. Or, cyanide is an extremely toxic chemical, cherry wood contains cyanide, therefore turning cherry will kill a person (the reasoning here is faulty mainly because of the critical element of dose). These stories indicate that things are not always as they appear. For centuries it was "known" that the sun rotated around the earth.

The basis of scientific experimentation is making comparisons where only one variable exists -- the critical element is changing only one factor. Setting up such experiments in a laboratory where everything can be controlled is vastly easier than trying to control conditions in a woodturning shop. Or, if such controls are possible, the results may apply only to a very

narrowly defined situation. What is true for your piece of maple in Vermont may not apply to Joe's piece of live oak in south Florida.

Let's take just one question -- how long does it take to dry a piece of wood? Too broad. Perhaps a better question would be, how long does it take to dry a rough turned 8" diameter bowl which has been turned to a thickness of one inch? Wait, we need to specify the type of wood, so let's say walnut. Now we are getting closer to a question which can be investigated.

Of course, we have to define "dry" -- as Bill Clinton stated, "it depends upon what 'is' is." Also, how dry is our piece of walnut when we start our experiment -- was the walnut from a tree dead many years, or a recently cut tree? What is the ratio of surface area to total mass? What is the ambient temperature and air moisture content? What is the relative humidity? The air flow over the wood? At some point, all the variables become discouraging to the person trying to approach the question in a scientifically logical manner.

But, with enough qualifiers and limitations, it is possible to conduct some meaningful experiments. When wood dries it gets lighter because it is losing water and water content is the only change as wood dries, or the only change that can be measured. It should be a simple matter to weigh the test piece of wood and when it stops losing weight, or loses 95% of what it eventually loses, it can be proclaimed "dry." If you are making comparisons -- as the value of end grain sealing, paper bags, storage in different locations, etc., be sure your test items differ only in the one variable being tested. The wood should be as identical as possible when you begin.

Obviously there are thousands of topics which could be studied and a book could be written on the topic of designing woodturning experiments, but the principles are fairly simple and easily applied. So get busy and don't be surprised if you encounter what Thomas Huxley described as the great tragedy of science -- the murder of a beautiful hypothesis by a brutal gang of facts.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The November raffle had probably the most items I had ever seen, thanks to all who contributed. Speaking of raffles, we had two; the other raffle was won by Mike Yohanek who gets to have his registration fee waved for the TAW symposium in January. We then had an ornament contest; total of 12 entries with the members voting for Larry Sefton's pierced ornament, congratulations to Larry. We also voted for BOD positions so Mike Maffitt, Terry Maffitt and Joel Benson will retain their positions and Joseph Voda will be joining the Board.

Larry Sefton's demonstration on making one's own tools was extremely informative and interesting. Not a lot of people showed up that

afternoon for our "hands on", however those that did will tell you we had a lot of fun. The subject was basic tool control and presentation with a wine stopper as the finished product. For you rookie woodturners, this is a great way to enhance your skills with club members who volunteer their time as mentors.

(cont. on next page.)

**Skip
Wilbur**



I came to my first MSWG meeting about five years ago as a pre novice rookie woodturner. All I wanted to do was to blend in with the crowd and pick up a few woodturning tips. Things certainly have changed in the last five years. For the last year I've presided over our meetings as your representative and what an honor it is to represent so many talented people.

Just let me reflect for a minute our accomplishments during this past year. Collectively we revised and modified our by-laws, produced ornaments for St. Jude, contributed to "Pens for Troops", had a Mid-South Perspective showing, organized an Octoberfest, won the AAW award for best newsletter, second best web site and the technical excellence award for our collaborative piece at the annual AAW symposium. I know I'm bragging, however people in the woodturning industry know who we are. Individually Sandi Speier was elected for her second term as Vice President to the AAW Board. Two of our members were finalists in the Choice Woods National Woodturning Championship, Keith Burns and Jim Atkins with Keith Burns winning. Emmett Manley had a feature article in "American Woodturners Journal". Dennis Paullus received an AAW EOG Grant.

We also lost a dear friend and fellow club member this year. Her untimely death has caused us to place a stronger emphasis on safety. We have established a Joan Kelly memorial fund in her honor with grants issued for safety related issues. We have also established a safety committee, who have produced a number of safety videos.

At the start of this year I said I will continue placing emphasis on education, exposure and fun but I needed your help. During our journey together we will continue to learn techniques, mechanical skills and the essentials necessary to shape a timber for our creation. I still need your

help, please make an effort to participate in the instant gallery and president's challenge as all will benefit. Can that be a New Year's resolution?

A reminder that our January meeting has been moved up a week to January 21 so as to give you an opportunity to attend TAW in Nashville the following week end. I would love to see you there and experience a fun symposium.

I wish you and your family a very merry Christmas season and to seeing you in 2012.

A LITTLE HUMOR (Terry's Sick Lathe)

My new Delta Midi lathe is sick. David Sap at Woodworkers gave my husband, Mike a number to take the the lathe in for repairs. I decided to go ahead and finish my mid south perspective piece anyway. David said it was safe to use the lathe. He didn't say it was safe for me to turn at the lathe. I had a beautifully shaped base of walnut that had gone out of round while we were in Ireland. I shaped it up, nicked the side, took some off the side, nicked it again, then it started vibrating, so a nearly 4 inch diameter object was now an urn about the size of a flat baseball with a screw chuck and tenon. I tried to add some shape to it. It is now no larger than a toothpick, too small for a bottle stopper and may work well in your fireplace if you burn wood. I hope your day is going well.

My master turner was in the house playing video games and laughed at my results. That is what I call true love. I'm sure my work would have yielded big bucks at the auction. Now the club treasury is going to have to suffer as well.

I'm going shopping, it is much more fun and the salespeople are generally friendly ...

Cheers, Terry Maffitt

A LITTLE HUMOR: MEN'S TOOLS EXPLAINED

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your coffee cup across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light . Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in less than one second.

SKIL SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle... It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

WISE-GRIPS: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

TABLE SAW: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes , trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

BAND SAW: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER: A tool for opening paint cans.. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

SON-OF-A-@#!% TOOL: (A personal favorite!) Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling 'Son of a @#!%!' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.



**NOVEMBER 2011
MEETING MINUTES**

Call to Order - 9 a.m. by Skip Wilbur

November Minutes were approved and seconded by club members

New Members and Visitors: Welcome new member, Bob Smith and visitor, Dennis Lissau

Woodturner 's Club Resolution: Ray Tanner read a proclamation thanking Bob Speier, former President and Treasurer of the club, for his years of service to MidSouth Woodturners. On behalf of our club, Ray stated that Bob would be an asset to the woodturning club he joins in Kansas City.

Financial Report: Bob Speier, Treasurer Bob posted an itemized list of income and expenses from 10/24/11 through 11/15/11. Account balances will increase as membership dues are paid for the upcoming year.

Account Balances:

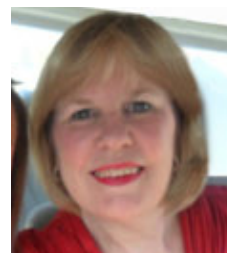
| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Checking Account | \$1,387 |
| Education Fund | \$2,269 |
| MSWG Memorial Fund | \$ 958 |
| Total in Bank | \$4,614 |

The memorial fund balance includes the residual balance after all requests for grants were paid. AAW donation to the Memorial Fund in the amount of \$2,500 has been approved but will be received later this year or the first of next year. Mike Kelly, a previous member, sent \$100.

Safety: Ray Tanner presented an update on recent activities of the Safety Committee. The committee has met frequently; creatively producing some great ideas for shop safety and safety at the lathe for the benefit of MSWG. The Board unanimously approved \$500 to fund the committee expenses including most recently a laminated checklist and videos. Thank you to this committee who seeks to shield us and alert us to common mistakes in the shop. See http://www.midsouthwoodturners.com/Safety_Videos.html to view videos.

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Terry Maffitt



Vote for MSWB Board, 2012/2013: MSWG membership present at the meeting, casted their votes on a paper ballot for the Board of Directors who would serve during 2012/2013. Terry Lafferty tallied the votes. Based upon the election votes tallied members returning to the Board include: Joel Benson, Mike Maffitt and Terry Maffitt. Joseph Voda was elected as well.

Ornament Contest: Awards were distributed for the first 10 ornaments turned in at the meeting including t-shirts and ball caps.

Raffle for TAW Registration: - Jeff Brockett donated a \$145 registration for the upcoming TAW symposium in January 2012. Skip reminded members that the winner must attend the symposium and cannot transfer the registration or return the registration for cash. Raffle tickets were sold at \$15 each. Congratulations to the raffle winner, Michael Johaneck.

Future Demos: Bill Kearns, January. The Board has been actively pursuing professional turners as demonstrators for 2012.

Tips, Technique or Source:

Barrel's Anyone: See Joseph Voda about 55 gallon white barrel's available at a local Germantown business.

Get it Centered: Terry Maffitt asked, "Have you ever noticed that your Headstock and Tailstock are not perfectly aligned". During the Irish Symposium, Dick Sing (the author of 9 woodturning books) suggested slowly moving the tailstock into the wood when drilling a hole to allow the drill bit to settle into the center. In Cindy Drozda's Fabulous Finial Box DVD she demonstrates the same technique.

Source of Ebony for Finials: Skip Wilbur said, "Check out Gurian Instruments, who is a source for musical instrument components for ebony". Scroll down the homepage to find Specials and click to locate bargains on irregulars and overstocks such as a bundle of 100 pieces of ebony blanks perfect for finials. Skip said he cuts the blanks in half; there is very little waste and he gets two finials from one blank! Go to: <http://www.gurianinstruments.com/homepage/>

Lifetime Member Johnny Johnson 12 Point Star: Johnny shared his star inspired by professional David Springett. Johnny's star required special tools, all of which were home made to produce a 2 ½ inch sphere with 32 holes. Talk to Johnny to learn more about how to create this amazing design. You will find more about David Springett here: <http://www.davidspringett.fws1.com/>

Gorilla Glue: Thanks Gorilla for the box of glue, hats and shirts donated to our club. See <http://www.gorillaglue.com/>. Get with Skip if you want information on submitting a photo of a segmented piece you've made, using Gorilla glue for a contest they are sponsoring which ends December 31. Gorilla will have awards for individuals and clubs.

New to the Club Library: Want to know the perfect source for a woodturner's movie date, check out the 7 new DVD's in our library. We added DVD's from Lyle Jamison <https://www.lylejamieson.com/> and, Gary Rance (a professional woodturner from the UK who presented at the Ireland Symposium) <http://www.garyrance.co.uk/>. We were honored to spend an afternoon with Glenn Lucas and his family and after observing his skills in Killarney and in his own shop. We purchased his videos: Mastering Woodturning – Tools and Techniques and Mastering Woodturning – Bowls and Techniques. See <http://glennlucas.com/>. We also added a DVD on band saw tuning and a copy of the Joan Kelly Memorial book.

MSWG \$500 Grant: Applications due by December 1, 2011 for the MSWG annual grant. Board members are excluded from submitting an application. The winner of the grant must attend a 3-day or longer class and present a demo to the club. If multiple grants are submitted, the president will produce "blind grants" to remove the name of the requestor.

Top Spinning: How did Larry Sefton manage to produce a top that spinned more than 7 minutes? I don't know but ask him because he won 2 awards during the Top Spinning contest at Octoberfest. Likewise, Skip won 1 award for his top. It was a rowdy group of "kids" trying to beat

the next contestant. Winners were awarded a gift certificate.

Discounts, Discounts: Check out the last page of the monthly club newsletter for discounts available to our club. The club extends a big thanks to the vendors who graciously give us these discounts.

Shop Made Tool Demo by Larry Sefton and Afternoon Hands On: Larry captivated the audience during a demo where he produced several tools including calipers, handles (wood or aluminum) as well as high-speed steel for special tools such as a vortex tool, hollowing tool or a scraper. Check out the MSWG newsletter for a copy of the Fibonacci Golden Rule.

During the afternoon, the club set up two lathes to allow members to participate in tool presentation with Skip Wilbur or to continue with Shop Made Tools with Larry Sefton. Several of us went home with a shop made tool or a bottle stopper. Thanks Skip, Larry and Jerry Hosier for making this event possible.

Upcoming events:

December 17 – Holiday Party, potluck lunch, gift exchange and auction

January 21 – Moved meeting date to allow club members to attend the Annual TAW convention held in Nashville. The TAW Annual Symposium will be held on Friday January 27 and Saturday 28 at the Radisson Hotel at Opryland. Featured woodturners include Al Stirt, Dale Larsen, Jennifer Shirley, Ashley Harwood and Mark Gardner.





4TH QUARTER HANDS ON CLASS “BACK TO BASICS”

Each quarter after the Mid South Woodturner’s Guild meeting the club holds a “Hands On” class to help new turners build confidence and brush up on problem areas they might be able to identify. This class has been a huge success and we have had as many as 16 turners stay for the class after the morning session.

One of our organization’s goals is to further the ability of our member turners and help them become productive competent turners. This class is open to anyone who wishes to stay and learn and each quarter we try to focus on a new technique.

This past meeting we held the final class of 2011 and the focus was “Back to Basics” where we focused on two basic cuts, the cove and the bead. Everyone who wanted to

participate had the opportunity to practice their coves and beads cuts and then put them to practice making a bottle stopper. I’ll drink to that!

We have a great bunch of folks who are willing to share their talents and time to help fellow turners get to a level where they can operate a lathe with confidence and handle tools with purpose.

Mike Maffitt





We also had Larry Sefton who stayed after his demo to show members how to bend tool steel into useful bit holders for turning tools. This was probably the hottest demo to date that we have had in Bartlett since I joined the club in 2008.



Don't forget, these classes are designed for you and we'd like to see you at the next "Hands On" class, so bring your tools and your desire to get your hands dirty and let's have a great time turning. You can do this!



Our only goal is to help make our members better turners and we urge you to take advantage of these classes and get your hands and your head working together to make your turning experiences fun and safe.

If you have any areas in your shop time that need to be refined please feel free to contact any board member and suggest a subject or technique you wish to see covered and we will try our best to work it into the schedule. Remember, there are no dumb questions when it comes to woodturning and we will be thrilled to answer any questions you need answered.



NOVEMBER 2011

INSTANT GALLERY



DENNIS PAULLUS



JIM TUSANT



JOHNNY JOHNSON



JOHNNY JOHNSON



JOHNNY JOHNSON



LARRY SEFTON



LONNIE EPPERSON



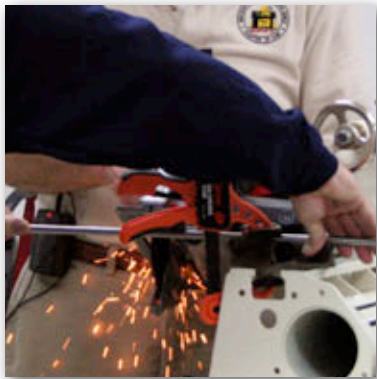
MATT GARNER





RICK STONE

November Demo: SHOP MADE TOOLS



Larry Sefton gave a fantastic, informative discussion about his shop-made tools, how he makes them, sources to buy raw stock, and walked the group through making a deep hollowing tool and a golden ratio divider. He also highlighted several other tools made from HSS bar stock. Larry covered a lot of useful information and put a huge amount of effort into his presentation and it showed. Larry thanks for stepping in with a great demonstration.

<http://aroundthewoods.com/tools.shtml>

<http://www.midsouthwoodturners.com/>

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<http://www.woodturner.org/>

Golden Dividers

New tool, ancient roots

By Bill Smith



Put your Golden Dividers to work
 As shown in the photos above, this 2³/₄" x 4¹/₂" bowl follows the 1:1.618 Golden Mean formula. The 4¹/₂" width (top photo) matches the Golden Mean for the height (bottom photo).

Mathematicians, philosophers, and scientists studied it. Architects and engineers relied on it from ancient times to present day. Even Mother Nature likes it. And certainly all self-respecting artists—woodturners included—incorporate it in some form in a portion of their work.

I'm talking about the Golden Mean, that seemingly magical ratio of width to height that appeals to the eyes of so many.

Using the full-size patterns shown *opposite*, you can easily incorporate the Golden Mean into your woodturning designs and see the correct 1:1.618 ratio at a glance.

Make your own dividers

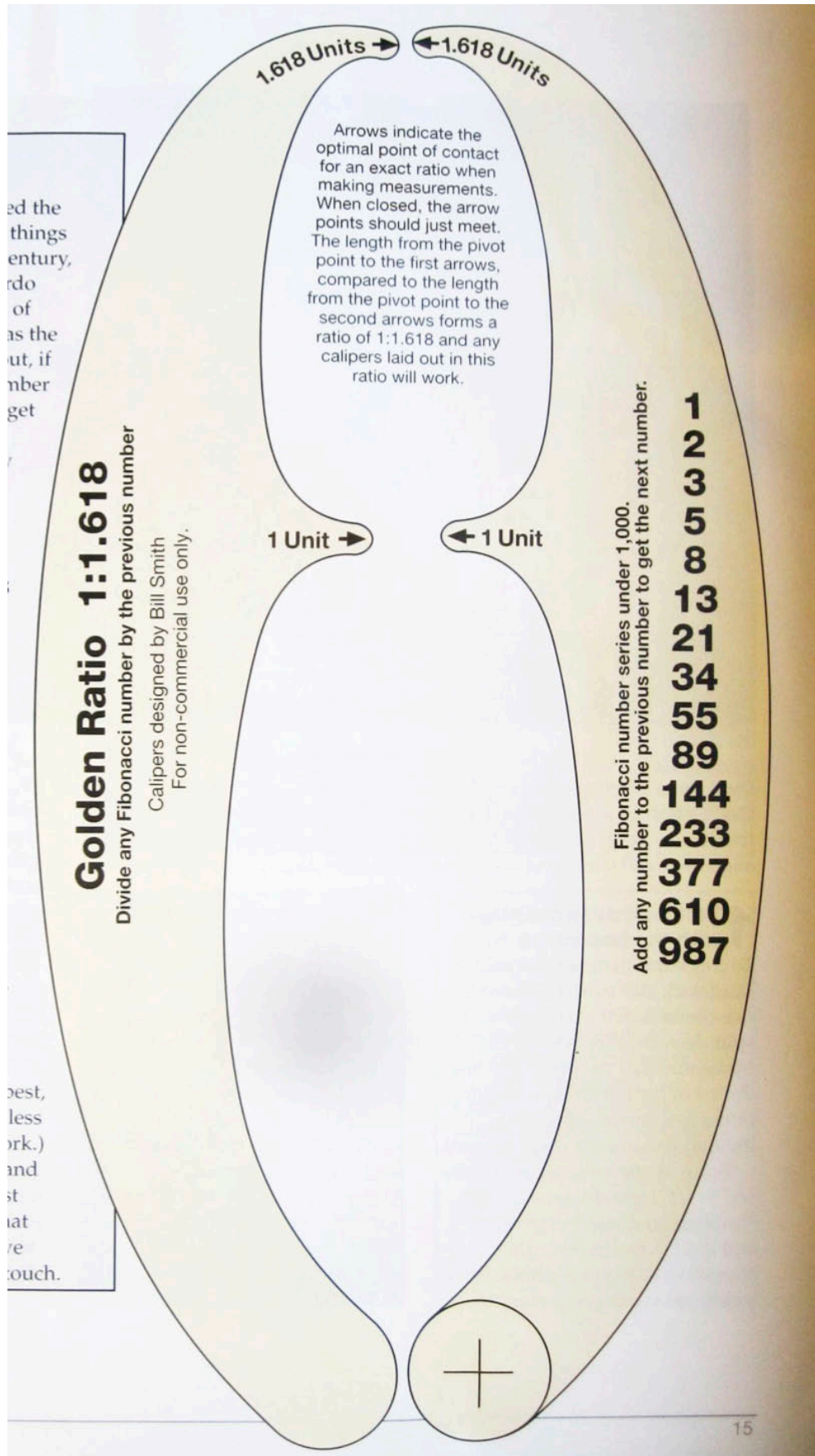
The attached drawing was designed for turnings up to about 8". To make a larger set of dividers, scale up the drawings with an enlarging copy machine.

First, make a photocopy of the patterns. Using a spray adhesive (3M no. 77 adhesive works well), attach the patterns to a piece of 1/8"-thick acrylic plastic, metal, or another suitable substrate.

Cut out along the pattern lines with a scrollsaw or bandsaw. Be careful at the tips of the four arrows as they delineate the ratio—you want the divider profiles to just touch the arrow tips. (I hand-sand this area.) To protect the paper, apply two or three coats of clear sealer such as Deft or Krylon.

Then drill a 5/32"-diameter hole for a #8x1/2" panhead machine screw and wing nut. To get an accurate set of dividers, you must drill carefully at the point marked with an "X." After assembly, the ultimate test is to close the dividers—the arrow tips should just touch.

Bill Smith (k3lf@aol.com) is a woodturner from Doylestown, Pennsylvania. He will demonstrate segmented turnings at the Overland Park symposium.



Woodturning Tools, Techniques, and Projects
Frank Penta

Using a Three-point Tool to Make Beads

The three-point tool is a fast, easy way to make decorative beads on a turned piece. Beads can be used on spindle turnings as well as end-grain pieces. It is best to begin by practicing the process on a rounded cylinder before moving on to end-grain turnings. Once you have mastered the three-point tool, you will discover how enjoyable it is to add beads to your turnings.



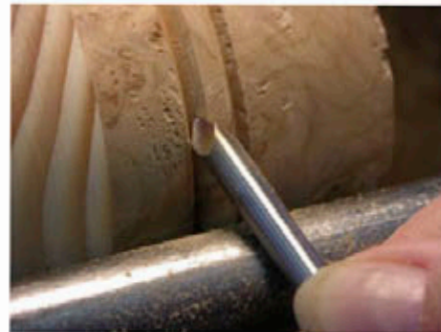
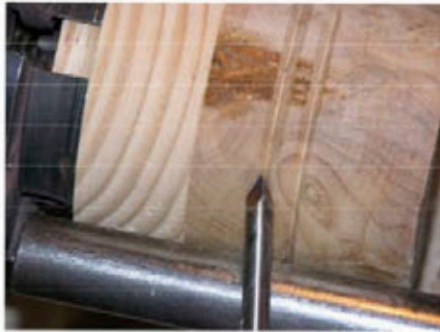
Tool Size and Position:

- A quarter-inch three-point tool is a good choice for general use, although a three-eighth-inch tool is good for making larger beads.
- The three-point tool should be presented horizontally to the wood, with one of the triangle surfaces facing up. The tip of the triangle should be pointed at the wood.
- The tool rest should be close to the wood and raised high enough so that the point of the tool is at the center of the wood.

Marking and Making the Bead:

- Make a pencil mark on either side of where you want to place the bead. The distance between these two marks will vary, depending on the desired size of the bead.
- With the three-point tool positioned horizontally as described above, gently push it into the wood to create a small initial v-cut on each of the lines you have marked.
- Keeping the tool horizontal, gently push it into one of the v-cuts. Roll the tool toward the center of the bead while, at the same time, lowering the tool handle. Stop when you reach the top or center of the bead.
- Position the tool horizontally at the v-cut on the other side of the bead. Gently push the tool into this cut while rolling it toward the center and lowering the handle at the same time.
- Repeat the process of presenting the tool horizontally and rolling it toward the center of the bead while lowering the handle. Do this on both sides of the bead until it is rounded over.
- If desired when the bead is completed, use a skew chisel to deepen the cuts on either to accent the bead or give it a bolder look.

Three Point Tool 1

Woodturning Tools, Techniques, and Projects

Correct Tool Movement: The movement of simultaneously rolling the tool and lowering the handle to produce a slicing cut is essential.

- Rolling and lowering the tool bring the cutting edge of the three-point tool into contact with the wood at an angle. This results in a very clean slicing cut. If the tool is moved horizontally without lowering the handle, the wood is scraped rather than sliced.
- Lowering the handle while rolling the tool pulls the tool tip away from the wood. This reduces the risk of the tip catching wood as the bead is cut.



Bead Stick

Three-Point Tool 2

Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

P.O. Box 19065 - Boulder, CO 80308 - ph/fax 303-449-7170 - cindy@cindydrozda.com - www.cindydrozda.com

Vortex Tool - 1/4"



The Vortex Tool is a cutting tool, not a scraper. It is "A gouge with no flute, and a skew with no heel". It cuts like a gouge, cutting only with the very tip, to make the "Vortex" shape. It also arcs into the work like a skew to slice endgrain or cut vee grooves. The Vortex can cut very precise fine vee grooves, and cleans up the bottoms of vees and between beads.

With the Vortex, you can cleanly slice into endgrain, undercutting past a square edge, without a heel to rub and damage the corners. This is a delicate tool for making light cuts. It is best to remove the bulk of the material with other tools before making a last pass with the Vortex.

The Vortex Tool is shipped to you sharpened and ready to use. When it needs sharpening, a light honing with a diamond hone is all that is needed to renew the edge. The flat top of the tool's tip is the surface to hone. The polished cutting bevel should not be honed as a routine sharpening.



With the flat top of the tool's cutting tip pressed firmly flat onto the hone, move the tool back and forth along the stone.



After repeated honing, the cutting bevel will need to be re-ground. It is ground with a 25° angle at the tip and the wings.



This can be done by grinding "free hand", rotating the tool as if sharpening a pencil. The flat top of the cutting tip can also be re-flattened on a belt sander. The Vortex's hexagonal tool handle can be used as a holder for re-grinding. Push the tool into the handle so that only a couple of inches of steel are sticking out and orient the flat tip parallel (for re-flattening), or at 90° (for re-grinding the cutting bevel), to one of the flat sides of the hex handle.

UPCOMING DEMOS & EVENTS

- **December 17th**
 - MSWG Christmas party.
 - The Woodwork Shop: Water Based Free Form Finishing: Tommy Crawford
- **January 7th, 2012**
 - The Woodwork Shop: Table Saw Tips & Tricks: Evans Woodward
- **January 14th, 2012**
 - The Woodwork Shop: Re-Sawing Techniques & Building a Mountain Dulcimer: Bob Magowan.
- **January 21st, 2012**
 - Bill Kearns: tentative demo.
- **January 27th – 28th, 2012**
 - TAW Symposium at the Radisson Hotel.
 - Demonstrators will be: Al Stirt, Dale Larson, Jennifer Shirley, Ashley Harwood and Mark Gardner.
- **March 24th & 25th, 2012**
 - Charlie Shrum: tentative demo.

American Association of Woodturners



Please take a few moments to
renew right now



Dear Michael,

**It's time to renew your
membership!**

We appreciate your support. The AAW provides a common bond that brings members together to enjoy the passion of woodturning. Our mission for more than twenty-five years continues to encourage, support, educate and develop the field of woodturning.

Members like you make doing business a real pleasure, and a strong organization with a promising future.

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Woodturners

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For a seventh year, the Woodcraft stores from Boston to Honolulu are inviting the general public to participate in a pen turn-a-thon to craft high quality pens for American servicemen and women actively deployed overseas, as a reminder that people back home remember and appreciate their efforts, company officials announced.

Since the program's beginning in January 2004, more than 35,000 customized pens have been created and sent to members of the armed forces from Woodcraft customers, employees, and others. Each year the program has grown, and the responses from the stores and the public has been amazing. "There are so many service people around the world, and we know they appreciate having a special gift from home," said Peter Parker, Woodcraft's program administrator.

We encourage hand-written notes to the troops be enclosed. Thank them for their service and sacrifice. Let them know why they are receiving it, and from whom. Tell them what kind of wood the pen is turned from, etc. We have received many thank you notes back from the troops for our participation and support of this program.

MSWG will begin encouraging it's members to donate their time and wood scraps to further this cause beginning at the March General Meeting. Please participate and give generously.



The Woodwork Shop, Inc
8500 Wolf Lake Drive
Suite 101
Bartlett, TN 38133

Phone: (901) 755-7355

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