

# TURNER'S TALK

## THE MID-SOUTH WOODTURNER'S GUILD

How Did The Mid South Woodturners Do At The AAW in St. Paul, MN?

16 Members in Attendance

Award for Technical Excellence: For The MSWG Riverboat

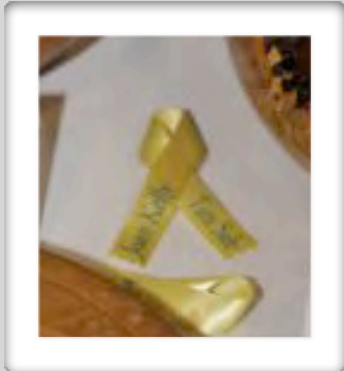
Award for Best Newsletter: 1st Place

Award for Best Website: 2nd Place



Mike Maffitt: Editor





**CALL FOR REMEMBRANCES**

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Cover Photo:  
The MSWG Riverboat entry  
for the 2011 AAW Symposium  
Chapter Collaboration.

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# SHOP TALK



with  
**CHARLES  
SMOTHERS**

Charles Smothers' outdoor shop (1) is just that. Behind his corner-lot home is a double carport with three open sides and an adjoining large utility room. His shop has a view of the neighborhood and space for almost any project he cares to undertake. When not in use his machine tools are simply rolled inside and locked away. The four walls of the utility room

serve as shelving and cabinet space for his many spare parts, hand tools, and supplies (2). He is a master of detailed scroll saw work (3) and makes numerous name plates, religious signs, and desk ornaments from a wide variety of woods (4). His involvement with wood dates back to his childhood following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. But Charles's mechanical know-how extends even wider to include electrical and plumbing skills as well. His wood-turning interests are almost entirely centered on pen and pencil projects, though he has produced a few bowls with an intent to do more. He has a very large stock of pen parts. He prizes his Osborne EB-3 Miter Gauge Guide (5) due to the simplicity and accuracy it



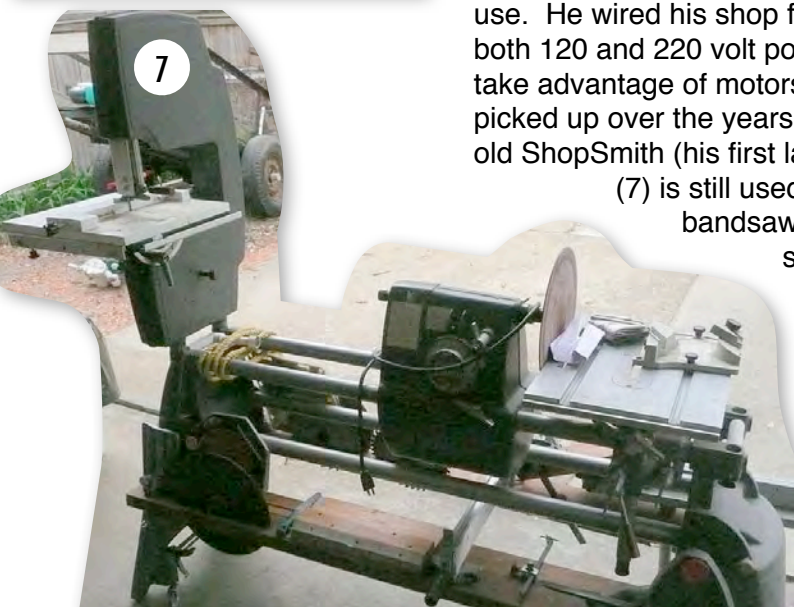
**Ray  
Tanner**



(cont. on next page.)



provides when setting precise angles for table saw work.



Charles spent thirty years in Paraguay as a missionary both preaching and teaching, including woodwork instruction. He has a small supply of aromatic cedar boards (6) from a North Carolina friend's felled tree and a three foot log of lignum vitae weighing about 200 pounds from Paraguay.

With some of his grandchildren around now and then, Charles makes sure that all his power tools are unplugged when not in actual use. He wired his shop for both 120 and 220 volt power to take advantage of motors he's picked up over the years. His old ShopSmith (his first lathe) (7) is still used as a bandsaw, table saw and as a large



diameter disk sander. His new lathe is a Rikon 1216 Mini (8) which he conveniently mounted on a rolling cart. His turning tools are housed in PVC tubes on one side, and the drawers below hold other accessories. A cover fits neatly over the lathe and secures it. He has plans to enclose his shop, mostly in glass so that he may continue his simultaneous woodwork and neighborhood watch activities.



# WOOD SPIN

## A PLEA FOR MILLIMETERS

While I am sure that this pitch for using the so simple metric system will fail to change many long established habits, perhaps a few readers will consider the many advantages to woodturners of using a single scale measuring system..

I am not asking, or even suggesting, that you trade in pounds for kilograms (but I would like to weigh 99 rather than 218), or convert to celsius temperatures or that you think in terms of kilometers. Just consider one simple application, that of using millimeters when you measure wood.

Both of the major woodturning journals, American Woodturner and Woodturning (British), are now reporting all measurements in the simple metric system as well as in the variable scale cumbersome system which is used only in the United States.

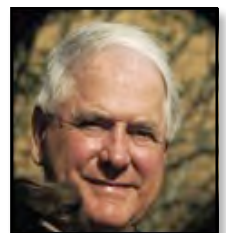
Everything I do in the woodturning shop involves measurements between 3 and 300 millimeters. One scale. Period. No shifting

around between  $3/8$ ,  $9/16$ ,  $23/64$ ,  $1/2$ ,  $1/4$ ,  $3/16$ , on and confusingly on. With the traditional measurement system not only do you have the multiple base fractions but varying whole numbers as 3 and  $3/8$ , 5 and  $1/4$ , 2 and  $5/32$  on and on.

I have seen woodturners struggle to add a column of variable fractions when it would have been quick and easy to add a column of numbers.

Some people seem reluctant to use the simple millimeter system because they mutter, "I would have to purchase new tools." That might be the case if you are an auto mechanic, but not

**Emmett  
Manley**



(cont. on next page.)

so for woodturners. For woodturners, there is nothing but advantages, no downside. You almost certainly have rulers and other measuring devices with a metric scale in your shop.

According to a 1975 act of Congress the USA was supposed to have converted, entirely, to the full metric system "as soon as feasible." That act has been amended a couple of times since 1975 with no hard date established.

We notice that all of our automobiles now have speedometers calibrated in both miles per hour and kilometers per hour. However, our highway distance and speed limit signs remain in the traditional mile and miles per hour.

Actually, the metric system is widely used in certain areas of American society -- all scientific data are reported using the metric system as are practically all medical measurements. All pharmaceuticals are supplied in metric units. I spent most of my working life dealing with volume (liters, milliliters) and weights (kilograms, grams, milligrams) in the metric system and it was both simple and a system which reduced the potential for errors.

Now, in my woodturning world, I am dealing with distances, not weights and volumes, and I find that the same advantages exist.

Complicating the issue of USA linear measurement is a movement by some manufacturing groups to establish the decimal inch as a compromise between the cumbersome traditional system and the widely used metric system. With this system, the inch would be divided into tenths and hundredths, resulting in measurements such as 1.25 inches; 6.47 inches, 12.18 inches, etc. It would seem that if we are going to learn and implement a different system, we might as well adopt the simple and cross-linked metric system, rather than some hybrid useful only for relatively short linear distance measurements.

For woodturners, the advantage of using only millimeters is overwhelming. In fact, the strongest argument against the metric system seems to be -- If God had intended for the metric

system to be used, there would have been ten disciples, not twelve.



### A Call For Remembrances Of Joan Kelly

We will be publishing a dedicated memorial issue to Joan Kelly and we would like to add your remembrance of this special lady to this issue. It can be short or long, heartfelt or funny either way it should help to make this a memorable keepsake. We would love to have contributions from the Mid South Woodturners Guild and any friends and family who would wish to contribute. We can only take these up until Sunday the 17th of July so please get these in to Mike Maffitt at [mmaffitt@yahoo.com](mailto:mmaffitt@yahoo.com) so we can have this sent out to people before the July meeting. Turn Safe

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Having just returned from the 25<sup>th</sup> annual AAW symposium in St. Paul, I am still on cloud nine. We had 17 members of the MSWG in attendance. If you ever have the chance to attend a national symposium don't pass it up. We will be showing a slide show presentation during our July meeting of the symposium and it promises to be inspirational.

Remember that famous picture of Mark Spitz after the 1972 Olympics with all his metals around his neck? Think of MSWG in a similar pose. We were recognized and credited with winning the best newsletter, second best web site and the technical excellence award for our river boat entry. Many thanks to Mike Maffitt for his

continuing hard work as the newsletter editor and web master as well as the 19 people who helped in the river boat project.

Next to our chapter collaborative piece at the symposium we had a computer showing Joan Kelly's pieces in a slide show and yellow ribbons for people to wear in her honor as well as info on contributing to her fund. We also displayed three

(cont. on next page.)

**Skip  
Wilbur**



pieces of hers in the instant gallery. Thank you to our club members who helped to keep her memory and safety related issues alive. For those who were not at our June meeting, we were presented a check in the amount of \$500 from Bob Hobbs and the West Tennessee Woodturners for the Joan Kelly Memorial Fund. Many thanks to that club for generating those funds via a wood sale.



President's challenge and instant gallery items have been a little weak lately. Let's see if we can increase participation. The purpose of the instant gallery is for us to bring in a piece we have turned in the month for the viewing pleasure of our club members. This does not have to be a gallery quality product, it's to motivate and inspire others. The president's challenge for July is to turn something green. No not literally green, something that perhaps was destined for the trash pile, something found along the road, something in the woods etc. In other words, something recyclable.

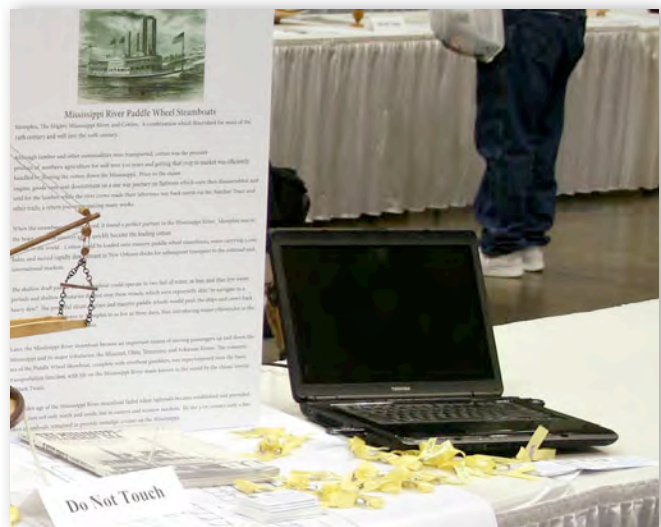
Bumper sticker - *"Ignore the environment. It'll go away."*

Once a quarter we try to have a "hands on". That is where we may have an outside demonstrator or in-house club member mentor a turning session. During the afternoon of our July

meeting we will again offer a "hands on" at our club location and the theme will be lidded boxes. Bring in your favorite tools and safety equipment and let's have some fun learning about lidded boxes. Remember for insurance purposes you must be a AAW member to turn behind a lathe at the "hands on". Speaking of lidded boxes, that just happens to be the theme of the Mid-South Perspective (lidded vessel with a surprise inside) due at Octoberfest. This is a great way to hone those rusty lidded box turning skills you haven't used for some time.

Now since I have you in the turning mood, remember to keep those ornaments coming in so we can collect them for a sale in November with the proceeds going to St. Jude. So now I can expect everyone to bring in three pieces, instant gallery, president's challenge and a St. Jude ornament.

*"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go" – T. S. Eliot*





# THE COBBED WEB



I am sitting at my computer and wondering what I could possibly share about the AAW Symposium that I just attended in St. Paul, MN. Should I talk about the wonderful demonstrators or the Trade Show or the Instant Gallery or the wonderful people I met?

Let me answer that question by telling you what led me to this idea. Pictures. I took close to 300 photographs of the Instant Gallery, The Chapter Collaboration pieces, demonstrators and photos of just people. The one thing that stood out as I was glancing at all these pictures was the amazing variety of textures that all of these people had produced in all of the great works of art that lined the gallery tables.

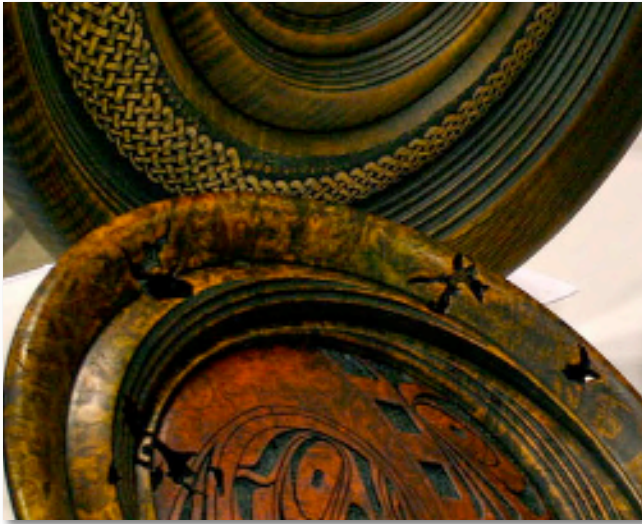
So to illustrate my point I am simply going to show you some photos that I think will demonstrate some of the amazing textures that were used that make these pieces soar in beauty and creativity.

If you ever get a chance to go to a Symposium, take the opportunity. I promise you will bring back ideas and techniques that would otherwise take you years to accumulate.

(cont. on next page.)

**Mike Maffitt**







# JUNE MEETING MINUTES

Thanks to  
**JIM TUSANT:**  
 June's Demonstrator

**18 June 2011**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00  
 Minutes of the 28 May 2011 general membership meeting were approved with a motion by Richard Hiller and a second by Rick Gillespie.

**Treasurer's Report was presented by Robert Speier**

Checking	\$ 2,104.87
Education Fund	\$ 2,922.28
MSWG Memorial Fund	\$ <u>185.00</u>
Total in Bank Accounts	\$ 5212.15

Approved with a motion by Tate Thomas and a second by Tony Sobczak.

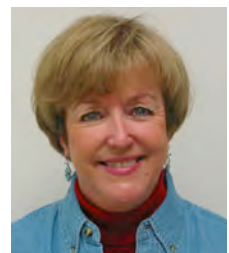
Mr. Speier told the members about the Turn Safe yellow ribbons donated to the club

in memory of Joan Kelly and to bring awareness to woodturning safety. Mr. Speier also told the members that Binh Pho will be talking about Joan's accident and promoting woodturning safety.

Bob Hobbs from the Jackson, TN West TN Woodturners asked for the floor and reported that their club sponsored a Woodturning Day where they cut up and milled a very large cherry tree. The end results were then raffled off to

(cont. on next page.)

**Sandi Speier**



members and non-members. He reported that it was a great experience and huge success. He presented to MSWG a \$500 check for the Joan Kelly Memorial Fund.

Mr. Speier, asked for the floor and reported that at the last board meeting the board approved a \$500 donation to the Joan Kelly Memorial Fund.

Keith Burns asked for the floor and reported that the Woodturners America Joan Kelly Memorial Fund = \$2,500.

### **Skip Wilbur, President Reports and Comments:**

**Pens for US Troops** - 64 pens had been turned for the program. They will be shipped very soon. He has ordered 50 more sets.

**St. Jude Christmas ornaments project** - Reminded the members about the project that he is providing the blanks for the globe and finials.

**AAW 25th Annual Symposium Chapter Collaboration** - The Mississippi Riverboat is completed. He and Dennis Pallus will be building a box for transportation this Sunday. He thanked all the members who participated.

**AAW Annual Newsletter contest** - Skip reminded the members that Mike Maffitt won 1st place in the competition and won 2nd place in the AAW Annual website contest. The members gave Mike a round of applause. As Mike was not in attendance, Mr. Wilbur requested the members to make a special effort to email Mike their appreciation for his hard work and great performance.

**Class or School** - Skip attended a week long class with J. Paul Fennel at Arrowmont.

**Bylaws** - Skip thanked Ray Tanner for the hard work on redoing the bylaws. Board recommends approval. The Bylaws were approved with a motion by Tony Sobczak and a second by Tate Thomas.

### **Upcoming Demos**

July 23rd - followed by the Quarterly "Hands On" Class. There will also be a re-cap of the AAW Symposium.

August 27th - Sam Seaton with his Rose Engine

October 22nd - Octoberfest which includes 4 demos, Ornament contest, Spinning Top contest, BBQ with hot dogs.

### **Tips/Techniques /Sources**

Joseph Voda showed his bit that produces less heat.

Ray Tanner talked about sharpening his Easy Wood Scraper with a diamond hone.

Dennis Paullus talked about the J. Waley article on safety. Reminded members to maintain a high level of focus while turning. If it feels unsafe it probably is. Don't turn "crappy wood". If you hear a funny noise, stop and check it out.

Thomas Dorough has made a "face shield" out of a motorcycle helmet. He cut holes for his ears with a forstner bit.

**President's Challenge** - Bring in a turned object that is made out of "something recycled".

**June Demo** - Jim Tusan sharing his experience from his class at Mark Adams School with J. Paul Fennel.

# JUNE 2011 INSTANT GALLERY



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# AAW SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESSFUL ENDEAVOR



*Mississippi River Paddle Wheel Steamboats*

Memphis, The Mighty Mississippi River, and Cotton. A combination which flourished for most of the 19th century and well into the 20th century.

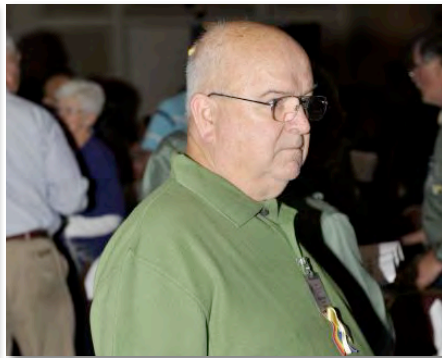
Although lumber and other commodities were transported, cotton was the premier product of southern agriculture for well over 100 years and getting that crop to market was efficiently handled by floating the cotton down the Mississippi. Prior to the steam engine, goods were sent downstream on a one way journey on flatboats which were then disassembled and sold for the lumber, while the river crews made their laborious way back north via the Natchez Trace and other trails, a return journey requiring many weeks.

When the steamboat was introduced, it found a perfect partner in the Mississippi River. Memphis was in the heart of cotton country and it quickly became the leading cotton market in the world. Cotton could be loaded onto massive paddle wheel steamboats, some carrying 5,000 bales, and moved rapidly downstream to New Orleans docks for subsequent transport to the national and international markets.

The shallow draft paddle wheel steamboat could operate in two feet of water, or less, and thus low water periods and shallow tributaries did not stop these vessels, which were reportedly able “to navigate in a heavy dew.” The powerful steam engines and massive paddle wheels would push the ships and crews back upstream from New Orleans to Memphis in as few as three days, thus introducing major efficiencies in the transport of cotton to world markets.

Later, the Mississippi River steamboat became an important means of moving passengers up and down the Mississippi and its major tributaries: the Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Arkansas Rivers. The romantic era of the Paddle Wheel Showboat, complete with riverboat gamblers, was superimposed onto the basic transportation function, with life on the Mississippi River made known to the world by the classic novels of Mark Twain.

The golden age of the Mississippi River steamboat faded when railroads became established and provided competition not only north and south, but to eastern and western markets. By the 21st century only a few token steamboats remained to provide nostalgic cruises on the Mississippi.



Also attending were Ken Walls, Ginger Magouirk & Rick and Polly Stone.



# MID-SOUTH PERSPECTIVE 2011



Yes we now have a theme for our annual project (due in Oct.), ***lidded vessel with a surprise inside***. Now just a couple of ground rules,

1. first most of the project (51% min.) should be of the wood we are selling at \$5 each.
2. You may add other wood or any mixed media so as to complete this project with the "lidded vessel" theme.
3. Now as for the surprise inside, let's have some fun with this. It could be a texture, another turning, wire, glass, metal, cloth etc., well you get the picture. So lets put on our creative caps and come up with something.

*"Any powerful idea is absolutely fascinating and absolutely useless until we choose to use it". - Richard Bach*



“NEED ANY WOOD”?  
Submitted by: Larry Sefton



Keith Burns hocking wares for Carter at the AAW Symposium in St. Paul, MN

## **A LITTLE HUMOR**

### **The Road Trip**

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch.

After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant, and resumed their trip.

When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving for about forty minutes.

By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained, and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up for a single minute.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car, and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her,

While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and credit card.

# UPCOMING DEMOS & EVENTS

Georgia Association  
of Woodturners

## Turning Southern Style XVII

September 16-18, 2011



2011 Symposium

Unicoi State Park  
Helen, GA

[www.gawoodturner.org](http://www.gawoodturner.org)

- **July 23rd**
  - July General Meeting: Demo: Recap of the 2011 AAW Symposium with slideshow followed by the quarterly "Hands On" class, lidded boxes.
- **August 27th**
  - Sam Seaton will demonstrate his rose engine and techniques.
- **September 9th – 11th**
  - Jimmy Clewes at the Arkansas Craft School. (See page 34 for details).
- **September 16th – 18th**
  - Turning Southern Style XVII: Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA
- **September 24th**
  - Keith Burns will demonstrate the Carter "Hollow Roller" hollowing system.
- **October 14th – 16th**
  - Irish National Symposium, Kerry, Ireland
- **October 22nd**
  - Octoberfest at Joel Benson's home will include 4 Demonstrators including Chuck Jones and his sawmill, Ornament contest, Top Spinning contest, wonderful food and great companionship.



**ARKANSAS CRAFT SCHOOL**  
...educating aspiring and practicing craft artisans for success  
in the creative economy.

## Mountain View, Arkansas PRESENTS:



## Wood Turner Jimmy Clewes September 9—11, 2011

**Jimmy Clewes is not your ordinary woodturner. Upon a first meeting one would think of him as a renegade, a free thinker and not within the stereotypical image of a woodturner. His charming British style, unending wit, creative mind and magnetic personality are only some of the attributes that make him popular in the woodturning demonstration circuit. In this class, Jimmy will cover everything from the basics to more advanced techniques and tips. Projects will include the turning of bowls, platters and boxes. As a technique of embellishment, the coloring of wood will be included in the class instruction. Emphasis will be upon improving tool technique, reducing the need to sand. Design, shape, form and aesthetics will be considered in all projects.**

**Jimmy Clewes is on the Register of Professional Woodturners in the United Kingdom and a member of the American Association of Woodturners. He has over 22 years of experience in woodturning and woodworking. The demand for his services as a freelance demonstrator and teacher has taken him all over the world including his homeland of the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, Norway, Finland, New Zealand and now his new home in the United States.**

**Tuition:\$350.00**

For information, registration and scholarship application, please visit: [www.arkansascraftschool.org](http://www.arkansascraftschool.org). Support for the Arkansas Craft School is provided, in part, by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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

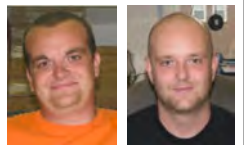
**Phone:** (901) 755-7355  
**Fax:** (901) 755-2907  
**Email:** [thewoodworkshop@bellsouth.net](mailto:thewoodworkshop@bellsouth.net)



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