



TURNERS TALK

THE MID-SOUTH WOODTURNER'S GUILD





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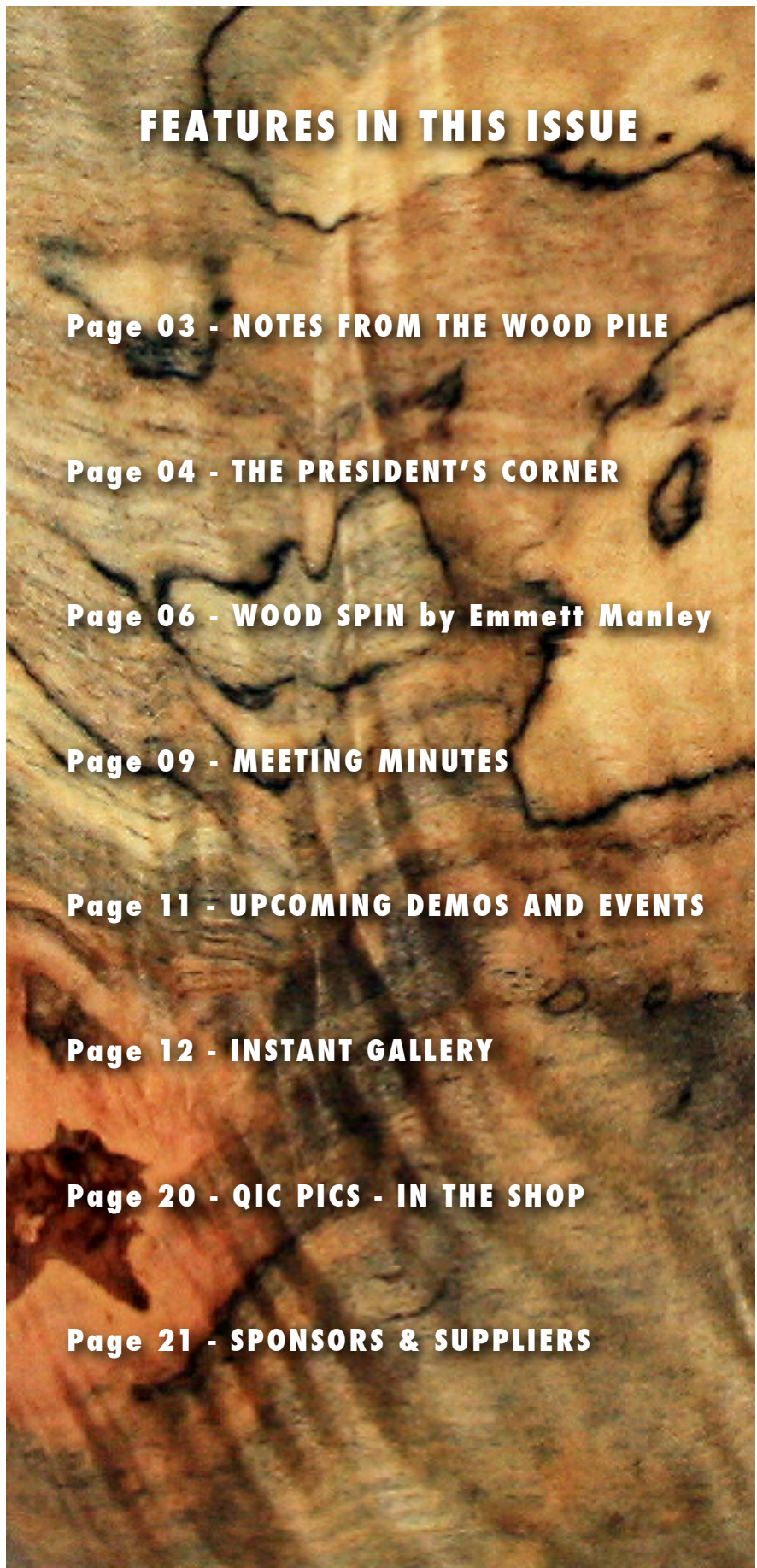
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Above photo:
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Airbrush Demo



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Growing up in an architectural millwork shop run by my dad, I became accustomed to woodworking by blueprints, field measurements, and contractor specs for wood purchased by the flitch, pallet or thousands of board feet. All kiln dried to precise specifications with specific destinations established by work orders and contracts. The machines all tended to be three phase, hand tools were pneumatic, most operations were predetermined. All said, there is a beauty in well crafted millwork and production cabinetry manufactured with accuracy and quality. We took pride in what we accomplished, to this day many installations are still in service.

Many miles, and many years later, I discovered wood turning. In contrast to beginnings in the world of flat work, an evolution of sorts happened. Each piece of turned wood wants to define its destination. Each piece of wood, has a unique song, a unique form regardless of its source. Trees felled in a windstorm, a log left behind by the tree cutters, a lucky draw at the raffle all provide raw turning material of many different species, grain patterns, moisture levels, and quality of integrity. Often the more damaged, insect or mold infected or twisted the tree, the more intriguing the turning blank will be.

As I spin up the lathe, the faceplate or chuck becomes analogous to a turntable, the cutting tool becomes the stylus. As I bring the bevel to the wood, fade into dance of the wood turner, the wood begins to sing. Cascading shavings, aromas, and more shavings are notes, pitch, tempos as the song begins to define a shape. The flame of a crotch, figures from stress, ring and growth patterns all surface if you listen to the song of the wood.

After a really satisfying song, I might think Wow! I did that and feel really good about my efforts. Each month at the Instant Gallery, I think what an album of great music. All the pieces tend to be excellent, some are great. I listen and feel really fortunate to be participating with MSWG, in such a good group of talented artisans. It is exciting knowing that next month, more great songs will be waiting to be heard.

**Robin
Boyd**



The President's Corner



We had a lot in interest shown in "airbrushing" last month during our demo. Dennis and Larry took us through the steps necessary to get us up and running in airbrushing. I'm betting there were a few airbrush sets purchased in the days after our meeting.

I'd like to see some woodturning entries submitted to the Delta Fair this year, it's not too late. Entry forms must be submitted by Aug 14th and items turned in August 23rd. The fair starts August 29th and is a great place to have your work seen and judged for cash prizes. Check out their web site and download an entry form.

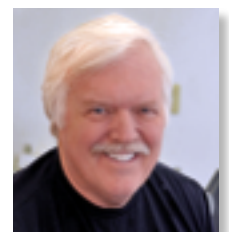


Our joint showing with the Memphis Camera Club begins August 24th until September 14th at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. The address is 6560 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, just before Germantown. So stop by and check it out, it's free to the public.

So what was it that attracted you to turning in the first place? There are about as many answers to that question as we have members (92 at last count). I attended my first MSWG meeting about 7 years ago and was blown away by some of the artistic pieces in the "instant gallery". I soon purchased my first lathe. Of course that's only the beginning, there were turning tools, chucks, hollowing systems, wood etc. Well you get the picture - the lathe was the cheapest part of this hobby.

(cont. on next page.)

**Skip
Wilbur**



I started out turning utilitarian items as most of us do like bowls, plates, platters, etc. It was Paul Harvey who had a radio show called "The Rest of the Story" which consisted of stories presented as little known or forgotten facts on a variety of subjects with some key you'll be needing more tools. For some of you tool junkies/hoarders this is good news; however, for some of you more frugal minded turners this comes as bad news. Hey, don't shoot me, I'm just the messenger.



Now that you've got your new tool/tools, how do you get inspired and get ideas for a project? the AAW website is a great place to view other artists' sites. Read their bio's and gain some insight on their motivation.

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

Check out a DVD from our library, we have many previous AAW symposiums that show fabulous work by wood artists. Take a look at

our "Instant Gallery" during our meetings. I take a little extra time going over the pieces to give you insight in the wood used, technique, finish, embellishment etc. Ask questions, our meetings should be a learning experience for all. I am continually amazed at not only the abundance of talent we have in our club but their willingness to share it as well as the process they used. Our club stands by to assist you to take your turning to another level, don't be stagnant, get out of your comfort zone and learn something new. Start a project that will inspire you and create a learning experience. Learn from others - imitate their work serving as a stepping stone for your own signature creations. Share - bring in a piece and let others see how you did it in our "Instant Gallery". Above all, be safe and have fun.

"The reality of getting it done is more satisfying than the dream of getting it perfect"

Theodore Bryant



Reflective Woodturning

One of my friends asked me recently, "what are you turning in your shop these days? That got me thinking and it seems that for the past 18 months, about half of my shop time I have been making hand mirrors. Based upon the invoices I have for 3, 4, and 5 inch mirror glass, I must have made over 60. Checking my shop, it appears that I currently have four in the finishing pipeline, and 6-8 in the early stages of gluing up wood circles for mirror bodies plus a bunch of rough cut handle spindles.

Why this fascination with hand mirrors? I am not really sure but I find them a challenge, yet one that can be met. I get to solve problems, use various tools, do both faceplate and spindle turning, play with glues and incorporate any desired embellishments (or none). The body of a hand mirror provides a wonderful surface to reveal the beauty of a particular piece of wood. The handle can be a single piece of wood, or multiple woods, and it can be short, long, heavy, light – all sorts of variations are possible and appeal to different people.

Hand mirrors are a specialty of John Lucas, the well known Tennessee woodturner who resides in Baxter. His mirror bodies are often segmented or otherwise complex and always

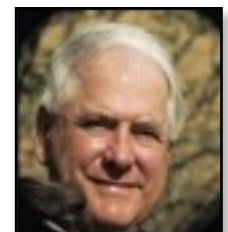
objects of great beauty. Google some of his hand mirrors for a real treat.



Examples of Hand Mirrors

(cont. on next page.)

**Emmett
Manley**



Mirrors made with a 4 inch glass seem to be most popular size and most ladies prefer the presence of a small bevel. John Lucas sells quality beveled 4" mirrors at a good price, although similar glass is available from craft supply houses for a bit more. In terms of the length of the handle, 8 inches is a popular length, although 11 inch handles allow ladies to easily view the back of their hair and that is important to many. Short handles (4-6 inches) can be used with 3" mirrors and such small hand mirrors will fit into a purse or automobile glove compartment.

In most cases only two wooden parts are turned, the body and handle, although the handle can be made from two or more woods and the body can be inlaid, segmented, or otherwise embellished. The hole drilled in the body is the tricky part – it must be in line from rim to center and it must be positioned slightly away from the rim, but not too far. Then there is the question of the diameter of the hole. Lucas uses 3/8." Hershel Miller, another master of the hand mirror, prefers 1/4" and the 1/4" holes seem strong enough and are much easier to drill and match up, so that is what I have settled on. In some cases, if the wood is unstable, the handle may require a short dowel to join with the body.

What adhesives are used? To glue the handle to the body I use epoxy if the wood or joint appears fragile; otherwise, Titebond and similar carpenter glues appear to work well. The mirror is fixed to the body via a silicone adhesive, as Liquid Nails Silicone. Because hand mirrors may be banged around a bit and exposed to high humidity, I don't trust CA glues for any of these joins.

Here is a quick description of the method I use to make the hand mirrors. First, I rarely make one hand mirror straight through. I will make several handles of different woods, and different lengths and shapes. Those will go in a drawer, some of them not completed. Then I

glue chuck circular wood blanks for the bodies until I have 6-8 piled up.

Using a jig or compass/pencil I mark the inside of the body and hollow with a 1/4" parting tool until I have a recess that matches the mirror diameter (and a tiny bit more). I clean up the inner rim, and sand that area since I won't be able to get back there easily once I leave. I turn the body blank around and grasp the inside with a four jaw chuck, then expand that chuck to hold the body. The body is almost reduced to final thickness but then I stop, part the body from the glue chuck and prepare for the critical step of *HOLE DRILLING*.



Fitting Handle to Body

Everything hinges on this step as you can destroy the rim of your mirror body, or drill the hole too far from the rim, or have the angle such that the handle does not lie flat; or, and this really looks bad, the hole is not pointed to the center point and thus the handle appears off to one side. Some people use elaborate jigs for this hole drilling step. I have gone to a simple wooden clamp to hold my mirror body. By marking the center point of the inside of the body, and drawing a line from the center to the point on the rim where the hole will be drilled, it is possible to line up the drill press bit

(cont. on next page.)

as an extension of that line. Now, everything is in proper alignment except front to back but that can be done by eyeball with just a little experience. Then take a deep breath and slowly press the 1/4" Forstner bit down into the wood

If you prepare a good hole, everything else is fairly easy. If you get a horrible hole, it can be an opportunity to demonstrate your hole filling skills, plus it will be necessary to drill another hole elsewhere on the rim. When you are pleased with the hole, remount your body via expansion and complete shaping the outside. Glue the handle in place. After allowing your adhesive to cure and doing your finishing over the next few days, you can glue in the mirror.

Despite dropping several mirrors on the shop floor, and bouncing a couple off of the lathe beds, I have had only one mirror break. That was caused by a mirror body that was made from wood too green and I did not provide enough undercut for the wood to move, and the entrapped mirror was crushed. Since I was not directly responsible for this break, I hope to avoid seven years of bad luck.



Mirror Blank with a Glue Chuck



Preparing the 4" Recess for the Mirror



Checking the Mirror Fit



Membership Meeting - July 26, 2014

Call to Order - 9 a.m. by Skip Wilbur. Minutes were approved and seconded by club members.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Garner, Treasurer –

Checking Account Balance -	\$2003.99
Joan Kelly Fund -	1101.04
Education Fund -	2631.60
 TOTAL -	 \$5736.63

Raffle -	\$105.00
Library Donations -	\$14.00

86 Members have paid 2014 dues.

New Members – The club welcomed two new members:

Bill Smith of Jackson, TN
Dennis Ruch of Collierville, TN

Contact information for Bill and Dennis can be found in the MSGW Membership Roster, available online.

Returning Members – Larry Cutliff

School or workshop -

- Jonas Nemanis attended class at the Arkansas Craft School

- Five club members attended a class on turning large diameter bowls presented by Dennis Paulus
- Mystery club member attended a class on sharpening handsaws. He reportedly has become an expert, and could sharpen all our dull saws but would rather remain anonymous. Can you blame him?

President's Promotions -

- All AWW members were encouraged to vote for the new AAW Board of Directors.
- Attendance at "Turning Southern Style" presented by the Georgia Association of Woodturners September 19-21 in Dalton, Georgia
- Participation/ Attendance was promoted for the Memphis Jewish Center Fall Show - August 24 through September 19. The MSWG will have a booth. Visit the Memphis Camera Club or Jewish Community Center websites for additional information.

(cont. on next page.)

**THOMAS
WRIGHT
PILLOW**



President's Promotions (cont. from prev page.)

- The Delta Fair is an excellent way of showcasing your art and earning a bit of money. Skip Wilbur will not be available to take items to the show, so those who will be showing must take them to be entered.
- A field trip is planned to observe a metal spinning lathe. More information will be available at the August meeting.

Tips -

- Put a wooden handle on an allen wrench for chuck use.
- President promoted Utah Handpiece Repair.

Dust Evacuation System -

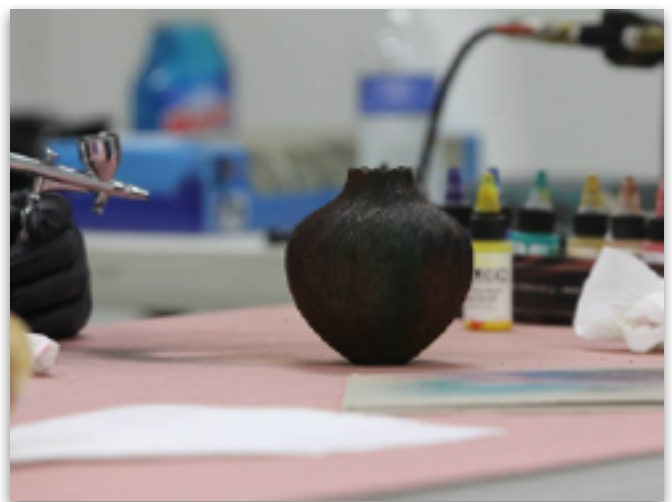
- The MSGW Board of Directors is looking into the possibility of purchasing or making a dust evacuation system for the meeting room. If you have suggestions, talk to a board member.

Demonstration -

- Larry Sefton - Principles of Air Brushing (B,D)
- Dennis Paulus - Process and Techniques of Air Brushing (A,C)

Raffle**Adjourn - 12:00 Noon**

B



C



A



D

Upcoming Demos & Events

- 
- August** - Safety in the Shop - Ray Tanner
- Offset Turning Demo - Mike Maffitt
- September** - Turning Platters - Mike Zinser from Nashville
- October** - October Fest - John Lucas
- November** - Tips and Techniques on Steroids

INSTANT GALLERY



JONAS NEMANIS
Maple Hollow Form Vase.

(cont. on next page.)



WILEY PATTERSON
Deer Antler Duck Calls and Pens.



BILL BLEAU
Cherry Burl Bowl.

(cont. on next page.)



JIM TUSANT
Cherry Vase.



JIM TUSANT
Magnolia Vase Airbrushed.



RICK STONE
Walnut Hollow Form.

(cont. on next page.)



MIKE MAFFITT
Maple Vase.



DON FARAGE
Persimmon Egg.



JONAS NEMANIS
Ash Hollow Form.



JONAS NEMANIS
Red Bud Hollow Form.

(cont. on next page.)



ROBIN BOYD
Spalted Maple Bowl.



ROBIN BOYD
Cherry Bowl.

(cont. on next page.)



TATE THOMAS
Wave Bowl Maple-Walnut.



TATE THOMAS
Wave Bowl Maple-Walnut.



TATE THOMAS
Wave Bowl Holly-Walnut.



DON FRAGE
Small Box.

(cont. on next page.)



JOSEPH VODA
Catalpa Bowl.



DON FARAGE
Walnut Bowl.

(cont. on next page.)



RICK STONE
Tops.

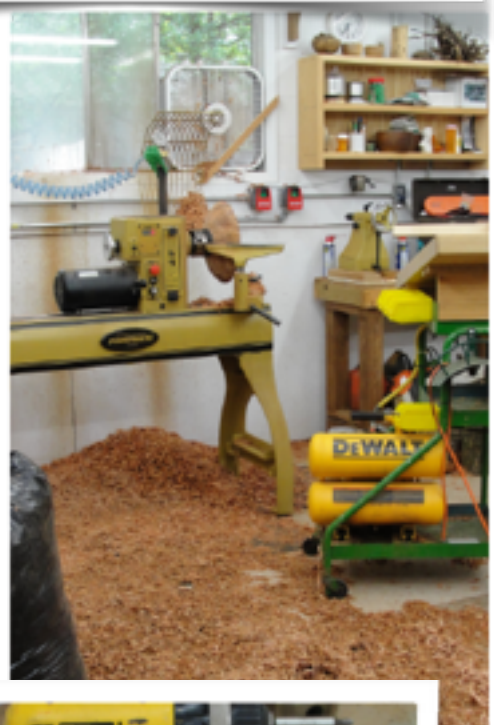


MIKE RAWLINGS
Maple Tea Boxes.



RICK STONE
Poplar Bowl.

Qic Pics - In the Shop



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

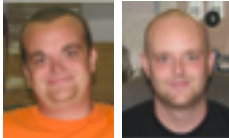
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