



Turner's Talk



Steve Van Voorst, Editor

** Octoberfest! - The Great MSWG Iron Turning Challenge **



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*MSWG Lathe and chucks are
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By Joan Kelly

MSWG has a longstanding tradition of making the October meeting a special one, and this year may prove to be the best yet! Joel Benson has invited the club to use his spacious place on the outskirts of town for a day long festival of turning and fun on Saturday, October 28, 9:00-2:30 (map on page 8). The most challenging part of the event will be choosing how to spend your time. The morning's schedule will include Joel showing off his new sandblaster, Chuck Ludwigsen sharing his tips for making his beautiful pens, and Bill Siler divulging his secrets for turning his unique split bowls, reassembled. In addition, Bill Newsom will be demonstrating tool sharpening techniques.

Meanwhile, we have invited the woodworkers', the carvers', and the scrollers' clubs to be our guests, showing their work and demonstrating if they wish. Rosemary McCane with the carvers' club has sent an enthusiastic reply saying they will have several members there. What a great opportunity to exchange ideas among fellow wood enthusiasts!

The club will provide barbequed chicken and trimmings for lunch with Bob Speier manning the grill. Bring your own lawn chairs, please.

The grand finale of the day will be an unprecedented demonstration of creativity and skill: The Great MSWG Iron Turning Challenge. Two great friends and great turners, Joel Benson and Dennis Paullus, will be issued identical packages of wood and set up on side-by-side mini lathes. They will have a pre-determined amount of time to create a spectacular, extraordinary work of art. A jury of their peers (that's us) will declare the winner. Dennis says Joel doesn't have a chance. "He hasn't turned in six years! He won't even remember how to turn on the lathe..." A look at the Instant Gallery photos refutes that claim; or maybe Joel just brought in some six year old bowls. You won't want to miss this!



*The Mid South Woodturners Guild is a proud chapter of the
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS*

MSWG MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

The meeting was brought to order by President Cassandra Speier at approximately 9:15 am. Cassandra welcomed the 40 members and two visitors in attendance.

Agenda Topics:

Cassandra asked for approval of the prior general meeting minutes that had been posted in the newsletter. A motion to approve was made and seconded with an approval.

Finance:

With Ryan McMullen not in attendance, Cassandra provided a brief review of the finances. She gave the members an account balance of \$2373.34 however did not ask for an approval, which was postponed until the next meeting.

Facility Mgmt:

Cassandra reported no new capital expenditures were made and things at GameDay were fine.

Secretary:

Bob Speier reported that because of a recommendation by club member Glenn Alexander for business cards to hand out to prospective members, they were now available to all who wanted them. Bob also thanked Glenn for the recommendation.

Old Business:

Cassandra briefly mentioned OctoberFest and asked for volunteers to help clean and set up for the festivities. She thanked Joel Benson for his generous offer of his shop.

Cassandra pointed out the Instant Gallery for the day and thanked those that participated.

New Business:

President Speier challenged the members to turn something lidded for the next meeting at OctoberFest.

Cassandra briefly talked about the Christmas party to be held Dec 9th. She explained the format would include a brunch potluck, gift exchange of a turned item and possibility of entertainment.

Cassandra thanked those that donated to the raffle and also explained a new process for handling the identification of the items had been made to expedite the process.

Cassandra introduced and identified the achievements of the members that participated in the MidSouth Fair.

Demonstration:

Cassandra introduced Club Member Larry Sefton for the monthly demonstration. Larry's presentation included a variety of processes that would alter the color and or finish to a turned piece. Larry's demo was very well received by the members.

Cassandra reminded the members the next meeting would be at Joel Benson's in Rossville.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 am. Cleanup and the raffle followed.

Submitted by Robert G. Speier, Secretary MSWG

President's Corner

By Sandi Speier



The September meeting was a hit! Larry Sefton demonstrated techniques for dyeing, ebonizing and other finishing techniques...a very well-received morning of great tips. Larry's recommended reading: 'Understanding Wood Finishing' by Bob Flexnor. It is available at Amazon.com for \$19.77. Great tip for obtaining a really rich "glow" type of finish is to use the automotive wax, "Nu Finish".

Thanks Larry for a really value-added demo. FYI...Larry will be demonstrating "piercing" at our Octoberfest meeting.



Volunteerism is truly the gauge of a cohesive organization....thank you to all who have been helping out! Our turn-around time to get everything put away at the end of the meetings has been cut in half! Special thanks this month goes out to John Williams for filling in for Don Wilcut on the Instant Gallery; and Matt Garner, who even though he could not stay for the meeting, still came first thing to get the raffle items organized.

(continued on page 7)

Lending Library

The Mid South Woodturners Guild is fortunate to have a wide selection of videos and books covering every facet of the woodturning craft. If you are a club member, visit the lending table and take advantage of the information available. You may check out up to three videos per month. All items must be returned the next month. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please contact Ryan McMullen at 201-1501 to arrange to get them to him in advance. Checkout will start at the end of the business meeting.

Shop Talk

..... Tate Thomas

By Don Wilcut



Tate retired from the field of education with over 40 years with the Shelby County Board of Education. He taught various subjects for the first 12 years. He was an assistant Principal for 10 years and then moved to the position of Principal at Bartlett High School, Bartlett, Tennessee for 18 years. He spent a total of 38 years at Bartlett High School.

Tate has been turning since the fall of 2003. His love in the past was making flat stuff especially Shaker Boxes and he has lots of those around his huge shop. His shop is approximately 16' x 40', well designed and is a beehive of activity.

He says the real deciding factor that he continue his hobby of turning, was discussions about turning with a fellow woodturner, Norman Fowler.

Tate's first lathe was a Jet mini, which he still owns and uses. After beginning turning and realizing

the limited capacity of the mini, he bought a Vicmarc 300 that will handle much larger pieces.

He joined the Mid South Woodturners Guild soon after the Octoberfest of 2003 and now enjoys the addictive hobby of woodturning. His favorite wood to turn is cherry.

Direct Quote: "To change or alter my turning path, I would probably attend more instructional classes such as Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts and/or John C Campbell. My future goals in woodturning would be to continue to enjoy turning as a hobby."



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 28

Octoberfest

Joel Benson's Shop

November 18 (3rd Sat)

Monthly Meeting

Bob Speier

Vacuum Chucks

Election of Board

December 9

Christmas Party

August 2007

CBU Exhibit

Call a fellow woodturner and visit his/her shop this week.

Congratulations Mid South Fair Winners

Round Rim Bowls

- 1st – John Williams
- 2nd – Glen Alexander

Spindle Turning

- 3rd – John Williams

Natural Edge Bowls

- 1st – Keith Burns
- 2nd – Bill McMillan
- 3rd – John Williams

Hollow Forms

- 1st – Larry Sefton
- 3rd – Keith Burns

Ornaments

- 1st – Larry Sefton

Toys

- 1st – Keith Burns

September ~ Instant Gallery



Glen Alexander



Glen Alexander



Glen Alexander



Glen Alexander



Joel Benson



Joel Benson



Keith Burns



Keith Burns



Matt Garner



Rick Gillespie



John Ginski



Bob Hobbs

September ~ Instant Gallery



Bob Hobbs



Bob Hobbs



Bob Hobbs



John Johnson



John Johnson



Joan Kelly



Brad McCollum



Brad McCollum



Brad McCollum



Wayne Monte



Dennis Paullus



Dennis Paullus

September ~ Instant Gallery



Larry Sefton



Bill Shaw



Bill Shaw



Bill Shaw

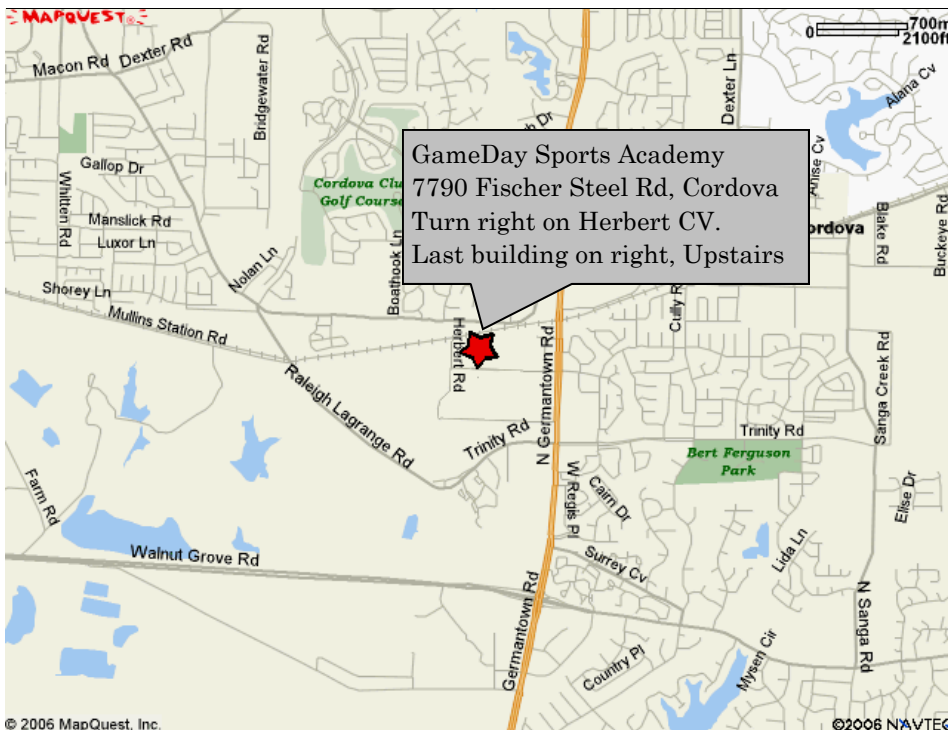


Steve Van Voorst



John Williams

Meeting Location



“Always tell the truth, that way you don’t have to remember what you said.”

Meeting Format:

Club Business	9:00—9:30 A.M.
Demonstration	9:30—11:30 A.M.
Cleanup	11:30—12:00 P.M.
Raffle	12:00 P.M.

The Mid South Woodturners Guild is a not-for-profit organization formed to promote and encourage the art of woodturning and, in doing so, promote and encourage the art and craft of woodturning in general. Membership is open to anyone and includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter.

Meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:00 A.M. at GameDay Sports Academy, 7790 Fischer Steel Rd, Cordova. Annual dues are \$25.00. Address inquiries about the Mid South Woodturners Guild to *Sandi Speier*, 8736 Johannesburg Dr., Germantown, TN 38139. Please send newsletter items to *Steve Van Voorst* (svanvoorst@aol.com) and website items to *Chuck Ludwigsen* (chuck@ludwigsen.org).

Mid-South Woodturners' Guild to Exhibit at CBU

By Joan Kelly

Although Memphis is home to numerous commercial and community art galleries, there is a noticeable lack of exposure of traditional crafts which have transcended the strictly utilitarian genre and edged into the field of fine art. That gap may be closing. Brother Robert Werle, the curator of the Ross Gallery on the campus of Christian Brothers University, is very aware of the fine and sometimes indistinct line between craft and art, and has responded enthusiastically to the Guild's request to produce a show of work there.


The bad news may also be interpreted as good news: the first available time slot for our show is August 2007. That may seem like the distant future, but as Mike Kelly put it, "Anybody who can't turn something between now and then hasn't gotten their lathe yet!" Actually, CBU doesn't usually book beyond the current school year calendar, but the review committee was so impressed with the photos we submitted that they broke with precedent and invited us for the following year.


This will be a wonderful chance to showcase our best work as a club. We will get great publicity through the local newspapers and on the radio program "Checking on the Arts." The university will provide an opening reception to which they will invite several hundred guests, and give us additional invitations for our own guests. The show will run for five weeks, with the gallery being open seven days a week. We are encouraged to post a price list with contact information. The university does not act as a broker, but neither do they take any commission or charge any fee. What a great opportunity!

At this point, there are probably

numerous questions about how work will be selected and who is eligible to participate. Stay tuned. The goal of the board is to produce a show with an exciting and varied representation of top quality work. We will strive to create a system that is fair and will showcase the very best work from the most members possible.

President's Corner continued from page 2)

 **Octoberfest** is just a few weeks away...please see Joan Kelly's article for the details. It should be a great day with cool demonstrations, great food...thanks in advance to the chef Bob Speier, and a surprise ending! Joel Benson will again be our host...thanks, Joel for extending your home and shop to a horde of woodturning aficionados.

The **President's Challenge** for the October meeting is to turn anything lidded. Here is a very elaborate example (courtesy of the 2006 AAW Instant Gallery and David Stewart).
 Of course, I am not expecting anything this ornate but let's see if we can challenge our boundaries and "step out of the box."

Board Positions - Second reminder...Elections will be upon us very soon... November. We have three positions up for replacement. Over the last ten months, I think the current board has developed into a cohesive group dedicated to serving the club members. With this strong foundation the new board members should find the experience to be valuable, fulfilling and fun! Ray Tanner graciously offered to assist me as part of the nominat-

ing committee and so please let one of us know if you are interested or wish to nominate someone for a board position. In his Inaugural Address John F. Kennedy offered this memorable injunction: "Ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country." Please consider what you can do for MSWG!

Holiday Celebration! Can you believe the holiday season is almost upon us? Well, it is just a few short weeks away....and this year MSWG wants to celebrate! We are planning a Holiday Brunch and Gift Exchange on December 9th. We usually don't have a December meeting because of the holidays, so this will be a little "extra" for the members! If you'd like to participate in the gift exchange please bring a turned and wrapped gift with your name on the gift tag. This should be a lot of fun and a great way to ring in the start of the holiday season.



"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."

Theodore M. Hesburgh

2006 Board

President: Sandi Speier

1st VP: Chuck Ludwigen

2nd VP: Keith Burns

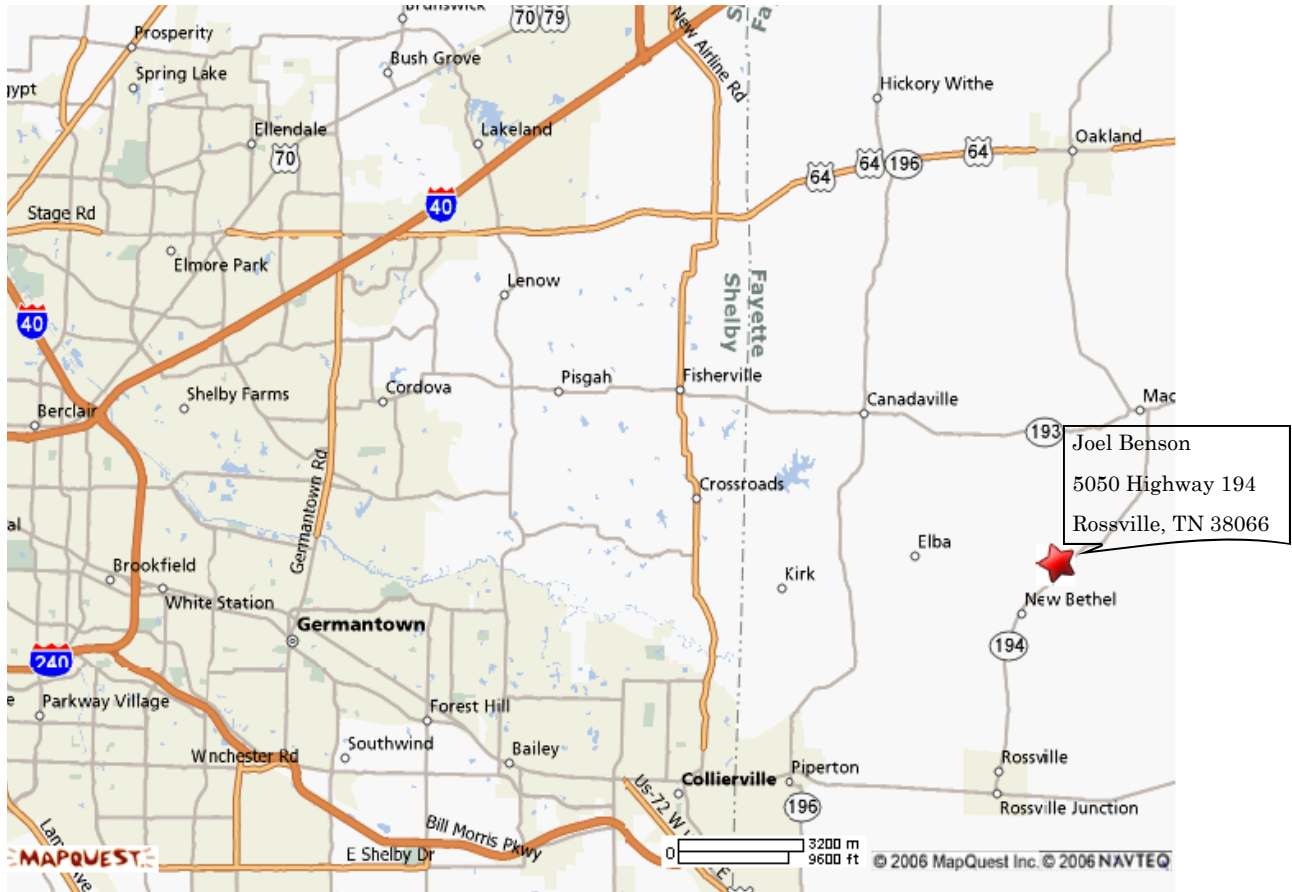
Secretary: Bob Speier

Treasurer: Ryan McMullen

Member: Joan Kelly

Member: Matt Garner

Map to Joel Benson's Shop - Octoberfest - Saturday, October 28 - 9:00 A.M.



**Mid South Woodturners Guild
c/o Sandi Speier
8736 Johannesburg Dr.
Germantown, TN 38139**

(Mailing Label)