

May 2017



# TURNERS TALK

THE MID SOUTH WOODTURNERS GUILD



**AAW** OFFICIAL CHAPTER  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS



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Last month Mike Maffitt did a great job demonstrating how to create a wood canteen. See the Instant Gallery for examples. For a complete pdf instruction set from this demonstration please click [here](#).

# President's Corner

By:  
Dennis Paullus



**G**ood morning everyone. Here it is time again to get together for our monthly meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you all this month. I know I say this about every meeting but I really do look forward to each and every meeting. There is so much going on and I don't want to miss any of it. The camaraderie of old friends is very special. The beginnings of new friendships is much to look forward to also. Our club is like many clubs, we band together to exchange ideas and techniques with like minded individuals. Sharing and giving of ourselves is the most important part of this organization to me.

This month we have Mr Skip Wilbur giving us a demonstration on tool control. Basic cuts to turn a finial, and additional information on turning a Bird's Mouth Bangle. Skip is always well prepared and will give a great demonstration. While you are getting ready to come to this month's club meeting look around to find that piece of wood or turning related item to bring to our raffle. I have gotten many wonderful pieces from our raffle and count on getting many more. There is our instant gallery too, bring something to share. Something from beginner's or long time turners is always interesting and much appreciated.

For those of you that want to participate in our charities, remember there are plenty of new pen kits available for the Pens of Troops. Beads of Courage is also a fun project to work on and a really close to home charity since they go to Le Bonheur Hospital in our own community. Memphis Empty Bowl Project is another great local charity for us and it is really easy to get involved with. Bowls that are 7" dia x 3" deep are what they are asking for but they will take larger bowls too. I always look forward to the auction and soup dinner in November.

See you all Saturday the 27th, doors open at 8:00am for set up and meeting starts at 9:00am.  
Dennis



# Wood Spin

## Woodturning, Sex, and Money

*This is an encore issue of Wood Spin. It was first published in the January, 2013 issue of "Turners Talk"*

**By: Emmett Manley**



Unfortunately, I was not able to connect woodturning directly with sex, but now that I have your attention, let's consider another topic of interest to most people -- money -- or, more specifically, some financial aspects of woodturning.

In general, I have found woodturners to be fiscally conservative, even down right cheap at times, except when the purchase of new tools is considered. People worry about the cost of getting into the woodturning world but compared with many other popular hobbies, woodturning is a screaming bargain. With an entry level lathe, three or four Chinese tools, some sandpaper, and turning between centers, you can be spinning wood for

less than \$500. At the serious hobby level, with a quality lathe, a couple of chucks, bandsaw, sharpening system, and more tools, we are talking \$5,000.

Now, \$5,000 is not chicken feed but compared with other avocations, it is not expensive. Look at the Bass Pro Shop advertisements each week and you encounter basic bass boat/motor/trailer combinations for \$12,000 quickly going up past \$20,000 when you upgrade. How about just boating? Price the popular pontoon boats then add a trailer, lots of gasoline, storage fees, and you are into some real money.

Hunting equipment: guns (and you gotta have an ATV and trailer), licenses, fees, travel to Colorado or South Dakota to hunt, and you wind up with \$50 a pound venison and \$200 pheasants. I have friends who "keep a few horses" and feeding 4,000 pounds of horse is a huge expense, plus vet fees, saddles/tack, horse trailers -- well, do the math.

Golf can get expensive if you are foolish enough to take it seriously and join a golf club where you can spend \$10,000 or more to start and \$10,000 a year thereafter. Even watching sports can add up. Look at the price of season tickets to a major college football or basketball team, or to attend professional sports. Watching can involve thousands of dollars annually when you add in all the

## Wood Spin cont.

seat qualifying fees, tickets, travel, parking, and tailgate experiences.

Woodturning is looking better and better, but as they say on TV, wait. there's more. There are at least three other positive financial aspects about woodturning: minimal continuing expense, inexpensive instruction, and the possibility of generating some offsetting income.

The cost to start turning is relatively a bargain and then the money required to continue is different in that much of woodturning expense is on the front end -- so except for supplies there is no necessary continuing expense other than sandpaper, glue, and finishing chemicals. Woodturning club and association memberships can be well under \$100 per year. Let's ignore tool addiction in this discussion.

Even lessons, as at JCCFS, or private, are amazingly inexpensive. Golf lessons from a 23 year old "pro" are \$65 for a 45 minute session and lessons from a top teacher (Butch Harmon, Hank Haney) are \$500 an hour or \$2500 a day. We can learn from the world's best woodturners for \$50 a day or less. One week's tuition at the top woodturning studios is \$500 or less.

In countries which allow appearance fees, Tiger Woods demands \$1,000,000 for a week of golf and golf related (cocktail parties) activities. Try getting Phil Michelson or Rory McIlroy to demonstrate their swings to 50 amateur golfers in Memphis for travel expenses plus a small stipend. In contrast, we can watch and rub elbows with the world's best woodturners for peanuts.

Woodturning is one of those unusual hobbies which can generate income, anywhere from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars a year is typical, and, in some cases, significantly more. While there are probably only a few hundred people in the world who make a living turn-

ing wood, there may be 25,000 or more who sell at least a few woodturnings each year.

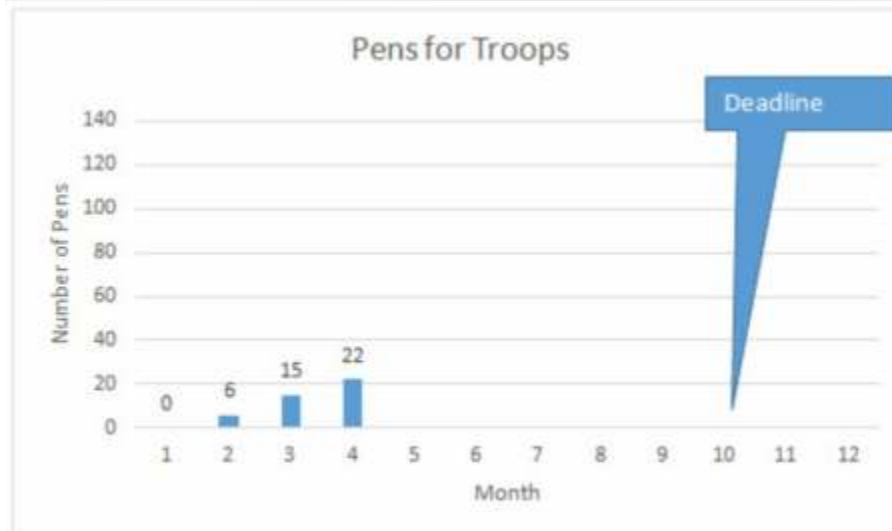
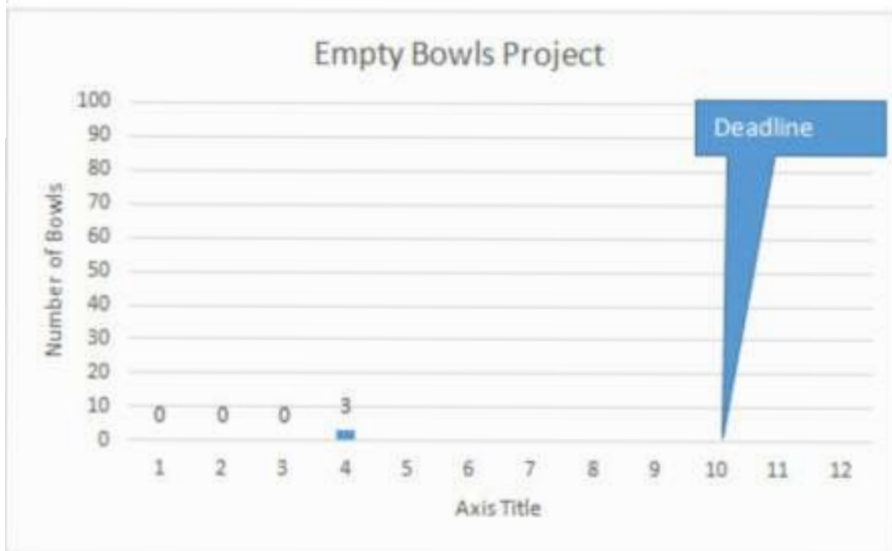
The typical beginning woodturner gives his early items to relatives who, at some point, cross the street to get away from him when they see him approaching carrying another crude bowl. You know you have arrived as a woodturner when a stranger purchases something you have turned.

A common story is one where a new woodturner gives items to friends or frequented businesses and someone notices and asks, "do you think your friend would make me a bowl like this?" One thing leads to another and soon the dollars are trickling in. Even if you only net \$5-10 an hour, you would be putting in those hours anyway. No one ever paid me \$10 an hour to go fishing or to attend a ball game.

Now, go enjoy the bargain pastime of a lifetime. You may reprint this article for your spouse to read.

# Club Supported Charities for 2016

## Running Total of Turned Items



Free pen kits are available from the treasurer. Plenty of kits are available. We just got in 150 more kits.

# Meet the Demonstrator

Skip Wilbur: May 27, 2017

## “Basic cuts to do a finial and Birds Mouth Bangles”

### Brief Bio and demonstration preview:

Prior to retirement I worked as a heavy equipment operator in many countries all over the world. I have always played around with flat wood work, however just past retirement (11 years ago) a friend asked me to make him something that had to be turned on a lathe, well being the tool addict I am I had to get a lathe. Now what? Yes the schools, I've been to John C. Campbell, Arrowmont and Marc Adams School of Woodworking as well as most symposiums within a days drive from Memphis. I still enjoy working the flat square stuff, however most of my machine work to do that type of stuff has round stuff and dust on it.

Just recently I have been self diagnosed with an addiction to collecting tools and wood, however I believe I am getting a bit better in the wood category as I, if you can believe this, actually declined a free cherry log recently. I have also been diagnosed with wood ADD as I cannot maintain a project for very long and then have to divert my attention to experimenting with something I have never tried, My motto: "anything worth doing is worth overdoing".

So enough about me, lets talk about my upcoming demo. Most of us (myself included) for years have been taught a specific way to address the spinning piece of wood to obtain a specific result. Did we think about how to hold the tool, position it against the wood, safety

items to consider, obtain a better cut etc.? Maybe or perhaps, but we just did it, Now I am not anything like that cartoon character that fly's in to save the day, however I will brake down the basic cuts that we are all familiar with and build up from there. For you novice woodturners I will position you years ahead of where I was when I first started and for you seasoned veterans I hope I will be able to have you re-evaluate your attack on that wood with minimum sanding.

Time permitting, I will also demonstrate how I make “Birds Mouth Bangles” utilizing a specialty router bit and a stepped jaw chuck.



# Instant Gallery

**Avi Pelc**



Oak Bowl



Vase

**Billy McCann**

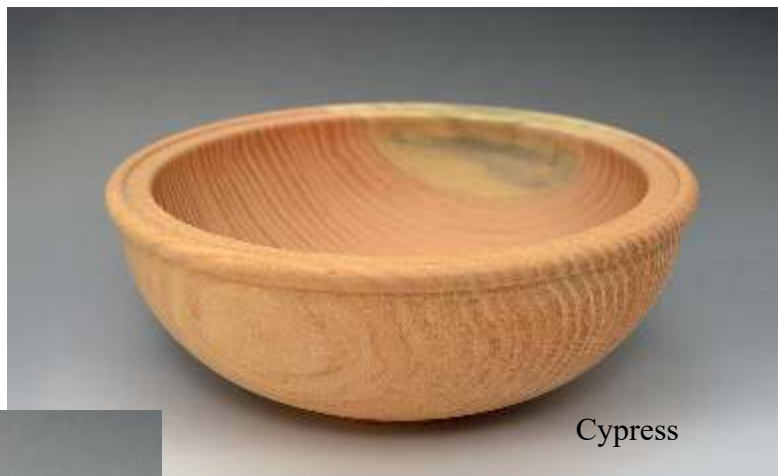


Bowl



# Instant Gallery cont.

**Bob Wolfe**



Cypress



Coffee Scoops



Empty Bowl



Lidded Box



Walnut Box

# Instant Gallery cont.

**Dennis Lissau**



Maple



Beads of Courage Boxes

# Instant Gallery cont.



**Hunter Rhodes**



Padauk

**Dennis Paullus**



Cherry Cup

# Instant Gallery cont.

**Jim Tasant**



Inlaid Walnut Platter



# Instant Gallery cont.

**Larry Sefton**



Offset Bowl



Empty Bowl

**Mark Maxwell**

**Mary Lou Beauchamp**



Pens for Troops

# Instant Gallery cont.

**Rick Stone**



Maple



Ash



Walnut

# Instant Gallery cont.

## Skip Wilbur - Vases



# Instant Gallery cont.

**Mike Maffitt**

Wooden canteen demonstration





# Upcoming Events 2017

Please look at the dates carefully. The Board of Directors voted to move several meeting dates this year away from the normal 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in order to avoid conflicts with other meetings, craft fairs, holidays, etc.

- May 27** Skip Wilbur - Basic Cuts to do a Finial
- June 17** Lyle Jamison - Live Remote Demonstration
- July 22** Larry Sefton - Carving and Embellishment
- August 26** Various club members - Finishing and Finishing the Finish
- John Jordan Finish - Dennis Paullus
  - Make your own "Triple E" Polish - Bob Wolfe
  - Finish the Finish - Dennis Paullus
- September 23** Graeme Priddle and Melissa Engler - Multi-center turning?????
- September 24 Graeme Priddle and Melissa Engler hands-on embellishment workshop #1
- September 25 Graeme Priddle and Melissa Engler hands-on embellishment workshop #2
- October 21** Annual Oktoberfest (Skip Wilbur, Joseph Voda demos)
- November 25** Sam Dawson - Stabilizing Wood for Turning
- December 16** Annual Christmas Party and Auction **Note: We will be moving the start time back by one hour this year. Setup at 09:00, meeting start 10:00**

Note: Schedules may change throughout the year, so keep a close watch on this page for changes. This year's demonstrator schedule will focus on the skills of our club mentors.

# Mentor Program

All members of MSWG are invited to contact the following mentors to learn a new technique, improve their turning skills or turn something different. Mentors are volunteers and do not charge.

Contact information is on our website under Members Only and the Roster. Sessions should last no longer than 3 hours and be scheduled at the convenience of the mentor.

Benson, Joel	Wood Selection, Turning Green Wood, McNaughton Coring, Chain Saw Sharpening/Maintenance, Chain Saw Use/Safety
Cannon, Rick	Segmented Bowls
Hosier, Jerry	Basic Stone and Wire Inlay, Woodturning Basics (Beads & Coves), Use of Spindle & Bowl Gouges
Maffitt, Mike	Bowls, Platters and Native American Flutes
Manley, Emmett	Basic Woodturning, Small Bowls, Tool Handles, Hand Mirrors, Stick Pens, Eggs, Wine Bottles, Miniature Birdhouses, many other small items
Pillow, Wright	Inlaying: Marketry, Inlace, Epoxy
Sefton, Larry	Milk Paint, Make Your Own Pyrography Unit, Hollow Forms
Stone, Rick	Finials, Bowls (incl. Natural Rim), Boxes, Spindles, Carving, Finishes, Pyrography, Making Tools, Turning Tool Basics (incl. Sharpening)
Tusant, Jim	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Pyrography, Carving, Dyeing, Tool Use
Voda, Joseph	Spindle Turning (e.g. Ornaments)
Wilbur, Skip	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Goblets, Finials

# Sponsors and Suppliers

**The Woodwork Shop, Inc**  
8500 Wolf Lake Drive  
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**Fax:** (901) 755-2907  
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