



# Turner's Talk



Steve Van Voorst, Editor

## \*\* Sandi Speier to Demo in March \*\*



### Make it Golden *By Joan Kelly*

The March 24th meeting will be a special occasion as club president Sandi Speier steps up to the lathe to do the demonstration. Sandi has been perfecting the procedure for applying gold leaf to embellish her turnings. Many turners enjoy adding an element of pleasant surprise to their work. This is especially true of box turners. Sandi will start by turning a small lidded box with a finial, then show us step by step how to apply gold leaf to the inside. The result is a highly dramatic golden glow as one opens the box.

Sandi was inspired to learn to turn after witnessing a demo by former club member Dick Absher at the Pink Palace Crafts Fair in 2000. He was turning a baby rattle with a captive ring and Sandi was fascinated. She remarked to Bob, "I think I could do that" to which he replied, "Don't tease me!" A Jet Mini-lathe found a place under the Christmas tree a couple of months later. She then took lessons from

former club president Hershel Miller. She and Bob joined the club in 2001. Sandi credits her association with the club for encouraging her to continue to grow as a turner.

Professionally, Sandi is a manager of several surgery centers in the Mid South. She sees turning as a way to "explore the left - or artistic-side of my brain and challenge myself to leave linear thinking behind." She is inspired by and admires the work of nationally recognized turners Al Stirt, Betty Scarpino, and Trent Bosch, as well as our own club members Dennis Paullus and John Stubblefield.

You must be present to LEARN!

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### CBU Show *By Joan Kelly*

No longer "next year" our guild show at CBU is taking shape. The procedure for submitting work has changed slightly due to rescheduling Travis Stinson's visit and in response to some concerns expressed by members of the club. The procedure is outlined on page 6 of this newsletter, including the necessary identification labels. This same form will be available at club meetings through June. If you have questions, please ask! Bill Siler and I are eager to make this a great experience for our club, as well as to showcase our art form to the public.

### Tops to Benefit Kids at Hope House *By Joan Kelly*

Sandi Speier, along with the Board of MSWG, has issued a special President's Challenge for the months of February and March. Turners of all levels are encouraged to produce spinning tops. The only requirements are that the tops be safe and that they spin. After that, be as creative as you want! Steve Van Voorst has set the pace with several beautifully engineered string pull tops. At the March meeting we'll have a time to show off our creations and offer up some prizes. The real winners, however, will be the children at Hope House, a Memphis branch of the national organization that works to provide services to youngsters affected by HIV/AIDS. Hope House offers preschool, day care, respite care and emergency services to this population struggling to overcome the devastation of disease on family life. Please practice your turning skills and make some tops to give to these children! For more information about Hope House, visit [www.hopehousedaycare.org](http://www.hopehousedaycare.org).



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

## President's Corner

By Sandi Speier

### Truth About Trees: Did You Know?



#### Sycamore (American Sycamore) *Platanus occidentalis*

Although not the tallest, the Sycamore is the largest in diameter of trees in the eastern United States. The record holder in Ohio today has a diameter of more than 15 feet and a circumference of 48.5 feet. It would require at least 8 grown persons, holding each others' hands, to reach around this massive tree. This giant is 129 feet tall and grows in Ashland County. In keeping with its size, Sycamores have the largest leaves of any native tree in North America. Frequently, the trunk of a Sycamore will be divided into several large, secondary trunks. The bark of the Sycamore perhaps is its most striking feature: mottled creamy white and brown with the darker bark of older trees peeling away from the lighter-colored, younger bark. Typically, the Sycamore grows on bottomlands, floodplains, and on the banks of streams. The tough, coarse-grained wood is difficult to split and work. It has various uses, including butchers' blocks. A few birds feed on the fruit, and several mammals eat twigs and bark. Leaf Characteristics: simple, broad, flat, palmately lobed with notches too

## MSWG MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2007

The meeting was brought to order by President Cassandra Speier at approximately 9:10 am.

Cassandra welcomed Club Members and introduced the Visitors. Cassandra also introduced new Members: Tommy McCaskill, Irvin Fleming, Peter Zission and Joe Hagan. Cassandra informed the members of the routine for the day.

#### **Agenda Topics:**

Cassandra asked for a motion of the minutes posted in the newsletter, which was given and seconded.

**Finance:** Matt Garner provided the financial report giving a balance of \$2830.15 then posted it on the bulletin board for review. A motion for approval and a second was given.

**Secretary:** Bob Speier reported on the Swap Meet for April.

**Other:** Joan Kelly reported on the CBU Exhibition with a very detailed report. Joan encouraged the members to participate. Joan also reported on the community project the club was starting up with the tops that would probably go to Ronald McDonald House.

Cassandra thanked Brad McCollum for his efforts in repairing the grinder setup for the club. She also thanked Don Wilcut for hosting John Lucas, the club's demonstrator for the day.

Cassandra reminded the members of the Presidents Challenge to turn tops for the Community Project and also the contest that would be held in March.

The meeting was then turned over to John Lucas from Baxter, TN after a brief introduction. John demonstrated his talents the entire day and provided a great deal of information and tips. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

*Submitted by Robert G Speier, Secretary MSWG*

shallow to be very apparent. Fruit Characteristics: dry, single seed balls.

Excerpt from: 'What Tree Is It' [www.oplin.org/tree](http://www.oplin.org/tree)

#### **Swap Meet**

In lieu of the April regular meeting, MSWG will be hosting a "swap meet" for the sale, barter and swapping of tools and other wood-working supplies or equipment. All members of MSWG, the wood-working, carving and Scrollers are

invited to participate. The swap meet will be held in the parking lot of Game Day Sports Academy from 9:00 to noon. More information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

#### **Binh Pho**

I am so excited about the weekend-long August demonstration that will feature renowned artist and turner Binh Pho. Binh is famous for his micro-thin vessels and the

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Shop Talk

..... Larry Sefton

By Don Wilcut



The shop to visit in '07 is the one of Larry Sefton, one of our board members. I visited his shop for this article, expecting to stay about 15-20 minutes to obtain some photos and do an interview. I stayed about 1:30, marveling at the many new techniques and ideas that I could incorporate into my shop and my turning. If he approves, I will return someday and gain more knowledge. Take a look at some of Larry's turning at <http://www.sefton.photosite.com>.

Larry currently is employed by Wausau Insurance Companies Loss Prevention Services. He took a pen turning class in December 2003 with Rick Gillespie and has been going strong since then.

The deciding factor for Larry to continue turning came with the experience of attending his first woodturning course at John C.

Campbell Folk School in May 2004 (Turning Hollow Vessels with John Mascoll and Bruce Hoover), researching woodturning tools and techniques, and the never-ending opportunities to "add more features" and obtain "just one more tool".

Larry started with a Jet mini-lathe and now currently turns some very impressive pieces with a Powermatic 3520A. He has a well-organized and equipped shop and tool storage area. Larry joined the Midsouth Woodturners Guild in the fall of 2004 and is now a board member. He enjoys turning any of the woods in the Maple family. I asked him what would he change with his turning path if he could and here is his answer:

"I'd have more time to experiment with different tools and woods, 'pushing the envelope' so to speak.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*March*

**Sandi Speier**

*April*

**Swap Meet**

*August*

**Binh Pho**

**CBU Exhibit**

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I'd also have one day every week to 'play in the sandbox' with my woodturning friends. (Frank Penta, a North Carolina woodturner and JCCFS instructor 'plays in the sandbox' every Friday when he opens his shop to anyone who'd like to stop by to talk, to turn, or just to hang out.)"

His turning goals are as follows:

Short term – multi-axis hollow form turning incorporating rotary carving

Long term – to serve as an assistant instructor at JCCFS and to create commissioned artistic woodturnings



# February ~ Instant Gallery



Glen Alexander



Keith Burns



Keith Burns



Ben Campbell



Trey Campbell



Chandler/Alexander/Williams



Chandler/Alexander/Williams



Don Farage



John Ginski - Black Cherry



Joan Kelly



Dan Patton



Dan Patton

# February ~ Instant Gallery



Brad McCollum



Dennis Paullus



Dennis Paullus



Dennis Paullus



Bill Shaw - Mesquite



Ray Tanner



Cliff Valentine



Cliff Valentine



John Lucas

# MSWG Show at the Beverly and Sam Ross Gallery at CBU

## Guidelines for Submitting Work

The deadline for submitting pieces is our regular July club meeting on Saturday, July 28, 2007. Members may submit up to five pieces. Please label each of your items with one of the cut-apart labels printed below. Bring them to the meeting, packed and padded for safe transport. Attach a brief listing of your work, along with your name and phone number, to the outside of the box. That afternoon, Joan Kelly, Travis Stinson, and Bill Siler will take all the submissions to Bill's house and will select approximately 60 pieces for the gallery show.

If you cannot bring your submissions to the July meeting, then before that deadline you can deliver them either to Joan's house or Bill's house. Just call to make those arrangements. Joan lives in Mid-town, and her phone number is 725-9165. Bill lives in Bartlett, and his phone numbers are 544-4231 (w) and 385-7365 (h).

Joan and Bill will take the selected items to CBU for installation on August 11. Brother Robert Werle, the curator of the gallery, has the authority to finalize the selection process if necessary to accommodate the spatial restrictions of the gallery.

Items that are not selected for the show can be reclaimed at the August club meeting. If you want to reclaim them sooner, just talk to Bill about picking them up from his house.

The gallery's labeling will indicate which pieces are for sale and will direct buyers to contact the turner. There is no gallery commission on sales. Of course, we ask that buyers leave the items at the gallery until after the show.

The opening reception is Friday, August 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The show closes Thursday, October 4.

Artist _____ Title or description of work _____ Wood(s) _____ Price (or NFS) _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____	Artist _____ Title or description of work _____ Wood(s) _____ Price (or NFS) _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____	Artist _____ Title or description of work _____ Wood(s) _____ Price (or NFS) _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____	Artist _____ Title or description of work _____ Wood(s) _____ Price (or NFS) _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____	Artist _____ Title or description of work _____ Wood(s) _____ Price (or NFS) _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____
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(President's Corner cont' from page 2)

airbrush techniques used to paint and etch distinctly Oriental motifs on his smooth wooden objects. Part of the attraction of his work with wood is the poetic similarity he sees between trees and human beings. "His view of life is presented in a distinctly original vision, fusing traditional Asian iconography with contemporary art in an ancient medium. His life stories are told using symbols; bamboo, dragonflies, lotus and kimono, with respect to his craft and the techniques that have been shared with him. The character of the tree, and by extension nature itself, is there

as well, blended with the artist's voice as he continues to explore and reflect the Tao of life and art. He has distinctive visions and advance techniques and using these Binh achieves a highly sophisticated art of wooden vessel."

I plan to market our demo with Binh to the surrounding regional clubs and expect we will have many guests for the weekend. So...stay tuned for continuing updates on this exciting event for our club!

See you in a few weeks...Happy Turning!

### Solution to February's Crossword Puzzle by Emmet Manley.

SOLUTION: ACROSS: 2 cyanide, 6 sycamore, 7 peroxide, 9 kickback, 10 linseed, 12 spigot, 14 beech, 16 holly, 17 plumbbob, 19 uv, 20 chatter, 21 epoxy, 22 tupelo, 23 corundum, 24 froe, 26 jig, 27 lichen, 29 jam, 32 virginia creeper, 34 cork, 37 mineraloil; DOWN: 1 hickory, 2 circle, 3 hornbeam, 4 dogwood, 5 red, 6 sapwood, 7 poisonivy, 8 rays, 11 polyurethane, 13 parting, 15 juglone, 17 persimmon, 18 boxelder, 23 center, 25 cedar, 28 lac, 30 water, 31 yew, 33 right, 35 pi, 36 elm

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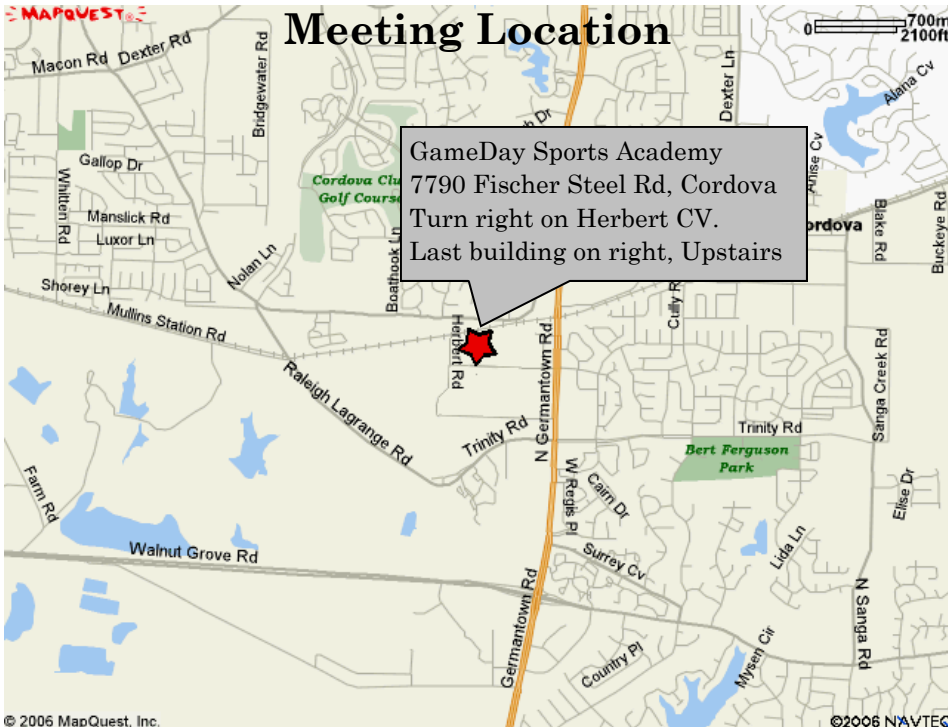
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"If you can't make a mistake, you can't make anything." - Marva N. Collins

### Meeting Location



### 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 Ludwigen (chuck@ludwigen.org)*.

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

(Mailing Label)