



# Turner's Talk



Steve Van Voorst, Editor

## \*\* Jigs Demo for May \*\*

### Do the Jig

by Joan Kelly

Woodturners are a creative group of people. They can take a rough piece of a log and produce a beautiful salad bowl or a sculptural work of art. Woodworkers generally, and turners specifically, seem to have a knack for using creativity in other ways. There is a saying that "necessity is the mother of invention." It is amazing how many turners have created jigs to solve problems that emerge while turning, or to make a task easier or less costly. Our May meeting, held on the third Saturday of the month to avoid the Memorial Day weekend, will highlight some of these creations. Some jigs require the understanding of other skills, such as welding, but others are simple solutions that make one wonder, "Why didn't I think of that?"

This meeting will be informal in presentation, a sort of show and tell. So far the list of presenters includes: Bob Speier, tool support; Keith Burns and Glenn Alexander, bowl supports; Bill Shaw, fluting jig; Don Wilcut, Longworth jaws; and Lee Chandler, the master designer of jigs, assisted by John Williams. If you have an idea you'd like to share, please bring it in! For planning purposes, please e-mail club secretary Bob Speier (RobtSpeier@aol.com) ahead of time and let him know.



Lee Chandler lends a helping hand.

### Tops are Tops with Hope House Kids

by Joan Kelly

Our club's President's Challenge for February and March was to turn one or more spinning tops, with the finished products going to Hope House Day Care for the preschool class to enjoy. Glenn Alexander and Lee Chandler accompanied me to deliver the tops on April 12. After a quick tour of the Hope

House facilities, which includes care for infants and toddlers as well as the preschool class, we pulled out one of the fancy string-pull tops and Glenn showed one of the children how to spin it. Before long the room was buzzing with enthusiasm as more children wanted to give it a try. The staff decided to let each child in the class have a top to take home. The smiles and thank-yous from the kids were a real day brightener.

Special thanks to those members who met the challenge and brought in tops for the project: Glenn

Alexander, Lee Chandler, and John Williams, who worked as a team and built more than a dozen large string-pull tops, and Dennis Paulus and Bill Shaw who contributed numerous beautiful finger snap tops.

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?



#### POPLAR (*Populus spp.*)

"The Poplar trees flourish beside rivers, in marshes and in other watery areas. The pith is star shaped. Its upper leaves are green, the underside is silver. In ancient times the wood was used in the making of shields. Its leaves move with every puff of wind and as such, it is commonly referred to as the talking, whispering and quivering tree. Heracles wore a crown of poplar leaves when he retrieved Cerberus from Hades, and the upper surface of the leaves was thus darkened from Hades' smoky fumes. In Christian lore, the quaking poplar (aspen) was used to construct Christ's cross, and legend has it the leaves of the tree quiver or "quake" as a result. The Poplar's ability to resist and to shield, its association with speech, language and the winds indicates an ability to endure and conquer."

#### What's New at AAW - Call for AAW Symposium Volunteers

The 2007 AAW International Symposium is to be held June 29-July 1 in Portland, Oregon. It is certain to be another great event with 3 days of great demonstrations, a really outstanding Youth Program, a fabulous Instant Gallery and an unparalleled vendor trade show! One of the things that makes for a great symposium is the volunteers,

and again this year Al Hockenbery is looking for members to help out. So if you are planning to attend, please consider volunteering for a few hours...they are in need of both Room Assistants and Youth Program Assistants.

**Room Assistant Duties:** provide assistance to the Demonstrator or Videographer as requested and help cleanup after the session. New this year, AAW will have a cadre of top notch videographers to operate the cameras so this will not be a Room Assistant duty.

**Youth Assistant:** The Symposium will include a youth class room for 25 students. There will be 8 class sessions 2 or 3 hours in length and 6 that are 90 to 110 minutes long.

The instructors would like to have 10 to 12 assistants in each session. The duties correspond to the assistants' experience and confidence. It can be as simple as calling the instructor to help a student that needs a little extra help to actually guiding the student directly. I assisted last year and my reward was in seeing the kids' enthusiastic response from accomplishing the tasks at hand. If you would like to help, please go to <http://hockenbery.net/volform.htm>.

You can also complete a web form that will be e-mailed automatically when you electronically submit to Paul Rasmussen - this year's Volunteer Coordinator.

#### Swap Meet

Thank you to all those who participated at the April Swap! We were blessed with great weather and, I think, everyone had a good time. We had about 20 sellers with a pretty diverse selection of treasures to be sold. Not quite the turnout I was hoping for, but enough so that we can perhaps build on it next year! Surely by then we'll all have more stuff we bought this year that we thought we couldn't live without that will need to find more suitable owners!

#### May Meeting

Don't forget...because of the Memorial Day holiday our meeting will be moved to the 3rd Saturday, May 19. You won't want to miss the collaborative (several of our members will be participating) demonstration on various types of jigs! Have a great May...keep the sawdust flying!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

*June*

**Dennis and Bill  
"How to Tame a Skew"**

*July*

**Travis Stinson**

*August*

**Binh Pho  
CBU Exhibit**



Swap Meet '07

# Shop Talk

## ..... Holmes Phillips

By Robert Speier



If you want to see a very clean and organized shop go see Holmes Phillips in West Memphis, AR. I know you'd be more than welcome. Holmes is one of the original "Charter Members" of the Mid South Woodturners when they were meeting at Colco's back in the early '90's, even before the club was a chapter of AAW.

Holmes attended what was then Memphis State and took woodturning classes on Saturday mornings to help hone his skills. His first lathe was a Carb-Tec used primarily for turning pens. Good lathe, but not good for much else. Holmes then found a Delta DL 40 at a garage sale, replaced some minor parts, and he was on his way. Many of you still have this lathe, and I know would never get

rid of it. Holmes' turning is more out of necessity now than for the artistic value. His newest project is a "Honey Do" for his wife Darlene. She was looking through "Woodcraft" and saw some spindle décor for cabinets and said "Holmes, you can do that." Holmes told me it would have been cheaper to buy them.

Holmes is an avid garage sale, foreclosure, or going out of business attendee. He didn't have a drill press to drill pen blanks so he obtained one from his previous employer (see photo). Now that's a drill press! Holmes, like so many of us, would rather build his equipment than buy it new. He's built his dust collection system and most of the cabinets in his shop. The dust collector, cyclone type, is

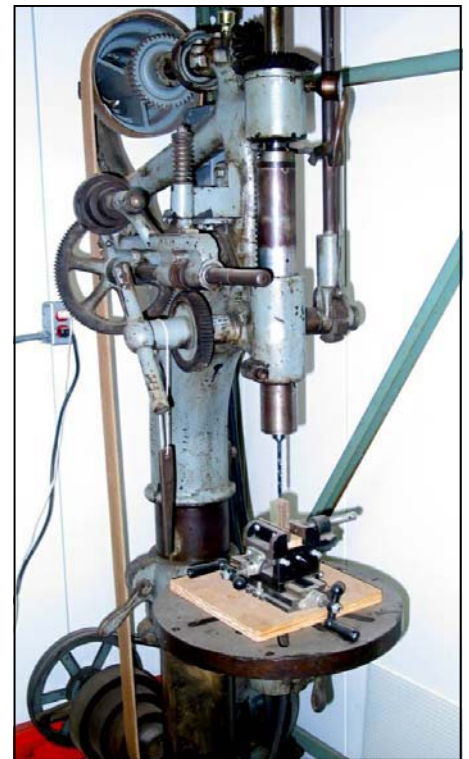
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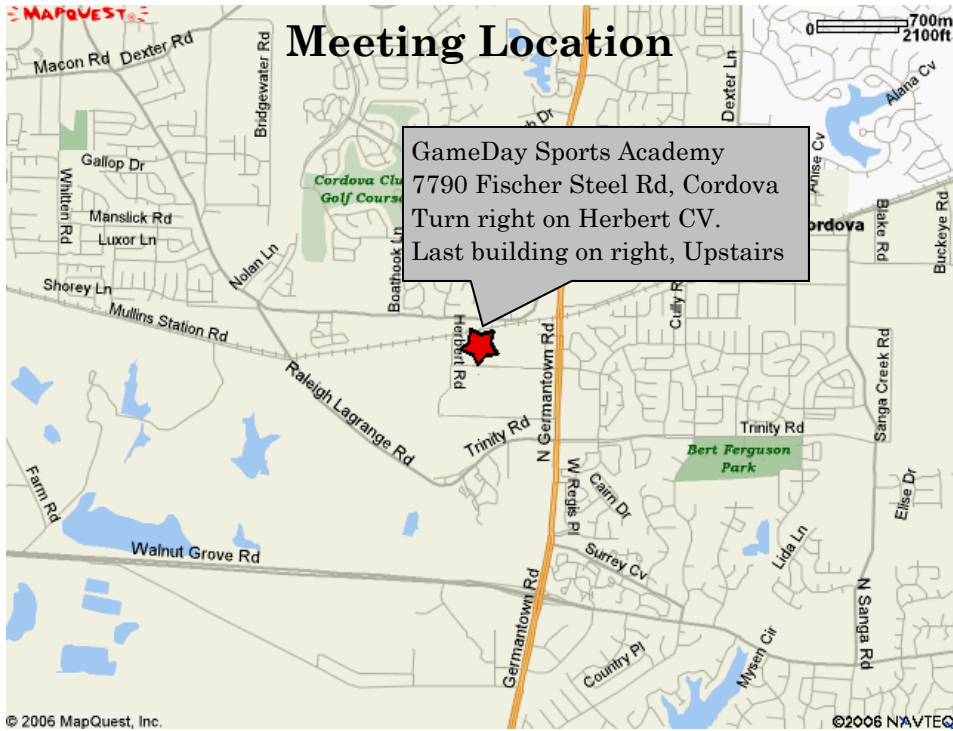
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pretty impressive. Holmes loves machinery. Ask him "Why did you buy that?", and he'll say "I didn't have one..." my kind a guy. I'm going to let the pictures speak for the rest of the story. Thanks Holmes for being so gracious.



## Meeting Location

GameDay Sports Academy  
7790 Fischer Steel Rd, Cordova  
Turn right on Herbert CV.  
Last building on right, Upstairs

## 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  
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(Mailing Label)