



# TURNERS TALK

THE MID-SOUTH WOODTURNERS GUILD



Mike Maffitt: Editor





AAW 27TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

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Cover photo:  
Jim Tusant: Pueblo Seed Pot

Inside Panel:  
Jim Tusant: Pueblo Seed Pot Back

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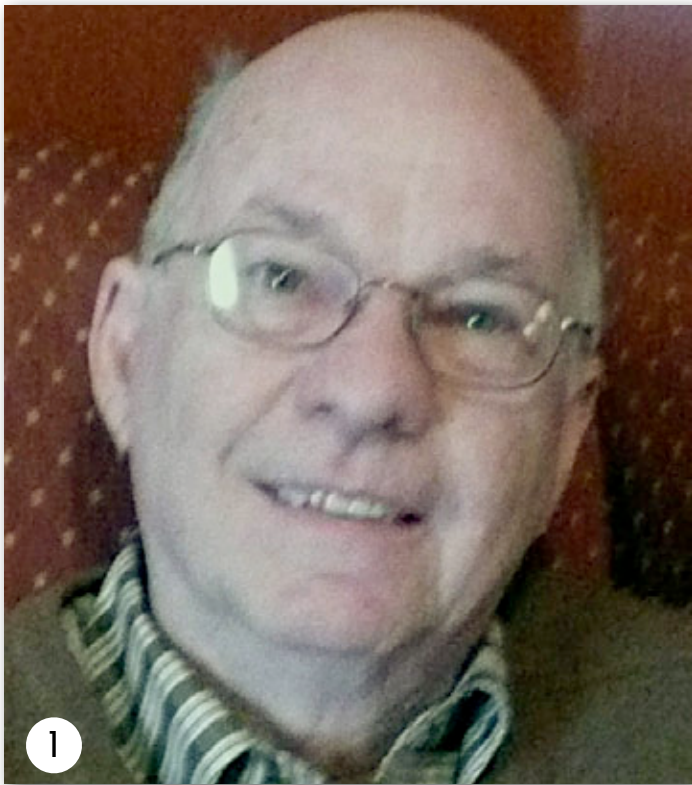




# **SHOP TALK**

## **With: FORREST TAYLOR**

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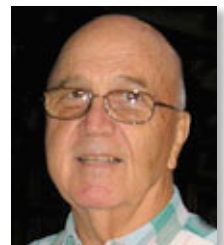


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One of our very newest members, Forrest Taylor<sup>1</sup> is no newcomer to fine woodwork, though he is to wood turning, having only turned spindles for 3 doll-sized four poster beds<sup>2</sup>, so far. Currently an active realtor (along with his wife Donna) and formerly a financial planner, he is teaching an interested grand son-in-law the finer points of furniture construction. Originally from Georgia and a graduate of its university, Forrest and his family (two daughters, now with families of their own) moved to Memphis in 1975. In preparation for

(cont. on next page.)

**Ray  
Tanner**





2



5



4

becoming a builder he took a number of formal courses but circumstances altered those plans. However, the information gained therein has been quite useful both in his brokerage work and in his wood working hobby.

After recently downsizing their home, Forrest adapted their two car garage for his shop<sup>3</sup> with vehicles parked just outside. Adequate winter

heating is provided by a pair of portable electric heaters as the overhead door is insulated<sup>4</sup>. Summer cooling is provided by fans and opening the double overhead door, although an air conditioner would be a welcome addition.

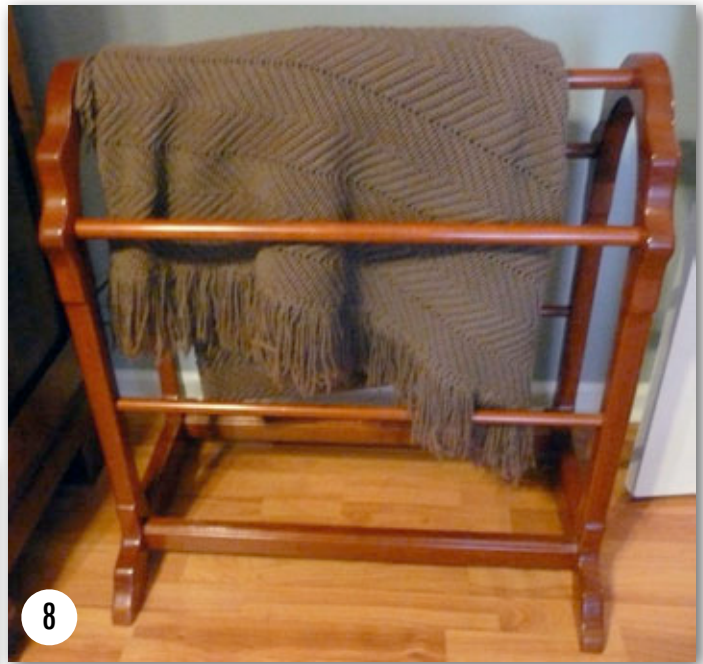
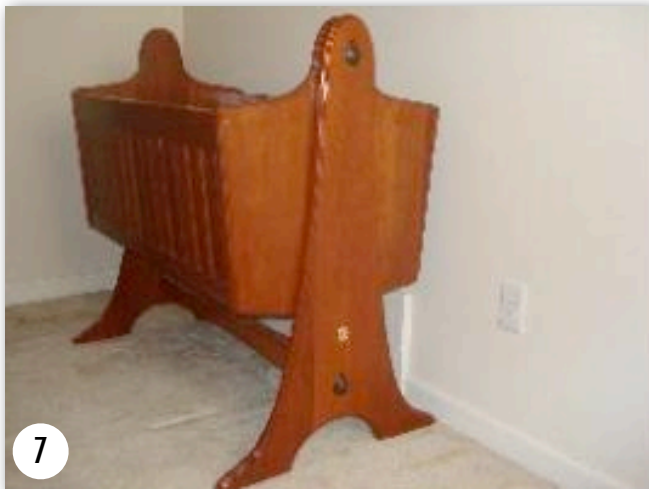
His full array of machine tools include: a planer, shaper, table saw, band saw, air compressor, sawdust collector, miter saw, drill press, and Rikon lathe<sup>5</sup> (which is mounted on a self-made cabinet with drawers). His tools come primarily from Jet, Shop Fox and Rigid among other manufacturers



6

(cont. on next page.)

Forrest's chests<sup>6</sup>, cribs<sup>7</sup>, blanket rack<sup>8</sup>, beds<sup>9</sup>, and other furniture<sup>10</sup> illustrate clearly his attention to detail and his mastery of multiple styles. The partially completed blond drawer base unit with back slats<sup>11</sup> (still on his workbench) is a window seat which will ultimately have a side wing and cushions for the seat and back areas. Forrest's ambition is to learn to turn bowls and other items through his membership in our Mid-South Wood Turners Guild, though his attendance at meetings is often interrupted due to his occupation in real estate sales.





## WOOD SPIN

# Paulownia tomentosa, A True Mystery Wood

Let me get much of the woodturning information out of the way at the front end and quickly, because "the rest of the story" is where things get downright fascinating. This short article only touches on the mixture of fact, rumor, and myth that surround this wood.

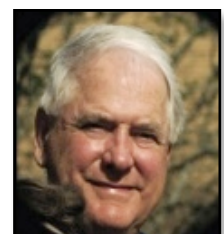
The woodturner quickly learns that Paulownia wood is extremely light, fuzzes up when turned, but then can finish out very nicely with sharp tools and sandpaper. Superficially, you may mistake this rapidly growing wood for ash. It most resembles, to me, mimosa -- in the look, feel, and response on the lathe. John Lucas likes this wood for his famous mirrors because it is so light, easy to work, and stable when dry. In fact, it is impossible to over-emphasize how light this wood really is -- one accompanying photograph shows ex-president

Jimmy Carter (a woodworker of some note) holding a ten foot long 6x6 with one hand.

The huge leaves of this tree look something like catalpa leaves. In fact, to the woodturner, Paulownia, mimosa, and catalpa are kindred souls in terms of their woodturning characteristics, although they are not closely related botanically.

(cont. on next page.)

**Emmett  
Manley**





This is a tree, originally from China, which has even more common names than osage orange, *Paulownia tomentosa* is widely known as Paulownia, Pawlonia, Royal Paulownia, Royal Palonia, Princess Tree, Empress Tree, Cat's Claw, Foxglove Tree, and several other names in the USA, Europe, and Asia.

Several months ago while playing golf at a course located north of Memphis, I spotted a large pile of logs in the parking lot. Being a wood curious person, I wandered over to inspect the logs, about 75 in number, and found them to be 20 feet long or longer with diameters between 12 and 24 inches. I looked at the cut ends/bark and felt the end grain. This was very rough fibrous wood, but not cracked. There seemed to be no distinct heartwood. The wood reminded me of mimosa in appearance and character. Later, I learned that these logs were Paulownia.

I was told that the Japanese owner of the golf course, and adjacent Mississippi River timberland, harvested these trees each year and shipped them to Japan where they are highly valued because of the traditional use of this wood in the Japanese culture. In Japan, craftsmen make furniture, ceremonial footwear, musical instruments, moldings, and other special items. One story is that a father would plant one when he had a daughter, and by the time she

was of age to marry, he would cut the tree, and make furniture for her from it. Another story states that special wooden shoes are made for the bride. It is also used as the sounding board for a special Japanese stringed instrument.

The market for these trees is a matter of mystery and controversy. There are claims that these trees are worth a fortune in Japan; one report had a single log selling for \$20,000. Other people state that the market has collapsed and that these logs are worth very little. In fact, this tree is classified as an invasive species in some areas of the United States! To my knowledge, no other tree is considered both an invasive trash tree to be eradicated and an extremely valuable tree to be cultivated. A recent article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal stated that paulownia was spreading throughout nearby Shelby Forest and needs to be eliminated.



I posted an inquiry on WoodCentral WT forum to obtain some woodturner feedback, and one response I received was from Chuck Jones, secretary of the West Tennessee Woodturning Club in Jackson. Chuck was kind enough to donate a supply of this wood to me, and I made several hand mirrors from it. I found this wood easy to work, almost balsa wood weight, and it polished nicely with an appearance similar to

(cont. on next page.)

ash. Again, this wood reminds me of mimosa on the lathe.

The logs I encountered in that parking lot were nondescript in appearance, extremely light, but strong, a wood that rarely cracks, dries quickly, and can finish nicely. Here is the ultimate trivia concerning paulownia -- it possesses natural fire resistance with the temperature required for ignition being 800 degrees F, much higher than for the usual hardwood where ignition takes place at 425 degrees (paper burns at 451).

This tree grows like crazy, anywhere, even on coal tailings and rocky ground that will not support other plants. A sprout from a stump can grow seven feet in one growing season and saplings become a "large" tree in 7-10 years, ready to harvest. A bonus is the beautiful lilac colored blooms in the spring. All of this sounds too good to be true, and while it appears that some people have access to a private market and reap great financial returns, other paulownia plantation owners have been left with trees they not only cannot sell, but can't eliminate.

The story of *Pauoownia tomentosa* goes on seemingly forever, and it is worth getting on the internet and clicking around to learn more about this most amazing plant.



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## A SAFETY MINUTE

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Safety glasses are important while using the table-saw, the band-saw, the grinding-wheel, a sanding belt, etc., in fact while using any motorized tool.



# The President's Corner



We have had numerous demos/lectures on turning specific projects, lessons in tool control, embellishing etc. but never one on chucking until last month. You can't even begin to turn a piece unless it is properly chucked. There is so much information and different ways to chuck, both commercial and shop-made, that we didn't even cover the majority of it so we will continue to have a "Chucking Part 2" in May. We will cover specialty chucks, four jaw chucks and vacuum chucking. Your artistry needs to be supported on the lathe safely and we intend to give you that technical knowledge to do so.

This month we are privileged to have Robin Costelle provide us with an all-day demo. Robin specializes in hollow forms with beautiful finials.

Wikipedia describes inspiration as, "an unconscious burst of creativity in literary, musical, or other endeavor". How do you find your inspiration? The answer to that can be as varied as individual snowflakes. Most artists will usually tell you their source of inspiration; nature,

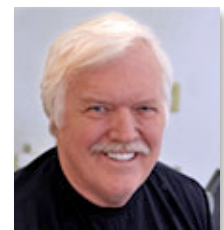
experience, museums, internet, etc. I

personally keep a folder on my computer which houses pictures of many wood turning pieces that have inspired me and I refer to it often. The term "writers block" comes to mind when I chuck up a piece of wood on the lathe and stare at it trying to figure what to do, oh I know I'll turn a hollow form, however, what shape? How to embellish? How to finish it?

I sometimes lay awake in the wee hours of the morning just letting my mind wander and get some inspirational woodturning ideas. Now just when your inspiration provides you with that sudden burst of creativity it fades. What happened? You must now get your motivation into gear. I use music to motivate me, which is why when you visit my shop I have to turn the music down in order to have a conversation. I am also an admitted wood hoarder. I like to have an idea, go to the wood shed and pull out a piece of wood suitable for the project I just thought of. If I didn't have the wood available

(cont. on next page.)

**Skip  
Wilbur**



until I accumulated it I think the motivation would fade as well.

Anything can spark your inspiration. Go for a walk and visit nature, visit a museum, surf the web, Google is your friend, keep an open mind. When this inspirational spark ignites, take a picture, sketch it, write it in a note book, save it to a folder and visit it often; if you get that same feeling as the first time it's worth pursuing. Taking your inspiration into creativity can take time and some patience.

Experiment with different forms and new techniques and you will soon learn what will work for you and against you and take that to your next project and the one beyond that. Someone once said, "give yourself permission to fail", don't get down on yourself if it doesn't come out the way you wanted. Remember, you are learning a process; it's all part of the love and fascination we have with this craft/art.

*"If we keep waiting for the perfect mood, we're going to end up starved"*

– Julia Cameron



[Driftwood sculptures](#) created by artist Heather Jansch

## A LITTLE HUMOR



## FOR SALE



I won the MSWG auction of the Club's Oneway lathe so I now need to sell my like-new (used less than one hour) General Machinery lathe. This is a sizable, 3/4 horsepower, 12" x 36" lathe with a pivoting head for turning bowls. All accessories included. I am offering this lathe for \$195. Great first or second lathe.

Contact Dennis Lissau 266-5919

# MARCH 2013 MEETING MINUTES



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

**Treasurer's Report:** Matt Garner, Treasurer – Please renew your dues for 2013 if you haven't already paid your renewal fee. Out of 96 members, 65 have paid their dues.

Account Balance - \$5,570

**Guest:** Ralph Fetsch

**Roster** – The roster was passed around to solicit any changes needed. Look for an updated roster on the club's website.

**Library** – Please return the library list if you took it home and think of the club if you have woodturning magazines you'd like to recycle.

**Nametags** – Please see Joseph Voda if you need a new nametag.

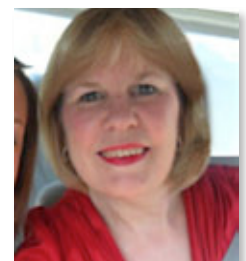
**Schools or Classes** – Joseph Voda enjoyed the Mark Gardner class held at Joel Benson's. Dennis Paullus attended a class on how to sell his work at American Craft Council's Craft Show.

**Lathe** – Please thank Rick Store for the shield and the roller base he constructed for the club's new Jet Lathe.

**Jewish Community Center** – Amy Israel called Skip to invite members to participate in their November 10<sup>th</sup> crafts fair with a 60/40 commission split. The Community Center also wants to host a gallery with our club in April 2014.

(cont. on next page.)

**Terry  
Maffitt**



**Tip, Tchnique, Source** –Skip offered to order baseball billets 3” x 38” for \$8 each plus shipping.

**Demo at the Zoo** – September 29 – 30. Skip asked for interested volunteers.

**Raffle** – Check out the raffle. Take a chance to win Emmett Manley’s Gift of Time - 3 hours of instruction.

**Veterans** –A resolution was approved to recognize the significant contribution of active duty military personnel by waiving their dues while they are serving our country.

**Demo** – All About Chucking – Thank you to Skip Wilbur, John Johnson and Joseph Voda who shared their knowledge about drive centers, drive spurs, stebb center, faceplates, live centers, chucks and jigs.



# CHUCKING DEMO:



Skip Wilbur and John Johnson gave elaborate talks about chucking methods in the March meeting.

Skip covered the four jaw chuck, morse taper dos and don'ts, tail stock live center options (don't make him mad, he throws things) and spoke on the Rubber Chucky items that are available.

John Johnson brought some of his home built eccentric and specialty chucks he has made over his lifetime of 90 plus years and spoke on the creative multi axis side of turning.

Both did an excellent job and we had more lined up but ran out of time, so there will be a follow up demo in May.

Great job by all. To be continued.....

MSWG



AAW 27th International Symposium | Tampa Convention Center | June 28-30, 2013

#### #1 Excellent Value

Held during three full days in the heart of central Florida's signature vacation destinations, the Tampa symposium packs in more high-quality learning opportunities for woodturners than any other event. The only difficulty may be deciding what to see first! sign up early for discounted registration and to access group-rate hotels. At the symposium, you will receive a full-color handout book that includes techniques and insights from demonstrators.

#### #2 World-Class Demonstrations

Simply put, no other event will offer as many opportunities to learn from the best turners in the world. With more than eighty of the most talented and inspirational demonstrators and with well over 100 rotations in all, you will have more opportunities than anywhere else to observe, ask questions, and interact with top experts. Demonstrator list

#### #3 Learn New Skills

Personally tailor your experience by choosing the demonstrations and panel discussions that hold the greatest possibility to learn the tips and techniques you need for woodturning success.

#### #4 World's Largest Instant Gallery

The Instant Gallery is enormous - bring three pieces of your work to share! Themed exhibits will draw collectors and galleries from across the country, an opportunity for your work to be noticed and for you to view pieces created by the world's most inspirational artists.

#### #5 More than Fifty Vendors

The tradeshow will include more than fifty vendors. See and test the latest tools, equipment, and woodturning supplies. There is no substitute for holding tools in your own hands and for having experts demonstrate tricks and techniques. Wood - there will truckloads of treasures to select from! 2013 Symposium Vendor links

## 2013 AAW Symposium Participant list

Nick Agar	UK	Albert LeCoff	PA
Eli Avisera	Israel	Art Liestman	BC
Jeffrey Bernstein	MD	Glenn Lucas	Ireland
Trent Bosch	CO	Robert Lyon	SC
Marilyn Campbell	ON	Mike Mahoney	CA
Warren Carpenter	SC	David Marks	CA
Nick Cook	GA	Steven Marlow	FL
Don Derry	WA	Andre Martel	QC
Dennis DeVendra	OH	Terry Martin	Australia
Sharon Doughtie	HI	John Mascoll	FL
David Ellsworth	PA	James McClure	FL
J Paul Fennell	AZ	Michael Mode	VT
Leopold A. Frilot, Jr.	LA	Binh Pho	IL
Mark Gardner	NC	Tania Radda	AZ
Margaret Garrard	UK	Pete Richardson	FL
Tony George	FL	Thomas Riley	OH
Ron Gerton	WA	Robert Rosand	PA
Cynthia/Michael Gibson	GA	Joe Ruminski	NC
Andrew Glazebrook	AB	Avelino Samuel	VI
Keith Gotschall	CO	Mark Sfirri	PA
Stephen Hogbin	ON	Patrick Sikes	FL
Keith Holt	MD	Willie Simmons	VA
Adam Hood	FL	Steve Sinner	IA
Beth Ireland	MA	Su Jinling	China
Phil Irons	UK	Andrea Sullivan	FL
John Jordan	TN	Mark Supik	MD
Mike Kehs	PA	Keith Tompkins	NY
Ed Kelle	NY	Neil Turner	Australia
Jerry Kermod	CA	Kevin Wallace	CA
John Kowalchuk	NY	Hans Weissflog	Germany
Keith Larrett	FL	Andi Wolfe	OH
		Alan and Lauren Zenreich	NJ

# The Georgia Association of Woodturners

invites you to attend



## Turning Southern Style XIX



### When

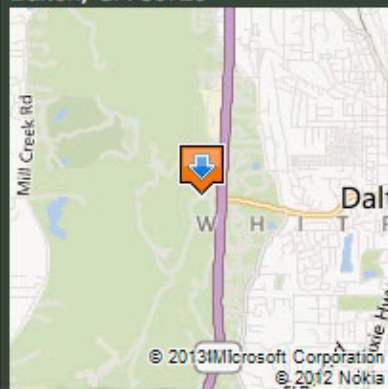
Friday September 20, 2013 at 1:00 PM EDT  
-to-  
Sunday September 22, 2013 at 1:00 PM EDT

[Add to Calendar](#)

### Where

**Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center**

2211 Dug Gap Battle Road  
Dalton, GA 30720



### Dear Michael,

Please join us at GAW's annual symposium, "Turning Southern Style XIX". We really believe this will be our largest, most enjoyable and informative symposium in our 19 year history.

As you may know, we had to find a new location for our 2013 Turning Southern Style symposium, since Unicoi Lodge announced that it would be closed for renovation for most of the year. We are happy to say that we found a terrific facility- the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, in the delightful town of Dalton, Georgia.

We now have 4 large, sound-controlled demonstration rooms, and an enormous Vendor Area, with 40-50 booth spaces (instead of our previous 16). The added space allows us to have a fourth rotation of demonstrations and many more Vendors with larger booths! (listed below)

The town of Dalton, Ga. turns out to be great as well... with easy access from I-75 between Atlanta and Chattanooga. It has an active town center which has lots of restaurants, antique shops, galleries, etc... the perfect place to explore! There are also many reasonably priced hotels nearby. Be sure to look on our Symposium Website for specially negotiated rates at our 3 symposium hotels! The Dalton Visitors Bureau is very supportive; they have already arranged a spouse outing- Antique stores, Lunch and Wine tasting with desserts.

GAW is dedicated to providing education, information and organization to anyone interested in woodturning. Our symposium is designed for all levels of turners and wood art collectors. Whether you want to be inspired by internationally famous demonstrators, or you're looking for demonstrations which showcase fundamental turning skills, you will find plenty to enjoy and learn at "Turning Southern Style".





# WOODNUTZ festival



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# MARCH 2013

# INSTANT GALLERY



First segmented attempt.

**BILL BLEAU**



Bloodwood & Maple candlestick holders. The pieces are made to screw together with brass inserts.

**BILL HANDEL**



Hackberry Hat # 114.

**CLIFF & WILLIAM VALENTINE**



Garage sale trophy. Rubberwood. .50 cents.

**DENNIS LISSAU**



Wild Cherry hollow vessel.

**DENNIS PAULLUS**



Natural edged bowls.

**JERRY BURCH**



Elm Gardner form colored with leather dye.

**JIM TUSANT**



Pueblo Seed Pot back.

**JIM TUSANT**



**JIM TUSANT**

**Seed Pots— a Native American Tradition**

Seed pots were used to store just what their name suggests—seeds such as corn, squash, beans and tobacco. Seed Pot containers were different from other Native American Indian pottery wares. They were designed to protect the seeds for next year’s planting from rodents and insects. A wide-mouthed vessel like a traditional bowl, jar or olla could not keep vermin out. Therefore, seed pots were created with only a tiny hole that would allow one seed to be dropped in at a time.

When the time for spring planting came, the seed pots would be smashed so all the seeds collected during the winter months could be used. Unlike Native American baskets, the originals no longer exist but in current art form reproductions. Today’s Native American Indian seed pots do not have the same utilitarian function. Instead, seed pots as “pottery art” are created as a way to preserve Pueblo culture and values. They do this in both their construction and their decoration.

This piece represents my interpretation of a traditional seed pot except it is made of wood and turned on a lathe. I used a maple 4-quarter board hollowed out in two pieces, designed, burned, carved, dyed, acrylic paint used for a pottery look and finished with Krylon UV Matte. The hole was left larger than normal to let everyone get their fingers in!



**JOHN JOHNSON**

Eccentric chuck, work in progress.



**JOHN WILLIAMS**

Holly and Ebony slotted hollow form.



**LARRY SEFTON**

Commissioned bowl from 100 year old persimmon.



**LARRY SEFTON**

Commissioned wine stoppers from 100 year old persimmon.



**MATT GARNER**

Pens.



**MIKE MAFFITT**

Big Leaf Maple multi axis cup.



String steady rest.

**MIKE MAFFITT**



Bowl.

**SKIP WILBUR**



Sweet Gum hollow form.

**SKIP WILBUR**



Muffins and Cookies.

**TERRY REYNOLDS**



# Upcoming Demos & Events

- April 19th, 2013
    - Woodnutz Festival; Nashville TN. See page 17 for info.
  - April 27th, 2013 MSWG
    - Robin Costelle will be demonstrating an all day demo.
    - The 1st Quarter, 2013 Tool Swap .
  - May 25th, 2013 MSWG
    - Chucking Part 2.
  - June 22nd, 2013 MSWG
  - July 28th – 30th, 2013
    - The AAW 27th International Symposium; Tampa, FL; See page 14–15 for info.
  - July 27th, 2013 MSWG
    - Wine Stopper Challenge
  - September 20th – 22nd, 2013
    - Turning Southern Style XIX; See page 16 for info.
  - October 26th, 2013 MSWG
    - Jeff Brockett will demo at our Octoberfest.
- 

The Woodwork Shop, Inc  
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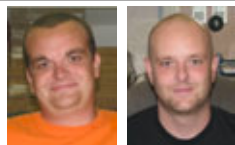


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Pete Kekel  
<http://www.bigmonklumber.com/>

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