

The Mid South Woodturners Guild



Turner's Talk



Bob Speier, Editor

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Getting to know
the Pro's

Robin Costelle Presents Full Day of Turning

By Joan Kelly



"I'm just a hobbyist and don't care to turn full time. I've ruined hobbies by trying to earn a living at them," says Robin Costelle, our featured demonstrator for the February meeting. Many of us can relate to that statement, but don't be misled into thinking that Robin's work is anything but first class. Five years into turning, he is a master of segmented work, fine spindle turning, faux basket turnings and much more.

Robin hails from the Louisville, Kentucky, area, where he works as an electrician, and has done demos for clubs in Kentucky and southern Indiana. While in Memphis, he promises, "I'll show some basic spindle techniques that I use in my finials, and simple hollowing techniques that just about anyone can afford to do, with just a few average tools. I usually demonstrate to novices who don't have extravagant tools and the purse it sometimes takes to get them. I plan on doing a stem and hollow form in the morning



and a delicate finial after lunch--time permitting. I just want to show that anyone can master a few techniques with a little practice and turn some elegant pieces."

The February 27 meeting will be a full day event and free to club members.



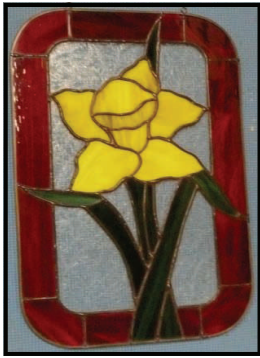
The Mid South Woodturners Guild is a proud chapter of the
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Shop Talk

with
Ken Gilmer



By Ray Tanner



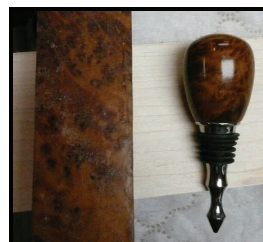
Ken Gilmer is an accomplished stained/beveled glass artist and flat wood master craftsman who, about a year ago turned to rounding wood with his Jet mini lathe (with electronic speed control). His double garage sized shop boasts all the usual tools for wood working but also contains a grinding/polishing unit for detailed shaping of glass segments. He produces excellent pens of mixed wood and plastic; a wide variety of wine bottle stoppers (as well as wooden wine bottles); and turned, segmented vacuum cups; among other items. His brief but intense experience, knowledge and tools relating to pen craftsmanship make him a good resource for those of us struggling to occasionally disassemble an erroneous pen or pencil or find a better way to assemble them without damage. Ken fashioned a small wooden jig for assembling pen bushings wherein the thin (fragile) bushing extension fits into a hole and allows the thicker part to bear the force applied in assembly. He is pictured sweeping sawdust into his floor vacuum pickup (part of his sawdust collection system), which saves a lot of bending over.



Ken keeps wide rubber bands stretched around his headstock and tailstock hand wheels, providing an improved grip. He also uses clip together rubber floor mats to relieve the stress on his feet, ankles and knees while standing on a concrete floor. When his dust collector is running he wears sound deadening earphones to protect his hearing. A ceiling mounted wire reel terminating in a multi-plug receptacle keeps cords off the floor for those of his power tools not against a wall. Since most of his turning blanks are small he utilizes a Model W1323A Clamping Miter Gauge



from Woodstock International on his saw tables to keep his fingers out of harms way. One of the more exotic woods Ken utilizes for pens and stoppers is Thuya Burl, pictured here as both a blank and a finished stopper. Ken gives many more of his fine turned items to family and friends than he sells and often applies a small personalized branding iron to the bottom of his work to burn in a maker's mark. This book publisher's representative is looking forward to retirement filled with more turning challenges involving his several hobbies.





Wood Spin

Woodturning Internet Forums

by Emmett Manley

This column was nearly completed when I received the MSWG

January newsletter which introduced an exciting new feature on the internet and woodturning, authored by Mike Maffitt. Rather than discard this narrative -- and thus having to write another one -- I shifted the emphasis a bit and hope that my comments will complement the more detailed information provided by Mike.

Woodturning forums/chat rooms may be considered as valuable sources of first hand information, product reviews, answers to questions, and the opportunity to eavesdrop on the experts. Or, conversely, as an exchange of ignorance and even dangerous misinformation (as electrical wiring advice).. In my opinion, the benefits out weigh the negatives. However, there is too much personal stuff -- "who is going to attend the Florida symposium?" "this is my new granddaughter," or dog, or cat, or boat -- but those postings can be ignored.

A number of these sites exist and I have visited many of them in recent years, but my favorite is the one maintained by WoodCentral (www.woodcentral.com). Ellis Walentine is the webmeister for the WC Woodturners Forum and he does a great job. This forum seems to be the most popular among woodturners perhaps because the site is fairly easy to navigate, is very active, and is supported by "name" turners.

Common topics include specific questions about equipment, people seeking quality comments from people who own those items, woodturning methods and supplies, and many examples of interesting woodturnings. As one example, a Gallery of Ornaments has been established and additions are posted as they are submitted. Dozens of ideas can be

obtained by looking at the items presented. Previous postings are archived and can be searched by topic.

So many people have posted praise on this site for the Doug Thompson tools that my interest was piqued. I finally got to test several of these tools while at John C. Campbell Folk School in November, and even a low level woodturner such as myself could appreciate the quality of these tools. I purchased one gouge on the spot and ordered two more. So be warned, visiting a free woodturning forum can cost you money.

As mentioned earlier, some woodturners have expressed a concern that internet forums include too much exchange of ignorance and thus are worthless, misleading or, even dangerous. That has not been my experience, or either I am too ignorant to recognize other ignorance. I have encountered a lot of old wives tales about wood toxicity, food safety, sand in wood, medical advice, and the like, but that is common among the general population, not just woodturners. Buyer beware is the operational mode.

Many prominent woodturners are regular contributors to the WC Forum, for example: Barbara Gill, John Lucas, John Jordan, Bill Grumbine, Mike Stafford, Ed Moore, Rob Wallace, Russ Fairfield, and many others. The most prolific poster is photographer John Lucas of Cookeville, Tennessee, as he appears to posses knowledge about every aspect of woodturning. I have benefited from the expertise of Rob Wallace, a botanist at Iowa State University and who also maintains a web site (<http://rwallace.public.iastate.edu/WTlinks.html>)

which offers 400 links to woodturning sites. Russ Fairfield is the finishing guru and he

Wood Spin continued

answers many questions about finishing chemicals and techniques.

Woodturning safety is a major internet topic, or thread, as they seem to be known. And this is good, because safety issues cannot be overemphasized. Many woodturners exchange information concerning accidents they have experienced which I had not considered. For example, having the lathe sling CA glue into your eye because you did not allow sufficient time for the glue to cure, or the glue was thrown out of a deep joint. Another turner reported dislocating two fingers when his loose fitting glove got caught on a drill press bit, so no more loose gloves for me in the shop. As an extreme safety lesson, one gory posting showed a man killed by a powerful metal lathe when his sleeve got caught in a chuck and he was literally wound up and crushed by the lathe. That made a real impression on me as I could see my smaller lathe doing the same thing to one of my arms.

Finally, and fortunately for me, only minimal computer skills are required to access, enjoy, and benefit from the world of woodturning forums.

*UPCOMING EVENTS***2010**

- February 27th- Robin Costelle
- March — Mike Zinser - Platters
- April — Jimmie Clewes
- May 22nd — Chucking (members demo)
- May 28th Richard Raffan in Nashville
- June 18 - 20th AAW Symposium
<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/>
- June 26th - TBA

President's Challenge for February Meeting

After Mike Maffitt's proposal to turn tops for his missionary friend to take to Kosovo, I want to extend the request and make it the President's Challenge for Feb and possibly March. I'd also like to encourage ya'll to turn tops, baby rattles, small bowls or any other small toy that can be hand delivered to Kosovo. This is a great cause and I encourage everyone to get involved.

**Happy
Turning
and
Turn Often**
It's what make's you
a better turner

President's Corner

Remember to renew your 2010 membership in the Mid South Woodturners Guild. It's your support that makes MSWG what it is today.

Just a little Humor

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave side service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "Sweet Mother of Jesus, I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

A message from our Librarian John Williams

In an attempt to reconcile our library I have found several DVD's, Cassette's, and Book's checked out but not returned. One last time I'm asking for you to look around your homes and shops for any items you may have and return them by the February meeting. After that I will make the adjustments necessary to inventory to make the library accurate.

Thanks for your help, *John Williams*

MSWG Board of Directors for 2010

President

Bob Speier

Librarian

John Williams

1st V.P.

Keith Burns

Members at Large

Lonnie Epperson

Mike Maffitt

Ken Walls

2nd V.P.

Joel Benson

Webmaster

Trey Campbell

Secretary

Nancy

Boatwright

Newsletter Editor

Bob Speier

Treasurer

Matt Garner

Welcome New Members / Guests

Let's all welcome our newest member Jim McGehee and the return of Bob Hobbs to the Mid South Woodturners Guild. We'll have Jim and Bob's picture soon.

Welcome to you both

On the Internet

Saw something on the Internet you want to share with the rest of the membership? Simply email the link to the editor robspeier@aol.com along with a paragraph to explain the link. The information will go here for all to share.

General Meeting Minutes

January 23rd, 2010

Call to Order

23-Jan-09 MSWG Membership meeting was called to order by President Bob Speier at 9:03 a.m. and Mr. Speier welcomed our visitors.

Financial Report:

Matt Garner, Treasurer reported MSWG is now banking with Regions Bank which has on-line banking services.

- Education Fund balance \$1,472.55
- General Fund \$2,075.63

Education Fund is owed \$648 from the General Fund for advancing monies to acquire the new video system.

Roster Photos: Mr. Speier reported that we are close to having 100 of the members photos included in the membership roster. He thanked Matt Garner for his help.

2010 Membership Renewals: Mr. Speier reminded the members to renew membership dues.

MSWG Committee Structure: Mr. Speier announced a new Committee Structure to assist the Board Members in “getting things done” and increasing member participation:

- Set Up Committee: Chairperson-Keith Burns, 1st Vice President,
 - ✦ Volunteers: Jerry and Deborah Houser
 - Equipment Maintenance and Inventory: Chairperson-Keith Burns
 - ✦ Mr. Burns will re-inventory all equipment and supplies;
 - ✦ MSWG has purchased a new stand for the mini-lathe and Mr. Burns will put it together and mount before our next meeting; and
 - ✦ Cleaning up and freshening up the One Way 12/24 before the next meeting so we make a good impression on the February demonstrator, Robin Costelle.
 - AV Committee: Chairperson-Larry Sefton,
 - ✦ Volunteers: Joan Kelly, Joseph Voda, + 7 other volunteers
 - Refreshment Committee: Chairpersons-Matt Garner & Nancy Boatwright
 - ✦ Volunteers: Need at least two more
 - Raffle: Chairpersons-Glen Alexander & Ken Walls
 - Instant Gallery: Chairperson-Keith Burns
 - ✦ Volunteers: Rick Gillespie
 - Library: Chairperson: John Williams
 - Program Committee: Chairperson-Joel Benson, 2nd Vice President
 - ✦ Volunteer: Sandi Speier
 - Newsletter Committee: Chairperson-Bob Speier
 - ✦ Volunteers: Mike Maffitt, Ray Tanner, Emmett Manley, Joan Kelly
- First project is to redesign the newsletter
- ✦ Mr. Speier thanked all members who participated in the recent membership survey that provided invaluable insight into what the members liked, did not like and offered suggestions on future growth for the club.
 - ✦ Key issues:
 - Majority of the members posted favorable comments about the website



Minutes continued

Majority of members offered constructive criticism about the newsletter

Mr. Speier requested at least one more volunteer for this committee to do research for newsletter research.

Mr. Speier requested a volunteer to store the MSWG chair caddy and chairs in the event we can't store the chairs at the Bartlett Municipal Centers.

Mr. Speier and Mr. Garner announced the 3rd consecutive MSWG Perspective:

Going Vertical with Domestic Woods- Maple, Walnut and Cherry. Participating members will purchase the wood for a small fee.

President's Feb-09 Challenge

Mike Maffitt's church sponsors a missionary in Kosovo. WE, the MSWG, would like to turn small item such as spinning tops, children's toys and small bowls that can be handed out when he visits a village. WE would like each member to turn 3-6 items. Be sure to sign each piece and label them with the town or city you live in. This way we make a connection with the person receiving the item. We originally thought a food safe finish would be best but the missionary thought any paint or finish would be acceptable.

MSWG Sponsors "Hands On" Mentoring Classes

Beginning in March MSWG will be sponsoring a series of "hands on" mentoring classes for members of the guild. Joel Benson, 2nd Vice President, has offered his shop as the location for the classes. The first class will start at the most important fundamental - sharpening. Mr. Speier asked for volunteers for instructors with a reminder that instructors and participants must be AAW members.

Club Member Needs Help

During the recent bitter winter weather, the pipes at Joel Benson's home froze and broke causing much damage to floors, walls, cabinets, etc. During the extensive repairs the house will have to be emptied and Joel will need help moving. Mr. Speier asked for 3-4 volunteers to help. He will notify the members of the date and time as soon as he knows.

Upcoming Demonstrations:

February-09: Robin Costelle

March-09: Mike Zinzer turning platters with off-center enhancements

April-09: Jimmy Clewes

May-09: Chucking (a members demonstration)

Respectfully submitted – Sandi Speier

THE COBBED WEB

by *MIKE MAFFITT*

Welcome back to the haystack that is the info capital of the world, the internet. This month we are going to dig down and find some interesting eye candy for all you eager readers. Online video that encompasses our craft, woodturning.

What is out there? Lets dive in.

Search term Woodturning Video. Showed about 89,400 results.

Search hint: Dont be afraid to try intentionally misspelling search words, you never know what you can find if you approach how you look for a video.

The number one online site to find videos is of course YouTube.com. If you type in the search term woodturning you come up with around 2,030 woodturning related videos. If you type in the search term wood lathe, you seem to get a little bit different offering of videos and around 1,190 hits. These vary in degrees of helpfulness and quality but it's not like we are paying for hi-def videos here, right? These are free videos that offer instruction, shop ideas, tool demos and finishing ideas just to name a few. The link is here. <http://www.youtube.com/> .

Wood Magazine has a fantastic site with all sorts of helpful videos in all fields of woodworking. These videos are produced very well and do a fantastic job of explaining the topic offered. They do have a section geared just for us woodturners and there are approximately 15 videos there that illustrate turning techniques, tool sharpening and a how to on a toothpick dispenser, lamp and spinning top. The link is here: <http://www.woodmagazine.com/woodvision/> , then click on the woodturning link to the left side. Great job Wood Magazine!

WoodturningVideos.com is a nice, well organized site that has videos that are helpfully organized by topic. Most of these videos are direct links from YouTube but you have to give them kudos for arranging them in such a useable manner. The videos are also rated which I find useful. This is a nicely put together site. The link is here. <http://www.woodturningvideos.com/> .

The next site I looked at was Metacafe. This site is similar to YouTube and has around 150 woodturning related videos posted there. Like many other sites these days, you have to watch about a 15 second commercial before the video starts. Endure the commercials, the videos are very helpful. The site is here: <http://www.metacafe.com/tags/woodturning/> .

Another hosting site for videos is eHow.com. Here I found a complete introduction to woodturning video series and many other videos on a very good selection of tools and techniques. These videos are very well made and will keep you occupied for a good while. There are 242 videos available and again you get to watch a commercial before the video starts but trust me, these videos are worth it. The website is here. http://www.ehow.com/articles_4111-woodworking.html , click on the heading, woodturning, under the banner to the left that says narrow your search.

MeFeedia has a good selection of videos available but seems to be a little repetitive as some videos are listed multiple times. The videos I watched were hosted by Carl Jacobson who did an excellent job presenting the subject. These videos are also very well done and I would certainly recommend them as great teaching tools. The links is here. <http://www.mefeedia.com/tags/woodturning> .

THE COBBED WEB, continued

MarleyTurned.com has some interesting videos for segmenters. He goes through the process pretty quickly so don't expect a step by step instructional video but you can still glean some useful info here.

<http://marleyturned.com/Videos.html> .

DIY Network has some professionally done videos available with turners such as Dave Hout, David Marks and Tim Yoder. Isn't it great to get free tips from the pros? The link is here. <http://www.diynetwork.com/> . Type woodturning into the search field and you will get a list of available movies. Enjoy.

Woodturnersupply.com has a set of videos that show you step by step how to make a slimline pen. They also have videos that illustrate making a bottle stopper, an eccentric goblet, a Christmas tree ornament and a natural edge bowl. The video on making a Christmas tree ornament had good content but the video was taken handheld and had a Blair Witch Project feel to it. If you get motion sickness these are not the videos for you. Three words, buy a tripod. They are pretty cheap. You can find the website here: <http://woodturnersupply.com/> . Click on the heading Woodturning Videos and make your choice.

I am going to wrap it up there for this month but if you keep on Googling, I'm sure you will find exactly what you are looking for. Happy hunting.

Next month we'll be in search of Shop Made Tools and Jigs for all of us do it yourselfers.

*Second Hand Deals**Beginner's Bench-top Lathe*

5-Speeds

Bed length: 36"

Swing: 10"

Headstock: 3/4"-16tpi

Head and Tail stock tapers: MT1

Includes:

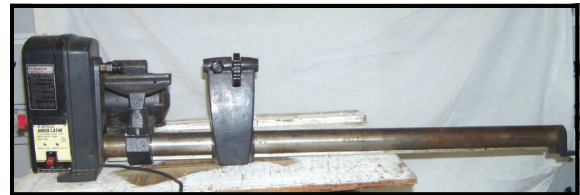
Headstock drive (4 point) and Tailstock

Live center

6 & 12" tool rests

\$95.00

Contact: Joseph Voda, 901.652.2286

*Shop Fox Dust Collector*

Long time members Larry Marley is offering this dust collector to the members of MSWG. If interested please call Larry 662 429-1922 (Hernando). Larry told me it has been used very little and has 1 1/4 HP motor.

\$ 150



Helpful Tips

Do you find yourself looking for a source for various turning items, use this link to go to our website a see the resources we have available. If you have a resource you want to share with the members use the Webmaster link on the same page and provide the link of your resource and a brief description.

<http://midsouthwoodturners.com/links.shtml>

WOOD vs. FOSSIL FUELS

from Joseph Voda

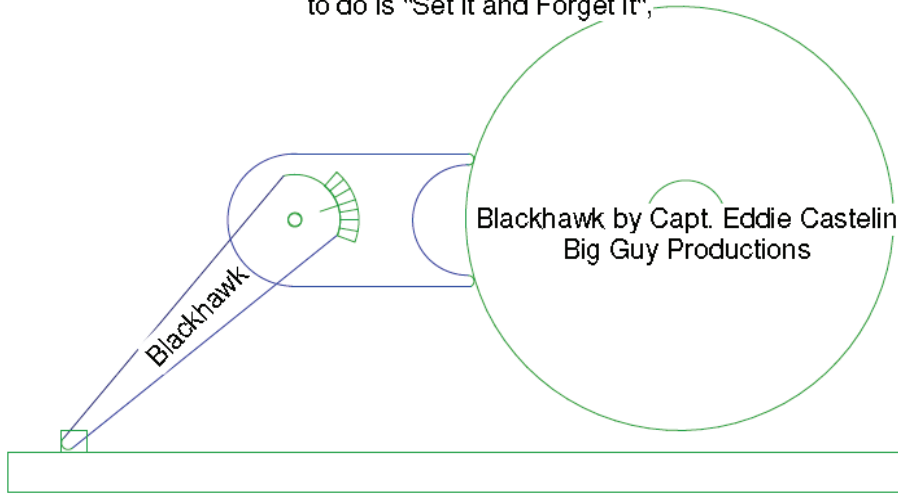
Compared to fossil fuels, a full cord of dry hickory weighs about two tons and is approximately equal in heating value to a ton of hard coal. On a per pound basis, heavy hardwoods have about half the heating value of coal. The table below shows the relative densities and heat values of a variety of dry woods. Varieties at the top of the list (Dogwood) burn longer and those near the bottom (White Pine) ignite and burn quicker. A combination of both light and heavy wood is desired.

SPECIES	DENSITY	HEAT (BTU)
Dogwood	.70-79	100-107
Hickory	.70-74	100
Oak	.60-73	86-99
Black Locust	.69-70	95-98
Beech	.64-66	89-91
Hard Maple	.58-65	83-88
Birch	.55-64	79-86
Apple	.58-62	83-84
Ash	.57-61	81-82
Southern Pine	.51-60	73-81
Elm	.50-59	71-80
Cherry	.50-.52	70
Douglas Fir	.45-.51	64-69
Spruce	.41-.44	59
Redwood	.33-40	47-54
White Pine	.35-37	50

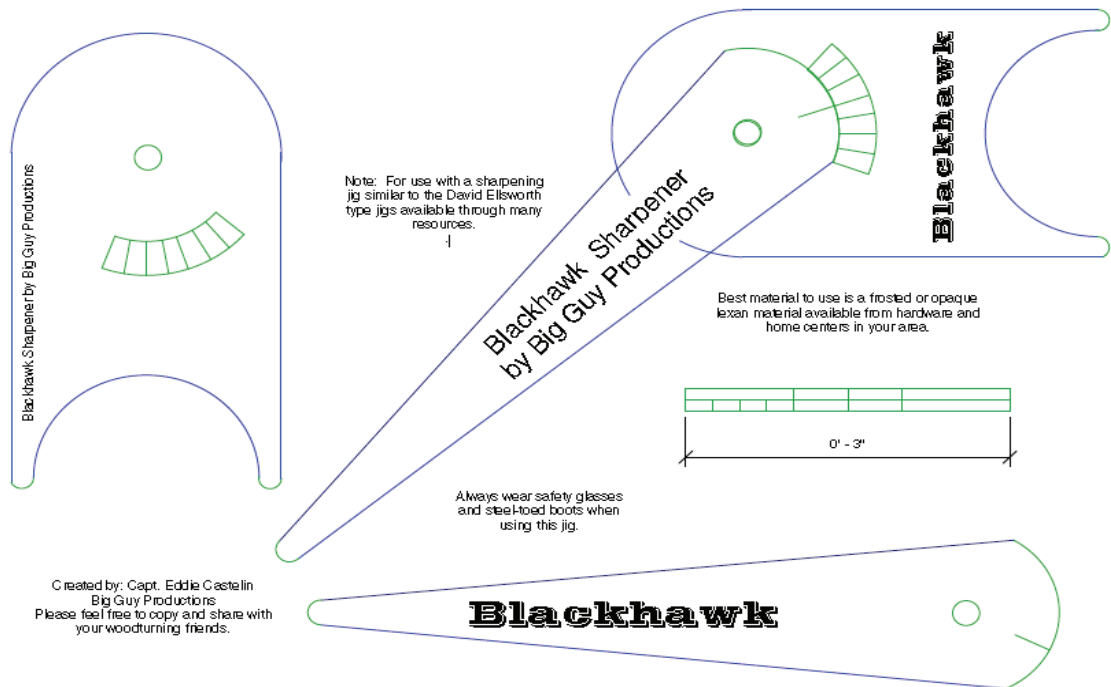
Helpful Tips

Larry Sefton provided this information for a grinding wheel setup gauge. I spent over a hundred dollars to accomplish the same task. What this does is makes sure your grinding wheel (as it wears) stays the same distance away from the sharpening jig you using.

The Blackhawk Gauge is designed to help you reproduce your favorite grinds on turning tools. Used with Ellsworth, Wolverine, or other rigs, this gauge allows you to quickly place the pocket of your rig in the same place each time. You decide what angle, what gouge, what grind and make the necessary notes on the Blackhawk Gauge. Then all you have to do is "Set it and Forget it",



Blackhawk Sharpening Gauge



Created by: Capt. Eddie Castelin
Big Guy Productions
Please feel free to copy and share with your woodturning friends.

Blackhawk

What others were doing

Mid South Woodturners at the TAW Symposium



Several MSWG members attended the TAW Symposium the weekend of the 29th - the 30th of January in Nashville. Pictured are Matt Garner, Tate Thomas, Polly & Rick Stone, Ginger Magouirk, Ken Walls, Skip Wilbur, Keith Burns and Bob Speier behind the camera. Also attending were Don & Laura Wilcut.

We all attended an excellent rotation of demonstrations for the two days by Trent Bosch, Tania Radda, Frank Penta and Mark St. Leger. Frank brought the house down with his demo of personally made tools, what a panic. Trent Bosch did his thing with his signature turnings and Mark St. Leger reminded us how much fun we can have turning. This reporter got the most from Tania Radda, a self proclaimed artist and turner out of necessity. Tania spent a lot of time talking about design, color, use of alternate materials and much much more. She also talked about texturing with out over doing it. All of her rotations were excellent.



Brain Clary pieces, the Master of the Rose Engine



Myra Ortiz pieces, an up and coming artist from Nashville



Keith Burns & Don Wilcut watching Mark St. Leger. Sorry for the glare

Getting to Know the Pro's

The four Demonstrators from Nashville

Tania Radda



Tania Radda is a wood artist, who has taught woodworking as an art form for 9 years. Tania has taught wood classes at Arizona State University, Yavapai College, Woodturning clubs, Symposiums and also in her own shop to the local Boy Scout Troop. She has been a successful artist with an extensive show career. Her pieces can be found in permanent collections of museums and in some prominent private collections. Tania has a Masters of Fine Art degree in Wood Sculpture from Arizona State University, and a passion for teaching woodworking classes to others who share the love of working in wood. As an artist Tania sees the lathe as a tool to achieve her goals, she starts her work with the aid of the lathe and expands it from there. Her teapots are great examples of how woodturning plays an important role in her work.

She is a master with the use of colors and rich

textures; she also does a great job in making unique whimsy pieces that capture the hearts of those who have come to appreciate her work. She has also been called the wood magician by some for her unique talent of “magically” bending wood to extremes.



Mark St.Leger



Mark St. Leger has been an active demonstrator and workshop leader for turning clubs, along with demonstrating at many regional and national symposiums. He is currently on the faculty list of Arrowmont School of the Arts in Tennessee, Appalachian Center for Craft in Tennessee,

Peters Valley Craft Center in New Jersey, and the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina.. His work has been shown at many venues and is in private collections.

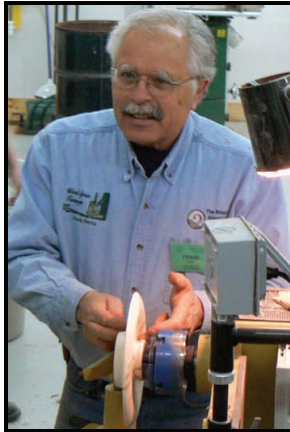
Known for his sense of humor and ability to effectively teach a variety of age groups and skill levels,

Mark's teaching techniques are easily followed and incorporate much skill building. His enthusiasm for woodturning has offered him the opportunity to meet a variety of individuals who share his interests in woodturning. Exchanging ideas with woodturners and clubs throughout the world, gives him the opportunity to contribute to the continual process of growth and learning in the field of Woodturning.



Getting to Know the Pro's

Frank Penta



Past president of the Woodturners Guild of North Carolina, Frank Penta has been involved in woodworking throughout his life. He began to focus specifically on woodturning in 1997. His work integrates function and aesthetics with fine detailing and finishing to enhance the natural beauty of the wood. Frank's one-of-a-kind designs are exhibited in private collections and sold through museums and galleries. He has been a demonstrator at numerous woodturning clubs and symposia and has conducted workshops in a variety of settings including John C. Campbell Folk School and the Appalachian Center for Crafts. He has also

authored an article and had his work featured in American Woodturner magazine and co-authored Woodturning Tools, Techniques, and Projects with Alan Leland. Frank's professional experience in education is reflected in his teaching ability and the high quality of his woodturning classes, demonstrations, and instructional handouts.



Trent Bosch



Trent Bosch has been woodturning professionally for the past 18 years. He began exploring the art of woodturning while pursuing a Fine Arts degree from Colorado State University. Since graduating, he has fully devoted his efforts into creating one of a kind sculptural woodturnings. He also has a love for teaching, sharing the knowledge and techniques he has developed freely with others. His work is displayed in numerous fine art galleries, the permanent collections of museums and craft centers as well as in many private collections worldwide.

Trent has taught and demonstrated his techniques for turning and sculpting wood

throughout the United States and abroad.

