



TURNER'S TALK

THE MID-SOUTH WOODTURNER'S GUILD



Mike Maffitt: Editor



IN MEMORY OF:
PHILLIP MAYBEE



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January Demo:

BILL KEARNS



A WEEK AT

ARROWMONT

As a member of the Mid South Woodturners Guild, I was awarded a grant to attend the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. The biggest problem with Arrowmont is that you have to make a decision as to what class of woodturning to take. The classes range from very basic to expert level. There is a different class every week and weekend. The instructors are all well known in the woodturning community. After much deliberation, I chose "Embellishing and Inlay".

I arrived on Sunday afternoon and after a tasty dinner we had our first class. My instructor was Stephen Hatcher and the class assistant was Jan Adams. He introduced the topics for the coming week and he showed some of the things that we were going to accomplish during the next five days. I looked at the beauty of the work that he had done and immediately became depressed. I thought to myself, "I can't do that kind of work....I better go home now and avoid the embarrassment".

We had five to six lessons a day for the week and in between the lessons we practiced what we had learned. After the first few lessons on Monday, I thought, "Holy mackerel....I can do this". All of sudden the stay at Arrowmont wasn't going to be too bad. The lessons on learning the technique were rather simple and the end result was something that looked difficult to do. During the rest of the week, after doing the basic

design, we were left mostly on our own, to do what we wanted to do and use our imagination.

I was sorry to see Friday had come so fast. We turned and embellished and in-laid all week from 8 AM to 9 PM (I do not know how I did it but I didn't think of watching TV at all).

It was a week that I will never forget. Here is a picture of Stephen and the very first turning that I accomplished in his class. As time goes on, my technique will improve, my pieces will become more intricate and someday, maybe, I will be able to teach what I have learned to you.

Bill Kearns



SHOP TALK

with TONY SOBCHAK



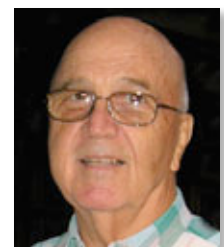
You can have a complete wood turning shop in less than half a garage (1) and still not have to roll equipment back and forth to work in it! Tony Sobczak's (2) shop is proof. It just requires a bit of planning and selection of tools that fit the purpose – in this case to turn beautiful pens (3) and other small objects from a wide variety of natural woods and artificial materials

(with burls a favorite). He uses a Penn State Industries mini cutoff saw (4) designed specifically for trimming pen blanks and the brass tubes used in them. Tony's stock of pen parts, wood blanks, and small tools is well organized and kept in clearly labeled shelf bins (5). He built narrow shelves for small objects beneath his wide shelves to provide better access (6).

Tony came to woodturning only lately (just over a year ago) after retiring from a 38 year career in engineering and maintenance with the United States Postal Service. His wife (whose sister is active in the Red Hat Society (7) is a pen collector and urged him to make some, which steered him into woodturning.



Ray Tanner



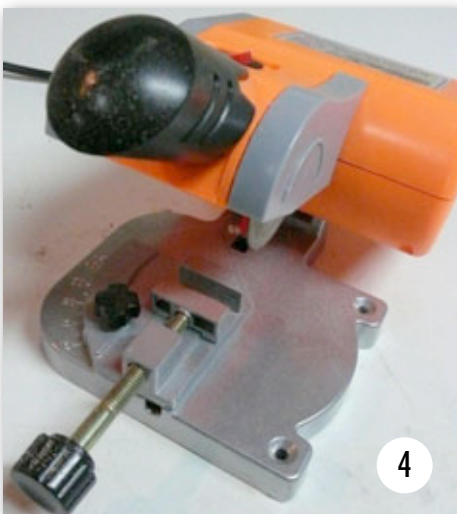
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Under the tutelage of Dennis Paullus he progressed quickly. For his small turnings he uses a pair of safety goggles (8) (which fit over prescription glasses) and when sanding he wears a commercial-grade dust mask (9) with replaceable filters. Tony favors Easy Wood carbide tipped tools over conventional roughing gouges for pen blank rounding. Because several of his machine tools are not close to a wall he supplies their power through a ceiling suspended

heavy-duty extension cord with a multiplex jack (which also keeps the cords off the floor) (10). But the key here is twofold, the cord is heavy-duty and he

doesn't operate multiple machines simultaneously. Tony's turning tools (safely housed in PVC tubes) (11) are mounted at hand height adjacent to his Rikon Mini Lathe with bed extension.



Artistry and engineering seem to run in Tony's family as his son works in the movie industry designing and fabricating illuminated creatures (12), (13), primarily for science fiction productions. Tony uses Harbor Freight tools to get him started then switches to higher quality ones as the need dictates. Thus, he has a still-in-warranty Central Machinery drill press for sale (14).

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6



7



11



13



8



9



10



12



14

WOOD SPIN



The Dark Side Of Woodturning

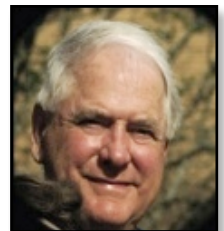
Now, don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed my six plus years at the lathe and I could write a book about the joys of woodturning. However, to be honest, there are a number of things I really don't like about woodturning. Oh, I'm hooked so I won't be returning to the golf course full time, but perhaps other woodturners share at least some of my dark side thoughts.

Woodturning is basically a solitary pursuit. Most of the time I am in my shop alone, which is often just fine, but, at times, it would be nice to have some other people around. Traditionally, I understand that woodturning was almost a secretive activity, with turners guarding their methods from potential competitors. Several years ago I read a published account of an interview with an English woodturner, a man in

his 70's. At the end of the rather strange interview (not a lot of information revealed) the old woodturner said to the reporter, "you are the first person I have ever let in me shop."

This leads into some of the schizoid behaviors exhibited by woodturners who get upset if someone copies their design features, yet they publish descriptions of their work, with photographs and even dimensions, so what do they expect? In fact, some arrogant turners

Emmett Manley



(cont. on next page.)

believe they invented some form and that other people should always recognize and acknowledge their perceived ownership.

Then, there is the matter of what I am trying to accomplish, or, more accurately, what others are expecting me to do. In golf, it is pretty simple, I am trying to shoot the lowest score possible and/or to play better than my fellow competitors, as measured by one factor -- the score recorded.

In woodturning, people go in many directions, and so many aspire to be artists, but at the same time they want rigid standards met as craftsmen. Vases must be narrow 1/3 of the way down, bowls must have feet of a certain diameter, turnings must be thin and a uniform thickness, etc. In woodturning, there are no Picassos allowed, no modern artists, no impressionists -- therefore many turners exhibit schizoid behaviors, torn between standards and free expression.

A short digression concerning personal satisfaction -- as Glen Alexander observed recently, if you are pleased with what you are doing, that is all that matters. If you like your products, others will also. But, if some don't like what you are doing, their opinions are not really important. A wise woodturner told me several years ago, "you know you are a woodturner when a stranger offers to purchase something you have made." Not a bad standard and it was a thrill when someone I did not know wanted me to make items for them, and for money!

Let's get back to some more tangible negative aspects of woodturning. One afternoon last Spring I had the sudden realization that I had missed a gorgeous day because I had spent that entire day staring at spinning pieces of wood 12 inches from my eyes. Woodturning is very confining and very indoors -- which is nice on nasty weather days, but I had rather be outside. Being out in the woods cutting on fallen and dead trees, then collecting turning wood - now, that is a fun aspect of woodturning. However, see section on hoarding.

Probably my #1 complaint about wood turning can be summarized in one word, DUST. Dust covers everything in my shop and I hate to think what those particles are doing to my bronchioles and alveoli. Fortunately, I took up woodturning late in life and wood dust, like cigarette smoke, usually takes a few decades to get you. Ideally, my lathe would be located outdoors, always with a nice breeze blowing. An elaborate dust collection system would also solve my issues with dust. In fact, safety in general constitute the elephant in the woodturning room. Every day in the shop, I realize that a serious accident awaits the non-alert. Lathes, bandsaws, chop saws, and chainsaws are inherently dangerous and unforgiving devices.

Also, I was a neat person until I fell under the spell of rotating wood, now I am a hoarder. I have wood stacked everywhere -- several lifetimes of turning wood for every member of the MSWG, yet I continue to hoard. I have seen this same affliction strike other of our Club members, who shall remain unnamed -- but it is an addiction worse than any drug.

Even the most dedicated woodturner must have experienced dark moments similar to the ones I have touched on in this rambling essay. However, picking up a rotting limb in the forest, bringing it to my lathe and converting it to an item of amazing and lasting beauty; well, that miracle will be endlessly fascinating to me.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



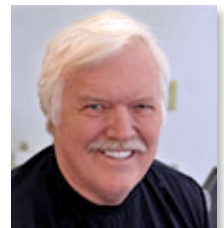
In closing out 2011, I look at all we have accomplished, I feel honored to be your representative. It's just hard to believe another year has just shot by. This is a time of reflection and resolution. I'm thinking my New Year's resolution will be to turn down my wood inventory and pick up some new techniques along the way. Actually that was last year's resolution; the wood pile didn't get any smaller so I'll extend that resolution out another year. Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits.

Our annual Christmas party was a great success. We had a decent turnout with plenty of good food and I want to thank those who took time to prepare some of the wonderful food items. One of the fun things I get to do as your representative is acknowledge individuals who

contribute to our club. The success and growth of MSWG is due to these outstanding individuals. I awarded John Williams a "Lifetime" award and Jerry Hosier the "member of the year award 2011". Larry Sefton was awarded the MSWG EOG grant and I publicly thanked our newsletter editor, Mike Maffitt and Ray Tanner and Emmett Manley for their monthly articles.

(cont. on next page.)

**Skip
Wilbur**



Then the auction, Dennis Paullus, as always, provided a well-organized and fun event. The Jim Atkins piece brought \$825 towards the Joan Kelly memorial fund and if I counted correctly we received \$1,505 for our club's treasury. I want to thank everyone who helped make this party a success. The Christmas party and Octoberfest are two wonderful events I look forward to.

I want to remind you that our January meeting has been moved up a week to the 21st to give everyone an opportunity to attend TAW in Nashville the following week end, January 26 & 27. I know you've heard me say this a few times, however I will say it again. This is a fantastic opportunity to attend a great symposium with world class demonstrators in a fun atmosphere and only a 3 hour drive away. For those of us that are going, please consider bringing an item you've turned in the past few months for the instant gallery, let's show off some MSWG talent.

Our annual club dues are now due and while you are paying, please check the membership roster to ensure your personal data is up-to-date.

If you had a schedule like mine over the holidays it was full so I'll go light on you and forgo the Presidents Challenge for January, however February will be different, so standby.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now."

~Chinese Proverb

Skip Wilbur



OCTOBERFEST TOP SPINNING CONTEST WINNERS



It was brought to my attention that there were never any results posted for the actual winners of the Octoberfest Top Spinning Contest. The winners were not taken down in the general minutes and at the time I didn't have access to the data. Enough excuses, here are the results of the contest and I offer my apologies to all who have not been recognized for their achievement.

1st Prize - Standard Tops (spun between thumb and finger)

Winner: **Bill Shaw**, 1 min 55 sec

1st Prize - Finger Tops (spun on a finger tip)

Winner: **Skip Wilbur**, 8.2 sec

1st Prize - String Launched Tops

Winner: **William Valentine**, 7 min 52 sec

1st Prize - Wide Open Design Tops

Winner: **Larry Sefton**, 6 min 15 sec

1st Prize - Most Beautiful Top

Winner: **John Johnson** (YoYo Top)

1st Prize - Most Cleverly Designed Top

Winner: **Larry Sefton** (Lead Weighted Top)

All prize winners received a blue ribbon and a \$10 gift certificate.

A LITTLE HUMOR

A man went to visit his 90-year-old grandfather and while eating the breakfast of eggs and bacon prepared for him, he noticed a film-like substance on his plate. So he says, "Grandfather, are these plates clean?"

His grandfather replies, "Those plates are as clean as cold water can get them, so go on and finish your meal."

That afternoon, while eating the hamburgers his grandfather made for lunch, he noticed many little black specks around the edge of his plate, so again he asked, "Grandfather are you sure these plates are clean?"

Without looking up from his burger, the grandfather says, "I told you those dishes are as clean as cold water can get them, now don't ask me about it anymore."

Well, later that day, they were on their way out to get dinner. As he was leaving the house, Grandfather's dog who was lying on the floor started to growl and would not let him pass. "Grandfather, your dog won't let me out," mentioned the grandson.

Without diverting his attention from the football game he was watching, his grandfather shouted, "Coldwater, get your butt out of the way!"



IN MEMORY OF: PHILLIP MAYBEE



Lowell Phillip Maybee, 76, of Eads, Tennessee died on Monday, December 12, 2011 in Collierville, Tennessee. Mr. Maybee was a retired antique dealer, craftsman and restorer who was also a former Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 96, Assistant Scout Master of Troop 343, Marine Corps veteran, avid outdoor enthusiast and devoted Christian with memberships of both Kirby Woods Baptist Church and later Bethany Christian Church. The family will receive guests and friends on Thursday, December 15 from 4 - 7 p.m. and funeral services will be on Friday, December 16 beginning at 10 a.m. all at Memphis Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens on Poplar Avenue. Mr. Maybee was preceded in death by his wife Myra Whitaker Maybee, sister Rita Maybee and brother James Maybee. He is survived by his son Andrew Maybee and his wife Dianne of Collierville; grandsons Daniel, David and Drew Maybee; and two brothers Gerald "Jerry" Maybee of Scottsdale, AZ and Curtis Maybee of Lynchburg, VA. Any memorials may be made to the Myra Whitaker Maybee Nursing School Fund c/o Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation, 350 N. Humphries Blvd., Memphis, TN 38120.



DECEMBER 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:16 a.m. by President Skip Wilbur.

Treasurers Report – by Matt Garner

Checking	- \$1,777.01
Education Fund	- \$2,168.91
Memorial Fund	- \$1,057.73
Total in Bank	- \$5,003.65

Motion to accept and seconded

Skip Wilbur reminded members that annual membership dues were due and Jan meeting was moved up a week to Jan 21 so members may have an opportunity to attend TAW on Jan 27 and 28.

Future demonstrators:

Bill Kearn will be demoing in January with stone inlay and Keith Burns is scheduled for February with the Hollow Roller hollowing rig. Skip mentioned that the BOD was working on getting two professional demonstrators for March and April. In March we will have Charlie Shrum and in April we anticipate having Cliff Loundsbury. Both of these demonstrators will provide another day for a “hands on” class.

Skip presented John Williams a certificate and named him a “Lifetime” member. Skip also named Jerry Hosier “member of the year 2011” and presented him with a gift certificate. Skip also thanked the newsletter editor, Mike Maffitt for his continuing and outstanding work as well as Ray Tanner and Emmett Manley for their monthly articles to the newsletter.

Skip announced that the MSWG EOG grant went to Larry Sefton

Skip also mentioned the tragedies and triumphs we had in 2011.

Annual Gift exchange

Auction – all item were auctioned off

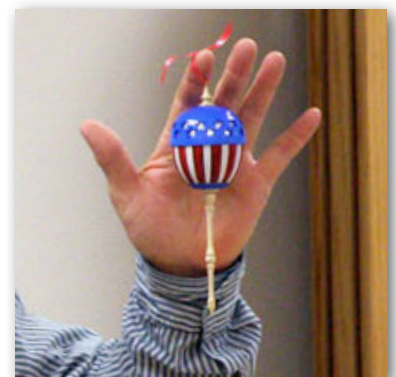
Meeting adjourned at 11:35

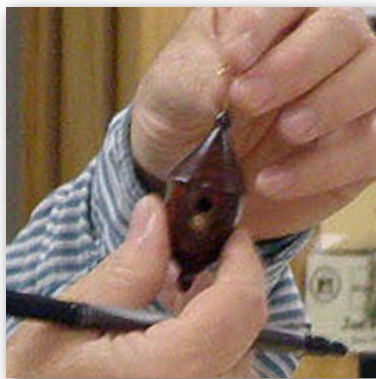
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Skip Wilbur



DECEMBER 2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY & AUCTION









UPCOMING DEMOS & EVENTS

- **January 14th, 2012**
 - The Woodwork Shop: Re-Sawing Techniques & Building a Mountain Dulcimer: Bob Magowan.
- **January 21st, 2012 MSWG**
 - Bill Kearns: A week at Arrowmont: Inlay.
- **January 27th – 28th, 2012**
 - TAW Symposium at the Radisson Hotel.
 - Demonstrators will be: Al Stirt, Dale Larson, Jennifer Shirley, Ashley Harwood and Mark Gardner.
- **February 25th, 2012**
 - Keith Burns: The Hollow Roller.
- **March 24th & 25th, 2012**
 - Charlie Shrum: Norfolk Island Pine & Carving Concepts.
- **April 24th & 25th, 2012**
 - Cliff Loundsbury.



CHARLIE SHRUM

A MESSAGE FROM AAW

December is a time to reflect on our accomplishments and the people who help us achieve them.

Our membership values optimism and sharing and believes that education, in whatever format, is valuable. Attending several of the regional symposia has been fun. I enjoy talking with you about your ideas for the future, what you like, and even what you do not like. These conversations have resulted in changes and plans for the future.

One major change was adding new modes of communication with you, our members. The e-newsletters have proven to be a big hit. People are starting to send photographs of successful EOG projects, workshops for kids, and new woodturning projects. We always appreciate seeing what you and your chapter have recently accomplished, and are interested in any calls for exhibition entries, woodturning exhibition locations and dates, and regional symposia.

The staff and volunteers of AAW are hard working, creative, and full of energy. When you call the AAW office you will likely be talking with Jane Charbonneau. Jane helps all of us keep track of our membership, helps you figure out how to place an order for the new smock, and knows just about all of our members. She has never met a stranger.

Betty Scarpino is the editor of the American Woodturner Journal, which you receive 6 times a year in your mailbox or on your computer. Betty is a talented artist and an editor par excellence. She is always happy to talk with you about new ideas for articles.

Linda Ferber handles memberships and chapters. She is the driving force behind our new Woodturning Fundamentals Program, which addresses skill building for woodturners. You can register on line at the home page, woodturner.org, for this fun free option. Over 600 of you have already signed up.

Greta Tacke works with marketing and public relations. She is the editor of your e-newsletter and sends out all of our press releases about woodturning. Many of you have met her at several of the regional symposia.

Tib Shaw is the Curator of the Gallery of Wood Art. Tib designs and creates all of the wonderful exhibitions in the Landmark Center along with several exhibitions at the International Symposium. She is your resource for all of your questions about wood art.

Pippi Fentress is our special projects person. Pippi has worked on everything from marketing to projects for the symposium to educating children about woodturning. She is working on ways to interest our younger generations to turn wood.

Todd Hartley is keeping our website up to date. When you have questions about why or how this works on the website, Todd is your go-to guy.

September Hoeler works with us on advertising. Even though September is in South Carolina, she has talked to our vendors all over the world. If you want to place an ad in our Journal, e-newsletter, or website, just send her an email at: September@woodturner.org. She is always pleased to help you.

We all wish you a very Happy Holiday and look forward to working with you next year. I hope to see many of you in San Jose, California, for the next Symposium. Please let us know if we can help you in any way. After all, we are here for you.

Cindy Bowden
Director, AAW



American Association of Woodturners



Please take a few moments to
renew right now



Dear Michael,

**It's time to renew your
membership!**

We appreciate your support. The AAW provides a common bond that brings members together to enjoy the passion of woodturning. Our mission for more than twenty-five years continues to encourage, support, educate and develop the field of woodturning.

Members like you make doing business a real pleasure, and a strong organization with a promising future.

American Association of
Woodturners

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For a seventh year, the Woodcraft stores from Boston to Honolulu are inviting the general public to participate in a pen turn-a-thon to craft high quality pens for American servicemen and women actively deployed overseas, as a reminder that people back home remember and appreciate their efforts, company officials announced.

Since the program's beginning in January 2004, more than 35,000 customized pens have been created and sent to members of the armed forces from Woodcraft customers, employees, and others. Each year the program has grown, and the responses from the stores and the public has been amazing. "There are so many service people around the world, and we know they appreciate having a special gift from home," said Peter Parker, Woodcraft's program administrator.

We encourage hand-written notes to the troops be enclosed. Thank them for their service and sacrifice. Let them know why they are receiving it, and from whom. Tell them what kind of wood the pen is turned from, etc. We have received many thank you notes back from the troops for our participation and support of this program.

MSWG will begin encouraging it's members to donate their time and wood scraps to further this cause beginning at the March General Meeting. Please participate and give generously.



The Woodwork Shop, Inc
 8500 Wolf Lake Drive
 Suite 101
 Bartlett, TN 38133

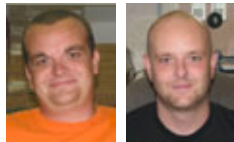


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