

The Mid South Woodturners Guild



Turner's Talk

Bob Speier, Editor

November 2008



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What's Coming up ?

By Joan Kelly

Bill Siler "Turning thin walls"



Bill Siler's turnings are impeccably crafted and seem lighter than air. They are recognized on the Instant Gallery table without the identification card. When

Binh Pho was our guest, he did some critiques of the club show at CBU. His comment about one of Bill's bowls was, "The inside looks larger than the outside." On November 22nd, Bill will demonstrate his methods for achieving these qualities as he turns a thin square bowl.

Bill was intrigued by the turning process as a child watching a neighbor work on a lathe. His own first lathe was made by Mattel Toy Company. With the help of a beginner's turning book, he began turning on a "real" lathe about twenty-five years ago, staying up into the wee hours sharpening his tools with hand files. In retrospect, Bill says it is a wonder he stuck with it those first few years.

Bowls and hollow forms have held Bill's interest for a long time, but he is beginning to think about doing more carving, cutting and reassembling of his turnings. Bill is an artist with a deep respect for the craft tradition and the significance of craft in everyday life. Here, he sums up his thoughts, "Art and craft meet along an indistinct boundary that need not be precisely delineated. What I love about the craft of turning, and what has surprised me about the craft of turning, is this: Practicing the craft has given me a greater appreciation of art and design. And, to a modest extent, practicing the craft has let me participate in artistic expression."

MSWG

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for 2008

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First V.P.

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Don Wilcut

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Rick Gillespie

Bill McMillen

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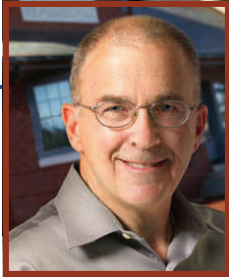
Newsletter Editor

Bob Speier

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



President's Corner
By **Larry Sefton**



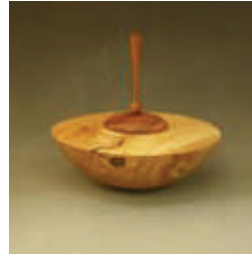
If you did not attend Oktoberfest at Joel's you missed a great demonstration, outstanding food, perfect weather, wonderful people, and more. I could not say it better than an email I got from Emmett Manley, "Again, you have outdone yourselves. Fantastic program of demonstrations, fine food, aromatic fires, wonderful October weather, on and on." Many thanks to those who helped make this event happen.

Several of my observations during Oktoberfest made me think of a quotation from Henry Ford "If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right." I enjoyed seeing members watching a demo intently saying to themselves something like "I can do that." I just hope they go home and at least try.

With this quotation in mind, I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting at 9am on November 22, 2008 when Bill Siler will be demonstrating. I have never made a square thin-walled bowl like Bill makes, but I think I can. My plan is, the day after Bill's demonstration, to put what I learned from Bill to the test in my own shop and I will, by trying, succeed. My challenge to you is to make yourself and Bill feel really good by bringing a turning made in response to Bill's demonstration for the December meeting's instant gallery.

Reminder, elections for the 2009 MSWG board will also take place at the November meeting.

Just a few of the gallery pieces at Oktoberfest



Joan Kelly



Cliff & Bill Valentine



Bob Speier



Glenn Alexander



Dennis Paullus



Bill McMillen

MSWG MEETING MINUTES October 25th, 2008

As the cold crisp dawn broke over the serene seven acre estate of Joel Benson's home and tremendous, spacious shop/studio, Oktoberfest 2008 was about to begin. The Mid-South Woodturners, woodworkers, woodcarvers and guests were slowly arriving to begin the fifth annual MSWG Oktoberfest. This one was shaping up to be the biggest and the best. The necessary clean-up and organization was accomplished on Friday afternoon on the day before the event. Four small lathes and the monster Stubby lathe, Joel's private personnel lathe, would be in action soon.

The first thing you see when you drive onto Joel's property is the two small ponds, one on each side of the entrance road, that seem to be smoking, emitting vapors raising up from the water. Then this huge black dog comes bounding up to your vehicle. Not being sure what to do you wait and realize that no harm, but lots of loving can come from that dog.

The event was started by Larry Sefton, President, Mid-South Woodturners and he talked about the upcoming meeting. He discusses the plans for the day. The demonstrations that will take place inside the shop and outside chain saw demonstration by Dennis Paullus. This will be a little different than in the past, as Joel usually does this part. Someone decided that Joel would do a large bowl inside and let Dennis get the experience in chain sawing out in the fresh air. Joel was assisted by Rick Cannon and Bill Siler on the big bowl. Other stations for the day: Larry Sefton, doing some burning/scorching and explaining the equipment, both homemade and purchased, that he uses; Bill Shaw texturing and spiraling; Dennis Paullus, threading; Rick Gillespie, tops and stuff; and Bob and Sandi Speier doing a challenge.

We had the following guests that I could identify: Rick Mayfield, (Shop Foreman/Assistant Technical Director at the U of M), Lizzie Organ – student at U of M, Anita and Denise Paullus, Mother and Sister of Dennis Paullus. William Valentine came as a guest and ended the day having joined our club. I apologize to the visitors that I missed.

Don Wilcut, Secretary asked for and received approval of the minutes from the last meeting.

Matt Garner, Treasurer, gave the financial report for the period. We had a raffle last month for \$142, this month was \$250.

Dennis Paullus, Vice President, gave the list of the upcoming Demonstrations.

November 22, 2008-Bill Siler-Turning thin square bowls

December 20, 2008- Christmas Party, Bring money as the board approved the auctioning of the bowls from the "Mid-South Perspective" project.

January 24, 2009- Jerry Fairburn/Terry Reynolds will be doing embellishing and carving your work pieces.

February 28, 2009 TBA

March 28, 2009- John Jordon will do a one day Demonstration, **free for members**

Thanks Dennis!

Don Wilcut got a prime piece of Wenge wood, as a donation from Craig Lumber which Joan Kelly agreed to turn and return it to the club.

Shop Tour for November will be at **Matt Garner's** new shop.

Keith Burns is coordinating the Mid-South Perspective Book project.

2009 Board Nominations

There are four (4) board members opening for 2009: Positions Currently held by Bill McMillen, Matt Garner, Larry Sefton and Don Wilcut

Accepted nominations for 2009 are:

Nancy Boatwright, Matt Garner,

Bill McMillen, Larry Marley

Bob Speier, Rick Stone

Submitted By Don Wilcut, Secretary MSWG

A Message from Nick Cook

We need your help. Time is running out to purchase raffle tickets for the Doug Barnes Memorial Raffle. The funds we raise will go to building the Doug Barnes Woodturning Library in the Willard Baxter Woodturning Studio at John C. Campbell Folk School. This is your opportunity to purchase a chance to win a fine piece for your collection or to give as a gift for the upcoming holidays and at the same time help a great cause. Many of us have or will attend a woodturning class at John C. Campbell and know what a pleasure it will be to get away from the noise of the studio and sit and read in the library for just a few minutes. Time is running out, please purchase a few tickets for your favorite piece or make a donation without a ticket purchase.

The deadline for purchasing tickets and/or making a donation is Saturday, **November 15th, 2008**. To purchase tickets or make a donation please visit :

<http://www.gawoodturner.org/shop/zen-cart/>

Shirts & Books

Don't forgot to send in or bring to the next general meeting your order forms for Shirts and the Mid South Perspective Books.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 22nd**
Bill Siler turning thin walled objects

- **December**
Christmas Party
The Woodworking Show / Nashville
<http://cms.thewoodworkingshows.com/cms/Shows/NashvilleTNDec1214/tabid/84/Default.aspx>

- 2009**

- **January 9-11**
Florida Woodturning Symposium
<http://www.floridawoodturningsymposium.com/>

- **Regular Meeting 24th**
Jerry Fairburn, Terry Reynolds and Dennis Paullus showing embellishments to turned objects.

- **23rd & 24th**
TAW Symposium in Nashville
<http://www.tnwoodturners.org/symposium.html>

- **March 28th**
JOHN JORDAN one day demo
"FREE FOR MEMBERS"

- **May**
Utah Woodturning Symposium

- **June**
AAW Symposium, Albuquerque, NM

“Shop Talk”
Matt Garner, Memphis TN



When Matt moved into his new home a couple of years ago all he had was a carport for a single car. Very common for the Memphis area. I saw the backyard for myself with the pond and all but Matt was already dreaming. You know Matt, he doesn't say much unless his' asked. Consequently he's been busy building his new workshop and garage in the backyard. This is a quality job folks and I can't wait for him to have an "Open Shop" in November after the general meeting. Way to go Matt.

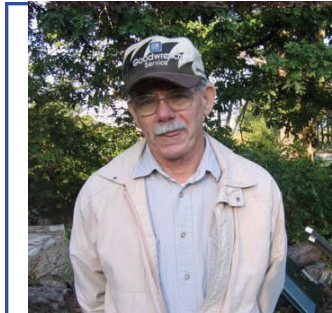
Club Dues in November

Membership renewal's begin in November as always. Be sure to bring your "cash, check or money order" so we can take care of this privilege as soon as possible.

Classifieds

Got something to sell, it can go here

Welcome New Members

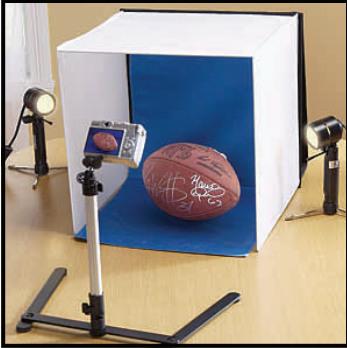


Bill Valentine

Bill has attended many meetings with brother Cliff. Bill and Cliff are on a rampage turning really great hats. My hat's off to you Bill, no pun intended, well maybe.

Tips & Helpful Ideas

Brookstone.com



Ran across this add for photo equipment in our weekly catalog supply and thought it a pretty good deal to pass along. If you don't have the necessary equipment to take quality photos of your work this is a must at \$99. Click on the link above and check out the details. Football not included.

Need to find a tool or wood, click on "Helpful Links" to find your source
Helpful Links

AAW Fall 2008 Journal
Join Now!



Getting to know the “Pro’s”

Mark St. Leger Page 1 of 4



Mark's interest in wood started at a young age, which led him to his trade of Carpentry/Cabinetmaking and Furniture building. For the past 18 years he has had the opportunity to teach woodworking in a rural Virginia High School setting. He has been exploring the art of woodturning for the past 21 years.

Mark 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, Appalachian Center for Craft, Peters Valley Craft Center, and the John C. Campbell Folk School. 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.

Website: markstleger.com

E-mail: markstleger@suddenlink.net

What others where doing !

I had the honor of doing a demonstration for the Tennessee Association of Woodturner in Nashville on the 6th of November about Vacuum Chucking. Approximately 40 members attended the 90 minute demo. All went well for not being a pro.

TAW is very much like our club. The big difference is they have about 150 members. They have many of the same goals and interests and problems as well.

I had the privilege of meeting and see the shop of Jimmy Campbell in Columbia TN the following day. I'm telling you this is the ultimate shop. About twice the size of Joel Benson's. Just a few of the quality things in his shop where, floors were painted and the dust collection is plumbed in the concrete floor. He has at least 6 lathes and every turning tool made. He like John Williams has a metal shop as well. Sandi and I have a nice shop mind you, but Jimmy's blew me away. He also single handedly supports a local chapter of AAW. Talk about devoted to turning. Thanks Jimmy Campbell and Mike Zinser

By Bob Speier

OktoberFest 2008

Photo's
by Don Wilcut



Our \$250 Raffle

Our host at work



Mr. Shaw show
how to use a
spiral tool

Rick turning
pens



The Boss making
one of his
woodburners



The
Challengers





Happy Turning !

