



AS THE WOOD TURNS

The Newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners Club

www.chicagowoodturners.com



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May 2006

Trent Bosch All day Demonstration May 6 th



Special points of interest:

- April 11th Meeting
- Demonstrator Schedule
- Expanded members gallery Pages 2,3
- Darrell Rader Demonstrator
- Eli Avisera Demonstration

Steve Sinner Turning Miniature Goblets CWT Meeting Demonstrator



CWT Meeting 7 PM
2nd Tuesday
Woodcraft Supply
Store, 1280 E. Dundee
Rd, Palatine IL
(847)774-1186

6 x 6 x 2 Challenge Winners

1st Brad Smith

3rd Bill Brown

2nd Bob Barbieri

As The Wood Turns

The official newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners Club (CWTC) is published monthly by and for its membership. Membership in the AAW is encouraged but not mandatory. Dues in the AAW are \$40 per year for an individual. Dues in the CWTC are \$20 per year per individual.



Bert Marsh
Sunday June 4th
Demo
See Page 3

Member's Gallery



Glenn and McMurray and his daughter Katie share their thoughts on wood turning.



Lee Clarbour
Koa, Paduk Birdseye Maple
"Expensive Waste Basket"



Josh Connan
Pine Air Brushed Bowl



Duard Oxford
Purpleheart Maple Bracelet



John Bobik
Box Elder "Olive Oil Bottle"



Andy Kuby
Distressed Elm Vase



Andy Kuby
Walnut Vase



Grant Barlow
Irish Bog Oak Pens and
Blanks



Grant Barlow
Prototype Walnut Spindle



Lloyd Beckman
Cedar Goblet



Lloyd Beckman
Cherry Bowl



Lloyd Beckman
Maple Bowl



Jim Wickersham
Segmented Maple, Walnut,
Purpleheart, Padauk Pen

Member's Gallery



Roy Lindley
Walnut Vases



Ole Bradley
Hawthorne Bowl



Ken Staggs
Maple Bowl



Ken Staggs
Spalted Apple
Goblet



Steve Sinner
6,600 Squares
"The Chairman
Dances"

Bert Marsh

Demonstration on Sunday, June 4, 2006

Hands-on Classes on Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 6 \$220

Internationally known as a demonstrator and gallery artist, Bert Marsh will be making a rare US appearance on May 4, 2006 to demonstrate for the Chicago Woodturners. Bert is known for his pursuit of the perfect form and the perfect surface finish. Admission is \$25.00, and the demonstration will run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Woodcraft in Palatine.

Marsh's work is displayed at Del Mano Gallery in Los Angeles, Gallery Materia in Scottsdale, and many galleries and museums in the UK. He is a full time Lecturer at the Brighton College of Art and Brighton Polytechnic. As an artist with a great deal of experience demonstrating and teaching, this will be an event to attend, no matter your skill level or experience.

In Bert's own words: "There is no complex philosophy attached to the work I do; I am simply striving to achieve the perfect form, the purest possible curves expressed in simple, uncluttered shapes that will expose the beauty of the wood to the fullest. In seeking that goal, I find inspiration in many everyday objects, but most of all I am inspired by the wood itself."

This demonstration promises to be inspiring for all turners. We spend a lot of time talking about form and proportion, and here is an opportunity to see the quest for great form demonstrated, and the subtleties explained by a master turner and teacher. Mark your calendar now for this demo. A few spots are still open for Bert's hands-on class on June 5 & 6. To sign up for the class, contact Jan Shotola. All are welcome at the demonstration, pre-registration is not necessary. Please join us for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with Bert Marsh.



Membership 184

Andy Kuby

We had 80 members at the April meeting

Visitors: Ms. Anne Niemann of Elmhurst, IL (she is Ken Staggs mother, and at one time taught wood turning to the blind)
Ms. Katie McMurray of Batavia, IL (she is Glenn McMurray's daughter and an accomplished critic of woodturning)

Curls from the President's Platter

May, 2006

When I was a Dilbert-type cubicle dweller, my pointy-haired boss hired a "management consultant" to work with us. That fellow spent four weeks of his assignment convincing us that he had some good ideas to impart, four weeks explaining the good ideas, and four weeks getting us to implement those ideas. After twelve weeks, I had learned two things: this consultant was grossly overpaid, and people fear change. Yes, people fear change.



We all want things to remain the same. We want our jacket to hang on the 2nd hook, our toothbrush in the same spot it was yesterday (just for fun, get up early tomorrow and move your spouse's toothbrush. It will change your morning routine!), and we want the Chicago Woodturners to keep doing the same things in the same way, but with *maybe* incremental improvements. No big changes, thank you very much.

Changes can come about due to "circumstances beyond our control". For years, our newsletter printing has been provided by Bill and Carole Floate. However, their access to free printing has come to an end. Notice the key word: "free". Faced with the expense of going to a commercial printing service, your board, as an experiment and temporary solution has decided to harness the power of the internet to bring this issue of your newsletter to you. Your board members are researching the many available options, and we will discuss them in depth at the next meeting on May 9, 2006. Change, however, is inevitable. As scary as it is, we all need to embrace it.

Changes can come about due to "transitions". Visitors to our website recognize it as one of the cleanest, fastest, and most attractive websites in the woodturning community. That is all due to the work of one person. Joan Nolan volunteered to design and implement a club web site over four years ago, and has done a tremendous service for the CWT. Starting with a blank page on her computer screen, she developed a web site that provides concise, accurate information about our club, a gallery of members' work, information on upcoming demonstrations and access to those demonstrators' websites, all done with efficiency and accuracy. Joan is not one to hog the spot light, and never seems to need the "attaboys" some do, she just gets the job done, quietly working in the background. Four years is a long time in any volunteer position (hey, it's a long time for some folks to hold a paying job!), and Joan has decided to hand off the webmaster position to Chuck Young. Chuck is a talented and imaginative lathe artist, technically adept, and is already buried in requests from board members with "can we do this and can we do that?" I suspect he can, and suspect he will. This change of the guard is truly bittersweet, but not scary. Joan, you put us on the web, you have made us look great, and you have set the tone for the future. There's no way we can adequately thank you for your dedication and fine work.

Yes, people fear change. But tomorrow, your jacket will still be on the 2nd hook, and your spouse can expect that toothbrush to be where it was yesterday. No big changes, thank you very much. Your board is dedicated to only making changes that improve your access to information, increase your enjoyment of the art and craft of woodturning, and reflect your desires of what you want your club to be.

Until May, don't fear the changes, plan on better things in the future, and as always, turn lots, and please turn safely.

Paul Shotola

Darrell Rader Turning Ornaments



Thank You Darrell for the Demonstration on Turning Ornaments CWTC

Trent Bosch

Trent Bosch Demonstration May 6.

Trent is a well known and experienced demonstrator from Colorado. His work is an eclectic mix of bowls, vessels and spindle work, all using reclaimed wood. No rainforests are harmed in his pursuit of Art. The demonstration will include his famous Vessels of Illusion, green wood turning and drying techniques, carving and surface treatments, and how to generate new ideas from life experiences.

In Trent's own words: *"Working with wood is part of my everyday life. It is my connection to the earth and the environment in which I live...My philosophy has always been to work in harmony with our environment and not to destroy something in order to create something. In all my art, I use only recycled and easily sustainable woods...My intent as an artist is to express my feelings about nature, my family and natural processes. Throughout the creative process I am continually reminded that I have not and will not ever be content. I will continue to create and strive for that body of work that has yet to be conceived."*

This will prove to be a great demonstration for turners of all skill levels. Bowls, vessels and surface treatments will be covered. Mark your calendars now for May 6th, this is certain to be a great demo.

Eli Avisera – Wood Artist and Teacher

By: Dave Forney

Eli Avisera is a wood artist from Jerusalem, Israel. He recently demonstrated for the Chicago Woodturners club and oversaw a two day hands-on class with six students. Eli was on a six week tour of the United States having taught a week long course at Craft Supplies and demonstrated in Alaska, Vancouver, Portland, Seattle, and New York before coming to Chicago. Chicago was his last stop before returning home. I first met Eli at the World Woodturning Congress held in Puy Saint Martin, France in 2003. I met him again in 2004 when he was in Philadelphia participating in the International Turning Exchange sponsored by the Woodturning Center.

Eli is best known for his spinning tops and dreidel boxes of which he has made thousands in a 30 year career. He also makes inlaid hollow forms, goblets, candle sticks, and trembleur boxes (which are influenced by his good friend Jean-Francois Escoulen). His spin tops employ chatter work and make use of coloring pens in the style of Bonnie Klein. He also has employed silver inlay using melted solder and is trying his hand at piercing based on the techniques used by Binh Pho. Eli is well known for using contrasting woods to make segmented blanks containing a star pattern in the center. This is a multi step process and it takes a whole day to make a single 4" x 4" x 16" blank. While most of these are sold to Craft Supplies for resale, Eli makes use of them in his own work.

Twelve years ago, Eli spoke no English yet traveled to the US to study under Rude Osolnik and John Jordan. The influence these men provided is evident in Eli's work today. For example, he makes a series of Osolnik style candle sticks in several sizes. Since that time, his friend Jean-Francois Escoulen pushed him to learn English and to demonstrate. Eli took this advice and often studied woodworking catalogs to learn the language. He also accepted opportunities to demonstrate in order to gain confidence in his presentation skills. Today, he is a great communicator and accomplished demonstrator.

Wood turning was not always his vocation or avocation. For many years, Eli owned and ran a furniture making business in Israel. He had six employees who made custom furniture and cabinets. Although lucrative, it was very stressful. Eli decided one day to sell the business to one of his employees and to concentrate on woodturning, tool making, and teaching. He still teaches furniture making, turning, and carving to classes as large as 15. These classes are very regimented with everyone doing the same operation but only when Eli says they can. This is as much about structured learning as it is about safety. He says that he is now much happier with his life.

Eli is a very accomplished tool handler. During his demo, we were impressed with his ability to handle the skew during delicate spindle work. He grinds his skews to be convex rather than concave and this makes them more docile to handle. In three days of turning, we only counted two catches and those were with the gouge. It's nice to know that even professionals get the occasional catch (although none like to do that in front of an audience).

Eli has an incredible finish off the tool. The secret to this finish is a double bevel grind that he does free-hand. He believes that a small bevel, (approximately 2.5mm or 3/32") provides support of the wood fibers as they are cut and enables a very clean cut. Even in end grain, Eli's cuts are smooth and burnished. Often, no sanding is needed. The second bevel is meant to provide clearance under the cutting bevel (basically just getting the metal out of the way). Parting tools are cut at 25 degrees, spindle gouges at 35 degrees, rouging gouges at 45 degrees, and skews at 85 degrees. After trying his tools, one becomes a true believer in this grinding style. The tools really work. The double bevel really makes turning easy for him. When he can't find a tool to make a certain cut, he modifies a tool or makes his own. (A great example is a drill bit modified to be a fine and inexpensive bead tool). Today, Hamlet carries his signature tool line.

Eli does of course sand even with such a smooth cut of the tools. He first uses a homemade wax to coat the wood (20% white beeswax solids, 80 % paraffin oil cooked atop a double boiler), then sands at 150 grit to refine the shape. He applies another coat of the wax and sands at 220. This process is repeated at 320. Final sanding is done at 400, 600, and 800 without the wax in between. He then applies several very thin coats of shellac, allowing each to dry in between. (Less is more in this case). A final buffing is done with carnauba or Bri-wax and the piece is complete.

Eli believes that turning should be easy and enjoyable. He is a humble man who truly wants to pass on his love of wood and has much to share. He is very appreciative of the opportunities he has had and wants to give some of that back to those he comes in contact with. Even though we see him as a teacher, he related with a smile that he learns as much from his students as he gives to them. Over the three days that he was here, he was quite the task master allowing only 15 minutes for lunch and keeping us in class until 7pm each night. It did provide us with a lot of information and practice. Eli even left us with homework; go home and make shavings.

You can see his work at: www.avisera.co.il or at www.delmano.com

Photo of Eli Avisera and Jean-Francois Escoulen (Sept. 2005)



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Minutes of the Chicago Woodturners Club Meeting on April 11, 2006

President Paul Shotola opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. The usual house and safety rules were described.

The next guest demonstrator is Trent Bosch on May 6. Come and see this dynamic turner and his many unique pieces. Bonnie Klein will be here on 9/10.

Paul Shotola detailed the procedure for scheduling, paying and attending the hands-on classes to relieve Binh Pho and our treasurer of the task of tracking down attendees.

Library News: Grant Barlow has many back copies of wood turning magazines. **Anyone who has tools or other library items, PLEASE return them.**

AAW Symposium is in Louisville, KY on June 22-24. Plan to be there with us. There will be 5 Oneway 2436 lathes given away, great demonstrations, fine companionship and the pleasure of participating in the Youth Workshops. Email or call Paul Shotola to volunteer. **Also bring a Christmas ornament to be donated to the Children’s Hospital** charity that will be collected by the AAW.

Collaborative Coordinator Dick Stone and Jon Keith reviewed the list of turners and their assignments. **All pieces should be brought to the May meeting** so final assembly can begin. They also had the project as it exists so far at the meeting. Looks great!

Raffle was conducted by **Wayne Bernahl**. He had very fine pieces of walnut, a small bowl gouge, several XL paper lab coats, and some sanding sleeves.

The April Challenge is also upon us: 6” x 6” x 2”. Some very clever pieces were submitted.

For your Calendar: The CWT picnic is on 9/23/06 at the Rader Ranch. Come one, come all. Bring a dish to share. More to come.

The gallery was reviewed by the team of Glenn McMurray and his daughter Katie. He had a nice collection of gallery items of various designs, with a lot of walnut pieces. Good insight and feedback from an expert turner and an art gallery expert.

The demonstration was performed by Darrell Rader. He showed the techniques and variety for turning Christmas tree ornaments. A good demonstration, Darrell, and timely too!

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Cavanagh

CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY
Dave Forney
Mariano Martinez
Chuck Young

Demonstrator for May-June-July 2006

Meeting Demonstrators

May 9th	Steve Sinner	Miniature Goblets
June 13th	Chuck Young	Surface Treatments
July 11th	Tom Waicekaskas	High Speed Air Turbine Carving

See Phil Brooks to sign up to be a demonstrator.

WEEKEND MASTER TURNER DEMO SCHEDULE

May 6	Trent Bosch, one day demo, turner/sculptor from Colorado, see website for detail www.trentbosch.com
May 8-9	Two day hand-on class, hollow turning and carving/texturing technique Class fee: \$200
June 4	Bert Marsh, one day demo, tuner/artist thinwall vessels. Last US demo.
June 5-6	Two days hand-on class
August 19	Bihn Pho, One day demo, turner/artist thinwall vessels, airbrush and piercing.
August 20	One day hands-on class, airbrush and piercing no turning Class fee \$100
September 9	Bonnie Klein, One day demo turner/artist miniatures, tops and accents.
September 10-11	Two day hands-on class, Class fee \$210

To register for Hands-on Classes contact Jan Shotola at

Eli Aversa Hands-on



CLASSIFIEDS

AS THE WOOD TURNS

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