



**As The Wood Turns Internet Version**

**September 2004**



**CWTC Meeting 7 PM Second  
Tuesday of each month**

**Location: Woodcraft  
Supply Store, 1280 E.  
Dundee Rd, Palatine  
IL  
847-774-1186**

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Curls From the President's Platter  
By Paul Shotola

Some of my recent columns have discussed the Art vs. Craft debate. Last month I attended the American Craft Exhibit in Evanston, and the work on display changed my opinions on this debate. Craft is Art. There. I said it, so it must be so. That's right, hand crafted objects are Art with a capital "A". The exhibition hall was filled with work that was crafted by the artist, one piece at a time, and the work was definitely Art.

The artists displaying their work ranged from jewelry makers, potters, glass artists and furniture makers to, yes, even woodturners. **David Nittman, Cindy Drozda, Mathew Hatala,** and **Michael Mode** displayed wood turnings that were truly works of art. All of their work was by hand, and it was all made one piece at a time. That's the artistic part.

None of these turners (or the other artists exhibiting) used molds to replicate their work. No CNC machines to crank out a thousand "Basket Illusions". No factory staffed with painters to do the background while waiting for "the Painter of Light" to arrive in a limo and add 2 brush strokes to make it a signature piece. Every piece bore the makers mark, their individual mark. **Karen Simmons** works with hand made paper. Yes, paper, and she makes vessels and bowls that are organic, beautiful and finely crafted, and her fingerprints are visible on the surface. Is that craft? Is it art? You better believe it.

This raises the obvious question: Is your work art? To be art as well as craft, our work must be fresh, original. (The definition of "original" is too complex for this column, but check back next month) Art must tell a story and set a mood in our minds. The artist's goal is to take us to the place where he or she once stood. When craft can tell a story, it becomes art. When art is hand made, it is craft. When your work takes the viewer to a place that only you have been, that is art, art with a capital "A".

Until October, make your work tell your story, question my opinions, turn lots, and please, turn safely.

Paul Shotola

Email address:

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## **Weekend Master Turner Demo Schedule**

**David Ellsworth — October 30-31**

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## **Meeting Demonstrators 2004**

**October — Rich Bohr**

3M's Abrasives

**November — Paul Pyrcik**

Banksia Pod Ornament

See **Fran Islin** to sign up to be a demonstrator.

## John Jordan, Master Turner, Seminar

It is a rare occurrence to find a seminar that is both educational and entertaining. John Jordan has the knowledge, skill and wit to provide both.

On the weekend of September 12th and 13th, the Chicago Woodturners had the privilege of witnessing John's talent first hand.

John is an internationally known woodturner, having taught in eight countries and throughout the US. His work is presented in numerous museums, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian as well as museums in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, Atlanta and Nashville. One of John's pieces is on permanent display at the White House.

Although John is an expert turner, he is best known for his hand carving and texturing of his turnings. His seminar started by turning a face grain hollow form vessel from green wood; showing various techniques of tool manipulation, both externally and internally, to receive optimum results. He discussed the grain characteristics of wood and explained how to cut blanks to receive different grain patterns.

One subject that is often covered, but rarely explained adequately, is the nature of wood drying, and the causes for wood shrinking and cracking. John's basic, but thorough, discussion was most helpful to those of us struggling with this very important subject.

The latter part of the seminar was devoted to the demonstration and discussion of various carving and texturing tools and techniques that John uses. Even our most experienced turners went away with a new appreciation and understanding of this exciting and challenging chapter in woodturning.

Those of you that missed the seminar may want to consider ordering John's video or DVD from [www.johnjordanwoodturning.com](http://www.johnjordanwoodturning.com). It is 158 minutes of woodturning education and is priced at \$39.95

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## Minutes of the September, 2004 CWT Meeting by Paul Cavanagh

President **Paul Shotola** opened the meeting at 7 pm and explained the usual house and safety rules. Paul also mentioned that he has moved: his new phone number is 847 412-9781.

Want a new big Delta lathe, free? Just join or renew your membership in the AAW and your name will be entered in a drawing. The winner's club also gets a lathe so

be sure to mention that you belong to Chicago Woodturners when you win!

The AAW just announced the 2005 Collaborative Challenge rules: any size that will be accepted by UPS shipping. Entry categories are Technical, Artistic, and Fantasy and all participating club turners must be listed on the object or a plaque nearby. Put your creative thinking caps on, ladies and gentlemen, and bring forth your great ideas for a CWT entry that will blow them away in Kansas, Toto!

The CWT Picnic will be held on Sept 18 at Rader's Ranch. Starting time is 10 am. Bring a dish to share your favorite recipe. Also bring some turning tools to make some curls.

### **Library News**

**Lee and Dodie Baumgarten** donated three books from their library to ours. Thank you Lee and Dodie! **Dick Sing** donated his book, *Pen Turning*. Thank you Dick! **John Crissman** acquired some books: *500 Wood Bowls*, an old translated text, *Woodturning*, and *Turning Goblets*. The weekend guest demonstrator, **John Jordon**, donated his latest video to our library. Thank you, John!

The next guest demonstrator will be **David Ellsworth** for a two-day seminar on Oct 30-31, 2004. Don't miss it!

**Don Manz** is in the hospital for exploratory surgery on 9/15/04. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Don.

Anyone who is interested in doing a demonstration of any aspect of woodturning or related areas, such as carving, finishing, decorating, etc., please contact VP **Fran Iselin**. No experience necessary.

The raffle this month was conducted by **Andy Kuby** and **Homer Shrimp**: Burl pieces donated by **Binh Pho**, Rockler gift certificates, and some cabinets and wire shelving donated by **Oliver Beutner**.

The Club Challenge Coordinator, **Darrell Rader**, reminded us that the November challenge is: "Naturally So". There are no rules so get those creative juices flowing and submit a piece to be judged by your peers. First prize is \$30; second is \$20; third is \$10.

The gallery was then reviewed by guest demonstrator **John Jordon**. We all learned something from his insights.

The demonstration was also performed by John Jordon. He turned a hollow form and described his techniques for ensuring a smooth interior and consistent wall thickness without using a laser system. Thanks, John.

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