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Craft, Technology,
and Tradition.



The Monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners September 2016

Headline News

Changes to the Gallery Review

Starting with the September 13th meeting we will have two tables, one table for the gallery review and one to present work without review. Please only bring one of your pieces to be reviewed. Items for review include unfinished objects that might require some advice to finish, completed pieces whether single artist or collaborative.

Always remember that the purpose of review is to help and inspire, never to denigrate.

SOFA Returns in November

SOFA (Sculptural Objects and Functional Art and Design) returns November 3-6. Plan to support our club by volunteering to help setup, tear down, populate our booth or do a demo. Watch this space or attend the September meeting for details.

Holiday Gathering Planning Begins

The December CWT meeting is traditionally our annual holiday gathering. This year we will once again be meeting at the Fox Run Golf Links in Schaumburg, IL (the same place as last year). We intend to keep the costs similar to what we did last year, however as of this writing, that has not been finalized. Marie Anderson has agreed to head up the committee to organize this event again. Anyone interested in assisting with this event, please see Marie at the September meeting. At this time, by popular demand we will continue the grab bag gift exchange so you should all start working on something you would like to give/receive for this exchange. The minimum value should be \$15/person. If you bring something, you will take something home. Anyone who has items that would like to donate for door prizes, please bring them to any of the next 3 meetings.





**President
Al Miotke**

SOFA (Sculptural Objects and Functional Art and Design) is coming in November.

Plan now to come out and support this world class exhibition and show.

Presidents Curls

It's hard to believe that the summer is slipping away and fall temperatures will be here soon. It has been a good summer with a successful Turn-On! Chicago behind us and an enjoyable 3 days of hands on classes with Mark Sfirri. Now it's time to start thinking about the fall and we already have a number of activities planned. We will talk about them during the September meeting.

The SOFA show (Sculptural Objects and Functional Art and Design) will be at Navy Pier from Nov 3-6 and we will again have a complimentary booth so we can do demonstrations for attendees of the show. In past years it has been very popular and we have been able to expose thousands of people to woodturning. During the September meeting we will be signing up volunteers to help run the booth as well as people that are interested in doing 45-60 minute demonstrations.

We will also finalize the details for our first formal 3 day training class for new turners. I am excited about this program. It's an excellent way to jump start a positive turning experience for those in our club that are new to woodturning. Helping each other to improve is one of primary reasons that we come together every month and woodturning is so much more fun when you have the basic skills to proceed on your own and increase your turning skills. If you are new to turning, take a class or find a mentor. You will be glad you did.

Don't forget that we are closing nominations for both Vice President and Treasurer at the September meeting. If you are interested in making a contribution on the board, let your interest be known at the September meeting.

During an August board meeting, we discussed making a few changes to the gallery review. We will discuss the proposal at the upcoming meeting but there are two key changes to mention. Although we encourage members to bring in as many pieces as you want, we are going to ask you to select just one piece for discussion during the review. This will help to control the time spent on the gallery review. We also want to shorten the gallery review by 15 minutes so we can lengthen the demonstration. Quite often we find that the demonstrator is not able to finish or there is no time for a good Q&A. We will start this in September.

See you at the next meeting.

Alan J Miotke

Minutes of August 2016 Meeting**Marie Anderson**

Al Miotke called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Al announced that Roberto Ferrer will critique the instant gallery this evening and Mark Dryer will demonstrate casting Pens. Mark has presented this demonstration for several clubs and was a demonstrator in Atlanta for the AAW this year.

Al thanked everyone for their volunteer efforts for TOC 2016 and shared with the group some of the attendee survey results. This year we had the best results from this survey that we have ever had with an overall opinion rated high at 4.9 satisfaction and the worst was 4.2 (out of possible 5). Everyone seemed to like the auction venue and we raised \$16,700 for educational funds. Al reviewed a few more points, and the general consensus was all very positive. Thank you all again for your commitment to making this the best symposium CWT has every hosted.

Immediately following TOC, we held hands on classes with Mark Sfirri. Al stated that this class was “the most fun I have ever had in a class!” This class covered the basics of multi axis turning and each of the attendees went home with several finished projects.

Our next guest demonstrator will be Mike Mahoney in September. Mike will hold hands on classes on September 26-28 at NORMAC and there will be a special night time demonstration on September 27th at CLA. Due to scheduling issues, Mike’s club demonstration will be held on Tuesday evening in our typical meeting room and will be well worth the time spent. Mike is a master bowl turner known for his nesting bowls. Don’t miss this rare night demonstration.

Scott Barrett announced that long time club member Carole Floate is selling much of her equipment, tools and wood. She has several lathes, bandsaws, lots of dry wood. If you are interested in getting a list of some of the items she has for sale, send Scott an email at info@chicagowoodturners.com with the subject showing Carole Floate. Scott will forward the list and contact information for you to deal directly with Carole on this sale. Carole also has many rough turned bowls that she has donated to the club for us to finish turn for the empty bowls project. Please consider finishing one or more of these bowls for this worthy cause.

Al announced the American Craft Exhibition will be held at the Chicago Botanical Gardens on September 23-25th. This show benefits cervical cancer research and there are many exhibits that will spur your creative juices. Don’t miss it!

CWT will once again host the woodturning demonstration area at SOFA this year. The show dates are November 4-6 and we are looking for volunteers to help move, set up, assist, demonstrate and clean up for this event. Please consider volunteering for this CWT event.

CWT elections for VP and Treasurer will be held in November. The nominations will close in September. Currently, both Don McCloskey and Matt Schmitz are willing to run for another term however it would be nice to have more than one candidate for these positions. If you are interested in running or have someone you would like to nominate for either of these positions, please contact Al.

Darrell Rader discussed the educational committee has been working on a beginners turning class. The syllabus is complete and there is a signup sheet going around this evening for the class as well as for mentors. As previously announced, the classes will be all day long and held on October 8, 15 and 22nd (3 consecutive Saturdays). Each class will build on the skills learned the previous week so attendance at all sessions is necessary. The classes will be held at NOR-

(Continued on page 11)

CWT News

Raffle

Mary Olsen and Marty Knapp

August Winners

The raffle was conducted by Paul Shotola.

The winners of the various items offered were Don Hamm, Paul Pycik, Frank Magnifico and Roberto Ferrer. Unfortunately, we did not make a note of who won what. Nonetheless all the winners expressed themselves as satisfied with their prizes.

Next Month's Items

Come out to the meeting and see for yourself

Raffle proceeds: Your editor failed to make note of the actual amount.

Membership report

Julie and Roger Basrak

Membership in Chicago Woodturners now stands at 159 members. At our July meeting we welcomed Sol Anfuso from Palatine, and Maria Kosari from Buffalo Grove. Our August meeting was attended by 61 members. Our newest members who joined at the August meeting include Cary Nowacki (who will turn 13 on Sept. 12), his parents Brooke Marler and Mike Nowacki (all from Chicago), and Lew Moeller from Northbrook. We're so happy to welcome you to Chicago Woodturners!

We also had several guests at our August meeting, including Ronald Baker from Highland, Indiana! Thanks for visiting us, Ron. We're glad you found us! Our other guests were Grant Stevens (Clint & Sherri's son) and Phil Brooks, visiting from California.

Your CWT dues are still one of the best bargains around at \$25.00 for an individual member and \$35.00 for a family membership for an entire year. If you come to only 2 demonstrations in a year, the money you save has paid for your membership. Remember, there are mentoring sessions prior to all meetings (except the December meeting), and gallery reviews and demonstrations at the first eleven meetings each year, as well.

Dues can be paid at the meetings or by check made payable to Chicago Woodturners and mailed to:

**Julie Basrak
563 W. Ruhl Rd.
Palatine, IL 60074**

Thank you for your cooperation

TurnOn Chicago! 2016, Preliminary Report

Al Miotke

Turn on Chicago is History.

Turn-On! Chicago 2016 will go into the history books as an undeniable success. We had a group of demonstrators that rivaled any regional symposium. We had a group of volunteers that manned the video equipment, and helped with dozens of tasks that were necessary to make the event so enjoyable for everyone who attended. Below are a few photos to help us remember this fantastic event. 2018 will be here sooner than we think!



Mark Dreyer demonstrates Pen Making on the Lathe**Paul Rosen**

Our demonstrator for August was Mark Dreyer. You may remember Mark from his prior demo describing his drive to Las Vegas to take a wood turning course from Jimmy Clewes; but tonight was all about pens. Mark has been turning pens for 20 years. He is self-taught, and candidly admits to having made “a ton of mistakes” along the way. Suffice it to say that he’s tried almost everything once, and with two decades of experience he’s pretty sophisticated at what he does. Mark makes pens not only from hardwood and acrylic off-the-shelf blanks, but also from his own acrylic castings. His castings include a variety of imbedded objects, including a bent penny, the Marine Corps logo, and computer circuit boards. He also uses pheasant feathers, deer antler, snake skin, and coffee beans. He even makes an Eddie van Halen guitar pen! What we heard this evening was actually a condensed version of the same demo Mark delivered at the recent AAW annual symposium in Atlanta.

Mark gets his base pen kits from Craft Supplies, Penn State (Vertex Supreme model), and Rockler. He makes and sells about 300 pens each year. Mark considers himself a “pen maker” rather than a pen turner, as he seeks to differentiate his work from run-of-the-mill turned pens. Part of the originality is in the shape of his pens. Rather than making his turned blanks straight and flush with the metal parts of the pen, he likes instead to have a curve, or something to look at, at these junctures. He also experiments - using different colored dyes and bleaching of his wooden pens. But his most elaborate creativity is devoted to the acrylic castings and items included within the castings.

So where do you start? Choose a blank. Hardwood is better than soft woods for the beginner. Kingwood, wenge, black palm, and cocobolo are good choices for pens. Measure the brass blank that comes with your pen kit, and use a drill bit of the proper diameter for the brass cylinders. (Special metric and imperial bits for drilling pen blanks are available, to make certain that the hole you drill will fit the brass cylinders precisely.) It’s best to use a jig on a drill press, to make certain that the wooden blank is held perfectly straight and perpendicular to the table of the drill press. And here’s a tip: don’t drill all the way through. Set the depth of cut on the drill press so the bit stops about 1/16-inch shy of the deep end. This avoids blow out on the deep end of the wood blank. You can cut the blank to final length later, on the band saw.



Mark likes to make his blanks in batches, so he uses 5-minute epoxy to bind the brass blanks to the wood, and then sets them on cookie sheets. After the glue dries, he uses a pen mill to square the ends of his wooden blanks. For acrylic pens, Mark suggests painting the inside of the blank before gluing the tubes in. During the demo Mark showed multiple pens with both black and white painted insides that greatly affects the final color of the pen. Then he sands the two ends flush with the metal insert. Once the blanks are prepared, they are mounted between centers on a mandrel that includes bushings that fit precisely into each end of the blank. Mark emphasizes that sharp tools are a must. While Mark likes the Easy Wood carbide tools, he’ll use his traditional gouges with a 50-degree grind for wood. For acrylics, he also uses a swept-back 40-degree grind. He likes the 13 mm Sorby gouges. Mark emphasized that the pressure on the tool is always side-to-side, never “in.” How fast does he turn? “As fast as he can go.” (Shades of Jimmy Clewes.) The relatively low mass of a pen blank means you can use a high rpm—about 2500, even on a relatively light-weight mini-lathe.

(Continued on page 7)

Mark Dreyer Pen Making on the Lathe, continued**Paul Rosen***(Continued from page 6)*

When it comes to acrylic, Mark does not use a standard turning technique. Traditional bevel rubbing will only chip these blanks. Using a skew is the way to go, but this takes a lot of time to master. Mark demoed a technique where he turned a full blank with only a point of the gouge. Shavings came off in perfect ribbons, with no chip out. The whole blank can be turned in only a few passes, and the first “sanding” was done with a sheer scraping technique. Fast and efficient. The key to the technique is about 80% of the work is done before the tool touches the blank. An aggressive 40 degree swept back grind is applied to the tool. Then it’s your body position and the tool being introduced to the blank on the corner and at a 45 degree angle. The result is a peeling of the blank with a pure cut rather than a scrape.

Once the tooling is done, it’s time to sand and finish. Mark admits candidly that when he first started it was not uncommon to start with 80-grit sandpaper (a techniques he still uses on inlay blanks). When it comes to a final finish on wood Mark always evaluates the wood and understands there are different finishes for different woods. While most swear by super glue, he will use anything from lacquer, to poly, to Wood Turners Finish or Pen Turners Finish. Mark demoed a storyboard with 14 different finishes on two different types of wood. A Superglue finish can be used, but it’s not good on oily woods like cocobolo because it fogs up. He also likes to use the Beall buffing/polishing system.

While Mark does make wooden pens, most of his output is with acrylic pens. For acrylic castings, Mark uses a pressure pot. You can get these at Harbor Freight; they look like an oversized gray paint can with heavy clamps at the top. Mark demoed using a casting mold to fit the tubes to the mold and then uses Silmar-41 as his resin. Mark displayed over two dozen pens with homemade castings from postage stamps to a penny.

For many of us, turning pens is one of our first forays into wood turning. So it’s nice to know we have a resident expert like Mark when questions come up. Mark also teaches pen turning in his own studio and is generally available to help out or mentor. So whether you’re a beginner or an experienced pen turner, Mark is a valuable in-house resource willing to help you become a better pen turner.



Navaho Border Patterns For Segmented Turning Feature Ring

Bill Kandler

Editor's Note: This information as well as the formatting is provided by More Woodturning Magazine. Please visit their web site: www.morewoodturningmagazine.com.

This spring, I got to thinking about doing a Navaho border pattern for a new project. I started playing with the cutting angle and make up of the diamond, the width of the slice, and the size of the saw kerf. In doing so, I came to realize that there's an awful lot of variability in the result that comes from being able to change each one of these items. So many were the variations, and the results differed so much from the starting point, that I came to the decision that I needed to put together a model of the process. A model so I could see what was going on. And, when you have a model, you get to make the rules. Did I say rules? No, I meant to say no rules. The border pattern is usually made with a double border. But what would it look like with a single border or a three-part border? Wow! Here are four examples to show what I mean:

Starting Diamond Sliced Result

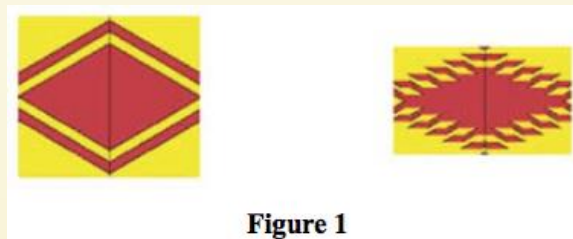


Figure 1

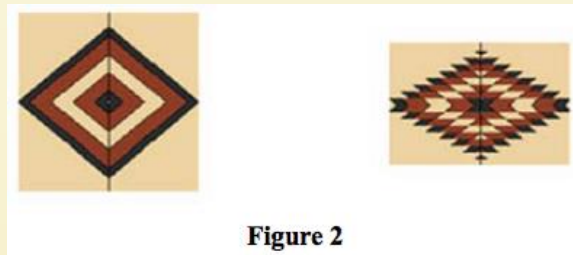


Figure 2

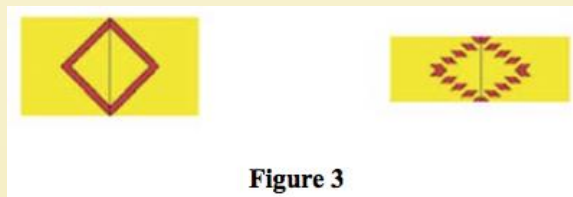


Figure 3

Figure 1 is a 30 degree diamond with a double border. The slices, 1/8" thick, are cut with a bandsaw. It results in a kind of snowflake appearance because the inner border color matches the surrounding material. Figure 2 is a 40 degree diamond with no distinct borders; just color and contrast. Again the slices are 1/8" thick and cut with a bandsaw. The result is truly wild. Figures 3 and 4 are 45 degree diamonds with a single border. The border is narrow in Figure 3, 1/8", while it's 1/4" in Figure 4. So, how does one go about constructing such complex segments? Read on...

Start by assembling the lamination board. For this step it is important to mill all the stock to the same width, which makes it much easier to get everything lined up. The first wood is the middle, which is then flanked on either side by the next wood, which is then flanked on either side by the next wood, and so on. You should end up with something that looks like this:

(Continued on page 9)

Navaho Border Patterns , Continued

Bill Kandler

(Continued from page 8)

Now set up your saw for making cuts at the angle specified in your design. For this one, it's 30 degrees. Also set up a stop block so that all the strips will be cut at the same width. And, be sure the saw blade is 'dead on' vertical. The lamination board needs to be as long as needed for the strips plus some extra for safe handling during the sawing operation. After sawing, you now have this assembly of pieces:



Now take alternating strips and turn them over (left to right or right to left) and you have the Diamond pattern shown below. At the least, you now need to glue the strips into pairs. But for safety in processing, it's a good idea to then assemble the pairs together temporarily using hot melt glue or an equivalent. Do this against a straight edge so you can be sure that all the points line up. If they don't, you won't be able to get the points to line up in the ring you later construct from the Diamonds.



Now you have a set of ZigZags from which you make Diamonds. But first trim off any excess material from the top and bottom of the design.

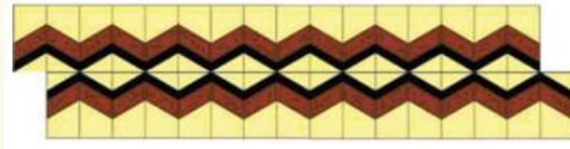


Now locate the exact center (vertical) of the design and cut the entire assembly into two horizontal halves and slide the top/bottom to the left/right to reveal the diamond pattern. Phew!

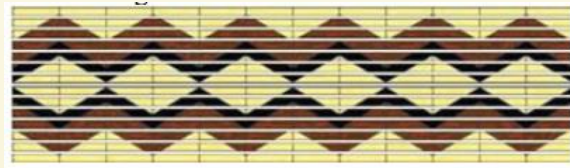
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Navaho Border Patterns , Continued**Bill Kandler***(Continued from page 9)*

Now we can finally start slicing.

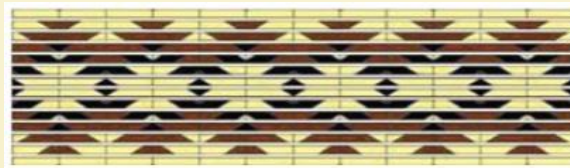


Set up your slicing situation with a sawing fence with the appropriate spacing between the fence and the saw blade. Starting from the center of each half, slice away until you have exhausted the stock. Do this for both the top and bottom halves. Oh!, and keep track of which slice goes where.



Now, flip each slice over, top-to-bottom.

Last step! Carefully glue all the slices together, taking care to keep the pieces vertically aligned. One way to do this is to clamp blocks across the ends of the slices. This will keep things from moving around as you clamp along the strips. You can't use too many clamps for this activity. With a good slicing blade and really hefty clamping pressure, you'll find that there is no need to sand the slices before gluing.



All that's left to do now is make the pieces into segments. That's likely a two step process as you first need to break the glue-up down into segment blocks and then make the miter cuts. The trick here is to be sure that you make the miter cuts so that the two halves of each Diamond unit are identical. Otherwise you won't be able to get the points to line up in the ring. Now, you're almost ready to go off and try this out for yourself. And to make sure you really can, and do it easily, I've created a new designer as a Plug-In for my Segmented Project Planner that does it all with Diamond design, slicing, and detailed construction instructions (you just read them). Want to slice something else? Well, there's also a pure Slicing designer, as well, that helps you to slice virtually anything you can construct.

About the Author:

Bill Kandler is an accomplished segmented turner and designer of some Segmented Turning software program. For more information contact:

Bill Kandler

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August Meeting Minutes, Continued

Marie Anderson

(Continued from page 3)

MAC in Geneva, IL and there will be 9 slots available. In order to be fair, names will be selected through a drawing.

Darrell also announced that the AAW board positions are also up for election. There are several candidates that he passed along recommendations on including Molly Winton, Greg Schramek and one other (sorry I could not hear this one). This is your organization, if you want to have a hand in how the AAW moves forward into the next few years, take the time to get your membership renewed today and VOTE!

Safety officer Frank Pagura brought in several types of air helmets to demonstration and critique. The main key is that you should use dust protection when turning and these helmets are a good option. There was some discussion about the various types of helmets and what you want from a dust collection system and helmet. The Trend Helmet air helmet is very noisy (it has ear plugs. The cost is around \$425 and the batteries supposedly do very well. The Trend has a few quirks, such as you cannot turn it on if you are wearing it. However it takes out 98% of 0.6 particles while in use. Roger Basrak commented that he has one too and says even with 2 dust collection systems he still sees particles in the filter so this shows that there is plenty of reasons to use dust collection systems. All of these particles would have been in your lungs! At the very least, it is recommended that you use a 10/95 dust mask whenever you are turning. Frank's ending comments, protect your lungs, you only have 2!

Roger Basrak gave the membership update: 59 members in attendance tonight. There are 155 paid members for 2016 and tonight we have 4 guests.

Paul Shotola handled the raffle this evening. Our raffle winners were Don Hamm, Paul Pycik, Frank Magnifico and Roberto Ferrer.

It was announced that the DuPage woodworkers will hold their annual auction at St. James Church in Glen Ellyn on August 13th at 9:30am. This is an excellent opportunity to pick up some early holiday gifts for the woodworker in your house!

Marie Anderson announced that the AAW is currently offering 60 day trial memberships for anyone who would like to see what the organization is all about. This allows you access to their website and all the resources you may find there including the video and book critiques. The AAW has taken time to review and rate videos on the web which should help you to view videos that will offer the best turning techniques rather than giving you bad information. Check this out!

The Gallery was critiqued by Roberto and the demonstration was given by Mark Dryer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Anderson, Secretary

2015 Meeting Agenda

Month	Gallery Review	Demonstration
January	Roger Basrak	Ken Staggs— Tops
February	Dawn Herdon-Charles	Darrell Rader - Power Carving
March	Thomas Stegal	Don McCloskey - Celtic Knot Goblet
April	Clint Stevens	Bob Schultz—Turning Tulips
May	Bob Barberi	Al Miotke - Methods of Mounting a Bowl
June	Roberto Ferrer and Francisco Bauer	Marie Anderson - Making a Little Bell
July	Thomas Stegal	Bob Bergstrom
August	Roberto Ferrer	Mark Dryer—Pens
September	TBD	Jason Clark - Offset Turning
October	TBD	Don Johnson - Xmas Ornament
November	TBD	TBD

Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2015

President	Alan Miotke	847-297-4877	abmiotke@comcast.net	920 Sumac Lane	Mount Prospect, IL 60066
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Raffle Co-Chair	Mary Olson	(847) 397-1420	honeycup8@yahoo.com	2804 Mill Creek	Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Raffle Co-Chair	Marty Knapp	847 639-2468	sueknapp918@sbeglobal.net	601 Woodbine	Fox River Grove, IL 60021
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Safety	Frank Pagura	847 524-0231	fpagura@att.net	944 Wisconsin Lane	Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Audio & Video Co-Chair	Jerry Kuffel	847-895-1614	kuff@sbeglobal.net	532 Berkshire Ct.	Schaumburg, IL 60193
Audio & Video Co-Chair	Dawn Herndon-Charles	630-588-8431	dcharlesster@gmail.com	1545 Wiesbrook	Wheaton, IL 60189
Educational Committee	Darrell Rader	815-648-2197	d.rader@woodfineart.com	10703 Allendale Rd.,	Woodstock, IL 60098
Demonstrations	Rich Nye	630-406-1855	nyewoodturning@earthlink.net	40W257 Seavey	Batavia, IL 60510

Members Gallery of Items Critiqued at the August Meeting



Larry Herman



Ken Staggs



Frank Pigura



Stan Herman



Kurt Wolf-Klamn



Don Hamm



Mark Johansen



Scott Barrett



Cary Nowacki



Jason Clark



Paul Shotola



Jason Swanson



Mark Dreyer

Editor's Choice

Clint Stevens



Clint: I admire the craftsmanship and attention to detail that is reflected in your work. This object really did it for me.

You can agree or disagree with my choice. The fact that we live in a democracy does not change the fact that I am the editor.

For Sale, Trade, or Wanted

No items were presented this month. Look for wonderful bargains in future.

**Items of interest to woodturners for sale,
wanted, trade or free are welcome.
Non-commercial ads only, please.**

**Events of interest to woodturners are also welcome.
To place an ad, contact Terry McCammon
Terry.W.McCammon@gmail.com**

Events



Visit our website
chicagowoodturners.com

**Monthly Meetings
are held on the 2nd
Tuesday of each
month at:**

**Christian Liberty
Academy
502 W Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights,
IL
7:00-10:00 PM**

**Please join us
All are welcome.**

**Membership in the
Chicago Woodturners
is available to anyone
wishing to increase
their turning skills
through education,
discussion and
critique. Annual dues
are \$25.00 for a single
membership and
\$35.00 for a family.
Visit our website for
an application or
contact:**

Julie Basrak

**Membership
Chairman**

The Chicago Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Visit their website for more information.