



AS THE WOOD TURNS

*The Newsletter of the Chicago
Woodturners Club*

www.chicagowoodturners.com



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December 2006

CWT Holiday Party December 12th.

Our annual holiday party is a relaxed affair, with music, food, and plenty of camaraderie. Bring a dish to share, and the club will provide hot sandwiches and beverages. Instead of a gallery review, bring some of your favorite turnings to show (they can be your work or another artist's). We'll have some door prizes and a chance for everyone to socialize. Be sure to bring your spouse.

Jimmy Clewes

Demonstrating on January 27, 2007

Jimmy Clewes is one of the hottest tickets in woodturning these days, and the CWT is pleased to announce that he will be demonstrating for us on Saturday, January 27 at our meeting space at Woodcraft in Palatine. Jimmy is the author of three video presentations, the most recent being "Turn it Up", a 3 disc



DVD production. Jimmy is a featured presenter at the 2007 AAW Symposium in Portland, OR this year, and is in great demand as a demonstrator and instructor.



When asked what drives him, he shares, "My energy comes from those around me. When I can stir the creativity of one's mind, that for me is very satisfying. As with any art form, expres-

sion is only limited as one's mind and I want to 'raise the bar' and create an awareness of the art form that has been virtually unknown to most people."

Chicago is Jimmy's first stop in 2007, with a schedule that includes the AAW Symposium in Oregon, the Arrowmont school in April, numerous stops in the US and visits to New Zealand, Germany, Ireland and Belgium. A woodturner doesn't have a schedule like this because he is average. Plan to attend the demonstration and find out how much fun woodturning can be.

For more information on Jimmy Clewes, see page 7

Special points of interest:

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

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.

Member's Gallery



Don Derry shares his unique observations of the Members Gallery



Chuck Young
Maple Rosewood
Lacquered Ornament



Paul Pycik
Turned Ornaments



Ken Staggs
Maple with Tiger Eye Box



Ken Staggs
Drop Spindles Cocobolo,
Canary, Maple Whorls



Jim Wickersham
Spalted Maple Pen



Mark Johanson
Walnut Letter Opener



Duard Oxford
Cedar Potpourri Bowl



Roy Lindley
Walnut Acrylic Finish
Vase



Dan Anderson
Box Elder Inlaid
Box



Dan Anderson
Goblet



Dan Anderson
Walnut Inlaid Box



Marie Anderson
Apple Bowl

Member's Gallery



Phil Brooks
Redwood Burl Vase



Phil Brooks
Maple Burls



Marie Anderson
Spalted Maple Bowl



Marie Anderson
Candlestick



Marie Anderson
Spalted Maple Bowl
Before



Darrell Rader
Natural Edge Cherry Burl
Bowl



Darrell Rader
Walnut with Inlaid



Darrell Rader
Walnut with Pink Ivory
Final



Bill Brown
Walnut Platter and Forged
Stand



Bill Brown
Walnut Bowl with Burned
Foot



John Eslinger
Maple Vessel



John Eslinger
Ambrosia Maple Vessel



John Eslinger
Textured Walnut Bowl



Dennis Sullivan
Turning



Josh Connan
Aluminum Gear Shift

Current Membership 206*Andy Kuby**Membership Chairman***New member:** Hank Ezel, McHenry, Illinois**Visitor:** Duaine Heitpas, Libertyville, Illinois**We had 75 members at the
November meeting****Curls from the President's Platter
December, 2006**

Is it December already? How time does fly when you are too busy to catch your breath! Between SOFA Chicago, Freedom Pens, the Empty Bowls Project, a long-overdue CWT board meeting, an upcoming meeting to revamp the newsletter, a meeting to discuss a possible Chicago Symposium, and all those little things I call “my life”, I’ve hardly had a chance to stand at the lathe. I hope you’ve been able to squeeze out a little turning time. I plan to catch up in January, but without the catches. There, I made a woodturning joke. First ever, possibly.

At SOFA Chicago, I had a conversation with Mary Lacer, Assistant Executive Director of the American Association of Woodturners (long title, there, Mary), discussing our involvement with SOFA, and she made the statement that Chicago is known as a “very active chapter”. Very active. Coming from someone who has been with the AAW since its inception, I feel that this is high praise. Very active. I guess we are active, and very involved in the woodturning community. Chicago participates in many AAW and community programs, and it’s nice to be noticed, isn’t it? High praise, indeed.

Our club’s participation in these events is dependent upon your “personal participation”, and I realize that we all do what we can do, and jump in where we feel we can help. Not everyone loves the spotlight, not everyone wants to manage a project. Some folks are more comfortable behind the scenes, and folks, that’s ok. The end result is the same: the project gets completed, and we all benefit (either as a club or as part of the community), from the effort put forth.

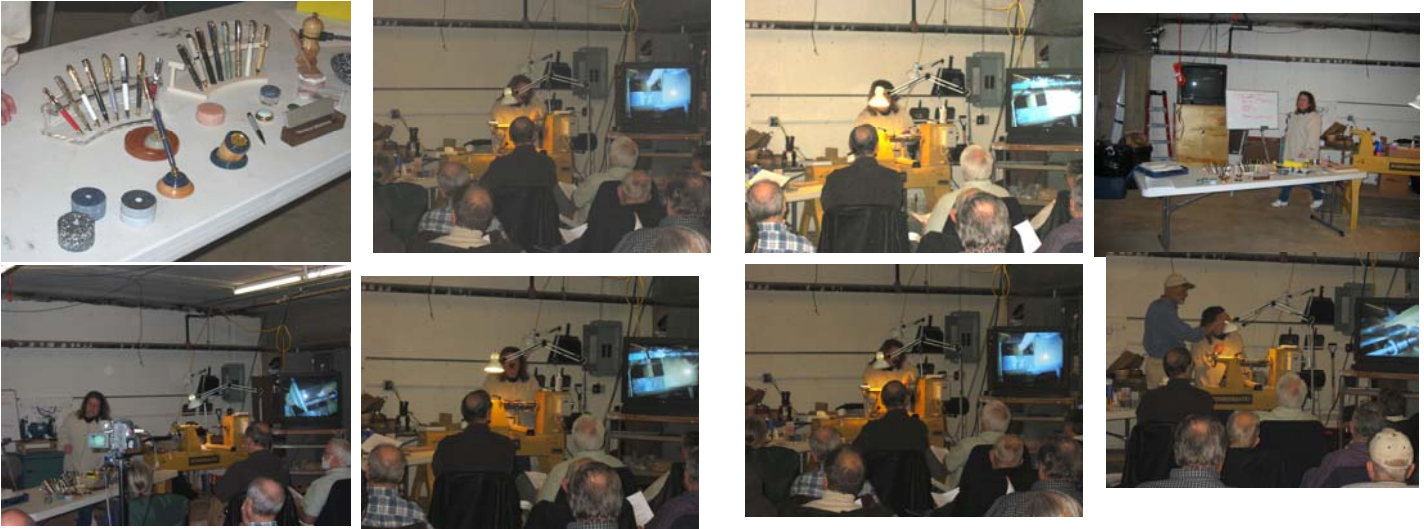
So, here we are in December, and I want to commend everyone for their help, guidance and participation in the Chicago Woodturners. Without you, there would not have been great demonstrations, a raffle to fund our projects, a gallery table full of inspiring work, lathes and equipment for teaching classes, contributions to charitable events, mentors and students working together, or any of the things that make the Chicago Woodturners an active and vital part of the woodturning community and a major and personally fulfilling part of what I call “my life”. Thank you.

Next month, we’ll talk about how you can increase your personal participation, and I promise there will be no catches. Until January, stand at the lathe to get those gifts completed, be proud of your CWT membership, and please turn safely.

Paul Shotola

PS: Get it? No catches.

Alice Call Our November Demonstrator Working with Solid Surface Material and Other Acrylics



There are several types of “plastics” to work with when turning. You can purchase these pen blanks at various turning stores and catalogues.

Tonight we are going to talk about gluing and turning solid surface material. Probably the best known is Corian. Corian is actually an acrylic and is no harder to cut and turn than a hard maple. The tools used are the same for wood. As with any material you are turning it is important to keep your tools sharp.

Corian Brand is an acrylic but another brand of SS named Avonite, has 3 compound mixtures, polyester, a combination of polyester and acrylic, and plain acrylic. Polyester is easily seen in SS when the entire piece is like brushed glass or contains chunks of glass like material.

Corian and other brands usually come in a 1/2” thick sheet. Very seldom is it ever made in 3/4” anymore. Most likely any SS over 1/2” thick you might have is either 15-20 years old or has been glued in one way or another. If glued properly most acrylic SS material can be glued without any seam showing.

This method of gluing originated from the book Pen Turner’s Workbook by Barry Gross

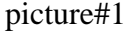
Most pen kits will do well with a blank that is 3/4” x 5 or 6 “ long.

1. Cut 2 blanks of Corian with the table saw or a band saw with small teeth to the measurement stated above.
2. You will be gluing the TOP sides together NOT the rough backs. Do not in any way sand these pieces! Depending on the brand the back will be either bumpy or a little rough.
3. You should have 4 or 5 good spring clamps ready. The denatured alcohol acts as an accelerator for the CA glue. You should also use gloves so you do not get glue all over your hands.
4. Use denatured alcohol and a paper towel to carefully clean your pieces.
5. Use medium CA glue on one side of the blank quickly rub the 2 sides together completely covering both pieces with glue
6. Immediately place both sides together and clamp with the spring clamps. Use enough clamps to clamp the entire length.
7. You can unclamp in 15-20 min but be careful of the drips of un-dried CA glue on the outside of the blank. FYI-- CA glue is meant to dry without any oxygen, that is why the outside stays wet for so long when the inside is dry.

I like to then cut the excess corian off to make the blank a 3/4” square.

Making a Slim line Pen out of Corian

I sure many of you already know how to make a pen so if some of this is remedial bear with me.

1. Cut your 1/2" corian into 1/2" square x 5" long blanks.
2. I then cut these into 2 equal pieces for drilling
3. We all know that it is important to secure your pen blank for drilling but it is even more important when your blanks are as small as 1/2" square.
4. I do not know of any better way of drilling pen blanks than a drill press
5. I purchased a drill press vice from Menards and modified it for drilling pen blanks.
6. You can use a 7mm drill bit or a 9/32" drill bit. Corian is heat sensitive so try to keep the drill bit clean. Withdraw the bit about every 1/4" to prevent it from becoming impacted. This can overheat your blank and rupture it.
7. It is also important to have the end of the blank sitting on a scrap piece of corian or wood. This prevents blowouts if the drill comes through the bottom of the blank.
8. It is best to leave you blank a little longer than needed. Another way to keep the bottom of the blank from rupturing.
9. I always use 5min epoxy to glue in the brass tubes. This is more flexible than CA glue and adheres to the brass and corian better.
10. Because it is difficult to drill the hole perfectly straight you must first make sure that the brass tubes are true with the corian.
11. This is usually done with a barrel trimmer. These do not work well with corian so I modified mine to work with my disc sander 
12. I also like to round over the edges with a belt sander before turning.
13. I start with a parting tool and take the edges down about 1/16" to 1/32" from the bushings
14. I use a large roughing gouge to remove the rest of the material down to the place I stopped with the parting tool. This added thickness helps keep the finished blank from cracking when assembling it.
15. I have a wonderful round 1/4" skew that I use to bring the ends down to the bushings.
16. Sand with 220 to smooth out the blank then 400 and 600. I use Novis plastic scratch remover and a soft paper towel and you are done! If you want you can use Micro Mesh cut in strips and wet to get an extra special finish. Sometimes this is more necessary on darker Solid Surface material
17. I like using corian for pens because once it is off the lathe the finish is done!

Chicago Wood Turners CD

We need copies either electronic or paper of articles or handouts by our members. This will be used to create a CWT cd of how to articles. Will also send the articles to our webmaster for members usage. Don McCloskey email:mccloskey@ameritech.net

Jimmy Clewes, continued from page 1:

Twenty years of wood turning and woodworking, along with a degree in Three Dimensional design have helped Jimmy become a demonstrator in demand in both the US and his native Britain. As a featured demonstrator in the UK, Jimmy developed the skills and teaching techniques to share his turning abilities in a way that is not just educational but thoroughly entertaining.



dyes and gold leaf.

Jimmy is the first to acknowledge that personal tutelage is by far the best way to learn. We are fortunate in Chicago that in addition to his demonstration, Jimmy will be hosting a two day hands-on class on January 25 and 26. The class is designed for intermediate to advanced turners, and will cover many subjects, from design and proportion to the use of hollowing tools and surface embellishment, including



Visit Jimmy's website at <http://www.jimmyclewes.com>. You can drive to Portland or fly to Ireland to learn from Jimmy, but your best bargain is to join us at his demo and classes in January. This is an investment in your turning education you will never regret, and promises to be as entertaining as it will be educational.

Past President's Challenge for January, 2007

- Challenge subject: "Salt and Pepper"
 - Rules: no rules, just be inspired by the subject.
 - One entry per person, please.
 - Cash prizes, winners determined by popular vote
- Judging at our January meeting

Freedom Pens November 11,2007



This year 285 pens were turned for our Service Members who are over sea's.
Next Year Lets Turn at Least 500 pens.
Join Us a Day of Turning and Fun.

Woodturning, Another Hit at SOFA

The thirteenth annual International Exposition of Sculptural Objects and Functional Arts, better known as "SOFA" was held at Navy Pier from November 9th through the 12th. It presented over 100 of the world's finest galleries, showing masterworks bridging decorative and fine art.

For the last three years, the Chicago Woodturners, in association with the Collectors of Wood Art, have sponsored professional woodturners giving day long demonstrations. Demonstrators this year included such well known names as John Jordan, Binh Pho, Steve Sinner, Christian Burchard, Paul Fennell, Don Derry, David Nittmann, Art Liestman, Liam Flynn, Chad Awalt, Tania Rada and Mark Bressler. It was a great opportunity to see an outstanding group of world class turners. Those who saw the demonstrations will surely be looking forward to it next year. For those who missed this event, I highly recommend it for next year.

I would like to give a special thanks to Steve Sinner, Andy Kuby, Clint Stevens, Paul Shotola and Chuck Young for helping in the setup and teardown as well as working in our booth. Others who helped in the booth were Paul Cavanagh, Marie Anderson, Darrell Rader, Bob Barbieri, Wayne Bernahl, Tom Waicekausekas, Jim DeRoche and Alice Call. Thanks to all that helped.

Phil Brooks
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2007 Guest Demonstrator Schedule

Binh Pho has arranged a great schedule of demonstrators for 2007. All of these demonstrators are internationally known for their expertise as turners, artists and educators. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend these exciting, educational and entertaining demonstrations.

Jimmy Clewes: Teacher and demonstrator from England.

- *Hands-on class: January 25-26. 170.00*
- *Club demonstration: January 27.*

Mark St. Leger: AAW demonstrator and artist from Virginia.

- *Club demonstration: March 11.*
- *Hands-on class: March 12-13 \$170.00*

Michael Mocho: Teacher and artist from New Mexico.

- *Club demonstration: April 21.*
- *Hands-on class: April 23-24. \$170.00*

Marilyn Campbell: Turner and sculptor from Canada.

- *Club demonstration: September 8.*
- *Hands-on class: September 10-11. \$200.00*

Hans Weissflog, AAW demonstrator from Germany.

- *Club demonstration: November 4.*
 - *Hands-on class: November 5. \$110.00*
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Registration begins on December 15, with class spots filled on a first come, first served basis. Class size is limited to six students. Email or call Jan Shotola to make your reservation. A \$50.00 deposit is required to hold a class spot, and checks can be mailed after you have registered. Contact Jan at: 847-412-9781 or p.shotola@comcast.net. Checks can be mailed to: 1865 Western Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062.