



# As the Wood Turns

The monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners



"Celebrating our 21st year as a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners"

## December Highlights:

- The Wood Show, page 2
- December Holiday Meeting, page 5
- Segmented Symposium, page 8



## CWT Holiday Party



Our annual Holiday Party will feature Indigo Jazz, the elite vocal group from Palatine High School. Indigo Jazz has entertained our membership the past two years, and we're pleased to bring them back for another visit.

Under the direction of Steve Sivak, this elite choir is comprised of

some of the finest singers and musicians at Palatine High School. It's an all-volunteer choir, rehearsing before and after their regular classes. Last year they

"I'm a Lumberjack and I'm OK," an homage to the CWT membership. In 2006, the group, not knowing what woodturning might be, nicknamed us the "Lumberjacks."



Indigo Jazz in 2007, disguised as "Lumberjacks"

performed a program of traditional Holiday songs, jazz influenced modern works and a rousing rendition of the Monty Python classic:

Join us in December to see and hear what new surprises they have planned for the CWT.

See page 5 for details on our Holiday Party.

## Next Meeting:

December 9, 2008

7:00PM

Woodcraft Supply

1280 E. Dundee Rd.

Palatine, IL

847-776-1184

## Tom Waiscekauskas Photography Demo

Clint Stevens

When it comes to photography, are you an Ansel Adams, or more of an Ed Wood?\* Our fellow turner, Tom Waiscekauskas gave us some serious clues at the November CWT meeting on how to improve our turning photographs. Tom's a good one to learn from, as he has been one

of our chapter's photographers for a long time and has even made *my* turnings look good.

Tom introduced us to the photo light tent. The tent's diffusion gives the area a uniform light. This rids your photos of shadows and eliminates glare. Along with the tent, a light source is necessary. This is usually two lamps placed on the outside of the tent.

The photo light tent can be had one of two ways: buy one or build one. If you buy one, be sure that it's

large enough to hold your turnings. The club's cube is about 30 inches on each side. A quality tent can be had at most camera shops, but expect to spend \$50.00 or more. Tom says that he caught a perfectly good tent on eBay for \$15.

Would you prefer to build one? You will need PVC pipe, connectors, and nylon, cotton or muslin cloth to stretch over the frame. The connectors need to be three leg, and that can be a bit tough to find. Tom got



(Continued on page 6)

## Regular Features:

- Committee Reports, pages 2, 3 & 4
- Members' Gallery, pages 6 & 7
- Calendar, page 8

## Curls From the President's Platter

I mentioned in our October club meeting that I planned on offering a beginning woodturning course starting early next year. The classes will be limited to six students and a nominal fee will be charged to cover expenses.

I'd like to take a few minutes to discuss my basic philosophy on teaching woodturning.

First of all, I believe that successful woodturning can be broken down into the following five basic categories:

1. How to hold the work piece for turning,
2. Which tool is the best (or at least a good choice) to use for a given task,
3. How to correctly use each tool,
4. How to sharpen these tools,

5. How to do all of the other tasks safely.

Secondly, I believe that in addition to learning how to do something, you should also learn why you are doing it that way and



### Class Projects

therefore why it works. This approach makes things easier to remember, since you understand it, as well as helps create a firm foundation for learning additional things on your own.

These lessons have been designed to give students weekly gratification, by completing useful projects, while learning the basics of woodturning in

each of the above categories. Each lesson will cover a different way of holding the work piece and will utilize different tools and techniques, while building upon things learned in the previous lessons. Some projects to be covered include a miniature baseball bat, a salt shaker, a wine stopper, toy tops, an egg and an oil lamp.

This class will be limited to spindle turning to minimize the number of tools to learn as well as provide sufficient time to learn how to use them correctly. This approach will also develop the confidence and techniques necessary to move into face grain turning.

Hope to see you there.

Class tuition and sign-up info will be announced soon.

## Learn to Turn at the Wood Show

Craft Supplies USA sponsored a unique opportunity for folks interested in turning at the Schaumburg woodworking show. This may be the first time a hands-on turning class has been available to the public, and it was free! Three lathes ran non-stop the entire weekend, and every participant left with their own hand-turned pen.

CWT members provided the mentoring, and Craft Supplies provided the pen kits, tools, lathes and even safety gear. It was a great introduction to turning, and an excellent teacher train-

ing program for our members. I suspect we'll have a few new faces at future meetings, and these folks will be anxious to put their new-found turning experience to work.

The Chicago Woodturners also had a booth at the show, organized by Jim Wickersham. Jim's Jet mini was "on" for the weekend, and a number of CWT members were there to entertain and inspire the show crowds. It was an additional opportunity to promote our favorite hobby, and Jim did an excellent job, despite the short notice. The booth

was well displayed, and participants not only kept the lathe turning to attract the crowds, they constantly promoted the CWT, inviting show attendees to join us at our meetings.

Everyone involved was pleased with the new management of the Wood Show, and felt the Schaumburg venue (with FREE parking) was a great improvement over the old shows at the Villa Park Odeum.

We'll all look forward to next year's show, and more woodturning.

## Phil Brooks



The Master Chief guides a young turner



Phil Brooks teaches the right way to get started



Jim Wickersham at the CWT booth



Don's latest protégé



Chuck Svazas keeps it tidy at the CWT booth

## September Remount: Meeting Minutes

Jan Shotola

In the absence of President Phil Brooks, the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order by Vice-President Paul Pycik. He began with a salute to all of the Veterans who were present.

Paul Shotola thanked all who assisted with the woodturning demonstrations at SOFA last weekend at Navy Pier, as well as the crews who helped load and unload equipment. Several members also manned the booth sponsored by Collectors of Wood Art, which was organized by Carole Floate.

The CWT will sponsor a booth at the Woodworking Show in Schaumburg on November 21-23. The show will be held at the Renaissance Convention Center which offers free parking. Jim Wickersham passed a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Jan Shotola announced that the December meeting will be our annual Holiday Party. Entertainment will once again be provided by "Indigo Jazz," a vocal choir from Palatine High School, under the direction of Steve Sivak. Sloppy Joe's will be provided by CWT. Please bring your favorite appetizer, salad, casserole, dessert, or other snacks and treats to share with the group. Food will be served at 7:00 with music at 8:00. There will be



prizes and surprises! Plan to attend and bring your spouse or special friend.

Don McCloskey reported that the "Freedom Pens" event was a huge success with several of our members making over 140 pens for the troops. He also reminded everyone of the "Empty Bowls" project on Dec. 6. Bowls can be placed on the gallery table in our meeting space at Woodcraft until Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Don will deliver the items to Oakton Community College. Admission is \$12, for which you receive your choice of a ceramic bowl and a soup lunch. There will be a silent auction and raffle as well as musical entertainment. Please come out and support this event to benefit local Food Banks.

Paul Shotola discussed the Michael Hosaluk all-day demo and hands-on classes. Paul Pycik conducted a lively discussion regarding demonstrators for 2009 as well as Turn-On! Chicago 2010. Jan Shotola and Marie Anderson have contacted the University of St. Mary of the Lake to reserve dates for a symposium in 2010. A decision will need to be made soon in order to hold a date and acquire the demonstrators we want.

Other announcements included the Open House at Hardwood Connections in Sycamore, IL. Marc Adams school in Indiana will be hosting the "first ever" Segmented Symposium. Paul Shotola has asked Malcolm Tibbets, who will be participating in the

demonstrations, to bring his new DVD to add to the CWT library. Several of our members plan to attend this 3 day session. A request was made to update the website calendar to include more information on local events.

Vice-President Paul Pycik reminded us that election of officers will be held at the December meeting. Scott Barrett has been nominated for Vice-President and Jan Shotola for Treasurer. Since there would be a vacancy in the Secretary position if Jan is elected, Carole Floate has been nominated to fill the Secretary's term.

Treasurer Dave Forney reported that we continue to operate well in the black. Andy Kuby, Membership chairman, announced that we currently boast 201 members. There were 3 visitors present at tonight's meeting.

The raffle was held by Gary Rotramel.

Paul Pycik thanked Tom Waicekaskas for stepping-up to give tonight's demo at the last minute in Pixie Eslinger's absence. Tom presented a demo on building and using a photographic light booth. The Gallery Review was conducted by Roy Lindley and Josh Connan.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Shotola,  
Secretary

## Lincoln Seitzman Segmented and Basket Illusions

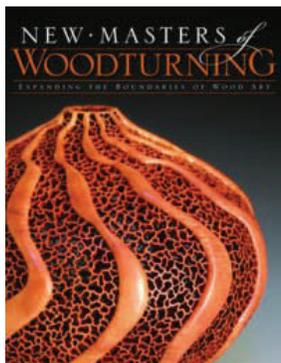


See page 8 for more info on the Segmented Turning Symposium



## AAW News and Updates

Are you still looking for something to put on your Christmas list? I know that there is always another tool to add to your collection but this year consider adding a good book to your library. This summer, the AAW began advertising a new publication titled "The New Masters of Woodturning."



I got curious a few months ago and decided to order a copy and I'm glad I did. This is not just another "how to" book. It provides a look into the life and body of work of 31 contemporary turners. The excellent photography includes samples of each artist's work, techniques, and often a look inside their studio. There are 5-7 pages dedicated to each artist, which provide in-

sights into their background, work environment, personal inspiration, and creative techniques each has perfected. All the articles are based on personal interviews which are written in a way that will get you thinking about how to find your own unique voice.

A few examples include Paul Fennell, Ron Flemming, Michael Mode, Virginia Dotson, Binh Pho, Jacques Vesery, and Betty Scarpino. But my favorites are really not important. There is something for everyone. Even if you are not interested in the style of a particular artist's work, you will still be impressed by the precise turning, carving, painting, pyrography and other techniques displayed. I know that I personally took something of value away from each of the 31 unique articles. If you don't yet have a copy, the book is published by Fox Chapel publishing with a list price of \$29.95. While not published by the AAW, Fox Chapel is offering to contribute 10% of the proceeds to the

## Membership Updates

Of the 201 members currently on the books, 69 attended the November meeting and pasted a name tag on their shirts. The name tags help us keep track of attendance, and help the newer members get to know everyone. The name tags also have a "Member since..."

field. This is to help the newer folks when they need advice from the more experienced, long-term members. You twenty-year veterans should be proud of your support!

We had three guests in November:

Alan Carter of Lisle, Tim

## Al Miotke

AAW, and, AAW members receive a 10% discount on on-line purchases.

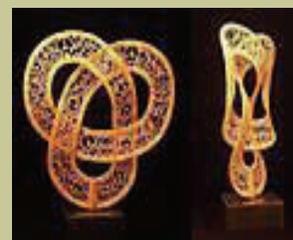
I also suggest that you look on the AAW web site for offerings that you will not find from other sources. If you click on the "Products" tab located across the top of the AAW home page, you will have access to a wide selection of publications and videos to choose from and if you are an AAW member you will be able to purchase the item at discounts up to 60%. The Special Publications page includes all past issues of the American Woodturner, books on techniques, and AAW exhibitions. The video publications include over 60 offerings including the AAW symposium demonstrations and instant galleries from 1994 to the present as well as videos on techniques, and a Masters series that profile some prominent AAW turners.

Don't forget to check out the CWT library. You will find many of these videos in the club's collection.

## Andy Kuby

Barrett of Carpentersville, and Tom Maslanka of Schaumburg, who brought in an interesting oval bowl for the Gallery Table.

CWT Dues for 2009 are payable now, either at the December meeting or by mail.



Photos from the AAW Gallery



Have you moved? Changed your phone or email?

It's important that we keep our information up to date.

The CWT occasionally makes our mailing list available to companies that contribute to our raffle. These companies have agreed not to resell or redistribute this information. If you do NOT wish to be included on this mailing list, just let us know, and your information will not be sent out to Raffle contributors. We all value our privacy, and the CWT will respect yours.

## At our next meeting on December 9, 2008

The CWT Holiday Meeting will be held on Tuesday December 9, 2008 at our usual meeting spot: the spacious and festive Woodcraft Basement. This year the plan is relax, chat with your old friends, make new friends, and have a taste of Holiday snacks and treats. We'll have door prizes, entertainment, and a gallery of your favorite turnings.

Bring a dish to share. Snacks, cookies, candy, hot dishes, and salad items are always welcome, although if you feel the need to make a roast turkey with all the trimmings, that's fine too. Just don't forget the giblet gravy! CWT will provide Sloppy Joe sandwiches, beverages and place settings.

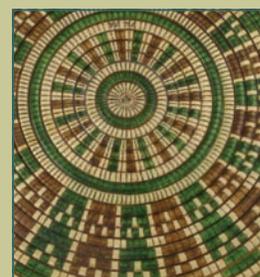
The holiday gallery is always a favorite. Bring one (or a few) of your favorite turnings. They can be your own, items from your collection, turnings by famous or soon to be famous artists, or turnings that you just think are interesting. Share your personal favorites with the rest of us.

We hope to see all of you, along with your spouses, friends and guests at the December meeting. We promise a relaxed, unstructured social gathering, with lots of great food, great turnings, and great company.

The December meeting *will* have a short business session. Elections will be held for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer.

We promise to keep it short, so we can all enjoy the season, the music, the food, and the company of our friends.

It's all in the details:  
November Gallery  
highlights



### Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2008

President	Phil Brooks	847-548-6477	brookspphil@sbcglobal.net	1052 Cheswick Dr	Gurnee, IL 60031
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Raffle	Gary Rotramel	630-377-5871	garyrotramel@yahoo.com	6N860 Crane Road	St Charles, IL 60175
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Tools & Equipment	Don McCloskey	847-872-4781	mccloskey@ameritech.net	2028 Gilboa Ave.	Zion, IL 60099
Audio/ Visual	Scott Barrett	847-562-9121	dr@bdental.net	46 Bridlewood Lane	Northbrook, IL 60062
Demonstrations	Binh Pho	630-365-5462	toriale@msn.com	48W175 Pine Tree Tr.	Maple Park, IL 60151

## Editor's Notes

Paul Shotola

December marks the 12th issue of "As the Wood Turns" that I have had the pleasure of editing. When one puts together a monthly look at any organization, a deeper appreciation for the individual efforts and accomplishments is inevitable. As your Editor, I've paid close attention to the events, turnings, and writings of our members, and I'm pleased to

say that "Hey! You folks are doing just fine!" Your efforts have made mine easier. I have been assisted and advised by many of our members, and their contributions can not be minimized.

That said, I want to remind every member that your contributions to your newsletter are welcome and needed. If you have an idea for

an article, want to write a column, or just submit a photo or two, it is your newsletter. My job is to make sure your ideas come across in print.

The suggestion box is always open, and being fairly thick-skinned, I welcome your rants, raves, and especially your submissions.

## Tom Waiscekauskas Photography Demo

Clint Stevens

(Continued from page 1)

his at Ace Hardware. That's right, sometimes a small hardware store will have things that the mega stores don't. Once the cube frame is constructed, the cloth is



stretched over the PVC pipe, and your new frame is almost ready to use.

Before you can take that National Geographic quality picture of your latest turning, you will need some light. You might consider the sun. It's free and there is no better quality light available. Unfortunately, it's still a single source of light, and can be darned inconvenient. When it's cloudy, snowing,

Want to build your own light tent? Here are some internet sources for DIY information:

[www.digital-photography-school.com](http://www.digital-photography-school.com)

[www.pbase.com/whuber/light\\_box\\_light\\_tent](http://www.pbase.com/whuber/light_box_light_tent)

or dark, you need an alternative. Typical is a pair of lamps that shine light onto the light tent, diffusing light through the tent. Again, you can buy professional photographic lamps, or you can use an inexpensive set of reflective aluminum clamp lights. Use an appropriate light bulb; say a compact florescent daylight bulb, maybe a 24 watt 300 candle bulb. Ok, a little technical insight. Candles are units of measure for energy, 1/683 joules per second at 555 nanometer wave lengths. (Will there be a quiz? Ed.) Compact florescent bulbs are the twirled ones. Just read the package, you'll be fine. Often you will want to diffuse the light directly from the lamp. We won't even bother with the expensive option. Use a white sheet, muslin, or even a piece of white paper.

The last piece you will need to shoot a photo of your masterpiece is a piece of paper. A piece of paper placed on the back wall of the tent and curved onto the bottom will provide a seamless background. Using a smoky grey paper will provide a neutral background. Playing with the colors will give you different effects.

Now for the delicate process of photography. All I can say is that I was sure that when I would be a decent photographer, Satan would ice skate to work. Modern digital photography has changed that. Using a tripod helps to make the process a cinch. Start with a slow shutter speed and high depth of field. A shutter delay (or cable release) will eliminate camera shake.

If your photo is not perfect, beat it into digital submission with a photo editing program such as Picasa or GIMP. Both are free downloads.

Did you notice how many cheap or free options Tom gave us? It's great to learn a new skill on a lunch money budget. Now smile... and...CLICK!

*\*Ansel Adams was the definitive photographer of the American West, with little more than a box camera. Ed Wood was the director of legendary bad movies (Plan 9 From Outer Space, for one) and recipient of the Golden Turkey award for being the "Worst Director of All Time."*



Curved photo backdrop



5000 KV bulb



Cheap clamp light



What woodturners dream of...

**Members' Gallery**

Reviewed by Roy Lindley & Josh Connan



Jason Swanson



Dave Buchholz: Maple



Rich Nye Ash



Ken Staggs: Juniper, Apple



Bill Brown: Walnut, Iron



Ron Zimmerman: Spalted Maple



Bill Robb: Cherry, Maple, Padauk, Wenge



Ken Staggs: Bloodwood, Corian



Tom Maslanka



Darrell Rader: Walnut



Rich Nye: Oak, Cocobolo, Boxwood



Rich Nye: Maple Burl



Hugh Pearl: Walnut, Padauk



Larry Fabian: Natural Edged Bowl



Ken Staggs: Juniper



Fred Gscheidle: Maple

*Editor's Choice*



**Andy Kuby  
Natural Edge, footed vessel**

Inspired by Michael Hosaluk's demo, Andy's maple vessel features little feet that lift the piece up and make it almost playful. The natural edge and textured surface give an organic feel to this piece that I really enjoy.

Andy tells us that the carving was *slightly* more time-consuming than he expected, as Hosaluk makes it look easy. The effort is worth it, though, as a plain rim-type foot wouldn't add to the piece. Andy used a ball-end mill in a Dremel tool to add the texture. The key to texturing a surface is (if it's not a contradiction in terms) even randomness, and Andy achieved that here.



Each month, your Editor will select a Gallery turning that he feels showcases a unique design feature, technique or use of material. Selection is purely personal and arbitrary, and probably won't reflect the opinions of anyone but the Editor.

Space limitations prevent us from presenting every gallery submission in the newsletter. For gallery photos from past meetings, visit the CWT website : [www.chicagowoodturners.com/gallery](http://www.chicagowoodturners.com/gallery)



## As the Wood Turns

The monthly newsletter of the  
Chicago Woodturners

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm till 9:30 pm  
Woodcraft Supply  
1280 Dundee Rd.,  
Palatine, IL  
847-776-1184

### Visit our website:

[chicagowoodturners.com](http://chicagowoodturners.com)

for more gallery photos,  
past newsletters, ex-  
panded calendar  
and late-breaking news.

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:

Andy Kuby, Membership  
Chairman

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

[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

## First Ever Segmented Turning Symposium

Al Miotke

Who do you think owns a full compliment of woodturning tools, buys Titebond glue by the gallon, and spends more time at the table saw, crosscut saw, and disk sander than the lathe? Segmented woodturners of course. On November 14, 2008 a history-making event in woodturning took place when about 100 segmented turners from all corners of the country and even Peru descended on the Marc Adams School of Woodworking in Franklin, Indiana for the "First Ever Segmented Woodturning Symposium." By the time the weekend was over, it was obvious that the event was a bigger success than anyone expected.

There was a wide range of experience levels in attendance, from turners looking for the background to give segmented turning a try, to professionals with work in galleries. I did not meet anyone whose expectations were not far exceeded. This success can be attributed to numerous factors starting with the excellent facility and organizational skills of Marc Adams and his staff. There was the lineup of educational topics provided by three contemporary leaders in the field: Malcolm Tibbets, Curt Theobald, and Bill Smith. These



artists held 9 different rotations on subjects that included Open Segmented Design, Segmented Sculpture, and Anatomy of a Segmented Pattern. Each presentation was well organized, inspirational, and entertaining. As if that was not enough, there were the learning opportunities provided by Titebond, Mohawk finishing, Festool, Woodturner Pro, and the Lumberman's Assoc.

There was even an unexpected surprise on Saturday when Betty Scarpino facilitated an unplanned but heavily attended rotation that challenged everyone to think about the possible



design elements of segmented turning in ways that could possibly take the art form to new levels. After a casual dinner with new friends on Friday, everyone participated in a 90 minute slide presentation and discussion on the work submitted by the attendees and instructors.

A full day of activities on Saturday concluded with a special banquet where everyone in attendance was honored by the presence of Lincoln Seitzman, who is well known for his segmented basket illusions. After being introduced by his son, the 85-year-young Lincoln entertained the group with his humorous anecdotes as he told us the story of his lifelong journey from engineering student, to successful clothing designer, to a renowned pioneer in the segmented field. It was truly an enjoyable as well as inspirational autobiography.

The third and final day ended the symposium with a critique of selected pieces from the over 100 exceptional submissions to the gallery. If attendees were not fulfilled at this point, the analysis by Malcolm, Curt, and Bill on form, design elements, and technical execution was sure to fill any void. At the close of the weekend, there was no decision on what would evolve from the symposium, but based on the reaction and enthusiasm of the group there will surely be a sequel. Anyone who glues wood together to create a woodturning piece should submit their ideas and keep in touch with the progress at [www.segmentedwoodturners.org](http://www.segmentedwoodturners.org). A forum to exchange ideas, a segmented woodturning chapter of the AAW, and plans for the next symposium are all very real possibilities.

## Upcoming Events

News of Art Shows, Classes, Turning Symposia and Events of Interest

### December

- Empty Bowls, Dec 6, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL
- Carve a Walking Cane with Dave Reilly, December 8, Woodcraft, Palatine
- Turn a Bowl with Carole Floate, December 13 & 14, Woodcraft, Palatine

### February

- Pen Turning with Don McCloskey, February 15, Woodcraft Supply, Palatine, IL

### May

- Utah Woodturning Symposium, May 14-16, 2009

### June

- AAW Symposium, Spirit of the Southwest, June 26-28, Albuquerque, NM

