



28 years of Art,
Craft, Technology,
and Tradition.



The Monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners December 2014

Holiday Party

Headline News

Annual Holiday Party

As is traditional the Club will enjoy a Holiday Party in lieu of the normal meeting in December. The club subsidizes this event making the cost quite affordable for a pleasant evening with friends and fellow turners. Please see the article on page 5 for all the details.

Marty Knapp's Demo

Look for a complete article covering this most excellent demonstration in the January issue.

New Safety Officer Appointed

Check out our Safety Officer's article on page 6. This is the first in a series of articles planned by Lars Stole who is serving in this very important position.

2015 Dues Can Be Paid Now

Our Club is the best woodturning deal in the area. You get demos, hands on instruction with the best woodturners in the world, informative and interesting meetings a really good website and a newsletter. What a deal. Please see the article on page 4 regarding membership and PAY YOUR DUES.

Presidents Curls



President

Al Miotke

Best Possible
Seasons Greetings
to everyone.

Once again, it's the time of year again when we are in our shops making ornaments, pens, bottle stoppers, and ice cream scoops to name just a few of the common items that we woodturners give as Christmas gifts. I have been no exception. Making multiples of small projects is a great way to practice our tool control skills so I always enjoy this time of year. Best of all is the joy people show by getting a handmade gift.

I believe that the end of the year is also a good time to reflect on the accomplishments for the last year as well as starting to make plans for the New Year. My first year in the role as the "pres" is coming to an end and it's been enjoyable for me serving the club this year and helping with the many accomplishments we had.

First on the list has to be the completion of our 4th successful Turn-on Chicago symposium. Although the event is always a lot of fun, the comradery that occurs for 18 months as we work together to make plans, solve problems, and get everything ready for the opening day is enjoyable. We had another very profitable event which helps us to fund our demonstrators and other educational programs. We will begin talking about the 2016 event as we enter the New Year.

Right on the heels of TOC was the ACE and SOFA art shows, where CWT members organized a demonstration area and exposed hundreds of attendees to the process for creating turned wood art.

Although Scott stepped down as the president, he immediately took on the important role as Webmaster and he didn't waste any time making changes. In the first half of the year he completely overhauled our Website, taking the work Mark did, and improving on it further to make it the "new" best site we have ever had. Now it's up to all of us to help keep improving on the content so it continues to be a valuable resource for existing and prospective new members.

Following the recommendation of the AAW, Lars Stole accepted the new position of Safety Officer. He will help all of us to keep safety best practices on our mind and make sure we can enjoy our time at the lathe without any trips to the emergency room. I also want to thank Tom Diamond who agreed to take on the new role as Greeter to make our guests feel at home and learn a little bit about how great our organization is.

Then let's not forget the smaller but also important improvements that we made this year.

- Updated bylaws,
- Adding CWT logo apparel
- Documented policy statements
- Improved signage at meetings
- Added tip-of-month to each meeting

Finally, it's the perfect time of year to say thanks to all of the committee chairs and board members who dedicate their valuable time every single month to help keep our club running smoothly. As this list shows, it takes a lot of volunteers to provide the high level of service we offer to our members. Darrell Rader – Education committee; Terry McCammon - Newsletter Editor;

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November Meeting Minutes

Marie Anderson

Al Miotke opened the meeting promptly at 7pm – with a review about Sofa Chicago – this year we had good results and turnout for the demonstrations held throughout SOFA – he asked for a show of hands on how many attended and there were quite a few hands. Al thanked all the volunteers who helped and many of new faces who chipped in to help. Special thanks to Andy Kuby for his labor and his van without which the move would have been quite a bit more challenging.

Tonight is the annual election of officers. The current Vice President Don McCloskey and Treasurer Matt Schmitz are running unopposed. The vote was called for VP – all yea’s, no nay’s. Don is approved for another 2 year term. The vote was called for Treasurer – all yea’s, no nay’s. Matt has been elected as treasurer for the next 2 years. Congratulations to both!

Al discussed the Derek Weidman demonstration and stated that due to the delayed flight and the shortened demonstration the board had agreed that this demo would be a no charge demonstration – anyone who had paid in advance or at the door, Matt will have checks for you this evening, please stop and see him for your refund. Al thanked everyone who stayed and for the great discussion that was held while we waited. We got some good feedback from our members on what they want/need from the club for their woodturning education so the day was well spent.

Andy Kuby presented Al with a check from TOC 2014 for \$16,000 for the auction & raffle proceeds. There is still a small amount that is being negotiated on the overhead – meal charges so there may be a little bit more coming from the general attendance fees. Andy then shared that he and Paul Shotola have decided to step down from their chairmen position. Al will be the new chairperson for TOC 2016.

There is a new challenge that Al will be facing. At this time, we have been informed by USML that they are no longer going to accommodate our request for a later meal on Saturday evening. We will have to be out of the dining room by 8pm. They are still working with Linda to see if there is any opportunity to allow us an exception to this. At this time, he is considering all the options. There were several suggestions about possibly of just moving up the starting time of the meal to 4:30 vs. 6pm or consider other possibilities. Al stated he will consider all the options including moving the symposium if we need to. Several commented that this should be a very last resort as the venue is a large draw for our symposium. Al said it’s not definite yet, but he want to have all his options open. Marie stated that there was a long list of options that we reviewed when we found USML and she will forward to Al.

Marie gave an update on the Holiday party for next month. The evite has not been sent as yet but will be sent out this week. There is a sign up sheet for the party which includes your menu choices and whether or not you will be attending. Please sign up with your choices and/or if you are not coming please note it on this sheet. If you have already paid Matt the \$15/person charge tonight, please take the time to sign the sheet that is being passed around so we have a comprehensive list so I don’t have to call too many people to confirm! There WILL be a grab bag and it would be great if we can get 100% participation. Hope you all will be there!

Darrell Rader announced that there will be an educational committee meeting on Wednesday November 19th (next week) right here in this room. All are invited to join us with their suggestions for our educational efforts. We are working on a mentoring/demonstration program with a high school – it is still in the planning stages but we will have more information and a presentation from the school coordinator at the Ed Committee meeting so if you are interested or know of a high school that might be interested in having CWT members come in to do demonstrations and/or hands on classes, please let anyone on the educational committee know.

Darrell gave the tip of the month referencing Bob Flexnor and his book Flexnor on finishing. What finishes are “food safe” – answer – All are food safe as long as they are cured. What is a hand rubbed finish - answer- A finish which is applied and wiped off requiring multiple applications for the completed finish.

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CWT News

Raffle

Mary Olsen and Chuck Svazas

November Raffle Winners

Bowl Gouge	Mark Johansen
Sanding Pads (2)	Marty Knapp
Pen Blanks	Kim Kilmer
Antlers	Marie Anderson
Bowl Blanks	Don McCloskey

November Raffle Receipts \$145.00

January raffle items include

- 2 \$10.00 Gift Certificates
- Bowl Blanks
- Light
- Book
- Surprise Item

Membership report

Julie & Roger Basrak

There were 58 current members (of 160 total members) in attendance at the November meeting. There were no new members. However, we had three guests: Adam and Justin Glader from Barrington and Dick Just from Wheeling.

Forty-one members have already paid their dues for 2015. Thank you! If you would like to pay your 2015 dues at the December dinner/party, please place cash or a check in an envelope, along with your name, current address, current phone number, and current email address. We will bring a decorated box with a slit on the top to the dinner. Please insert the envelope with your cash or check in the box. The dues will probably be recorded after Christmas but before the end of the year. Dues for 2015 remain at the current \$25.00 for an Individual Membership and \$35.00 for a Family Membership.

If you will not be attending the holiday dinner, dues may be sent to our home address:

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

Checks should be made out to "Chicago Woodturners". Thanks for your cooperation!

Holiday Party

Marie Anderson

This year, our December meeting will be our holiday celebration. The date is the second Tuesday in December, December 9th, 2014. The meeting will be held at Toscana Restaurant located at 1859 W. Central, Arlington Heights, IL (847-222-1989). This is located in a strip shopping center at the south west corner of New Wilke Road and Central Road. It is just about 2.5 miles from Christian Liberty Academy to the south and west.

You should all have received an Evite by now. PLEASE respond to the Evite with a yes or no whether or not you will be attending. The cost per person is \$15 (the club will pick up the balance of the cost of dinner).

This year, we will be served individually plated rather than family style so that we are able to accommodate a variety of palates. In order to make this as smooth as possible, YOU MUST CHOOSE Soup or Salad and your entrée. Please note your choice on your response to the evite.

Here is the menu:

On the table: Homemade Bread, Focaccia, Butter, Olive Oil and cheese

Choice of **soup** or **salad**

Entrée choices:

Eggplant Parmigiana lightly breaded, ricotta, mozzarella and pasta with marinara sauce (Vegetarian);

Ravioli (cheese or meat) with marinara sauce;

Chicken Parmigiana lightly breaded w/mozzarella and marinara sauce with pasta; or

Tilapia Domenica – served with a lemon sauce sautéed with spinach, artichoke hearts and sun-dried tomatoes - Gluten Free).

Lemon ice will be served for dessert.

Coffee, Soda and Iced Tea are included.

CWT does not include any alcoholic beverages or desserts from their dessert menu, but if you are interested in either they are available.

As we did last year, there will be a **grab bag gift exchange**. Everyone is encouraged to bring something that they would like to receive. If you bring something, you will go home with something. Most everyone was happy with what they received last year. Your gift should be gift wrapped and please include your name on the inside so the receiver knows who to thank for the gift. Spouses are encouraged to participate as well. Gifts should have a value of at least \$10. Let's try for 100% participation this year!



Santa Says: "See you at the party"

Greetings from your new Safety Officer. I thought I'd take this opportunity to say a few words about this new position and my role, as well as summarize the results of the November CWT safety survey.

First and foremost, I see my role as starting discussions, not as a nagging voice about safety or an enforcer of safety rules (though I may speak up at a meeting or demo — as you should too — if I think someone is doing something dangerous). Fundamentally, I think a good “safety decision” is one that is made with full information about the tradeoffs. As Safety Officer, I am happy to offer information and point out various safety resources that others have put together (I have some links at the end of this article), but in the end you have to decide the costs and benefits for yourself. In some cases, the decision is an easy one. I think we all agree that the benefits of wearing some form of eye protection are so high relative to the costs, that it is a safety absolute. On the other hand, if you don't want to stop the lathe every time you need to move the tool rest, that might be a reasonable decision for *you* to make, as long as you are well informed and understand what can go wrong. Or consider an even more contentious issue: turning speed. I'm very conservative when it comes to turning speed — I try to follow Dale Nish's rule that the diameter (in inches) times RPM should be less than 9000 — but from the surveys, I know that some of you share the Jimmy Clewes' view and turn it up as high as you can go without vibration. Perhaps lathe speed is something that we should discuss at a future meeting, especially given the differences of opinion expressed on the surveys. I'm not suggesting we come to a consensus — just that we all understand the pros and cons and can make an informed decision on our own.

Now, onto the survey. First let me thank all of you who completed a survey at our November meeting. My goal in designing the survey was to start a conversation with a simple set of questions. In retrospect, I made the survey too simple and my restrictive choices for the answers invited many handwritten comments. In what follows, I've done my best to “code” everything consistently. Here is a table of the percentage choosing each option, question by question.

Question 1: Approximately how long have you been turning regularly?

< 1 year [9%]	1-2 years [11%]
3-5 years [21%]	> 5 years [59%]

Question 2: Is most of your turning ...

small items (e.g., pens, boxes, spindle work)? [30%]
large items (e.g., bowls, platters)? [4%]
combination of small and large pieces? [66%]

Question 3: What primarily determines the lathe speed you choose?

what feels right [38%]
fast as possible w/o vibration [11%]
size & quality of blank [51%]

I imagine that “what feels right” to some turners might be a function of “size and quality of blank” to others, so there is plenty of ambiguity in this question. I also recognize that for those turning small items, speed is not an important safety concern. Focusing on the responses from turners who do not turn primarily “small items” [Question 2], the picture doesn't change much, though there is a slight shift toward “size and quality of blank”.

what feels right [32%]
fast as possible w/o vibration [8%]
size & quality of blank [60%]

Question 4: Have you ever been in a woodturning accident that required medical attention?

yes [8%]	no [92%]
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Safety Officer's Notes, #1 It's only a matter of time**Lars Stole***(Continued from page 6)*

Question 5(A): Have you ever had a “close call” when woodturning where you felt lucky not to have had a serious woodturning accident?

yes [53%] no [47%]

Question 5(B): If you answered “yes” above, were you aware before your close call that you were doing something that was not entirely safe?

yes [35%] no [65%]

Fortunately, not many of us have had a serious accident. Unfortunately, many of us had close calls, including dangerous situations that seemed within our ability to have avoided. Furthermore, the probability of having an accident or close call increases with the number of years turning. Only 2% of newbies and those with 1-2 years of experience had close calls or accidents. Those with 3-5 years had a 10% chance of a close call or accident. Those with greater than 5 years of experience had a 39% chance of a close call or accident. Thus, it seems hard to avoid the conclusion that if we spend enough time at the lathe, it is very likely we are going to have a safety moment. The questions for each of us to answer are whether or not these probabilities are acceptable, and what (if any) improvements in safety we may want to make.

Question 6: Do you use a dust collector while sanding?

yes [75%] no [25%]

Question 7: Do you use a dust mask or respirator while sanding?

yes [69%] no [31%]

Most of our members take efforts to avoid breathing wood dust. Indeed, of those who don't use dust collectors, most use dust masks. Fully 89 percent of respondents use one or the other (or both) when sanding.

Question 8: What sort of eye/face protection do you wear while turning?

safety glasses [14%]

face shield [35%]

one or the other, depending on circumstances [51%]

More than one of you added a note that you wear both simultaneously.

Question 9: Do you ever turn when home alone?

yes [87%] no [13%]

Question 10: Do you have a plan in case of a serious accident requiring assistance? (E.g., phone nearby, air horn, whistle, can EMT easily get to your shop?)

yes [52%] no [48%]

The responses on Question 9 were not too surprising — I certainly turn at home alone on occasions — but I was more surprised by the answers to Question 10 (in light of Question 9). Perhaps we should all think about having a personal safety plan in case of accident.

Question 11: Have you ever had a significant allergic reaction to some species of wood?

yes [28%] no [72%]

Lots of you wrote in examples. In retrospect, I should have made this part of the survey as I think we would all find it interesting to compare notes. Common allergens mentioned include cedar, cocobolo,

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mahogany, walnut and mango. (Mango was my entry.) I've included a link at the end of this article if you want to learn more about common reactions to a variety of wood species.

Question 12: Do you use hearing protection when operating loud equipment (e.g., dust collector, air compressor)?

yes [57%] no [43%]

I hope you found the safety survey informative and worth the effort. I also hope that this generates some follow-on discussion and encourages all of us to think more about our safety practices.

A few safety resources on the web:

<http://www.woodturner.org/> There are numerous safety-related resources at the AAW website — too many to summarize here, so take a look. If you are an AAW member, there is also a short online book, *Safety for Woodturners*, which may be downloaded for free. (Look under the “Resource” menu bar, then under “Safety Resources” for the link to the book.) There are also many interesting articles in the AAW's series “Woodturning Fundamentals”. The most recent issue, for example, has a series of tips by Rob Wallace for setting up your workstation, including not-so-obvious safety issues.

<http://www.wood-database.com/wood-articles/wood-allergies-and-toxicity/> For those of you who are sometimes working with new exotic timbers and want to get an idea of what you are dealing with, here is a table of various woods and the potential problems they may cause. And if you are thinking about turning mango, talk to me first. I've got a good story.

<http://billpentz.com/woodworking/> Bill Pentz has maintained a comprehensive website dealing with the dangers of wood dust (and the effectiveness of various dust collection equipment and ducting designs).

http://lynneyamaguchi.com/Yamaguchi_SafetyMatters.pdf Here is a recent article by Lynne Yamaguchi about an accident she had. She now uses a riot helmet for turning large pieces of wood. If you remember your physics class, Lynne also has a companion article that expresses the issue in terms of kinetic energy (http://lynneyamaguchi.com/Yamaguchi_AssessYourRisk.pdf). After seeing Lynne's safety demo at the AAW in June 2014, I went out and bought a riot helmet for when I turn a dubious lump of wood.



Glenn Lucas Demo**Paul Rosen**

Irish wood turner Glenn Lucas visited CWT on Saturday, October 4th, to show us how he turns platters and bowls using his signature line of Hamlet HSS bowl gouges designed with a parabolic flute. He started with slides showing how he processes local timber, Irish Beech and Ash, into 6-inch thick slabs for salad bowls, and 1.5-inch thick boards for platters. He deletes cracks and knots with his chain saw and then stores his blanks out of direct sunlight (causes cracks). He likes to seal end grain with a polyvinyl acetate (PVA) white glue sizing rather than

Anchorseal—the latter makes his floor too slippery. He prefers to use wood that has dried for one year; his kiln is used to process tall stacks of bowl blanks (separated by three shims/bowl) dried to an 8% final moisture content. Bowl blanks are prepared using the Oneway coring system that Lucas finds “predictable” and “easier on your shoulders” than competitive alternatives. So from a single 16-inch bowl blank, he is able to core out a 14-inch and an 12-inch blank. Each blank is roughed out 1-inch larger than the final bowl dimension.

**The Platter**

Starting with a 2-inch x 12-inch cherry blank that is quarter sawn (cut through or very near the center of the log), Lucas likes this cut because it is less prone to warping. Normally, he would start with a 1-1/2-inch blank (his platters are thin), but CWT supplied him with the 2-inch blank. He trues up the outer edge holding the tool handle down with the flute rotated to about 45-degrees. He color-codes his bowl gouges with tape over the brass ferrule, for easy identification. His favorites are the red GL4 (5/8-inch diameter, 55-degree bevel) for roughing out, and the green GL5 (1/2-inch diameter, 45-degree bevel) for



finer cuts. Similar colored tape is applied to each of his Vari-grind jigs. It's a little extravagant, but it saves him the time of having to re-set the jig angle each time he changes the grind for a tool with a different bevel angle.

To establish the OG curve on the outside of the platter, Lucas uses the green gouge in a push-cut towards the outer diameter, with the lathe running at 1000 rpm. He could shear scrape, but he prefers cutting. Shear scraping would quickly dull the edge of his tool. To flatten the bottom of the platter, Lucas suggests a “right foot forward” position. (You don't have any leverage if both feet are parallel to the lathe bed.) Then he marked a 4-inch diameter circle on the outside of the platter blank. Next, he used a scraper to make a 1/8-inch recess in the base of the platter. After that, he used a special skew chisel sharpened precisely to a 77-degree angle. (That tool was used to match the angle on the Vicmarc jaws.) Next, he applied walnut oil to the center of the base, and then started sanding. Which grit? Let the wood tell you. He usually starts with 150- or 180-grit and finishes with 240-grit sandpaper. Why finish first? It keeps down the sawdust. Note: he does not sand the ogee, which had a good finish from the green gouge. (Alternate choices for finish are mineral oil or food-safe Danish oil.)

**Which Jaws?**

When it comes to the choice between serrated and dovetail jaws on his chuck, Lucas prefers dovetails. In his experience, serrated jaws tend to work into the wood and require periodic tightening to maintain the grip on the base. With dovetail jaws, this is not a problem. The 4-inch dovetail jaws on his Vicmarc chuck have a 77-degree dovetail on the inside (compression mode) and an 80-degree angle on the outside (expansion mode). Lucas explained that jaws hold wood tighter in compression mode, but cosmetic damage is less in expansion mode, with the jaws nearest their minimum diameter.

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Reverse Chucking

With the platter blank reversed, Lucas started removing small “bites” of wood, working towards the center. Then he focused on the rim, making it thinner and flatter. If you use a shear scraper on the outside of the rim, raise the tool handle up by 25- to 30-degrees, so the tool won’t catch. Remember that it’s the burr that does the cutting, and that burr is on the top edge of the tool—the same edge that was on top when you sharpened the tool on the grinder.

Want to make sure you don’t go through the bottom of the platter? Then consider carefully how long a screw you want to use when mounting the blank to the face plate. Alternately, before you attach the blank to the face plate, drill pilot holes to a precise depth over what will become the inside surface of the platter. That way, when you reverse-chuck the blank to turn what will become the upper surface of the platter, when the pilot holes disappear, you’ll know you have reached the desired depth.

The Bowl

Because Irish Ash is dark in the center and white toward the outer portion of the log, it is best to orient the blank so the base of the bowl will be from the dark wood, so the top will be light wood. With the blank mounted between centers, Lucas stressed the importance of keeping the tool handle low as he trued-up the outer diameter. Then he began to knock the corner off the blank, as he began to contour the outside of the bowl. He wanted to make a 4-inch tenon that would be held in compression mode. Lucas cut a 77-degree angle on the outside of the tenon, to match the angle on the inside dovetail on his Vicmarc chuck.

With the bowl base held tightly by the chuck, Lucas started to hollow out the inside with the red GL4. His first step was to soften the outside edge at its greatest diameter. His salad bowls have a rounded edge, so they won’t cut into your hands when you hold them. Some tips: the *right hand* does the hollowing cut on a bowl; the *left hand* does only one thing: push down! The left hand should *not* make the tool go forward. To support the bowl gouge during a cut, Lucas uses only the 2-inches at the right-hand end of the tool rest, pivoting the tool tip from right to left in a 90-degree arc; the flute is at about a 45-degree angle to the wood. It is the right-hand edge of the tool that does the cutting. But there’s a problem. The bowl gouge will start to rattle as the gouge tip reaches the bottom of a large diameter bowl. How do you fix this?

Two Solutions

You could employ a curved tool rest for doing the inside of the bowl. The curve lets you get close to the wood, so you could use scrapers to finish the bottom of the inside. Lucas showed us a creative option. Namely, re-position the tool rest so it’s left-hand end is nearest the center of the bowl. This way, the tool shaft will be closer to perpendicular to the tool rest, reducing or eliminating rattling.

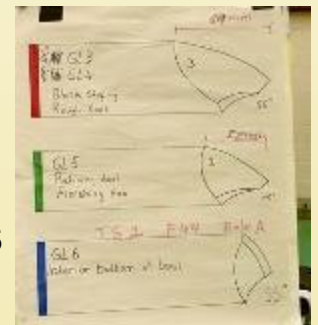
Another option is to use the green GL5 gouge up to a point, and then substitute a different gouge for the bottom of the center. Which one? Try the blue tool (GL6: 55 - to 65-degree bevel, 5/8-inch diameter). The short bevel, used with the flute up, will leave a superb finish at the inside base of a bowl. With this tool, there is no need for a scraper.

So if you decide to embrace (and purchase) the Glenn Lucas bowl gouge system, just remember: red (GL4) for roughing out, green (GL5) for finer hollowing, and blue (GL6) for final finishing. Or, just use a scraper for final finish, and use the GL4 and GL5.

Warped Bowl Blank?

What happens if the bowl blank has warped after the initial rough turning? Lucas has devised a fix. He starts with a face plate with a disk of plywood or MDF attached. Next he starts with an identical diameter disk but saws out a 5-inch wide section from the center. The two remaining edges are then glued/screwed to the plywood face plate, and corrugated matting is glued onto the two outer surfaces. The result is a way

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Glenn Lucas Demo**Paul Rosen***(Continued from page 10)*

for you to position the high pont of the warped edges into the 5" slot so the warped bowl can be safely re-mounted and re-turned.

Final Sanding

Lucas usually starts with 120-grit and knows he's finished when there is no evidence of torn grain. He likes the Makita right-angle drill with a 5-inch disk for the outside of a bowl. For the inside, he uses the power drill running at 2500 rpm (lathe at 600 rpm) with a 2- or 3-inch sandpaper disk. He prefers to use SIA (Swiss Industrial Abrasives) as his vendor. To economize, you could use a 2-inch diameter wad punch (intended for cutting leather), but you will need to sharpen the edge to a more acute angle to cut sandpaper. Some people like blue ceramic sandpaper because it lasts long, but the coarse grit can leave grooves in the work that cannot be removed by sanding with finer grits.

Finish the Bottom

You could use a vacuum pump to hold the piece. Bosch and Gast make excellent vacuum pumps, but they're expensive. (Bob Leonard of CWT offers an affordable alternative.) You can design your own holders with a 3/16-inch closed-cell neoprene sponge material, or use the 1 mm thick Fun Foam from Hobby Lobby (thanks, Ken). A check valve or non-return valve is recommended, so if the power goes off while you're working, the vacuum remains. Alternately, consider Longworth or Cole Jaws, but they're not as safe. For more on Glenn's techniques, you can visit www.YouTube.com or search his name on Google. Another good place to start would be his website: www.glennLucasWoodturning.com.

**Applying Texture and Color, Al Miotke's October Demo****Paul Rosen**

Our demonstrator for October was current club president, Al Miotke. Al was attracted to segmented turning early in his wood turning career. But he didn't care for segmented turnings based upon southwest pottery—it just wasn't his cup of tea. He wanted something different. Then Al was introduced to the work of Jacques Vesery, and a light turned on. He was intrigued by Vesery's integration of turning, carving, and coloring. Vesery is known for his relatively small pieces, with elaborate carving, and then application of colors in multiple layers. So I think of Al as a combination of Curt Theobald, Ray Allen, Malcolm Tibbetts, and Jacques Vesery all rolled into one.

I once heard Dick Sing say that wood turners are a peculiar lot. They start with something round (a tree), convert it into something square, and then make it into something round again. Al takes it a step further by carving, texturing, and coloring the outside of his segmented turnings. So the inside of Al's work can look like your standard segmented piece, but the outside can resemble the bark on a tree. That's no accident. Al confessed that he once looked at the bark on a tree for an entire hour. "For 60 years, I wasn't very observant. Now, I'm lookin' at bark." As children, when we want to draw a tree trunk, we usually pick up the brown crayon. But in reality, bark is gray—multiple shades of textured gray. So Al spent the evening showing us how to texture and paint the outside of a turning to make it look like tree bark. Hint: the entire

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Applying Texture and Color, Al Miotke's October Demo**Paul Rosen***(Continued from page 11)*

process can take up to 10 hours per piece. Al does the texturing either free-hand or by following a pattern drawn in pencil.

The Equipment

Al applies texture with a \$500.00 NSK dental drill which has an air-driven turbine that spins at 400,000 rpm. It's the same tool Binh Pho uses in his pierced turnings. The dental drill delivers low torque, but it cuts wood like butter. You need to wear a respirator and use a water trap with the tool, but it confers a singular advantage: accurate cuts. Al mentioned that the 400,000 rpm whine may bring back bad memories of being in the dentist's chair (apologies to Scott). Dental societies actually offer special ear plugs to guard against hearing loss from chronic exposure to the sounds from the pneumatic drill. But there are other devices that can apply texture to a turning.

Consider the Dremel tool. Much less costly, the Dremel runs at about 35,000 rpm, but it can grab. You can also use the 45,000rpm devices with a brushless DC micro-motor in the handle. RAM Products, Freedom, and NSK all make these.

One of Al's design goals is to apply texture that your eyes can't see, but your fingers can feel. To test his technique, Al works on sample blocks of wood, 2-inches x 4-inches. He starts with a round-nosed carbide burr and holds the bit on its side. This technique makes 1/16" lines/patterns on the outside of the bowl. Then he follows with a 2-inch sander disc to soften the tool marks left by the burr. Final texturing is performed with a wood burning tool powered by a modified car battery charger. Some pieces are treated with a 2-inch diameter wire brush. Al will manually rub the entire outside surface with the stiff metal bristles to create a striated effect. Alternately, that same 2-inch brush can be mounted in a drill press as Al passes the piece against the rotating wire brush.

Acrylics and Dry Brushing

To apply color, Al uses heavy-bodied acrylic paint. He favors earth tones like Sienna, Ochre, and Burnt Umber, but he also uses Titanium White. He thins these pigments with a dropper of water in a white plastic artist's mixing tray. Colors get mixed using the 3/8-inch paint brush handle. First, you lay down a base coat of your dark color, say Burnt Umber. It's not full strength; you dilute with water. Next comes dry brushing. (This is a technique used by miniature model train builders to make their models look antique.) Start with a paper towel wrapped around a 12-inch x 3-inch board. Next, dip a small brush into the desired color and deposit a drop or two onto the towel. Then you select a fairly rigid Dick Blick brush to pick up the semi-dried pigment from the towel. You *don't* want the brush to get wet, but you *do* want to get pigment on the tip. Then apply that pigment in a dusting motion over the surface of the turning. And repeat. When the piece is finished, onlookers will approach and ask Al the question, "Did you glue this on?" To Al, that question means he has succeeded in meeting his artistic target.

One begins to appreciate why Al can spend 10 hours texturing, wire brushing, painting, and dry brushing the outside of his segmented turnings. They are clearly gallery material. I guess this is why Al is an award-winning segmented turner, and clearly one of the top turner/artists in CWT. As for me? Well, I think I'm gonna go out and stare at a tree trunk. (Hope no one's watching.)



November Minutes Continued

Marie Anderson

(Continued from page 3)

Lars Stole was reintroduced as our safety officer. He has been traveling extensively lately and now that he is back he is picking up where he left off. He created a brief survey which was passed out to all in attendance. He asked that we complete the survey so that he will have a base line idea of where our club is at and can determine an appropriate plan for educating us on lathe safety. He asked that we consider him a resource for our safety questions. He will be writing brief safety articles for the monthly newsletter and asked for any questions. He mentioned a “spindle” roughing gouge should be used only on spindles as it can be dangerous if used for bowls.

Don McCloskey spoke briefly about Empty Bowls for food at Oakton Community College on December 6th from 10-2pm. Please come and support this worthy cause. If you have any bowls or turnings that you want to donate, you can get it to Don or Marie and we will make sure it is included in the event. This year we are a bit down from past years so please consider donating!

Don also spoke about pens for troops – we are still accepting donated pens. Due to the lack of corporate sponsorship, we are still way behind our numbers from last year. Today is Veterans Day and these pens are a very small token of our appreciation for their service. Please consider turning and donating a few pens for this cause.

Mary Olson and Marty Knapp held the raffle gifting several lucky members with an assortment of woodturning goodies including bowl blanks, deer antlers, pen blanks, sanding disks and a bowl gouge.

Al stated tonight's demonstration will be by Marty Knapp on his leather braiding and embellishment techniques and Paul Shotola will be our master of ceremonies for the gallery review.

Respectfully submitted

Marie Anderson.

President's Curls Continued

(Continued from page 2)

Scott Barrett - Scott Barrett - Website, Dawn-Herndon Charles and Jerry Kuffel - Audio Video; Mary Olson and Marty Knapp - Raffle; Robert Schultz - Library; Roger and Julie Basrak – Membership; Don McCloskey - Vice president and tool chairman; Marie Anderson - Secretary; Matt Schmitz - Finance; Lars Stole – Safety Officer; Rich Nye – Demonstrations. Andy Kuby and Paul Shotola – TOC co-chairman.

I hope to see you at the December Holiday Party but if not, have a great Christmas, best wishes to you and your family, and turn safe.

Alan J. Miotto



2014 Meeting Agenda

Month	Gallery Review	Demonstration
January	Marie Anderson	Ken Staggs— Basic Bowl Review
February	Paul Pyrcik	Dick Sing - Turning Eggs
March	Andy Kuby	Jason Swanson - Segmented Pepper Mills
April	TBD	Roger Basrak - Turning a natural edge outside burl bowl
May	Darrell Rader	Lars Stoles - Hollowing
June	Marie Anderson	Don Hamm - Ornaments
July	Don McCloskey	Marie Anderson - Miniatures
August	Roger Basrak	Ken Staggs
September	TBD	Clint Stevens - Eccentric Turning
October	Andy Kuby	Al Moitke - Texturing and Acrylic Painting
November	Paul Shotola	Marty Knapp - Leather Enhancements

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Audio & Video Co-Chair	Dawn Herndon-Charles	630-588-8431	dcharlesster@gmail.com	1545 Wiesbrook Road	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 Road	Batavia, IL 60510

Member's Gallery of Items Critiqued at the Meeting

November Gallery



Andy Kuby Oak



Andy Kuby Oak



Dawn Herndon-Charles Cherry



Andy Kuby Various



Don McCloskey Various



Duaine Hielpas Unknown



Bill Brown Oak



Ken Staggs



Ken Staggs Tagua Nut



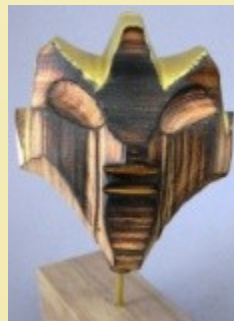
Jerry Kuffel Walnut



Paul Pyrik Mahogany



Mark Johansen Maple



Rich Nye and Mark McCleary Cherry



Marty Knapp Cherry



Member's Gallery

November Gallery

Editor's Choice

When I made my first "Editor's Choice" I decided on a few guidelines for myself:

1. I would not pick a professional turner
2. I would not pick anyone twice in one year
3. I would not pick an officer of the club.

Rules are made to be broken, Al Miotke simply blows me away every single month. Brilliant execution, pains-taking attention, development of technique. Al has it all.

This is the end of my first year as editor. Thank you to our talented writers who make the newsletter possible.

The Editor



Editor's Choice

You are welcome to agree or even disagree with my choice. It is a democracy but I am the editor.

For Sale, Trade, or Wanted

For Sale

One 6 inch Rockwell jointer, cast Iron.

Needs a good home where it will be used.

First **\$100** takes it home. Mobile base not included.

Andrew Kuby [847-922-8201](tel:847-922-8201) mobile riverwoodsturner@gmail.com



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

AWFS Fair 2015 Woodturning Student Competition, the Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers® (AWFS®), is proud to partner with the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) to introduce the Turning to the Future competition and juried exhibit, to showcase student woodturning. The competition will be open to high school and post-secondary students in art, design, or trade programs. The finalist pieces will be on display at the AWFS Fair, July 22-25, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada, adjacent to the Fresh Wood student woodworking competition. The competition is open to all forms of turning, with the exception of furniture making. Projects must be at least partially made with a lathe and should be 20" or less in diameter.

All winners will receive an AAW symposium scholarship and have their work featured in the American Woodturner journal. There is no entry fee.

The entry deadline is May 1, 2015. Finalists will be on display throughout the AWFS Fair July 22-25, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Winners will be identified and announced on Friday, July 24. For more information and entry instructions, visit AWFSFair.org or call: Adria Torrez, (800) 946-2937.



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.