

January 2019

TURNERS TALK

THE MID SOUTH WOODTURNERS GUILD



AAW OFFICIAL CHAPTER
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS



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2018 Honorary Lifetime
Member Award

By: Dennis Paullus
by: Mike Maffitt

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 02 - 2018 Christmas Party Recap

Page 03 - The President's Corner

Page 04 - A Member's Sale

Page 05 - "Tick-Tock" Goes The Calendar!

Page 06 - 2018 Honorary Lifetime Member Award

Page 07 - January Demo - Music Box

Page 08 - Shop "Re-"Visit

Page 09 - Upcoming Events

Page 10 - Mentors List

Page 11 - Club Sponsors

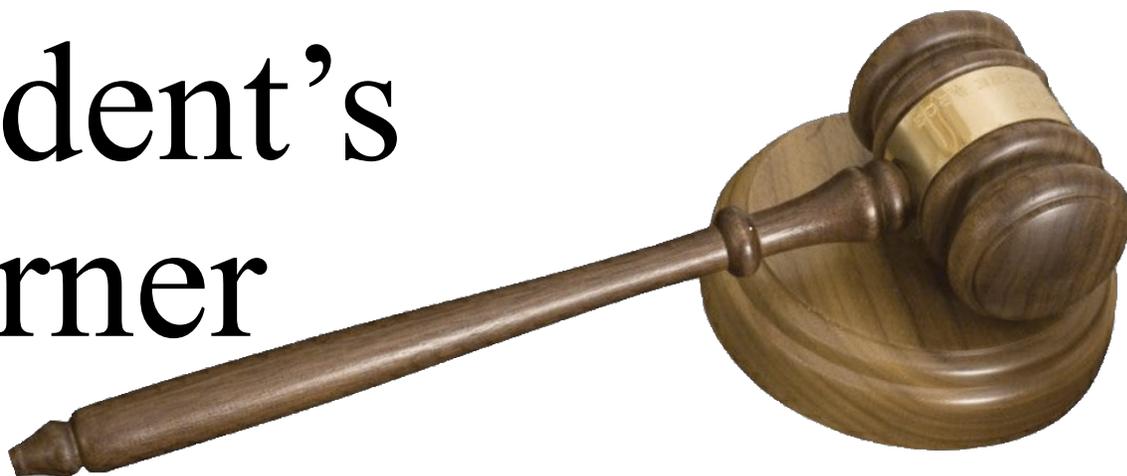


If you missed last month's Christmas Party. You missed some great food: ham, turkey and two dressings (cornbread and squash, cranberry sauce, rolls, casseroles (two of hash brown potatoes, a sweet potato). A couple of hot vegetables and salads. Some apple slices, which everyone found (wonderful). And too many great desserts to list! Recipes were being swapped, even as we were cleaning the tables.

The picture to the left is a sample of the table decorations provided by Ann Wolfe and Linda Voda. Seven of the eight trees were auctioned off during the opening/ice-breaker comments.

Oh yeah, we also had an auction to benefit our educational fund. Thanks to all who participated.

President's Corner



By: Mike Maffitt

Welcome to 2019,

We will be starting off the new year with a demonstration from one of our own - a fantastic turner and person, Skip Wilbur. Skip will be demonstrating a lidded box with a music box insert. I am really looking forward to this to get some insight on how he accomplishes this feat. Don't forget our meeting will be January 19th this month, moved to allow club member participation in the TAW Symposium in Franklin, TN the 25th and 26th of this month.

We pulled the name for the AAW Scholarship application and the winner from our club was (Drum Roll).....Rick Cannon. Congratulations Rick. We hope we land one of the scholarships for you.

I wanted to pitch a plug for our parent organization, the American Association of Woodturners. Our club is a member of that organization and membership offers many perks that make joining the AAW a winning proposition for everyone. At \$60.00 for a general membership and an online (digital only) membership for \$50.00 you receive 6 publications of the American Woodturner Journal and access to their entire library of online journals, a Resource Directory and access to their online "Woodturning Fundamentals" publication. You also receive access to a trove of online video resources that demonstrate turning correctly and safely. There is a section on their website for new turners called "Discover Woodturning" to help get you going in the right direction. Membership in the AAW also gives you access to their annual symposiums, which I can highly recommend as the

ultimate display of demonstrators and vendor areas you can find anywhere. AAW also offers each chapter a discounted insurance which covers participating members in case of injury during a sponsored event. They also offer grant opportunities each year for AAW members to apply to attend craft schools and tool grants to encourage teaching opportunities to help people learn the craft with proper tools. There isn't room enough here for me to fully describe every attribute but go online at; <https://www.woodturner.org> and see what they have to offer. Please consider joining today.

I want to encourage everyone to "find your place" in our club. Being a club doesn't mean that the Board of Directors does all of the work, everyone has a talent and a purpose to serve in our organization and we encourage each person to find the place they best fit to use their gifts. We have many opportunities at our monthly meetings, set up and tear down for the demonstration, making coffee and picking up donuts. Photographing our "Instant Gallery", maintaining our library and videography camera work. We have opportunities outside of our monthly meetings, photo processing the photographs after the event, our newsletter that is published monthly and articles that are penned, we have our website that has to be maintained and club events outside of our monthly meetings. If you don't know where you fit, please just come up and ask "what can I do?"



President's Corner cont.

We will be thrilled to help you find something that fits your talents.

I was thinking of a nice little project for our first quarter President's Challenge and I decided a good project would be a lidded box. The dimensions will be, no wider than 3 inches and no taller than 6 inches including the finial (if included). Again there will be 3 categories, Beginner, Plain Finished Wood and Enhanced Wood.

NOTE: Bob Smith can *no longer* enter the beginner category, after he submitted his winning entry for the Christmas ornament challenge in November.

For all of the members who missed our December meeting, Dennis Paullus was presented a plaque and a platter in recognition of his selection as a Lifetime Member of MSWG. Congratulations to Dennis and many thanks for his years of contributions to the club. We also have a new board member coming onboard, Bill Bleau, and a person who will be sorely missed, our outgoing

board member, Larry Cutliff who has been a wonderful asset to the club for the last four years.

Our yearly membership fees are now due and are \$35.00 this year. Please see Matt Garner at the upcoming meeting to update your member status.

Karl Loeblein has been busily working on processing wood and has made quite a bit of it available to the club in the past. He is marketing his wood and would love to find some steady buyers for his product. He has both both bowl and platter blanks available in local woods. You can call him at 901-305-5400, if you want to check on his inventory.

Mike Maffitt

A Member's Sale

Offered by **Marcus Boyd, 901.281.5578**

- 7 ft. Rock Maple & Walnut Custom Work Bench.....\$500
- Grizzly 34 in. Bench-top Radial Drill Press w/ Cabinet.....\$200
- Grizzly 14 in. Bandsaw.....\$400
- Dewalt 12 in. Double-bevel, Sliding Compound Miter Saw
w/Custom Rolling Cabinet.....\$500
- Robust "American Beauty" Lathe, 3 hp, 220v w/Tilt-away Tailstock
and Casters (as purchased Oct. 2012 @ \$8084).....\$7000

Music Box

By Skip Wilbur



This January's club meeting I will go over with you my method of making a tight fitting lidded box and incorporating in it an 18 note music movement.

My intention is to expose and inspire you entry level turners (freshman) as well as our more seasoned turners (seniors) the steps necessary to complete this project.

I will step you through the skills as well as offer helpful ideas in designs. We will discuss wood selection, design elements, embellishment techniques, turning tools, chucking methods and finishing. I will devote extra time and ideas to overcome the dreaded tear out while turning end grain. I will demonstrate some of the end grain cutting tool on the market as well as how to modify some of the tools you may have to finish with museum quality work.

We will rough turn a block of wood, part it in two, hollow out the end grain and make a piston fitting lid. We will now take this generic box and embellish it with an 18-note music movement.

What's not to love about a gift that's hand-made, functional, and artistic, signed by you.

Fun Fact

Did you know that woodturners have a theme song?

(See the February issue of Turners Talk)

“Tick-Tock “ Goes The Calendar!

By: Joseph Voda

Gosh, is it already that time? Time to prepare for the Pink Palace Craft Fair sales?!?

“Wait, what?”, you say. “Are you mad? My calendar says it is only the middle part of January.”

Well, there is a bit of madness in that opening remark, when you stop to think about it. The madness comes from the time-investment woodturning requires in the production process of many popular forms.

One twice-turned bowl, hollow-form or lidded-box can require a minimum of six months of drying time – potentially more, depending overall size and the available drying set-up. Also, consider this estimate is affected by the individual’s skill in developing his/her drying process to reduce cracked pieces. Then comes the second-turning, any embellishment, finish application and buffing. So, to offset this investment, we are compelled to create batches of each work stage: as many first-turned blanks as we can dry, coordinated with the time required to finish the remaining steps before the deadline. Let’s take a look at some of the work processes, which compete for a craft fair-customers’ dollars.

Starting with potters. A “green piece” can be completed in a matter of hours – even allowing for a re-start, should the pot or cup fail on the wheel, or the artist discard an unsatisfactory form. Then in a matter of “days”, this green (“air-dried”) piece is glazed and, along with a full kiln-quantity of brethren, is ready for finish firing. Per my memory, this step requires only a few days at best and all the items from it are finished pieces. The comment, “along with a kiln-quantity of brethren” alludes to the fact that they are working in batches of product, but



the overall process time is still shorter. Please do not confuse a potter with a “slip-pour” ceramics shop. This process is not considered a craft, as a watery clay “slip” is poured into molds to produce a “green” item, rather than having any physical manipulation by the craft artist. The items from this process are “simple” designs, produced as quantity pieces. The exception being items such as porcelain china (plate-ware).

How about jewelers? (From my college experience...) I would draw out several designs at a time, since one would often generate others. Then, similar designs are prepared in wax molds, combined with sprues to cast multiples in each desired metal. Then, all the finishing steps can be completed to groupings of the product: sprue-removal, component soldering, adding forced patina detail, gem installation, some shaping and polishing. Lacking the drying problems of wood and the related need to re-work the first-turned item, this batch process yields more product in a shorter time. I expect non-precious metalworking would follow the same timeline.

Painters in acrylic or oil? Production time here would be dictated by the level of execution: still-life views are probably the quickest. Portraits or abstracts involving “inspiration” usually require an undefined time input. Once again, I am not versed in this discipline, so we should ask Jim Tusan to answer how long it takes to build a sizable sales inventory.

Quilters? Although, I make no claim to understand their entire process, I view their production as mainly “one-piece-at-a-time.” Allowing a week for each finished piece, it could take months to generate a finished, available inventory. I am not aware of a quantity-version of this craft.

“Tick-Tock” cont.

Glass workers? Are we talking Chihuly or a heated, glass-rod curio sculptor? The former certainly has us beat in the care required for his medium. A crack in his material is more catastrophic than in ours! The demand for avoiding cracks while creating a piece of this art is far beyond the woodturner's time-line. His process seldom allows for more than one item in six months. Whereas, the

latter is often found making replacement inventory on the spot of their sales venues.

So, the next time you attend a craft fair, ponder the time-lines above and consider whether you are as “mad” as you should be.

Still there?.....“Time's-a-wastin”

2018 Honorary Lifetime Member Award

As Mike said in his President's Corner, this year's Lifetime Member Award was presented to Dennis Paullus. Not to repeat verbatim those comments, we offer reiterate some of those qualifications. Dennis is a charter member of the Mid South Woodturners Guild (est'd 1997). One would be hard-pressed to find a long-time member that is more passionate regarding the accomplishments and continued success of the Memphis, TN chapter of the America Association of Woodturners. He is a determined champion of our craft and art, telling all he meets that there is no better way to learn the craft, than to join a local chapter. In support of the development of all woodturners, regardless of skill level, he stresses their need to “get involved”. That advise is not only directed at utilizing mentors, but in finding ways to support the chapter's operational needs each month. Dennis is firm in support of our chapter to the state and national art associations in ways that might surprise some of our members.

So, we say “Thanks, Dennis. Keep us moving forward.”

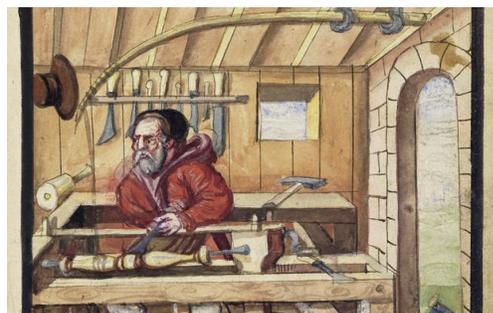
Credit: Dennis's platter was turned by Larry Sefton and engraved by Larry Cutliff.



Shop “Re-”Visit

By Joseph Voda

NOTE: This article was originally attributed to the wrong author. My sincere apology to Eric Carron.



The intent of modifying the title of this article, which is normally written by Eric Carron, is to provide a benefit from a member's occasional upgrade(s) to their shops and/or tools.

In the August, 2018 newsletter, Eric reported his visit to my workshop, which was still in its design evolution. Since that time, I finally installed my new Laguna Revo 18|36 lathe.



The first modification to my tool layout came from an afternoon spent with Larry Sefton. Larry showed me how he used shower curtains, hung around the lathe, to reduce the chips and shavings from landing on all the support equipment (e.g. the sharpening table, tool rack and all other horizontal surfaces). Now, all this waste falls directly at my feet, where I can quickly scoop them into the waste bin. (see picture left.)

Then, once my new main lathe was installed, I mounted the main lighting centered in-line and directly above the bed. When I turned my first bowl on the new lathe, I found that my head blocked too much light, needed for the inside of the bowl. No adjustment of the track-light fixtures could overcome this loss, so I set out for a solution.

It was logical that any fixture attached directly to the tailstock would not resolve the issue, when it was removed from the bed. This left me looking for a solution to attach to the overhead track.

First, I mounted an articulated arm lamp upside down, but that failed as the weight the light head overcame the springs and it just sagged. Then, I hit upon the ideal solution, using some steel bed-rail and an extra section to the track light. The design consists of an upside-down, “L-shaped” bracket with another section of track lighting to hold light-head(s). This bracket is designed to pivot from a position at the end of the lathe bed, to the working position at 90 degrees to the bed. It allows a great amount of flexibility in positioning supplemental lighting. (see picture right.)



Upcoming Events

2019

- January 19 Skip Wilbur
- February 23 Mike Hunter with Hunter Tools
- March 23 Dennis Paullus
- April 27 Bob Wolfe
- May 25 TBD
- June 22 Sammy Long (Magnolia Turners chapter) Carving Demo
June 23 Hands-On Carving Class
- July 27 TBD
- August 24 TBD
- September 28 TBD
- October 26 Oktoberfest, Demo TBD
- November 23 TBD
- December 14 Christmas Luncheon

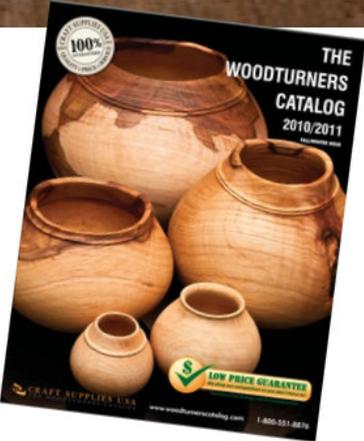
Mentors Program

All members of MSWG are invited to contact the following mentors to learn a new technique, improve their turning skills or turn something different. Mentors are volunteers and do not charge.

Contact information is on our website under Members Only and the Roster. Sessions should last no longer than 3 hours and be scheduled at the convenience of the mentor.

Benson, Joel	Wood Selection, Turning Green Wood, McNaughton Coring, Chain Saw Sharpening/ Maintenance, Chain Saw Use/Safety
Cannon, Rick	Segmented Bowls
Maffitt, Mike	Bowls, Platters and Native American Flutes
Sefton, Larry	Milk Paint, Make Your Own Pyrography Unit, Hollow Forms
Stone, Rick	Finials, Bowls (incl. Natural Rim), Boxes, Spindles, Carving, Finishes, Pyrography, Making Tools, Turning Tool Basics (incl. Sharpening)
Tusant, Jim	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Pyrography, Carving, Dyeing, Tool Use
Wilbur, Skip	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Goblets, Finials

Club Sponsors



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1-(800)-551-8876

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>

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