

January, 2015



**This issue is dedicated to Skip Wilbur
MSWG President, 2011-2014**



Ray Tanner, Editor





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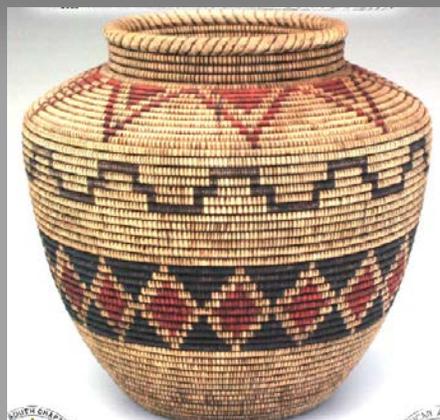
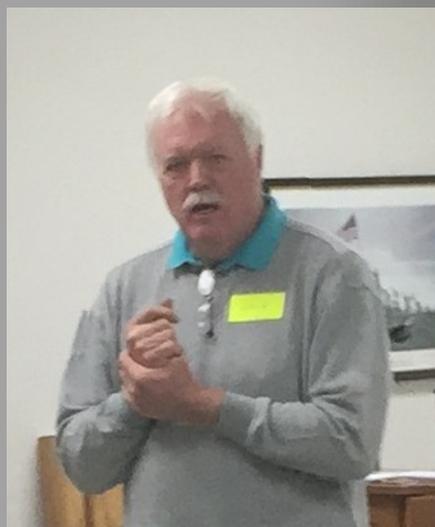
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*Segmented Bowl in background
made by Skip Wilbur*

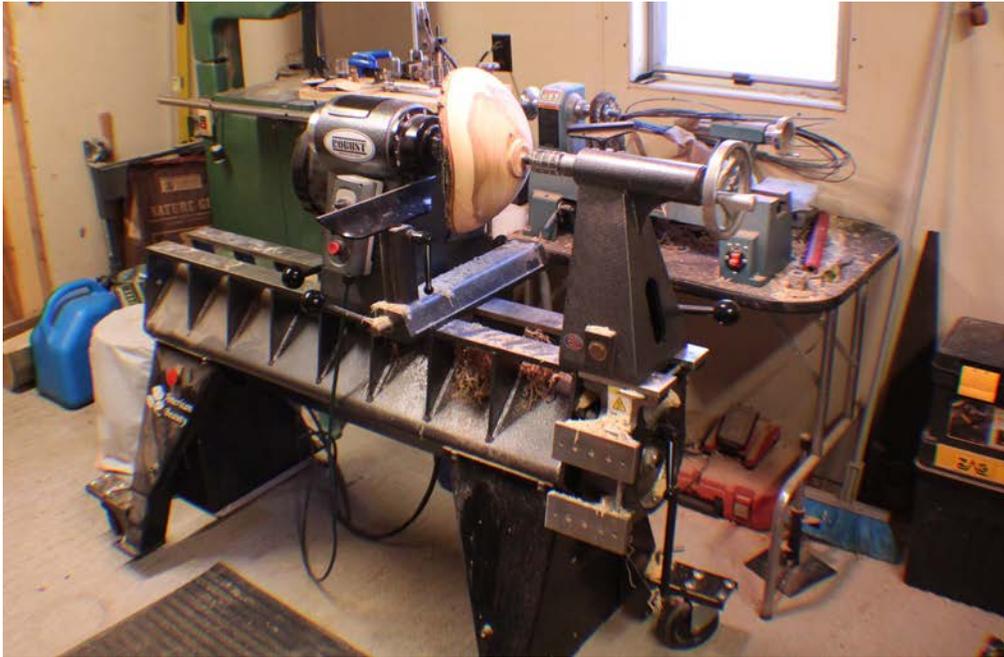
Dedication

This issue is dedicated to Skip Wilbur, president of our guild from 2011 through 2014. He unstintingly gave of his time, his talents and his funds. He visited numerous other clubs in order to share his skills and make contacts to recruit nationally known demonstrators of woodturning, wood burning, wood-carving and wood painting. He hosted monthly meetings of our board at his shop, always seeking consensus of opinion before expressing his own. He endeavored to provide maximum time to our demonstrators by minimizing the time for our business meetings. He often provided tips and techniques at our meetings. If no one volunteered for a demonstration or no outsider was recruited Skip would fill-in with demonstrations of his own, which were always valuable and clearly explained.

Skip found and made available to our members several sources of green and dry wood. He arranged field trips for our membership, instigated Hands-on Sessions, the President's Challenge, and a Mentoring Program for less experienced turners. He exemplified the ideal president as he oversaw all aspects of our monthly meetings – if anything was overlooked he would pitch-in and do it himself. Under his administration our guild acquired one of the best audio-visual systems to enable everyone in attendance to see and hear details of each demonstration. Skip made many other contributions and introduced several more innovations to make these last four years truly outstanding for all of us, for which he deserves our heart-felt appreciation. It has been an enjoyable and highly educational period in the history of our club. Many thanks Skip for an excellent job.



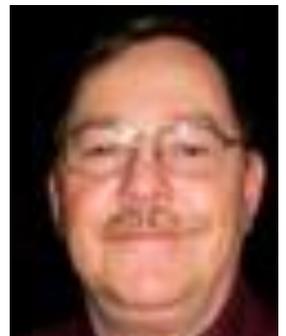
Shop Talk visits Marcus Boyd



New Guild member Marcus Boyd lives in East Memphis with his wife, Leslie. He has been woodworking and woodturning for over 25 years. He was an instructor and supervisor at a professional wood shop in Ft. Carson, Colorado in 1994. While there he sold his turned pieces at local galleries.

Marcus attended the Marc Adams School several times and also worked with Steven Proctor (flat work) for two weeks. He also attended Dale Nish courses in basic and advanced woodturning at Craft Supply in Utah. He has attended numerous other turning symposia over the years.

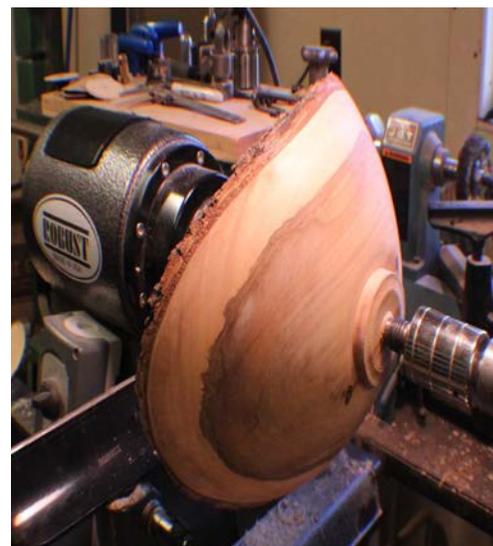
Marcus became interested in turning when a friend of his who was a potter was making a large clay platter and asked him if he could make one out of wood. Once he turned the platter on the outboard of a Delta lathe, he caught the bug. He says his interest lies in turning natural edged bowls and southwestern style bowls. Marcus has completed several projects in flatwork including the headboard for his bed, cabinets to display his turned pieces and other fine furniture.



Rick Stone

(Continued on Next Page)

Marcus has a small shop in his backyard with a window A/C and portable heater. He doesn't have room for a table saw and all it takes to do flat work, but he has what he needs for turning. He has a Robust American Beauty lathe, a Jet mini, a Grizzly band saw, a Stihl chain saw, a DeWalt 12" sliding miter saw, an air compressor, a bench grinder with Wolverine sharpening jig, and numerous hand tools.



Marcus, like many of us, got into wood turning and found he loved the lathe the most as it is such fun.

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On the wall in Marcus' shop, it correlates with his interest in turning southwestern type bowls.

But, you'll have to ask him about the wooden object in the fore-ground - maybe a globe base, a special clamping device, or legs for a small table or ?

+++++

Whatever happened to the bell patterns (< 6" dia & < 6" tall) several of our members turned for the National Ornamental Metal Museum?



They are being used in the development of quality aluminum patterns from which numerous bronze bells can be cast after negative text is inscribed in the sand molds taken from the Al patterns. Wood patterns gradually deteriorate in repeated use. This picture shows 4 separate wooden patterns, their Al counterparts and one cast bronze bell (upper left, seems to have a handle, but that is from the sprue). The sprue hole in a mold is where molten metal is poured. Early attempts using normal casting sand and a top sprue hole yielded surface defects. A resin sand and bottom sprue holes were utilized for these aluminum patterns, with improved results.

Early attempts using normal casting sand and a top sprue hole yielded surface defects. A resin sand and bottom sprue holes were utilized for these aluminum patterns, with improved results.

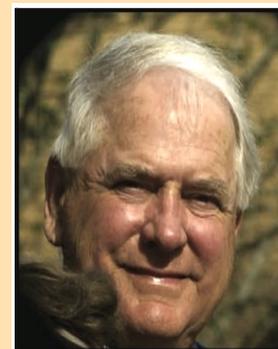


Woodturners often encounter and even ask this question -- is this wood finish food safe? The answer is almost certainly yes, especially when you remember that *food safe* is different from *food friendly* – a few drops of linseed oil or turpentine won't harm you, but the flavor of your food may suffer. If people would just think for a moment, they would realize that only an infinitesimal quantity of finishing material could possibly be ingested with each use of a bowl.

The tiresome phrase “finishes are safe if dry” had to be written by some bureaucratic intern at the FDA. Who is going to eat cereal out of a bowl still wet with a coating of polyurethane gel? And what would happen if you did? It would be a challenge to find a wood finish that produces significant toxicity in such small doses.

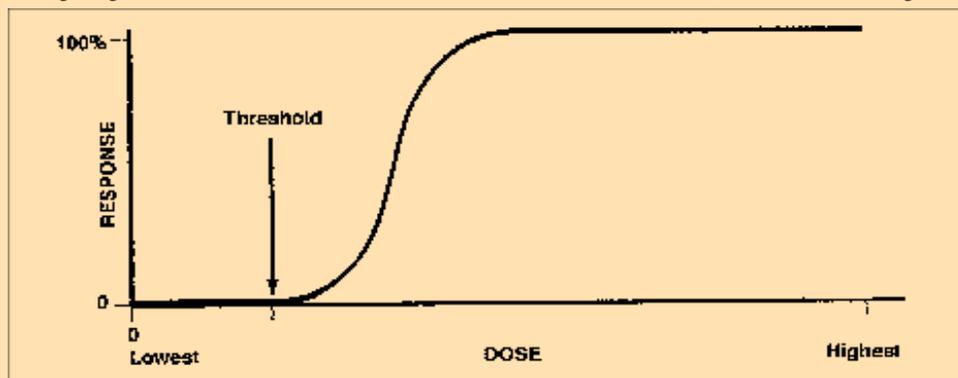
In a previous life, I was a pharmacologist who spent a lot of time evaluating the toxic potential of substances foreign to the body. Drugs and other chemicals differ in terms of the type of toxicity which may be produced and in the amount required to produce that toxicity. Which brings us to the critical factor of DOSE. As Paracelsus (circa 1530) stated: *All things are poisonous, for there is nothing without poisonous qualities; it is only the dose which makes a substance a poison.* Cherry wood and apricot pits contain cyanide, one of the most toxic chemicals found in nature, but the amount of cyanide is too small to produce problems under most circumstances. On the other hand, drink enough water -- several gallons -- and it will kill you.

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Emmett Manley

With each use how much shellac, lacquer, wax, etc. could be ingested from a wooden bowl that had been finished with such a product? One milligram? Probably less than a microgram. Let's take an extreme case. Rather than ingest a tiny amount of shellac with each bowl of cereal, what if we swallowed the amount of shellac covering a wooden bowl in one gulp. What would happen? Not much. And you won't be consuming all the shellac at once, probably a small percentage even over decades of regular use. A similar situation exists for most other common finishing chemicals. If a tiny bit should be absorbed it is comforting to know that most foreign chemicals are quickly removed from the body, typically by some biotransformation in the liver, followed by elimination in the urine.



Also, most ingested oils and waxes are not absorbed by the body to an appreciable extent; in fact, long chain hydrocarbons (mineral oil, petroleum jelly, paraffin, etc.) are used as lubricant laxatives because they pass right through the gastrointestinal tract. The laxative dose of such oils is measured in grams, not milligrams or micrograms.

How did all this concern about containers being food safe get started? Remember I said most foreign chemicals are quickly eliminated from the body. Well, there are a few exceptions and heavy metals constitute a major exception. Lead, for example, accumulates in the body when ingested over a period of time. And, it does not take a lot of lead to produce serious toxicity to the brain, heart, kidney, and just about every other critical organ in the body, especially in children.

About 75 years ago there was a rash of toxicities reported in people using unglazed lead-containing pottery from Mexico. Daily consumption of acidic beverages (orange juice, etc.), leached lead from the pottery, and over a period of years, resulted in irreversible and serious neurotoxicities, including developmental disorders, seizures, coma, even death. More recently there has been legitimate concern about lead based paint pigments and such paints have been banned in the U.S. since 1978. Lead was removed from gasoline because of the same concern.

If you want to worry about food safety – think about the last person who used your fork at your favorite restaurant. Did they have hepatitis? Was the tableware really sterilized in the dishwasher? Did the kitchen guy making the cold salads have E. coli smeared all over his hands? There is a lot to worry about relative to food safety, but a few micrograms of polyurethane in your cereal is not one of them.

A postscript for the professional woodturner. If you are trying to sell "food safe" products, you have to respect what customers believe, even knowing that they are wrong. It is not worth the time to try to educate folks who are so caught up in the green, organic, and natural world that they are totally opposed to any "chemicals". Therefore, you may be forced to use mineral oil, beeswax, walnut oil, or other perceived "natural" finishes to make a sale. Or, use no finish at all, but most people want shine!

NOTE TO READERS: THIS IS A TWEAKED ENCORE ARTICLE FROM 2009

President's Corner



Happy New Year everyone. Here we go with another year of wood turning and fellowship. We have been around a long time with this club. I remember when we barely had 20 or so members. Over the years we have grown and prospered to be the club we are now. We had 90 plus members at the end of last year, of course it is not quantity that counts but quality of our membership. We have the best volunteers in the world, giving of their time and talents, passionate about their art and willing to share all they know and then some. I have always believed that the best way to learn how to become a wood turner is to join a wood turning club.

I'm looking forward to this year of demonstrations, instant galleries, and raffles. I'm also looking forward to working with the new Board of Directors. The cycle continues, committed, energetic people who volunteer to man the Board of Directors just like the last Board of Directors, and the Board before them.

I'm so proud of this club, we have grown over the years to what we are now. There are few clubs out there that have better equipment than we do. We have a nice lathe, we have really good audio and visual equipment, which is fantastic. This makes viewing the demonstrations a great experience. We have instant galleries that are as good as it gets. We have a lot to be proud of and to be thankful for. Everything we have and everything we do is because of our membership. A Great Man once said "It is not what your Country can do for you, but what You can do for your Country". I think that we all want our club to continue to grow and prosper. I urge you to do something you may not have done before. Do something for the club, it does not take much if we all chip in. Come early and stay late to the club meetings. Help set up, help clean up after the meeting, bring something for instant gallery, bring something for the raffle, buy raffle tickets. Mentor a fellow club member. There are so many ways to give back to the club. I believe you will be enriched much more than you know.

Also I want to thank the exiting Board members for their dedication and hard work for our club. Thank you Skip, Jim, Ray, Matt, and Wright.

So let's get ready for another great year. See you all at our January meeting when we host Mr, Sammy Long from the Magnolia Wood Turners. Also in January the Tennessee Association of Woodturners will have their annual symposium in Franklin TN. If you have never been to their symposium you are missing an awesome experience.

Dennis Paullus

The lowdown on our new officers and board members for 2015:



President Dennis Paullus — Born and raised in Frayser (a northern suburb of Memphis) and a graduate of Frayser High School, Dennis has a twin sister and “attended the college of hard knocks” as he puts it. Dennis worked until 2010 in construction moving from being a carpenter, to a master welder then to construction supervisor in both commercial and industrial fields. Currently a full time wood turner and sculptor, he travels to art shows throughout the country, selling his art and demonstrating and teaching at wood turning clubs. His shop is well outfitted for teaching small classes. He enjoys teaching and his reputation therein is unmatched. He served on the first board of directors of the MSWG.

Vice President Bill Bleau — Bill, who recently served as our Librarian, is a graduate of Ohio State University (engineering) and is employed here by the Mitsubishi Electric Power Company in the area of Quality Control. He is a long-time woodworker having constructed many pieces in use at home. Bill and his wife have one son (at U of M) and a daughter (working at Channel 13 Fox, Memphis). He was born and raised in Akron and spent many hours at the Hartville Hardware store there, one of the largest in the country. After moving here eight years ago a friend introduced him to wood turning which totally captivated him. Bill recently said, “I sincerely enjoy this great club with its fantastic members.”



Secretary Rich Williams — Rich, a native of Washington, D.C, grew up mostly in Arkansas and overseas (his father was in the Army). He spent six years in the Army himself, followed by thirty years as an engineer with Ford Motor Company in Michigan. Two years ago he moved to Germantown and has four grown daughters and a new fiancé. Bowl turning is his favorite but he also enjoys scrimshaw, silversmithing and flat wood work. Rich joined our Guild last year and volunteered to serve on the board of directors not realizing he would be quickly utilized as our financial officer.

Treasurer Joseph Voda — Joseph, first vice president last year, is well known to our members for his dedicated operation of our audio/visual equipment which greatly enhances each monthly meeting. He was born in Alexandria, Louisiana, is married (Linda) and has two daughters with six grandchildren. Joseph began wood turning in 2002, joined the AAW just a year later and has been very active in our guild. His favorite projects include lidded boxes, bowls and ornaments. Joseph enjoys demonstrating his skills and learning new techniques. He has both a Delta 46-715 Floor Model lathe (with pulley operated variable speed) and a General International VS 25-200 MAXI Bench Top lathe.



Board Member Richard Hiller — Whenever anyone at our meetings needs a tool they have only to call on Richard who carries a complete set in his briefcase. He is a retired Journeyman Electrician with a wife Susan, two sons, a dog, and two cats. He does not yet have a shop but has collected the tools for one (a Delta Midi is his best lathe) and enjoys flat woodwork and tinkering with mechanical/electrical and electronic devices. Richard also has an active interest in photography and has been a registered Adult Scouter for twenty years. His hope is that our guild will continue to grow and he encourages all members to be active both in woodturning and in the guild.

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The piece being turned and the cutting tool occupy one side of the toolrest,  
the turner's hands the other side!

## The lowdown on our new officers and board members for 2015: (continued)

**Board Member Jerry Hosier** — Jerry should be known to all as the one who has long set-up our meeting room, secured the drinks and donuts and cleaned up afterward. He was born in Iowa City, IA, served in the Navy for thirty years and has worked for FedEx since 1989 managing the Airbus passenger to freighter conversions in Germany and the US. He and his wife have two sons who have families of their own. Jerry has a highly organized shop and enjoys woodworking of all kinds, but especially woodturning as well as camping. He feels he learns something at every one of our meetings and likes to attend extended classes such as at John C. Campbell and Marc Adams and hopes to attend Arrowmont very soon.



**Board Member Rick Stone** — Born in Walnut Ridge, AR, Rick has worked in TN, AR and IL as well as Brooklyn, NY (he designed the plumbing for a 28 story building there in 1990). This is his second year on the board. He has owned an HVAC/Plumbing Shop since 1970. As a master plumber, gas fitter and HVAC contractor, Rick is handy with welding, designing contraptions, and moving heavy objects. He has a new machine lathe and several wood lathes and especially enjoys turning hollow forms and platters. Rick has 3 daughters and 1 son. He and his wife Polly have enjoyed touring bike trips to several national parks.

Here are a few of the 27 items recently sold at our **December Auction**, contributed by members and the board of directors.

Award winning Christmas ornaments on the left and a set of bamboo coasters on the right. All auction proceeds went to our Education Fund.



## Mentor List

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

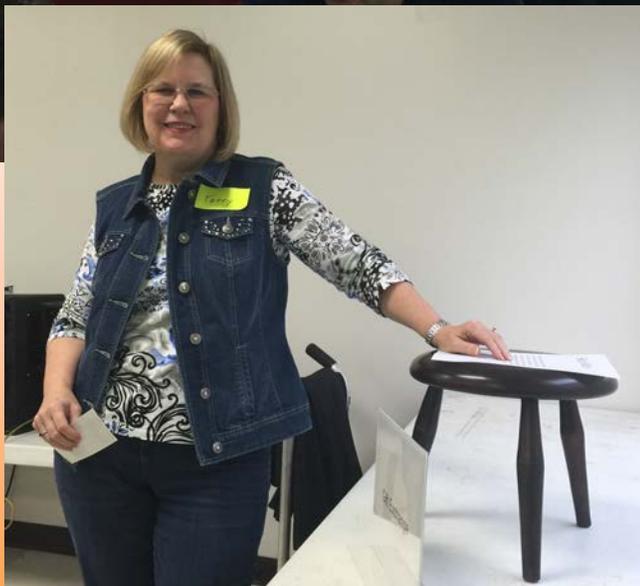
- Benson, Joel** Wood Selection, Turning Green Wood, McNaughton Coring, Chain Saw Sharpening/Maintenance, Chain Saw Use/Safety
- Cannon, Rick** Segmented Bowls
- Hosier, Jerry** Basic Stone and Wire Inlay, Woodturning Basics (Beads & Coves), Use of Spindle & Bowl Gouges
- Maffitt, Mike** Trembleurs, Offset Turning
- Manley, Emmett** Basic Woodturning, Green Wood Turning, Tool Handles, Wine Bottles Natural Edged Bowls from Limbs, Bottle Stoppers, Bangles and Napkin Rings, Ring Stands, Osolnik Candlesticks, Hand Mirrors, Stick Pens, Madcap Mushrooms, Eggs, Honey Dippers, Miniature Bird Houses, Kitchen Dippers, Mallets, Simple Salt & Pepper Shakers
- Paullus, Dennis** Tool Use, Turning Safety, Hollow Vessels, Bowls, Boxes (Friction Fit, Threaded), Spindle Turning
- Pillow, Wright** Inlaying: Marketry, Inlace, Epoxy
- Seaton, Sam** Rose Engine Carving
- 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
- Voda, Joseph** Spindle Turning (e.g. Ornaments)
- Wilbur, Skip** Bowls, Hollow Forms, Goblets, Finials

# Christmas Party and Auction — Dec. 13, 2014

Dennis, the Auctioneer



Don and Mary Chandler



Cherry Platter by Rick Stone  
Where else can you get fine art for so little?

Terry's Milking Stool by Skip Wilbur

## Minutes of the Membership Meeting—December 13, 2014

Call to Order: 9:00 AM

Skip, Wilbur, President

Treasurers Report: (see separate report) Approved

Matt Garner, Treasurer

November Minutes: (see Dec newsletter) Approved

Wright Pillow, Secretary

### Statements and Information by President:

Skip expressed his appreciation to the Guild for its support during his tenure as president. He congratulated the members on what has been achieved in terms of equipment, programming, library, and the mentoring program.

MSWG dues for 2015 are due now as well as for American Association of Wood Turners. Skip promoted the Tennessee Association of Woodturners (TAW) Symposium in Franklin, TN, Jan 30 & 31, 2015.

### Future Meeting Programs:

January: Sammy Long – Magnolia Club of Brandon, MS

February: Jonas Nemanis, MSWG

### By-laws Change Regarding Board of Directors Quorum:

The language of Article VI section B of the By-laws shall be changed to read  
“A quorum at a Board meeting shall be four directors in attendance.”

Unanimously accepted by the Membership.

### November Board of Directors Actions:

2015 Officers, elected by the 2014 Board of Directors, are:

Pres. - Dennis Paulus; V. P. - Bill Bleau; Secty. - Rich Williams; Treas. - Joseph Voda;

At Large Members - Jerry Hosier, Rick Stone, Richard Hiller

Ray Tanner was approved as the Newsletter Editor.

Rick Stone was approved to write the Shop Talk articles.

### Gift Exchange:

Members who brought gifts were randomly awarded a gift.

### Annual Christmas Auction:

Thanks to the 27 members and friends who contributed items for the Auction.

\$1,580 was raised for the Education Fund.

### Holiday Potluck Luncheon:

Wonderful food! Great fellowship! Tremendous celebration for a successful year by the Guild.

### Meeting Adjourned:

When all had over-eaten.

## Our Financial Status:

| MSWG Treasurers Report    | Dec 7, 2014 | 2014<br>Year End |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Operating Fund            | \$3,163.05  | \$3,058.73       |
| Joan Kelly Fund           | \$873.50    | \$893.50         |
| Education Fund            | \$2,031.73  | \$3,611.73       |
| <br>Receipts in Nov, 2014 |             |                  |
| 2015 Memberships          | \$610.00    |                  |
| Nov Raffle                | \$68.00     |                  |
| <br>Expenditures in Nov   |             |                  |
| Meeting Room Rent         | \$100.00    |                  |
| Bank Fees                 | \$9.10      |                  |
| Refreshments              | \$34.92     |                  |
| 1st prize ornament        | \$50.00     |                  |
| 2nd prize ornament        | \$25.00     |                  |

48 - \$100 grants made to other clubs for Lathe Shields from the Joan Kelly Fund

2014 Members at year end 87

Members who've paid 2015 dues 45

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For each monthly meeting bring a recent turning for our  
Gallery; and some wood, a tool you no longer use,  
or some item others might want for our Raffle.

This helps support MSWG along with our low annual dues.

## Forthcoming Meeting Demonstrations and Events

*The Mid South Woodturners Guild meets the 4th Saturday of each month from 9-12 AM at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Rd (at Bartlett Blvd).*

|                 |                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 24      | <b>Sammy Long</b> from the Magnolia Club of Brandon, MS                                                                                 |
| January 30 & 31 | Tenn. Assn. of Woodturners Symposium in Franklin, TN (see pp. 23 - 29 of the December issue of Turners Talk for a complete description) |
| February 28     | <b>Jonas Nemanis</b> , MSWG member                                                                                                      |
| March 28        | In the Planning Stage                                                                                                                   |
| April 25        | Demonstration (To Be Announced) and Semiannual Member's Tool Sale and Swap                                                              |

### What would you like to see in this monthly newsletter?

Perhaps a column on special techniques used by experienced woodturners? Or, maybe a question and answer page with questions from readers and answers from whomever has the requisite knowledge or experience. Or, reprints of articles from newsletters from other AAW clubs? Or ??

Please email the editor with your suggestions and ideas. All will be appreciated and will help to improve our knowledge and practice of woodturning.

Go to this website to learn about classes at the Applachian Center for Craft: <https://www.tntech.edu/craftcenter/workshops/>. It is beyond Nashville on I-40 at the turnoff for Center Hill Dam (at Smithville, TN). It has good accommodations.





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8500 Wolf Lake Drive  
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Bartlett, TN 38133



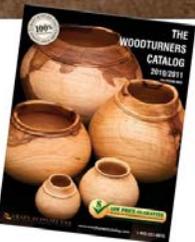
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