

# TURNERS TALK

The Midsouth Woodturner's Guild

September 2021

Artist: Bob wolfe



## **Upcoming 2021 Demos & Events**

September 18, 2021 – Rick Cannon – ZOOM Demonstration

September 24-26, 2021 - [Pink Palace Craft Show](#) - The 2021 Pink Palace Crafts Fair IS happening this year

October 23, 2021 – Oktoberfest (all day) - [Mark Sillay Demonstration](#) - at Larry Cutliff's farm

October 24, 2021 - Hands on with [Mark Sillay](#) - at Larry Cutliff's (6-member limit / cost \$75)

November 27, 2021 - [Glenn Lucas](#) - From his Woodturning Study Centre in Co. Carlow, Ireland (Interactive Remote Demonstration at regular meeting room)

December 18, 2021 – Holiday Party & Auction

January 22, 2022 – MSWG Club meeting, Bartlett Station Municipal Center

January 28-29, 2022- TAW Franklin, Tn.

February 22, 2022 – MSWG Club demo with Sammy Long presenting.

## **Quick Links to MSWG's Website**

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## The President's Corner



Well, it's just about Fall. I can't wait until the weather cool off some so, I can open the door to my shop and enjoy the cooler weather. Well, that's my plan. We've had an interesting year opening with Zoom Meeting with Demos by Craig Timmerman, Larry Sefton, Roberto Ferrer, Dennis Paulus, Skip Wilburn, Rick Stone, and Jonas Nemanis, and Jeff Brockett. Wow, quite a list of talented turners. This month we look forward to Rick Cannon demonstrating embellishing turned pieces using, carvers, burners, and paints. Should be quite a show. We thought we had the Covid-19 virus under control and back to in person meetings, then came the Delta Variant, now back to Zoom meetings. Although our viewership is down some, we have had a great audience attend our meetings. In looking across the country we have fared much better than most clubs. This is due to our great members and in no small part due to Larry Sefton's efforts to produce videos. We've had some issues, but we are still learning and getting better.

September is packed with several activities. This past week we demonstrated at the Delta Fair pavilion. We will have this month's demo by Rick Cannon on September 18, the week of September 24–26 we will have the Pink Palace Craft Show, and then Fall officially arrives. Next month is Oktoberfest. More to come on this event.

This month's President's challenge is to turn a snack bowl. Simply turn any bowl that will hold snacks for these fall activities. Don't forget to send high resolution photos of your entries and Instant Gallery entries to [MSWGphotos@sefton.info](mailto:MSWGphotos@sefton.info). This month we will have a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate from the Woodwork Shop for members that attend the September Zoom meeting.

Bob Wolfe

Club President

## ***OFF TO SWAT WE GO!***

On this date of Sept 26, 2021, an intrepid team of volunteers, Rick Cannon (leader of men), Skip Wilbur (Capt.), and Jeff Brann (DD) gathered in the F250 with a huge load of Beads of Courage boxes, ice cold beverages and snacks, minimal overnight gear, and headed out for WACO, Tx for the annual Southwest Area Turners, SWAT, meeting. Arrival was a well-planned and safe event at 410pm at the WACO convention center and we proceeded to offload our BOC boxes and check-in for the following days rotations. Hospitality abounds in Texas and this event is not an exception as were glad to see so many familiar faces, including Mike and Terry Maffitt, Dennis Paullus, and other acquaintances, turners, and cowhands (this is Texas you know)! Yee Haw!

Later we proceeded to our abode for the weekend, checked in, and began an attempt to consume all the Capts' adult beverages. Unsuccessful, as we really wanted to eat some superb TEX-MEX at Minfa's restaurant, one of our favorites.

And so, the conference rotations began the next morning.

### **SWAT Demonstrator observations**

**Nick Agar – Bronze Platter.** Nick moved his studios from England to Savanah, Ga a few years ago where he believed he had a greater opportunity to expand his artistic craft. He is one of the favorite demonstrators on the tour and is always prepared to astonish you with his skills of turning and embellishment. In his SWAT demonstrations Nick offers his unique methods to carve and bronze the foot and rim with reactive paints and other gilding methods. He also explains his techniques of push, pull, and shear cuts while turning the form. Overall, this presentation parallels his superb “Viking Sunset Bowls” demonstrations.



**Stuart Batty** – Bowl turning - Stuart is another highly regarded turner and instructor of gouge placement and design. With a pedigree of both his grandfather and father before him, he comes to the lathe ready to “wow” the observer with his tool control and knowledge of the wood he is working. Stuart began his woodturning career at the age of 10 in his father’s shop and learned how to production turn various spindle pieces in a most English manner. I had several “takeaways” from his demonstration:

1. Periodically clear debris from under and around the headstock.
2. always present your right foot forward when setting up to cut.
3. understand the difference between ‘riding the Bevel’ vs. ‘gliding the Bevel’.
4. when using a ‘bottom feeder’ use a flat hand to the shaft of the tool vs gripping it, establish the end of the cut first before starting the cut and finally you must cut slightly above the centerline.
5. leverage is the great equalizer when hollowing out a bowl. Stuart uses a very long tool, +20” when he demonstrates this technique.

Stuart has several YouTube videos and CDs available, and I have found them perfect for beginner to expert.

**Dennis Belcher** – “How Cracked Wood Becomes an Opportunity”. Dennis started woodturning in the mid 90’s. He has been a frequent contributor to the American Woodturner as well as the recipient of numerous awards and grants. Dennis explained his method of embellishing a crack in a bowl or hollow form by methods such as butterfly, spline, lacing, staples and even cutting it out. His tools of choice were the Dremel, router, biscuit joiner and even the hand-held dovetail saw.

**Cory White** – “Turning and Sculpting a Flowering Vase”. Cory started woodturning in 2015 and spent 32 years as a public educator. Cory focuses on natural forms that reflect the beauty in nature. Cory starts with a log that flows on one end into branches. His turning consists of turning the base and then transitions to power and hand carving tools. The completed project is a vase that resembles a flower.

**Janice Levi** – “Surface Enhancement from A to Z”. Janice was a past president of the Houston Woodturners Club, has a background in journalism and photography which helped her in developing an eye for movement and form. She demonstrates at symposia and woodturning clubs across the country and has written numerous articles in various woodturning magazines. Janice showed us how to make some woodturning tools from items you wouldn’t think of ie: beading tools from a small bowl gouge, a texturing tool with the rawl from a spur.

Her embellishments included an eggshell inlay, inlay with ground up pony beads, metal reactive paint and pyrography.



**Rebecca DeGroot** – “Mini Aquifer”. Rebecca started turning at age 5 with the help of her father. Rebecca has since graduated with two bachelor’s degrees in Art Education and Sculpture. She is now an art educator and a woodturning enthusiast. She took us through the process on how she makes her signature mini aquifer. The result is an art piece that looks like an organic plant grown out of an aquifer. Her process consisted of wood stabilization, resin casting, carving, and polishing for a truly unique art form. Her enthusiasm and relaxing type of presentation made for a fun and entertaining demonstration.

## Walking mushroom and Teapot,Rebecca at the Lathe, Mini-Aquifer



Artist: Rebecca DeGroat  
Material: Dyed maple and maple burl  
Item Title: Untitled (mushroom teapot)  
Item #: \_\_\_\_\_  
For Sale: Yes  No   
Photo #: A99 287 2352

Artist: Rebecca DeGroat  
Material: Dyed maple and maple burl  
Item Title: Untitled (teacup teapot)  
Item #: \_\_\_\_\_  
For Sale: Yes  No   
Photo #: A99 287 2352

**Matt Monaco – Turning Wood Pottery**-Matt is an upcoming star on the woodturning scene and is recognized as an excellent wood artist. He styles his woodturning techniques after his mentor, Richard Raffin. Like Raffin, Matt emphasizes his skew in much of his work and he has become very adept with this tool. We will see more of Matt at our April 2022 MSWG weekend event. I talked with him extensively about his plans for our weekend and I am certain he will entertain and challenge us with his skills. Some takeaways/Monacoisms

1. try to shape your work from right to left.
2. “If you’re turning.....your body shouldn’t be hurting”
3. “Don’t be afraid to fail” The faster you fail, the faster you gain an opportunity to grow in skill.



4. You can do a downhill push cut with a micro bevel on your tool.
5. Honing the Skew is an option but not required.
6. To reduce the size of a bead, make continual downhill shearing cuts.

**Jeff Neff** – Jeff is retired and hails from the San Diego, Ca area and specializes in “half-turned” bowls. This is an interesting concept but as we followed his demonstration you realize that turning “air” is an art form. He takes a bowl blank, makes it round, then cuts it in half, remounts to the lathe and then proceeds to turn a small bowl in the face of the half. Securely remounting to the lathe is critical as you must turn fast with smooth draw cuts to shape the piece. The bowl you eventually turn is small but elegant. Sanding your work periodically is required considering the shapes you are working. In the end Jeff’s art is evident with unique surface embellishments. Advanced beginning woodturners can do this!



There were several other presenters including rotations on unique pen-making. Jim Hinze, Karen Freitas, Robert Blanford, and Don Ward were key pen demonstrators. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to see everyone, but I know Sam D would have enjoyed this segment of wood turning pens.

Additional presenters were Alan Lacer (a true master), Tim Yoder (Oklahoma TV star), Joanne Sauvageau (from Alberta Canada) , Nick Cook ( renowned production turner), Sammy Long (February '22 at our club) and several other unique turners. This slate of exemplary artists and craftsman makes SWAT a most worthwhile trip.

Then we went home winless (Raffle), tired, but happy! But the drive home in the traffic is another story.



Jeff Brann

*A truly wise man said, “to turn Cocobolo is to invite prolonged suffering at SWAT”.*

## BEADS OF COURAGE BOXES

1. The F250 delivered 76 boxes to Waco, Tx for SWAT '21.
2. There were a total of 415 boxes submitted to SWAT this year.  
This is a record number of boxes turned into SWAT.
3. The boxes are destined for the Dell's Children's Hospital in Austin  
TX
4. A great job everyone. Please see the pictures in this newsletter.
5. Three of our boxes were singled out by SWAT for prominent  
display.
6. Let's do it again!













