

Polly Stone

(Right) Bill Siler



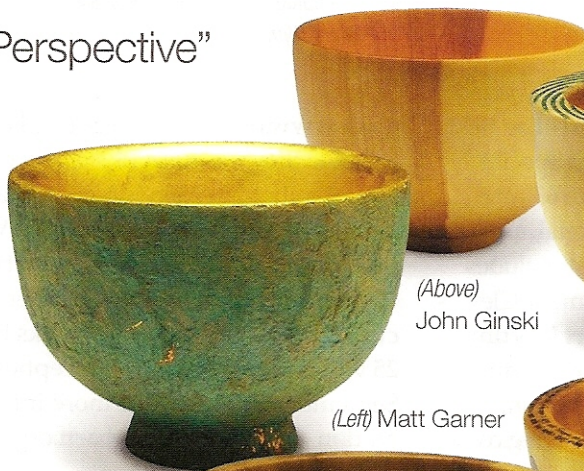
(Below) Dennis Paullus



Mid-South Bowl Project

Joan Kelly

“Japanese Bowls: A Western Perspective” premiered at the 2007 AAW Symposium in Portland, OR. Dennis Paullus, a member of the Mid-South Woodturners Guild and an accomplished woodturner, attended the exhibit. In his usual humorous approach to life, Dennis thought, “Since they didn’t invite me to participate in the project, we’ll just have our own!”



(Above) John Ginski

Bill Shaw

(Left) Matt Garner



(Above) Emmett Manley

(Left) Tate Thomas



Joan Kelly



(Left) Cassandra Speier
(Below) Bob Speier



display of the bowls at the regional Delta Fair in the fall, the bowls were offered at a live auction at the club's annual

And so we did. Dennis announced the idea at our guild's annual Octoberfest meeting in 2007 and he made sure that there would be enough blanks for any member to participate in the exhibit we titled, "Mid-South Perspective: A Collection of Japanese Rice Bowls Turned by Members of the Mid-South Woodturners Guild."

The blanks, each measuring about 5" x 6 1/2", were allowed time to dry and then were offered at the March meeting with the only stipulation that the wood be returned as a finished bowl within three months. Club members became excited about the challenge to create turnings that might take them on a different creative journey. For some members, this was their first bowl; for others, it was a chance to experiment with a new design or embellishment. Studying the magnificent results at the AAW's "A Western Perspective" provided extra inspiration.

As members submitted their finished projects, enthusiasm grew. From the 40 bowl blanks originally handed out, 29 finished bowls materialized by the June 2008 deadline.

Following a public

holiday brunch. The auction was lively, and as might be expected, many of the bowls were bought by the families of their makers. We raised about \$650 for our educational fund. These funds are used to bring in professional turners for demonstrations, without additional costs to guild members. We also offer free attendance for youth.

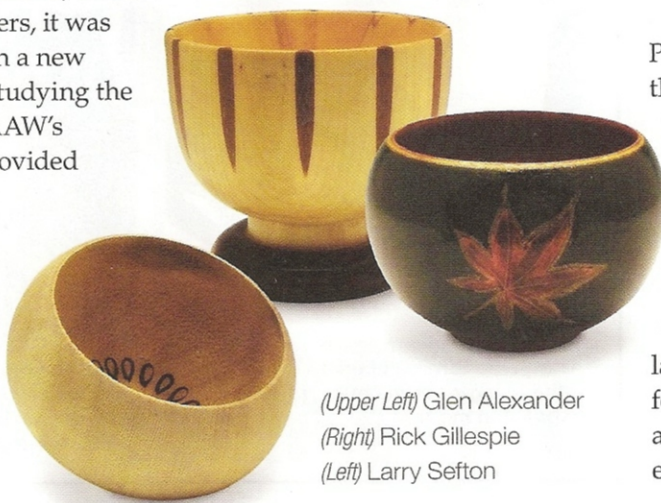
Keith Burns, a club member who not only is an exceptionally skilled turning artist, but is also an expert photographer and computer guru, managed production of a catalog,

"Since they didn't invite me to participate in the project, we'll just have our own!"

—Dennis Paullus

Mid-South Perspective: A Collection of Japanese Rice Bowls Turned by Members of the Mid-South Woodturners Guild. The book debuted with fanfare and signings at the holiday brunch. Dennis now has his work in a catalog!

"Japanese Bowls: A Mid-South Perspective" was such a success that the guild plans to promote a similar project this year, offering birdseye maple squares as the blank. This will provide a starting point for the next creative venture for members who are new and members who have decades of experience; for those who have multi-thousand dollar lathes and those who have minis; for folks who work from their left brain and folks who work from the right. We expect the results to be stunning. ■



(Upper Left) Glen Alexander
(Right) Rick Gillespie
(Left) Larry Sefton

All photos: Keith Burns