

TURNERS TALK

The Mid-South Woodturner's Guild

August 2021



Hollow form by Paul Sherman

Upcoming Demos & Event

August 21, 2021 - Jeff Brockett - Interactive Remote Demonstration (IRD) - Zoom - Basket Illusion

August 27-29, 2021 - [SWAT \(Southwest Association of Woodturners\)](#)

September 18, 2021 – Rick Cannon - Demonstration

September 24-26, 2021 - [Pink Palace Craft Show](#) - Sign-up now!

October 23, 2021 – Oktoberfest (all day) with [Mark Sillay Demonstration](#) at Larry Cutliff's farm / Announcement of 2022 BOD Nominees

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 County Carlow, Ireland - Interactive Remote Demonstration (IRD) at Bartlett Center) / Election of 2022 BOD Members

December 18, 2021 – Holiday Party & Auction at Bartlett Center

Jan 22, 2022 – MSWG monthly meeting, Bartlett Center

Jan 28-30, 2022 — TAW Symposium - Franklin, TN – Make your reservations soon!

Feb 26, 2022 – Bob Wolfe - Demonstration

March 26, 2022 - MSWG monthly meeting, Bartlett Center

Quick Links to MSWG's Website

Home Page	Members Only
About Us/Guests	Charities
Join Us/Dues/Contact Us	Blog Posts
Photo Gallery (past and present)	Update Your Member Information
Newsletters	

The President's Corner



July passed with typical hot and humid weather. Now August is here, and we are mid-summer. Make sure you stay hydrated by drinking lots of water.

July's in-person meeting was great. Jonas demonstrated the use of the hook tool and shavings were flying. Several members were on vacation, 'tis the season. The instant gallery was very interesting, and we had our first raffle in over a year.

I am looking forward to our virtual Zoom (IRD) August meeting which will be a week early (Saturday August 21) due to several members attending the SWAT symposium in Waco, Texas, August 27-29.

Jan O'Dell has taken a job in Jackson MS and will not be able to attend future board meetings. She plans to continue her regular membership and hopes to make some of our normal club meetings. I want to thank Jan for her membership on the board and wish her all the best with her new job.

I have asked Avi Pelc to join the board to fill Jan's vacancy. He will be a welcome addition. Please see Avi's bio later in this newsletter.

This month Jeff Brockett, who is member of both MSWG and TAW in Nashville, will demonstrate his Basket Illusion techniques of turning and embellishing. Jeff is very skilled with these techniques and has a full display at the Nashville International Airport. Please visit the following link to view his work there:

[Woodturning Education - Tennessee Association of Woodturners](#)

August is a busy month for turners. In addition to SWAT, those of you who wish to enter the Woodworking competition at the DELTA FAIR will need to get your forms in by August 19. Check your email or go to the Delta Fair website to view their pamphlet and entry form. www.deltafest.com

Also – Since this will be a virtual meeting, please send high resolution photos of your pieces for our Instant **Gallery** and for the **President’s Challenge** “Try Something New.”

Here is the link: mswgphotos@sefton.info

(you can also find this on the home page of our website)

Bob Wolfe,
Club President

Welcome New Board Member AVI PELC



BBA (Business Administration) – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1969

MBA (Marketing & Finance) – University of Wisconsin Milwaukee – 1974

Retired

I was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and emigrated to the US (specifically Milwaukee) with my family in 1964. I spent my first year in the US learning English and attending classes at a local 2-year college before enrolling in UWM. Since then, and while attending college, I was employed as a bookkeeper, advertising salesperson for a newspaper, advertising and marketing coordinator for a leading industrial electrical components manufacturer, and marketing and training specialist for a contractor to a leading construction equipment company. It was for this employer that I was sent to England to open a division serving European clients.

From there I joined my brother as a partner in a small automotive recycling operation where I was able to revamp the operation and increase business. After 13 years as partners, we parted ways and I joined the

leading information provider and automation systems developer serving automotive recycling until I retired from there in 2011.

Retirement did not last long as I became an independent contractor for a large association of automotive recyclers writing procedures and standards, business development, training and even serving as Executive Director for a short time.

During my career, I have lived in Wisconsin, Minnesota, briefly in Texas and now Tennessee but it gave me a chance to visit every state of the Union and most of Canada as well as quite a bit of Europe, some of the Americas, the Caribbean Islands, and the Middle East.

I was always intrigued about woodworking and became more so after watching a woodturning demo at a craft fair in Minneapolis in 2011. It was then that my wife encouraged me to try woodturning. I purchased a used Rikon mini lathe, a small band saw, a few more tools and set up a workshop in my garage. I took some classes at Woodcraft in Minneapolis and joined the Twin Cities woodturner's club. My experience initially was limited to turning pens, small bowls, ice cream scoops, rolling pins and so on, which I gave away as gifts to family and friends.

After living half of the year in TN and the other half in Minneapolis, we moved permanently to Bartlett about 4 years ago to be near our middle son and 3 of our 6 grandchildren (our grandkids range from 21 to 8) and a house that allowed me to set up a more permanent workshop in the garage. So, I purchased a larger Rikon band saw and a Laguna Revo 18-36 and started working on larger projects. But, since I was still working until March of this year, my time woodturning was also still very limited.

My wife and I have recently downsized to a home in Bartlett that has a dedicated workshop in the back yard with about 300 sq. ft. of workshop space and another 100 sq. ft. of storage where I keep my wood. I am now fully retired and looking forward to enjoying woodturning in a nice workshop.

I've been a member on MSWG since we first moved to Bartlett, and I look forward to helping the organization in any way I can.

Mentoring by Jan O'Dell

There is no question that a first-time experience is different from all subsequent repetitions. If asked about a first car, a first date, your first child, you will often get a reflective, sentimental response. And so, it goes from my first kindergarten art project to my truly “first” turning project. The thinking about what may happen and how to prepare for it while extremely useful is of little help when your lathe is turning at Mach speed and wood chips are flying like shrapnel. It is the actual experience in real time that will forge the meaningfulness of the event forever in your mind. First events are important in every stage of life, they keep us healthy and affirm a better sense of self. Hope is essential to humanity and even if the first experience doesn't quite meet our real or imagined expectation, there is almost always room and time for a re-do.

And so, after avoiding my lathe for more than a decade, I finally decided to give turning an honest and open-minded try. Previously, my woodworking had been centered on making large period-specific pieces of furniture. Lathe work was an aside only to complement furniture for chair legs, and other small projects. I was frozen and didn't trust myself with such a different but necessary set of skills I knew I didn't have. Over the last year, I grew step-by-step watching club demonstrations and listening intently to club members discuss all the various options. Unfortunately, this increased my insecurity.

Every good story has a happy ending, and mine is no different. It took the form of a woodworking village to raise this novice turner past the first few stumbling steps. Our club offers so much, including meetings, demos by members and guests, and a phenomenal library, but the jewel is the talent pool and willingness to share not only knowledge but space and tools. Mine came in an amazing package whose name is Larry Sefton. There are many who have offered but timing is always critical, and Larry was there at the exact moment I was thinking to abort the whole turning idea. He gently guided me through the basics of wood selection (I had a piece which he quickly rejected for our proposed project, but offered a delightful alternative), mounting, tool selection as well as sharpening and safety, safety, safety. Above all, he gave me the most valuable gift – his time and friendship, all the while trying to see what types of projects caught my attention. We ultimately decided on a small piece – a copy of a bowl he

had made. I was particularly drawn to some wood burning detail that had been incorporated. We practiced on a few tops which have made their way to the grandchildren, before starting my project which I had promised to make for a friend in 2019.

It took several evenings together to finish the project, but the result was beyond my expectations. The only surprise I had was when Larry indicated he had made the intricate pattern using a burning instrument he had fabricated. All along, as a dentist, I had just assumed (always dangerous) that he had hand engraved the detail with a small Dremel.

The piece will always be special, even if not completely my original design. They say copying is the highest form of praise. It is now in a friend's home, holding his many guitar picks. Now, three of us (Larry, myself, and the recipient) share this piece of raw lumber's journey, bringing happiness to all of us in different ways.

I'm still a rather nervous beginner, but I know I will continue to grow as a turner, thanks to all who have contributed, whether unknowingly or directly. A very special thanks to my MSWG Board "buddies" and especially to Larry – you are always going to be a part of my journey since you provided the stability of my first uncertain steps in this new world.

When looking for a mentor, YouTube is a great place but the important things, as always, are in our own backyard – namely our own MidSouth Woodturners Guild where you will find:

1. Community – an essential resource
2. Communication – insight and wisdom of others who are experienced
3. Flexibility – importance of embracing change
4. Humor – unrealistic expectations of yourself or skill
5. Resilience – put the past behind
6. Hope and optimism – every experience is good if you can learn something from it

It's never too late to learn something new.

Meeting minutes

July Board of Directors Meeting

- Mark Sillay demonstration for Oktoberfest will be extended with a hands-on session on Sunday. Sign-up sheet will be posted. Due to limited class size, selection will be the first 6-7 paid signed participants.
- Agreed to contact Sammy Long to demo early in 2022 and have an extended hands-on session the Sunday following the club meeting
- Beads of Courage boxes are being rounded up to take to the SWAT symposium where they will accept the boxes for use at local children's hospitals in Texas.
- We agreed to participate as demonstrators for the Delta Fair if enough participants are interested. A straw poll of the board members present indicated interest.

MSWG July meeting

- Welcome to our second in-person meeting after 16 months of social distancing Zoom meetings. We had 28 members attend with several regulars out for Summer Vacation. Hope to see more members at our August 21st meeting.
- We had one guest, Mike Rawlings, who was a member in the past and wants to rejoin the club. Welcome Mike!
- Treasurer's report was posted during the meeting for review.
- Signs were placed at the Instant Gallery so participants who do not want their items touched/handled can put a place card stating, "Please Do Not Handle - Thank You." We all should respect each other's artwork.
- Librarian Richard Hiller announced that books and videos will be checked out through the librarian vs self-check-out.
- Pink Palace this September – Sign-up sheets for set-up, sales, tear-down were circulated during the meeting and we had good participation. We will circulate the sign-up sheets again at the August 21st meeting.
- Raffle for July went well. Continue to bring in wood, tools, books, and supplies for upcoming meetings.

- Jonas Nemanis put on a very interesting demo on the use of the HOOK TOOL for hollowing.
- Next month (August 21) Jeff Brockett will demo Basket Illusion.
- Show & Tell – Instant Gallery had a wide variety of items. See the attached collage and visit the MSWG website for more information on the items.

Instant Gallery July 2021 MSWG Meeting

For more detail, go to website
www.midsouthwoodturners.com





Sponsor & Suppliers

The Woodwork Shop, Inc
8500 Wolf Lake Drive
Suite 101
Bartlett, TN 38133

Phone: (901) 755-7355

Fax: (901) 755-2907

Email: thewoodworkshop@bellsouth.net



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