



Atlanta Woodturners Guild

January 2015

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Association of Woodturners



Atlanta Woodturners Guild Newsletter

This is the January 2015 edition of the Atlanta Woodturners Guild Newsletter. To submit an article for the newsletter, send in Microsoft Word or plain text format to Jeff Barnes at jeff@twomutts.com. A special thanks goes to Kevin Wood for submitting this month's article.

President's Message

Well 2015 starts a new year for the Atlanta Woodturner's Guild and I am honored that you have elected me as your new President. As your new President, I must first give a big thank you to Arnie Moore and Bob Greenberg for serving as co-presidents this past year. They have done a great job in leading the club through 2014. Looking at our demonstrator lineup, 2015 looks to be a good year. I will do my best to serve as your new president and hope that I can continue to do as good of a job as our former presidents have done in the past.

As you know, we are a small club and our membership dues are the primary source of funding our quality demonstrations. I ask anyone whom has a friend or relative interested in woodturning to bring them as a guest to the meeting. In order to support our quality demonstrators, our membership needs to be somewhere around 60 members.

I would like to encourage everyone to start bringing something to our monthly club meetings for Show and Tell. For the past two years or so, I have tried to bring something to every club meeting. I think this has made me a better turner. In each of those meetings, I normally ask those who I highly respect as turners for their critique. I ask for the critiques not to get a compliment / "atta boy" but to get constructive feedback to help me the next time I am behind the lathe. Numerous times I have brought something to our meetings that I was very proud of and really thought I would get good comments. What I got instead was a deflated balloon! Yes within just a few seconds of asking for a critique, the air was let out my balloon so fast it made my head spin. So if you ask for someone to critique your work, please don't expect them to sugar coat their comments. We all want to become better turners. If your form is bad, if you have sanding scratches all over your work, or if your finishing still needs much improvement, you should want someone to tell you that instead of just misleading you with kind words. You may disagree with what they say but you have to remember that you are asking someone whom you happen to consider a better turner than yourself. If you start bringing something to most of our club meetings and ask someone to critique it, you are most likely to notice that in time those critiques get better and better. Before you know it, there are not a lot bad things to be said about your work. It is at that point; you realize that you have become a much better turner than once were.

I would also like to say that for any of you that have never been to one of the local woodturning symposiums, you are really missing out. There are two symposiums that I know of that are held within an hour's drive of Atlanta. One is the Southern States Woodturning Symposium held in the spring each year. This symposium is currently being held in Cartersville, GA. This year it is scheduled for May 15th – 17th. The other symposium is the GAW Turning Southern Style that has is held during September in Dalton, GA. Both of these symposiums start on a Friday afternoon and end at noon on Sunday. Attending one of these 3 day symposiums is like getting 8 club meetings all in one weekend. These symposiums will leave you filled with so much enthusiasm that you can't wait to get home and jump on the lathe.

In closing, if anyone has a question, comment or suggestion on improving the club, please feel free to talk to me at our meetings or send me an email. Again, I would like to say Thank You for electing me as your president and I hope each month of this year, finds you standing knee deep in a pile of shavings.

Kevin Wood

Next Meeting – January 21, 2015

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlanta Woodturners Guild will be on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Our guest demonstrator, Mark Sillay, from Tucker, GA, will demonstrate tool techniques for the finish cuts. Mark will show how to get a fine finish cut on a variety of situations - spindle, end grain, side grain work, where sanding is minimized. Mark will also show how he grinds his tools to accomplish these fine cuts.

Guests are always welcome. The meeting location is:

Woodcraft
8560 Holcomb Bridge Rd
Suite 115
Alpharetta GA, 30022
(770) 587-3372
www.woodcraftatl.com



Are you tired of seeing pieces brought in by the same people every month? Show us what you can do!!! Please bring in some of your pieces for the instant gallery!!! Don't be afraid to show off your work.

Previous Meeting – December 17, 2014

The December meeting was the Guild's annual holiday party. At the start of the party everyone was very quiet, much more quiet than a typical meeting, but once the food was served the fellowship began and everyone had a great time. Many wonderful gifts were exchanged, most of them being turned. The turned gifts included many excellent ornaments, a snowman, bowls, and pens.

December 2014 Instant Gallery Photos

Since we did not have an instant gallery at the December meeting; instead we will share some of our fellow turners favorite gifts of the holiday season.



Delbert Tanner, Sr.

I am sending a gift I made for my oldest granddaughter Sydnee to take to college for her dorm room. It is a white birch hollow form with ebonized pear collar and finial. I burned the "CTR" symbol which stands for "choose the right". Since Sydnee and her father had recently traveled to Japan I also burned the phrase choose the right on the back in japanese kanji symbols.



Harvey Meyer

It wasn't one thing. I've turned a lot of stuff over the years. Every horizontal surface in our home is filled with turnings. This year, I decided the house needed to be decluttered so I gathered up about 35 pieces that I've turned over the years that needed to find new homes. These were all nice pieces -bowls, hollow vessels, platters, goblets, etc. By finding new homes for these pieces, I could free up a lot of horizontal space to display my more recent work. Prior to Xmas day, I mailed 3 to 4 pieces to each family member who wouldn't be attending Xmas dinner. Then, on Christmas day, when the remaining family was at our home, I put all of the pieces on a large table and told them all to take whatever they wanted. The only caveat was that the table must be empty when they're done selecting. Everyone went home with a box full of turnings and Santa was very happy to see how happy they all were:-)



Arnie Moore

The best bowl that I have made using a "bowl from a board" technique. This is a form of segmented turning. I gave this bowl to a special friend whom I had not seen in a long time.

Jeff Barnes

I am a new woodturner and this is my first Christmas to be able to give gifts that I have turned. Since I am a new turner, my skills are limited but I had a lot of fun making up pens and a back scratcher. As I examined my work I could see the flaws in them and I was a bit bummed, but the delight on the faces after having given the presents helped erase that pain. With some classes planned, some lathe time and some coaching and critiques from the guild members, I hope to turn some really wonderful gifts this year.

Ron Campbell

Here are my favorites for Christmas.

9 Personality Plates that were inspired by the AWG demo in July.

The walnut came for the tree in my father's backyard, so, you could say that I grew up under this board!

I made one for my wife, each of our 4 children, and each of my 4 siblings.

I also turned 10 profile ornaments of the grandchildren. One for practice (kept by Grandma) and one for the kids. I think they will appreciate them more later in life.



Dan Douthart

'Twas the night before Christmas, well, actually about a week, and still did not have any idea what to give my wife for Christmas. Then I noticed the cover of Alan Holtham's book titled "Woodturning Spindle Projects", which had a picture of a bowl with wooden fruit. That was my aha moment. I found this piece of wood that I had been kicking around the shop, studio for the artistic types, for a couple of years. Here is the end result.

January's Featured Demonstrator

Mark Sillay



When I was about six years old, my father gave me a set of hand tools, an old packing box with a vise mounted on it for a workbench and scrap wood. With his loving instruction and patience throughout my youthful years, I grew to appreciate tool skills, freedom of design and superior quality finish work.

Now I enjoy recycling native Georgia woods I love using the lathe to transform recycled woods into useful items and artistic objects. Being basically self taught on the lathe, over the years I have advanced my woodturning skills. After turning many basic bowls, etc., I found a desire to create smaller and finer turned objects. I had the privilege of meeting Cindy Drozda (www.cindydrozda.com). She inspired me with her unmatched skills and I thank her for helping me transform my woodturning life into a joyful journey.

I find satisfaction in both the creative process and in overcoming the challenges to complete fine quality finished work. I especially enjoy using a razor sharp spindle gouge and watching the shapes evolve while I'm creating intricate turnings. Donating to charities, teaching and demonstrating fulfill my giving spirit. I continue to be awed by what nature has created in wood and am proud of my efforts to preserve and recycle. At schools and art and craft shows, I take a mini lathe on which I turn wood as an educational experience for children. I make simple toys and ornaments for them to paint and decorate. I see the wonderment in their eyes as I reveal the toy from the wood. Doing this continues to fascinate me and bring me joy.

One of my new artistic directions is combining my woodturning with objects from the sea. It evolved from helping one of my students, Jennifer Jones, with her joinery skills. During the process of helping her I discovered a new way to join irregular objects. Exploring and refining this technique has brought much joy to me and helped to advance my artistic expression. Lately I have been exploring offset and tilted axis woodturning. The intriguing shapes and different ways light is reflected off the different planes creates a very pleasing and curious artistic expression in wood.

I am a member of the American Association of Woodturners and the Georgia Association of Woodturners. I consider myself a very blessed man with a supportive wife, family and many wonderful woodturning friends.

Taking Better Photographs

by Kevin Wood

Hopefully, the following information will be useful especially to the relatively new turners who may desire to have better quality photos of those pens, bowls, or hollow forms they have recently learned to turn. I hope those of you who have read my past newsletter articles have found them useful and informative. I know some of my past articles have been rather lengthy and I hope no one is using them as a sleep aid! If you do find them informative yet very helpful with your sleep disorders, please do not thank me at our next club meeting for aiding you in getting a good night's sleep. And if you are counting on this article for replacing your need to count sheep this month, I think you will be highly disappointed.

We all have our little projects, jigs, etc that we plan to create to help us in our hobbies. Sadly for most of us, those projects stay on our To-Do lists. On occasion, that little nagging voice in our heads gets loud enough that we feel the need to shut it up. For some time, I have wanted to take better photographs of my woodturnings and have read numerous articles online on how to do so. Well finally that voice in my head got so loud, I had to do something to shut it up. I believe the following information will help you



take better quality photographs as well. This article is only intended on helping someone to simply take better, clutter free photos. This article will not go into types of lights, white balance, etc which all can be found online.

First, I must say I have been looking at taking better photographs for some time. After reading some articles on building



light tents, I decided to give it a try. My first attempt, about a year ago, was at creating what would be described as the simplest and cheapest option. I took a cardboard box and cut out large portions of the top and sides (note: the top and bottom of the box were removed). I then took some of the large, white, thin tissue paper used in gift boxes/bags when wrapping gifts, and taped it over the openings I created in the box. I then took 3 of the cheap led lights that you can buy at IKEA and placed them at each opening. The purpose of the white paper is to diffuse the light so not to create harsh shadows on the object you are photographing. Lastly, I placed some poster board inside the box for my background. This improved my photos greatly but I was still finding some shadows in my pictures.

Several articles that I read discussed creating a light tent out of 1/2" pvc pipe and fitting it together to form

a frame. The frame should be large enough so you can place a piece of poster board or some other type of seamless material to serve as your background. The dimensions of my frame were 2 ft. (high) x 2 ft (depth) x 3 ft (width). Once the frame was created, I draped white nylon fabric across the tops and sides. I purchased the nylon fabric from JoAnn's Fabric and Craft Store. Lastly, I placed 3 lights along the tops and sides. The lights were 8 ½" clamp work lights that I purchased at Home Depot and installed 100 watt daylight type bulb. For directing the light on the sides, I simply attached the lights to a chair and adjusted the chair accordingly. For directing the light from the top, I simply clamped the light on the top of the pvc frame. Unfortunately, I was not able to locate the link that I looked at to build my light tent. I have provided a couple of links below on building a tent out of pvc. I believe the article I used to build my tent showed a run of pipe running along the top of the frame. I believe the pipe was about 8 inches above the frame in which the work lamp was clamped to. I was a little lazy and decided to try and just clamp my light to the top of the frame. It seemed to work well but I may add the pipe later when I am not so lazy. Since I have been wanting to build this for some time, I wanted to get mine done as quickly as possible and test it out.

Costs to Build:

- PVC:** Three 10 ft x ½ pipe purchased at Home Depot - \$6
Eight ½ side outlet elbow pipe fittings purchased at Lowes - \$10
- Lights:** Three 8 ½" clamp lights (3 @ \$8.47) - \$27
- Fabric:** Three yards of white nylon fabric (Joann Fabric without coupon) - \$25

References: I used Google to search online and I searched the AAW forum website for information on better photography. There is a lot of good information on the AAW website. While searching I found the following articles/links very useful. John Lucas who demonstrated at our club last year wrote several of these. From the articles and his posts on the AAW forum, John is a wealth of knowledge not just in photography but also in woodturning in general. The following are a few links I thought that might be of some interest. All links with the exception of one are related to photography. That one link is a to the Cumberland Woodturners website which as a lot of useful links/articles that should be of interest to any woodturner.

AAW forum Photography post

<http://www.aawforum.org/vbforum/showthread.php?5589-Photo-Tutorial&highlight=light+tent>

AAW forum post containing good information on lighting

<http://www.aawforum.org/vbforum/showthread.php?9786-Photography-tent-and-continuous-tungsten-lights&highlight=light+tents>

Lighting Tricks using a light tent By John Lucas

http://www.turningwood.com/HOW_TOO/Lighting%20tricks%20using%20a%20photo%20box.pdf

Good Site for Photography and Woodturning information

www.cumberlandwoodturners.com – Website has lot of good information on both photography and woodturning projects. John Lucas has some good lighting articles on this site.

Building a light tent

<http://www.diyphotography.net/how-build-pvc-diy-photo-light-box/>
<http://cwmcdonald.com/2012/03/23/diy-building-a-light-tent/>

Tips/Thoughts:

- Turn off all other lights when taking your pictures.
- Use a seamless background such as a piece of poster board or something similar.
- Adjust the position of your lights to minimize and glare on your woodturning.
- Use a tripod or place something to rest your hand/camera when taking the picture. I happen to use a yellow plastic miter box and a plastic box at the time I was testing out my light tent.
- Check/Search the AAW forum website.
- Use coupon at Joann will reduce cost significantly. I did not have a coupon and I did not want to wait for a coupon.
- I found Lowes had a better selection of pipe fittings. I could not locate the side outlet elbow/3 way elbow at Home Depot.

I hope this article was useful in helping you take better photographs of your work. If this article only enhanced your ability to sleep well then I am glad you found it useful for something. You can find a lot of good information online in regards to taking better photographs of your work. This article is only intended to get you started in that direction. Hopefully taking better photographs will give you another avenue to taking your woodturning hobby to another level of satisfaction and pleasure.

Upcoming Events:

Tennessee Association of Woodturners Symposium

When: January 30 – 31, 2015

Where: Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Franklin, TN

Featuring: Nick Cook, Paul Fennell, Ashley Harwood, Todd Hoyer, Dennis Paullus

Info: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e9pqh98r4199cd48&llr=lgmecmkab>

Southern States Woodturning Symposium

When: May 15 - 17, 2015

Where: Clarence Brown Conference Center Cartersville, GA

Featuring: Soren Berger, Chris Ramsey, Kimberly Winkle, Avalino Samuel, Steve Pritchard, Steve Cook, Nick Cook, and Harvey Meyer

Info: <http://southernstatessymposium.org>

AAW Annual Symposium

When: June 25 - 28, 2015

Where: Pittsburgh, PA

Featuring: Too many to list...

Info: <https://aaw.site-ym.com/?page=2015Pittsburgh>

Turning Southern Style

When: September 18 - 20, 2015

Where: Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, Dalton, GA

Featuring: Jimmy Clewes, Nick Agar, and Benoît Averly

AWG Meeting Schedule

January 21, 2015 – Mark Sillay (GA)

February 18, 2015 – Mark Waninger (IN)

March 18, 2015 – Richard Morris (KY)

April 15, 2015 – Derek Weidman (PA)

May 20, 2015 – Robert Lyons (SC)

June 17, 2015 – Jim Creel (LA)

July 15, 2015 – Sharon Doughtie (HI) - tentative

August 19, 2015 – John Jordan (TN) - tentative

September 16, 2015 – Jimmy Clewes (NV) - tentative

October 21, 2015 – TBD

November 18, 2015 – Tania Radda (AZ)

December 16, 2015 – Holiday social

Call For 2016 AAW Symposium Logo Design

Steve Pritchard has sent out a call for anyone interested in creating a logo for the AAW Symposium in 2016.

At Turning Southern Style XX this past year in Dalton, the AAW unveiled the Pittsburgh symposium smock design. In addition to being a different color from other smocks they sell, it had the logo for the Pittsburgh symposium on the left breast

The AAW hopes to unveil the Atlanta symposium smock at the Pittsburgh symposium in June of 2015 as part of their promotion of the 2016 symposium in Atlanta. Having the logo designed and on smocks by June 2015 means the process of creating and choosing a logo must begin now.

Guild members should not hesitate to submit designs regardless of their drawing ability. It is the idea that counts! It is up to us in Georgia to create the initial logo designs, The AAW may tweak the logo to make it easier to reproduce, make it more active, give it more "life", etc. Anything from vector based graphic files to hand drawn is acceptable. If the winning design is not in a usable format, Steve will find someone who can do what is necessary to make it so.

A question that will surely arise is, "Who is going to pick the finalists?" Steve will put together a committee of club members from across the state and ask them to select the finalists. Time requirements for this committee will be minimal - certainly no more than a few hours total. If you are interested in being part in that committee, please contact Steve at: liaison@aawatlanta2016. To keep the selection process fair, committee members will not be the same persons that submit logo designs.

The AAW will make the final decision as to which logo is chosen.

Steve plans to have the finalists to the AAW by February 15th and in order to give the selection committee time to make their choices, February 5th is the deadline for getting entries to Steve. Steve is offering a \$100 prize to the person designing the winning entry as well as a \$100 donation to their club. If the winner should belong to more than one club, they may designate the club they wish to receive the donation. Winners and their club will be notified when the final selection is made. Prize money will be paid after the symposium when other funds are distributed.

As stated below, the original work can be in about any format. While it would be nice if all entries were in a "camera ready" state, that isn't feasible for most woodturners. I truly mean any format. If it's on the back of a napkin, that's OK. If the concept is good enough to be selected, we'll get someone to put it in the proper format.

Additional Information

The selected logo will be the brand of the Atlanta symposium, so it should represent either something easily recognized by those outside the state as being distinctively Georgia or distinctively Atlanta. For example, the Pittsburgh logo incorporates the easily recognized Pittsburgh skyline and the Albuquerque logo depicts their well-known balloon mass ascent and local petroglyphs, whereas the Richmond, San Jose and Hartford logos represent more regional themes.

The best, most memorable logos are clean, simple graphics that can be easily reproduced in many formats. Think of the logos that you find memorable and most, if not all, will be solid, bold colors; AT&T, Coke, Nike, Apple, Starbucks and Shell are but a few. Please remember that logos with shading are more expensive to reproduce and they often don't reproduce well in all media or in black and white.

On line tips for designing good logos can be found at:

<http://designshack.net/articles/inspiration/10-tips-for-designing-logos-that-don't-suck/>

<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2009/08/26/vital-tips-for-effective-logo-design/>

Google "logo design tips" to find more information on the topic.

Previous symposium logos as examples: <http://www.aawatlanta2016.com/sandbox/info/logo-examples.html>

Images of the AAW "signature" images are located: <http://www.aawatlanta2016.com/aaw-branding.html>

About the Guild

The Atlanta Woodturners Guild (AWG) was formed to provide support, ideas, and camaraderie to fellow woodturners in the metro Atlanta area. The Guild meets once a month and members are invited to display examples of their work at the instant gallery. New and established turners have the opportunity to ask questions and solve problems with other members.

At each monthly meeting a demonstration is conducted by professional turners from all over the world. It is a great opportunity to see a professional in action, ask questions and learn techniques. The AWG has a comprehensive library stocked with woodturning DVD's, and books. These items are available to the membership for a small rental fee. Members are kept informed about upcoming events and activities through this, their web site.

All interested in learning about woodturning are welcome to attend the month meetings.

AWG Contacts

Officers

President	Kevin Wood	co-president@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
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Closing

This newsletter is published monthly by the Atlanta Woodturners Guild, (AWG). All opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Officers, or the AWG. Your AWG questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. You may contact any officer through the contact information in this newsletter, or our website's contact webpage: www.atlantawoodturnersguild.org.