



# MCW Newsletter

November 2007

## Montgomery County Woodturners

[www.montgomerycountywoodturners.org](http://www.montgomerycountywoodturners.org)

Volume 2007, Issue 11

### Bill Grumbine Creations

MCW Newsletter

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## November Meeting and Demonstration (Eliot Feldman)

The next meeting will be:

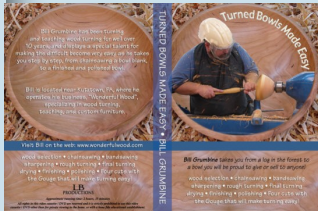
Date: Thursday, November 8, 2007  
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM  
Location: Woodworkers Club  
4950 Wyaconda Road  
Rockville, MD 20853  
(301) 984-9033

### Agenda

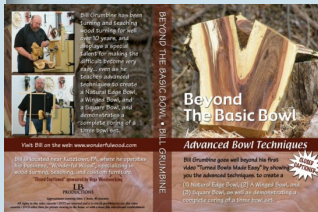
- 6:45 -7:00 PM Bring a chair, get a name tag, register your Show & Tell item with Mike Collela. donate to the silent auction, bid on a silent auction item, and meet fellow members.
- 7:00 - 7:15 PM Brief business meeting, Show & Tell
- 7:15 - 8:50 PM Program: Bill Grumbine  
**Spindle Duplicating Using the Skew and Other Spindle Techniques**  
*(\$10 Fee applies to this session)*
- 8:50 - 9:00 PM Pay for and retrieve your silent auction items, pack up, put the lathe and space back in order.

### Biography

See Bill's profile and additional examples of his work on his web site at:  
[www.wonderfulwood.com](http://www.wonderfulwood.com)



### Turned Bowls Made Easy



### Beyond the Basic Bowl



**Special points of interest:**

- Davis Public Library Exhibit
- Washington Craft Show

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**President's Perspective** (Phil Brown)

Our membership continues to grow, which is encouraging. At the last meeting we had a good discussion around the Show & Tell items, and everyone there gave rapt attention to an interesting demonstration. After reviewing the relatively small number of downloads of the newsletter from our web site, Gary and Bert felt discouraged about putting so much effort into the newsletter in the face of their busy fall schedules, so you will find them transitioning to shorter newsletters starting with this newsletter. Maybe everyone is just real busy like me - and here I am supposedly retired. Any comments from you on making our programs, newsletter or other services more appealing would be appreciated.

We have a MCW exhibit coming up at the Davis Public Library in January 2008. I hope you will participate by lending one or two of your pieces in December for this display. See the information form elsewhere in this newsletter.

At our December 6th meeting we will hold an election of officers for the 2008 calendar year. The slate of officers will appear in the December newsletter. Dave Jacobowitz is contacting current officers about willingness to continue and contacting members about interest in becoming an officer.

Remember that our book and video library has gotten too large to bring to meetings. Order your choices from the list on the web site and they will be brought to the next meeting for pickup.

On a personal note, I want to say that I enjoy craft art in other media and have been privileged over the past 20 years to see outstanding pieces at the Renwick Gallery and in homes through membership in the James Renwick Alliance, [www.jra.org](http://www.jra.org). Currently and through February 17, 2008 is a wonderful exhibit at the Textile Museum, [www.textilemuseum.org](http://www.textilemuseum.org), titled *Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art*, which highlights fibre pieces drawn from private collections in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Take a weekend tour of the Textile Museum, the Renwick Gallery or craft objects displayed in open storage on the top floor of the Luce Foundation Center at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, <http://americanart.si.edu>. You are bound to enjoy!

**Treasurer's Financial Report** (Doug Pearson)

The MCW bank balance currently stands at \$1,041.54

**Future Planned Meeting Programs** (Eliot Feldman)

December 6th	Don Couchman	<b><i>Turning Pens</i></b>
January 10th	Bob Frey	<b><i>Natural Edged Bowls</i></b>

## New Members (Stuart Glickman)

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
David Ebner	Chevy Chase
Bill Neudorfer	Cabin John
Carl Powell	Laytonsville

***Welcome to our  
newest members!***

### **Help out a fellow turner!**

A few members or potential members cannot drive at night, or for another reason need a ride to our Thursday night meetings. If you don't find another member in our membership list near your community, let Don Couchman know of your need. He will help in locating a member to provide transportation.

## Membership Application Form and Interest Profile (Stuart Glickman)

MCW Membership Application forms available at: <http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org/Membership.aspx>

To become a member, please print out, complete and either mail it or personally deliver it to Stuart Glickman along with a check payable to Montgomery County Woodturners. Please ensure you include your email address as notification of the monthly MCW Newsletter publication is made electronically. In addition, include your personal website if you would like it referenced on the MCW website as a way to showcase your work.

Express your interests and needs. We encourage everyone to complete a MCW Member Interest Profile which is included with the Membership Application form on the MCW website. This is of great benefit to the officers as we develop programs to meet everyone's needs. Please take the time to complete your profile and provide to Stuart Glickman or one of the other officers at the next chapter meeting.

## Member Discounts (Clif Poodry)

**Rockville Woodworkers Club** <http://www.woodworkersclub.com/>

Remember to support the Woodworkers Club by purchasing turning supplies during our meetings and save 10 percent on the retail price.

**Woodturning Club Member - Login** <http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com>

Club members: Save 10% on all finishes & disc abrasives with Craft Supplies USA! Just mention your club name and save, all year long. You can always see current club specials by clicking on the members login button on their homepage. New 15% specials are updated on the 1st of the month, which can be accessed by clicking on the hotlink above and going to the club member login located on the lower right portion of the page.

## Mentor Program (Donald Couchman)

For personal help from a more experienced MCW member, contact Don at 301-963-6770 to identify a potential mentor.

# Use a Mentor!

# Member News



Ed Karch

## Editor's Viewpoint (Bert Bleckwenn)

We just hit 60 active members! Not bad for a fledging AAW chapter in its first year of existence. Nice to see some new faces at each of our meetings. Take the time to seek out the newer members and introduce yourself and discover what their turning passions might be.

I saw several turners at the recent Bethesda Arts Festival with David Fry having a very prominent display booth just outside of SANSAR. An impressive display of art, as usual. I'm getting used to recognizing repeat turners.

I see that VisArts is starting out with their first turning classes targeting youth:

Learn the Lathe: Pen Turning being offered on Fridays, 6:00 - 9:00pm on Nov 30, Dec 7, and Dec 14. Open to Grades 6-12. Details can be found at:

[http://visartscenter.org/pdfs/course\\_catalog-2007.pdf](http://visartscenter.org/pdfs/course_catalog-2007.pdf)

*Happy Turning!*

## News about our Members (Phil Brown)

David Fry had bowls from many beautiful woods on display in the Sansar Gallery booth at the Bethesda Row Arts Festival on October 20-21. To help promote the event, David appeared on the nine o'clock news hour of TV Channel 9 on October 17th with the CEO of the NIH Children's Charities, the charity benefitting this year from this event.

Clif Poodry will teach a bowl turning class on November 24th at The Woodworkers Club in Rockville, MD. See <http://www.woodworkersclub.com/practice%20class1.htm>

Clif Poodry teamed up with glass artist, Laurie Thompkins and exhibited a piece at the AAW Symposium Collaboration Exhibit called *Dark Energy* this past summer. The piece was ultimately sold to a buyer who was a docent at the American Craft Museum in New York, and a ceramicist. She had created a similar work in clay, and was very excited about their piece.



***Dark Energy***

Ed Karch recently studied with Jimmy Clewes at Canyon Studios in Copper Canyon, Texas. Their work included kiln formed glass combined with turned wood. This place is a new and expanding training facility northwest of Dallas. For more information, see [www.canyonstudios.org/default.htm](http://www.canyonstudios.org/default.htm)

## Lathe Raffle

The Wood Turning Center in Philadelphia is selling raffle tickets for a professional grade Stubby S750 lathe used by the 2007 International Turning Exchange (ITE) participants plus \$400 toward shipping. This lathe was used to create many of the signature works in this year's ITE exhibit. Tickets cost \$50 for one and \$200 for five. The drawing will be held Friday, 30 November 2007, 6:00 PM, at the Wood Turning Center. You don't have to be there to win. More description and purchase through PayPal is on their web site, <http://www.woodturningcenter.org/TurningPoints/000/2007 ITE-Raffle.html>

## Mid-Maryland Wood Turner's Club hosting John Noffsinger

On November 6th the Mid-Maryland Wood Turner's Club will feature a full 2+ hour show/tell/ demonstration by one of our best local turning artists - John Noffsinger. (If you don't believe me, take a look at his website: <http://www.johnnoffsinger.com/>.) John is not only extremely accomplished, he's also extremely willing to share his techniques and tips. We meet in the basement of The Delaplaine Center in downtown Frederick, MD, next to the MARC train station, at 7:00 PM. For non-members interested in attending, we are asking for a \$5 donation.

Please email me if you've any questions,  
Walt Bennett  
President, Mid-Maryland Wood Turner's Club  
[waltben@erols.com](mailto:waltben@erols.com)

## Lending Library New Additions (Clif Poodry)

The standing library inventory is now located on the MCW web site under the members-only section.

No new Editions to report.

Just a reminder that the videos will be available for review and checkout at each meeting. If you are interested in one of the books, review the inventory on the MCW web site and let Clif know prior to the meeting.

## Group Buys (Arthur Mensch)

At the October meeting, 17 members signed up for the Hartville Tool discount program described on page 15 of the October newsletter. The sign up sheet will be at the November meeting for you to add your name. We need a minimum of three more members to participate in their 20 percent discount program.



## October Meeting Minutes (Gary Guenther)

MCW President Phil Brown invited new visitors to introduce themselves. 18 people attended the October meeting. Two new members joined the club.

Silent Auction and Show & Tell tables were set up. Treasurer Doug Pearson collected the \$10 demo fees. In Clif Poodry's absence, Bert Bleckwenn is handling the video library. This is an excellent resource from which you can benefit.

An exhibit of our turned work is scheduled for the Davis Public Library in January. Phil hopes that most of you will participate with 1 or 2 pieces. There is an item about the exhibit on page 12 of the October MCW Newsletter, along with a request for delivery of your piece(s) at our December meeting. This is a new event for us and we would like to encourage your support.

A sign-up sheet for the Hartville Tool discount program was passed around. If we sign up a minimum of 20 MCW members, participants will receive a 20% discount on tool purchases the first year and 15% thereafter. Your purchases will be made directly with Hartville. The 162-page Hartville Tool catalog is for wood workers, with some sections specifically on wood turning and carving. Their website is [www.hartvilletool.com](http://www.hartvilletool.com). If you would like to be included in the Hartville Tool discount program and were not able to attend the meeting, please email a message to Art Mensch at [jamensch@aol.com](mailto:jamensch@aol.com) right away.

Phil reminded us that the AAW Symposium will be held in Richmond on June 20-22, 2008, and organizational activities have begun. Eighteen team leaders are needed for committees, and all teams need lots of members. For detailed listings, see the CAW October Newsletter or email Phil for a copy. The national Symposium is a very exciting event, and everyone is strongly encouraged to plan to attend and to consider donating a few hours of time on a committee.

Richard Webster officiated the Show & Tell period.



Show & Tell Table

*(Continued on page 7)*

## October Meeting Minutes (Gary Guenther)

(Continued from page 6)

Of particular note during the Show & Tell was a 17-inch cherry sink basin by Doug Pearson. Richard brought a lovely natural-edge bowl, thought to be elm. Gary Guenther raised a question about the acceptability of blue stain in a maple bowl that he brought. The group consensus was that it's just another evidence of Mother Nature's work. Eliot Feldman brought an interesting hollow form and some nice snap-top boxes. Please bring your work to the November meeting. Thanks for your support.



The Silent Auction was a little sparse and added only \$3 to the MCW treasury. Please support this ongoing event by bringing in your unwanted blanks and hunks of wood. It was reported that Clif cored the maple burl he got at last month's auction and made two gorgeous covered bowls.

Program Chairman Eliot Feldman introduced our Demonstrator for the evening, Brian Butters, who showed us how to make Christmas ornaments with eccentric icicles (and not be afraid of the wild-looking shadows).

If any of you have suggestions for changing or adding something to suit your personal needs better, please discuss your ideas with one of the Officers.

## YMMV (Gary Guenther) *Tips Hints Ideas Clues*

### Spindle Chatter

At the October meeting, a member brought in a spindle (magic wand?) he was working on and having a serious problem with chatter. Other than the usual "sharp tools" and "take light cuts" and "ride the bevel" advice, there are three things that can be done to help get smooth cuts.

The first is to crank up the speed as fast as you dare – and then a little more. The extra speed makes for a smoother cut.

The second is to use your finger, wrapped all the way behind the tool rest, as a "steady" behind your tool cut. (For an example of this, see Cindy Drozda's finger supporting a cut on her finial in last month's YMMV -- on page 11 of the October MCW Newsletter.)

The third, and perhaps not obvious, is to reduce the mounting pressure between centers. More pressure will cause more problems. Turn the tailstock back to where it starts to slip and then advance it only by a small amount – just enough to get it to spin while you cut. I got this interesting advice on the Wood Central forum from John Lucas at [www.woodcentral.com/cgi-bin/turning.pl?noframes;read=163564](http://www.woodcentral.com/cgi-bin/turning.pl?noframes;read=163564).

Give it a try, and see if you don't agree. And if you don't, tell us about it! YMMV is your soap box.

**Submitted by Gary Guenther**

Always use common sense. Things that work in one situation may not work in another. Follow all Safety Rules. If it feels wrong, it probably is; stop and rethink.

*Your Mileage May Vary*

## October's Demonstration - Brian Butters (Gary Guenther)

Brian Butters is a full-time, professional woodturner based in Washington, D.C. He teaches, and sells his work at craft shows. His wide-ranging work and styles are well displayed on the 'Gallery' pages of his web site at [www.butterwood.biz](http://www.butterwood.biz). He uses a multitude of woods for bowls, hollow forms, boxes, candle sticks, and a broad variety of art pieces. Brian enjoys drawing inspiration from pottery, nature, and Asian designs, but he has also gone off in some very "eccentric" directions.



For his MCW demonstration, Brian was asked to do a Christmas ornament featuring an eccentric icicle. He began by briefly discussing woods and tools. He quickly made a maple ball and hollowed it (with Keltons) for the body of the ornament. [Tip: if you don't have air, a toothbrush works reasonably well to pull the chaff out of the hollow form.] For safety, he defines the end of the ball a short distance away from the chuck and keeps a "plate" of wood covering the chuck jaws. An added benefit is that when the hollowed ball (with a hole in each end) is parted off, the remainder is a ready-made jam chuck that can be used to hold the reversed ball to refine the shape of the parted end.

The real object of the evening was a presentation of two methods for creating multi-axis spindles. Brian first explained the function and uses of his primary tool, the Escoulen chuck with its adjustable internal head that permits the work piece to be angled in a number of different, more-or-less controllable directions. A maple spindle held only on one end by

*(Continued on page 9)*



## October's Demonstration (Gary Guenther) (continued)



the chuck was soon spinning out a cone while he began turning by the shadows. His primary tools are a severely swept back, V-shaped P&N (Patience and Nicholson available through The Woodturners Catalog) bowl gouge, a smaller P&N detail gouge with a 'rolled' bevel, sharpened to a point, and a skew chisel. Working from the free end back toward the chuck (you can't go back!), Brian made a series of lobes, each cut with the chuck turned on a different axis, and showed how to join the cuts made at different angles and how to sand them. And out came an artistic crankshaft! Cool. He cautions that these eccentric spindles can be very delicate and are all too easily broken if the joining sections are too sharply cut or too thin.



Brian then showed how to obtain a somewhat similar but less dramatic effect, without the expensive chuck, by mounting a blank between centers but off-axis. In this case, the lobes are cut from the center to the ends. Again, each lobe is cut and sanded, and then the mounting angle is changed before the next lobe is begun. The result is determined by the order and magnitudes of the angular changes. Each piece that comes out is truly unique.

Brian's explanations were clear, and his comfort at the lathe and quiet sense of humor made for a very enjoyable, rewarding, and eye-opening experience. Thank you, Brian.

# Exhibits and Conferences

## Exhibits and Conferences

The Washington Craft Show ([craftsamericashows.com/WASHgeninfo.htm](http://craftsamericashows.com/WASHgeninfo.htm)) at the Washington Convention Center features a wide variety of contemporary crafts created by more than 180 artists including metal, leather, basketry, jewelry, ceramics, glass, wood, and more, November 30 to December 2nd. The Convention Center is at 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC, and show hours are Friday: 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., and Sunday: 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is \$15, \$13 for seniors, and \$10 for groups of 10 persons or more

[http://craftsamericashows.com/2007Wash\\_group\\_order\\_form.pdf](http://craftsamericashows.com/2007Wash_group_order_form.pdf)

(Anyone want to take this on for MCW members?).

*Saved from Destruction: From Salvaged Wood to Objects of Beauty* brings together a panel of artists reporting on the growing trend in environmentally responsible use of wood. They'll show how they have transformed culled local and lesser-known woods into inspiring works of art. This is on Saturday December 1st at 2 PM. This and three other presentations are organized by the James Renwick Alliance.

Twenty exhibitors in wood (including turners but excluding furniture makers) include Dixie Biggs, Joel Hunnicutt, Kim Blatt, Clifford Lounsbury, Gordon Browning, Patrick McDaniel, Kimberly Chalos, Jay McDougall, Bruce Chapin, Michael Mode, Dona Dalton, Burton Peterson John Dickinson, Peter Petrochko, Philip English, Jay Rogers Terry Evans, Norm Sartorius Jeanine Guncheon, and Phil Weber. To access their websites see:

<http://craftsamericashows.com/WASHexhibitors2.htm>

Cliff Lounsbury  
(Orients the wood to take advantage of natural burl edge, burned)



Jay McDougall  
(Started out making furniture and built-in home interiors, now takes the wood down to the essence of form)

Jay McDougall (At an early stage of work)



## Davis Public Library Exhibit

We will be receiving your pieces at the December 6th meeting for the wall case exhibit at the Davis Public Library on Democracy Blvd during January 2008. Your pieces must fit on a narrow 7.5" wide glass shelf by standing on their base or on edge. More explanation appeared in the October newsletter, page 12. We also could use more pictures of members turning at the lathe for this exhibit. Below is the information form we need with your piece in order to prepare a label and prepare for installation. Your pieces will be returned at our February 7, 2008 meeting.

### MCW Information Form Davis Public Library, January 2008

**Member Name** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Piece #1:**

Title or Name (if named) \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of wood(s), other materials & treatments (dye, burned, finish, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Size (height and diameter) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Piece #2:**

Title or Name (if named) \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of wood(s), other materials & treatments (dye, burned, finish, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Size (height and diameter) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional pieces: Please provide the same information.

## Montgomery County Woodturners Newsletter

Newsletter Editor:  
Bert Bleckwenn  
Phone: 301-718-1850  
email: [bableck@gmail.com](mailto:bableck@gmail.com)

Montgomery County Woodturners -  
A local chapter of the American  
Association of Woodturners (AAW)



## Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2007

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: Woodworkers Club  
4950 Wyaconda Road  
Rockville, MD 20853  
Phone: (301) 984-9033

Program: **Bill Grumbine**  
***Spindle Duplicating Using the  
Skew and Other Spindle  
Techniques***  
(\$10 Fee applies)

We're on the Web at:

[www.montgomerycountywoodturners.org](http://www.montgomerycountywoodturners.org)

## MCW Contact Information

### Officers

President	Phil Brown	<a href="mailto:philfbrown@comcast.net">philfbrown@comcast.net</a>	301-767-9863
Vice President	Clif Poodry	<a href="mailto:cpoodry@aol.com">cpoodry@aol.com</a>	301-530-4501
Program Chair	Eliot Feldman	<a href="mailto:eliot@mathtechinc.com">eliot@mathtechinc.com</a>	301-493-9666
Secretary	Gary Guenther	<a href="mailto:gary.guenther@att.net">gary.guenther@att.net</a>	301-384-7594
Membership	Stuart Glickman	<a href="mailto:stuartglickman@gmail.com">stuartglickman@gmail.com</a>	301-279-2355
Treasurer	Doug Pearson	<a href="mailto:dspearson@verizon.net">dspearson@verizon.net</a>	301-229-6395
Newsletter Editor	Bert Bleckwenn	<a href="mailto:bableck@gmail.com">bableck@gmail.com</a>	301-718-1850

### Volunteers

Mentor Program	Donald Couchman	<a href="mailto:bigcouch@aol.com">bigcouch@aol.com</a>	301-963-6770
Group Buys	Arthur Mensch	<a href="mailto:jamensch@aol.com">jamensch@aol.com</a>	301-840-9378
Web Master	Doug Pearson	<a href="mailto:dspearson@verizon.net">dspearson@verizon.net</a>	301-229-6395
Lending Library	Clif Poodry	<a href="mailto:cpoodry@aol.com">cpoodry@aol.com</a>	301-530-4501
Photographer	Mike Colella	<a href="mailto:mike@colellaphoto.com">mike@colellaphoto.com</a>	301-942-2853
YMMV Submissions	Gary Guenther	<a href="mailto:yymv.mcw@att.net">yymv.mcw@att.net</a>	301-384-7594
Wood Identification	Ed Karch	<a href="mailto:ekarch@karch.com">ekarch@karch.com</a>	703-631-3263
Exhibit Committee	Phil Brown, Hal Burdette, and Cliff Poodry		