



December 2007

Montgomery County Woodturners

www.montgomerycountywoodturners.org

Volume 2007, Issue 12

MCW Newsletter

Page 1

December Meeting and Demonstration (Eliot Feldman)

The next meeting will be:

Date: Thursday, December 6, 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.
- Collect items & forms for Davis Library Display (form on page 15)
- Membership Renewals (\$20.00)
- 7:00 - 7:15 PM - 2008 MCW Officer Elections
- Brief business meeting
- Show & Tell
- 7:15 - 8:50 PM Program: Don Couchman - ***Turning Pens***
- 8:50 - 9:00 PM Pay for and retrieve your silent auction items, pack up, put the lathe and space back in order.

Program

Don Couchman - ***Turning Pens***

Biography : See a profile of Don that was published in our August, 2007 MCW Newsletter which can be found at: [MCW Newsletter - August 2007](#)



Don Couchman



Special points of interest:

- Election of 2008 MCW Officers
- Davis Library Exhibit Form

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President's Perspective (Phil Brown)

I believe Bill Grumbine's demonstration at the November meeting was the first we have had on use of the skew. The demo was very detailed, and those in attendance paid close attention and seemed to really enjoy it. So my thanks to Eliot for again booking an excellent turner.

On the Friday morning after our meeting, Bill woke with a lot of chest pain and thought he was having a heart attack. After some medical consultations, it was determined that it was probably an allergic reaction. This reaction was probably due to the substantial amount of dust in the shop air on Thursday evening when we arrived for our meeting. In the future I will pay more attention to air quality and to whether the air cleaners should be turned on despite the competing noise. As a personal precaution, leave home with a dust mask in your pocket, and don't feel shy about wearing it during our meeting if the shop air seems dirty.

At our December 6th meeting we will hold an election of officers for the 2008 calendar year. In preparation for this, Dave Jacobowitz contacted current officers about willingness to continue, and all are willing. While no other members volunteered to be on the ballot this round; I hope that is not the case for 2009, since we will then have some turnover.

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.

Gary recently granted a request to re-use material from the MCW website to Les Dawson, newsletter editor of the Seattle Chapter, AAW, who "found some good information from you on your tips page of your website". Gary appreciates being appreciated.

Do put the AAW Symposium dates of June 20-22, 2008 on your calendar. Being held in Richmond, this will be the closest location to us for many years. The Banquet and Auction on Saturday night, the 21st, is a highlight of the Symposium. Since the hall in which it will be held only holds 1,700 people, tickets for it will be sold separately from the registration. So once registration is available, you should not delay in registering and getting your banquet ticket. While this banquet and auction size may seem large, there were more people at the Louisville, KY banquet two years ago, about 2,400. The room there was really large, and with large screens for pictures, a good sound system, and lots of spotters, that auction went well.

I hope your wood turning and the upcoming holiday season are a joy for you.

Treasurer's Financial Report (Doug Pearson)

The MCW bank balance currently stands at \$1,108.54

New Members (Stuart Glickman)

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
(no new members to report)	

***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 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)

Use a Mentor!

Editor's Viewpoint (Bert Bleckwenn)

Recently, I had a chance to test out one of Beall's Spindle Taps (1" x 8 tpi) by creating a couple of remountable faceplate disks, one made out of 2" maple and the second out of two 3/4" glued-up MDF boards resulting in 6" disks.

During the process I discovered that you need to either leave a 1/4" inside tenon (see the maple example) or add a washer or bushing (see the MDF example) as my lathe's (Jet VS Mini-Lathe) headstock is not fully threaded. When drilling the hole to receive the tap, you also need to drill the hole at least 3/8" deeper as the tap does not cut threads to the bottom.



Tapping the holes was easy by drilling a 7/8" hole with a Forstner bit. I then mounted the tap in my chuck (the inside portions of the jaws gripped well) and hand cranked/tapped the disks while keeping pressure on the disk by simultaneously cranking the tailstock against the disk. This process produced very workable threads.

I was able to put the maple disk to work immediately as a resizable jam chuck for a small bowl made from one of Phil Brown's silent auction donations. I think I will find several uses for these tapped disks and will make up several of different sizes to keep on hand.

I made the MDF one just to experiment with MDF in order to see if the MDF will adequately maintain usable threads. I plan to make 4-5 different shaped MDF disks to use with various polishing compounds and leather facings for polishing/stropping of turning and carving tools. If the MDF doesn't hold up, I'll just mount, glue and tap a small maple disk to the MDF.

If interested, you can purchase both 1" x 8 tpi or 1-1/4" x 8 tpi taps from Woodcraft or go to Beall's website as they also carry a 33mm tap.

I have also been able to upgrade my Jet VS Mini-Lathe recently by adding a reversing capability to it without much effort and cost (less than \$10.00). Catch my article later in this issue detailing how to accomplish this.

You will have to wait for my first experience in forgetting about thread direction when I inadvertently reverse one of my tapped disks above with my new "Reverse" gear shift! I just hope I don't do it with my chuck.

Future Planned Meeting Programs (Eliot Feldman)

January 10th

Bob Frey

Natural Edged Bowls

[Woodcraft web site](#)



[Beall Web site](#)

Lending Library New Additions (Clif Poodry)

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

AAW Membership Drive (Phil Brown)

MCW is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), but not all MCW members belong to AAW. To encourage more AAW participation, AAW is offering an incentive to any local chapter member who signs up existing or new MCW members to also join AAW.

Any member who signs up 5 new AAW members by Dec. 31, 2007 will receive a free registration to the AAW Symposium in Richmond VA, to be held June 20 – 22, 2008. A new member signing up in 2007 will receive all four 2007 issues of the American Woodturner journal. A new member signing up in 2007 may elect to have his/her membership begin in Jan. 2008 and still have that membership count towards the sponsor's total. If a chapter member signs up 5 new AAW members, please inform Larry Genender, Chairman of the Chapters and Membership Committee, (email: Lgenender@aol.com) of the names of the persons that were signed up and he will arrange for a free Symposium registration.

Workshop Experience in Utah (Bob Stroman)

I recently completed a 5-day workshop with Mike Mahoney and Kirk DeHeer at Craft Supplies in Provo Utah, and want to tell you about it. With 2 full-time instructors in the classroom, all eleven students got plenty of attention. The routine was to watch Mike's demo, grab a blank, turn your best copy, and repeat this process. The projects were as follows: basic green bowl, Calabash bowl, McNaughton coring, bowl set, hollow form, box, and platter, along with lots of sharpening. Mike is a free-hand sharpener, and Kirk is a jig sharpener for the benefit of students. I have become much quicker at the grinder, and now sharpen more often.

Craft Supplies runs over 30 classes a year, and the classroom Dale Nish created runs like a well-oiled lathe. Turning blanks were plentiful and perfectly round. I was surprised to find 4 men running a large wood blank operation with 3 huge bandsaws to support the classroom and catalog sales. The hollow form, box, and platter blanks were seasoned. I also finished the turning on a roughed-out cherry bowl that I had taken to the workshop. I took all my bowl gouges so that they would come home with the classroom grinds. The class was a bowl turner's paradise. A tour of Mike Mahoney's orchard, garden, kitchen, drying room, shipping room, and workshop was an added bonus.

Group Buys (Arthur Mensch)

After our November meeting, 19 members were signed up for the Hartville Tool discount program described on page 15 of the October newsletter. We need a minimum of 20 members signed up to participate in their 20 percent discount program. Call or email Art if you would like to be added to the list.

Chesapeake Woodturners Participation in Quiet Waters Show (Phil Brown)

Here's a representation of participation by our sister chapter, the Chesapeake Woodturners in a recent show. They appear to have a much higher proportion of the membership interested in showing and selling their work as contrasted to MCW or CAW. Take a look:

http://friendsofquietwaterspark.org/arts_current_exhibition.html

November Meeting Minutes (Gary Guenther)

MCW President Phil Brown invited participants to get a name tag, introduce themselves to someone they didn't already know, and to take their Show & Tell pieces to Mike Colella to be recorded and photographed. 18 people attended the November meeting. Silent Auction and Show & Tell tables were set up. Treasurer Doug Pearson collected the \$10 fees for Bill Grumbine's excellent demo. In Cliff Poodry's absence, Bert Bleckwenn handled 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 by lending 1 or 2 pieces at the upcoming December meeting. See page 15 for the submission form. This is a new event for us and we would like to encourage your support.

We need just one more signature to permit us to be able to participate in the Hartville Tool discount program. A sign-up sheet will be on a table at the December meeting. If you haven't signed up, please consider doing this as a service to the Club to help the Members who have already signed up. Participants will receive a 20% discount on tool purchases the first year and 15% thereafter. Your purchases should 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. 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 ja-mensch@aol.com right away.

Don't forget to put the AAW National Symposium on your calendar! It will be held in Richmond on June 20-22, 2008, and organizational activities have begun. The national Symposium is a very exciting event, and it will never be any closer. Everyone is strongly encouraged to plan to attend and to consider donating a few hours of time on a committee.

Bob Stroman officiated the Show & Tell period. A nice selection of diverse, interesting, and finely done pieces was presented and discussed. This is always one of my favorite parts of the meeting. Please bring your work, completed or in-progress, to the December meeting.



Phil brought a number of beautifully prepared half logs of apple, pignut hickory, and dogwood, as well as a beautiful hunk of walnut for the Silent Auction. Lucky members took home some very nice wood, and your Club treasury benefited \$38. Phil is working very hard to keep this important feature of the

(Continued on page 7)

November Meeting Minutes (Gary Guenther) (continued)



meetings going, but we need more participation. Please support this ongoing event by bringing in some blanks and hunks of wood to share with your friends.

Program Chairman Eliot Feldman introduced our illustrious Demonstrator for the evening, Bill Grumbine. Bill's videos are among the best available, and he is a very engaging personality. This evening, he showed us how to use a skew (and, on request, how not to use a skew) and gave us some good hints and tips on the procedures to use in duplicating spindles for items like table legs.



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

News about our Members (Phil Brown)

Best Of America: Pottery and Woodworking Artists & Artisans, Volume 1, by Kennedy Publishing, has two pictures of **Phil Brown's** work on pages 65 and 66. See www.bestofartists.com/best-of-artists-books-preview/

David Fry juried work from about 80 submitted pieces, and selected best in show and honorable mention pieces for Chesapeake Woodturners for their members show at the Quiet Waters Park Visitor Center in Annapolis.

Last month you saw a photo of **Ed Karsh's** piece of wood and glass. More pictures of his Texas trip to the South West Association of Turners Symposium at Wichita Falls, and classes taken at Canyon Studios can be seen at www.karch.com/road.htm

Clif Poodry will teach *Advanced Bowl Turning*, a follow-up to the introductory class, on December 15th and 16th at The Woodworkers Club in Rockville, MD. See www.woodworkersclub.com/practice%20class1.htm

Bob Stroman recently enjoyed a 5-day workshop with Mike Mahoney and Kirk DeHeer at Craft Supplies in Provo Utah. See detailed report elsewhere in the newsletter. Responding to announcements in the *Turnit* message service in mid November, Bob joined several members from Chesapeake Woodturners in walking a 7-acre property south of Baltimore and cutting some burly cherry. Since the owner wants to remove a number of trees, this site may be a valuable source of wood for those of you with chain saws.

Show & Tell

November Show & Tell (Mike Colella)



Tom Gallup

Jimmy Clewes style bowl - zebrawood & ebony - 24K gold



S&T Table



Tom Gallup

segmented bowl

(padouk, yellowheart, purpleheart, birds-eye maple, holly)

November Show & Tell (Mike Colella) (continued)



cherry burl - hollow form



Eliot Feldman
cherry burl - natural edge bowl



cherry burl - hollow form - 7 x 6



Eliot Schantz
20" platter - aromatic cedar



11" cherry bowl



Bob Strohman
large platter - elm



elm mallets

November's Demonstration - Bill Grumbine (Gary Guenther)

Our demonstrator for the evening was Bill Grumbine, down from northeast Pennsylvania for a weekend with MCW and CAW. Bill is famous in the turning community for his two hit videos that highlight an organized, no-nonsense approach to our common problems. He is also well known for his teaching studio, his graceful bowls, his generous hosting of turning weekends, his gracious personality, his presence on the Wood Central forum, and, yes, for his impressive bulk. (You should have seen him sitting briefly in my Mini Cooper – I wish I had thought to take a photo.) Bill is a big man who speaks with quiet authority, but his resonant voice needs no microphone. After you watch Bill, you say: "Yeah, I can do that." That's the ultimate compliment.



For MCW, Bill nominally demonstrated "spindle duplication", and he did a fine job of it, but for most of us, I think the real show was Skew 101. I can truly say that I have a better feel for, and less fear of, that notorious tool after watching Bill handle it with great skill and apparent ease. He talked a little bit about the different shapes and grinds, but impressed me by using nothing but a single tool – the traditional straight-edged, angled grind. First, of course, he showed how to get it quite sharp. Then he showed us how to hold it, with index finger pointing down one edge, so that the tool is like an extension of the hand, and the approach angle becomes instinctive. He would fault me for not repeating his emphasis that proper turning form, regardless of the tool, involves pre-positioning the tool near the work piece and then bringing the turner's body to the tool before beginning a cut. Thereafter the tool and the body move as one. This provides the best possible control and smoothness. He noted the

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November's Demonstration—Bill Grumbine (Gary Guenther)

(Continued from page 10)

desirability of “warming up” on some simple cuts to get the feel of the tool before moving on to more difficult cuts. He rounded the squares, where needed, and sized them with light planing cuts. He showed us, incidentally, how to get a surface so smooth that it might have needed sanding not to smooth it, but, rather, to rough up the near burnished surface so it would take finish more uniformly. He made v-grooves and pommel cuts while showing the tools (calipers) and procedures for making a nearly-exact copy of a table leg. In short, the idea is to cut the needed diameters as grooves at the high and low points and then to “connect the dots” with a smooth curve. He makes the duplicate a little oversize off the tool to leave room for sanding, as he notes that woodturning is a “subtractive” process, and it is very difficult to replace wood removed in excess. He also did a simple bead on request. His use of both the long point (toe) and short point (heel) of the skew was very instructive. Ever practical, Bill also pointed out the value of the 150-grit sandpaper “tool” in preference to making the unnecessary “one last cut” that can often cause continuing frustration and gets us into trouble.



Bill may be known for hogging prodigious quantities of curls with a big bowl gouge, but his skew work is light, smooth, and gentle with that razor-sharp edge caressing the wood. He made it look so easy, the tool actually seemed harmless, and we had to ask him to demonstrate purposeful catches on a piece of waste wood so we could see what not to do. And that's the truth!



YMMV (Gary Guenther) *Tips Hints Ideas Clues*

Leveling a Hand Drill

I like to mount bowl blanks on a screw chuck, but I don't have a drill press. I use a 35-year-old B&D hand drill (which, I might add, is still going strong – hand tools used to be made to last). In the beginning, I would drill the hole “by eye”, and I had a couple I could have done better in terms of orientation. Using a square adjacent to the blank helped provide some visual perspective, but I felt that I would be more confident (and more successful) if I knew when the drill bit was vertical.

I figured a bubble level would be a good idea. I tried to find a small, omni-direction type, but came home from the box store with an inexpensive 2-axis version. I glued it on the back of the drill handle with CA ⁽¹⁾ and, presto, I have a drill level (see pic.). When the bubbles are centered, the bit is vertical. Since every drill is different, I'll leave it to you to figure out how to mount the level straight on your drill. In my case, I was lucky enough to have a drill with an area on the back of the handle perpendicular to the bit, so I only had to worry about calibrating one other direction. I did that by just holding the fully open chuck flat on a flat, level surface and centered the bubble. That's good enough for this application.



In use, now I just have to make sure that the face of the blank is supported level on the floor or work bench (or whatever part of the blank you want level) before centering the bubbles and making the hole for the screw chuck. Perhaps not as good as a drill press, but much better than guessing.

(1) If you have a plastic drill case, you would be wise to put the line of CA on the drill and spritz the back of the level with the accelerator, because the accelerator can badly damage some plastics.

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 re-think.

Your Mileage May Vary

Harvesting Burls in Australia (Phil Brown)

If you were ever interested in the process of harvesting large burls, take a look at this Australian site: <http://www.leetreewoodworks.com/Harvest.htm>

Add Reverse to your Jet VS Mini-lathe (Bert Bleckwenn)

I recently came across two articles by Denver AAW chapter members, Bruce Perry and Brandon Mackie, located on their Front Range Woodturners web-site (www.FrontRangeWoodturners.com) that described how to enhance a Jet VS Mini-Lathe 1014VS by adding a reverse rotation capability. I was able to successfully merge the two sets of instructions and take ideas from both to make a similar enhancement to my own mini-lathe. Here's my experience with making the enhancement.



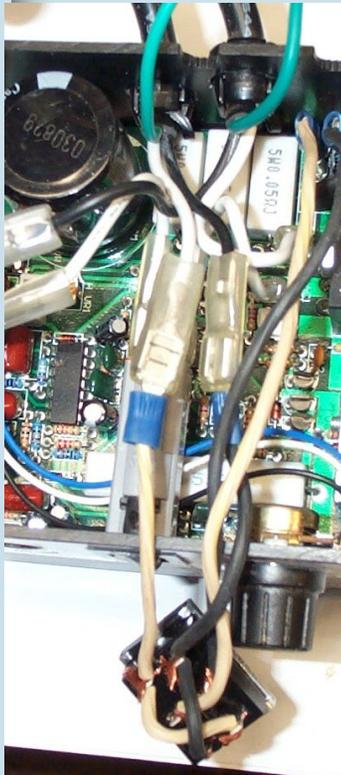
**Bert Bleckwenn's
Reversing Switch**

Bruce Perry's did the original modification and proved that adding a reverse rotation capability was feasible, but he relied on mounting a separate switch box and routing wires between the existing switch box and a new switch box. Brandon Mackie took Bruce's instructions and devised a way to mount the actual reversing switch in the mini-lathe's original control box. However, Brandon used a switch that required soldering while Bruce's switch had screw posts which avoided any soldering tools or skills.

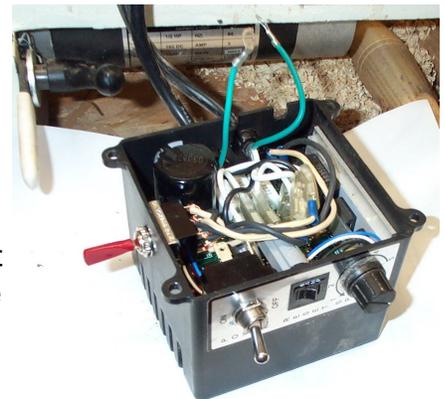
I was able to purchase all the components at RadioShack that were listed in the two articles including both switch styles, except for the piece of three-wire cable. I tried unsuccessfully at two hardware stores, but finally located the 16-gage, multi-strand wire at Lowes.

I elected to use the switch style with screw posts referenced in Bruce's original article so as to avoid what appeared to be soldered connections in Brandon's article. I was originally planning to use the red-levered switch used by Brandon as pictured on the right, but didn't have my soldering equipment available so went with the screw connector style.

Using fully insulated male/female slip connectors, as depicted in the picture to the left, makes the process easy and also fully reversible. When I was purchasing the male/female slide connectors, I made sure I purchased fully insulated versions... I didn't think about that until I was rummaging through all the styles available at RadioShack.



**Brandon Mackie's
Wiring Picture**



**Brandon Mackie's
soldered switch**

Thanks to Front Range Woodturners

(www.FrontRangeWoodturners.com)

Add Reverse to your Jet VS Mini-lathe (Bert Bleckwenn)

(Continued from page 13)

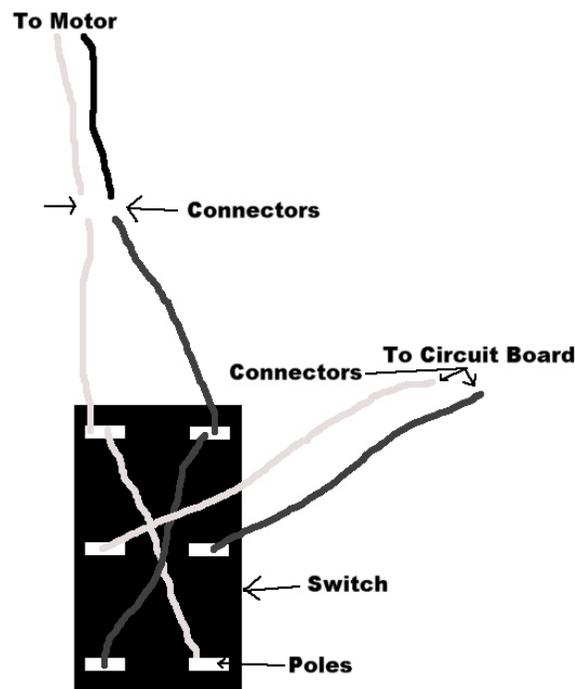
On two of the switch posts, there are two wires that are routed to each of the posts that require attachment. While Bruce doubled-up and crimped two wires in one ring connector, I choose to use two additional ring connectors for the wires and doubled up the ring connectors on the screw posts. There was sufficient room on each screw post for two ring connectors.



**Brandon Mackie's
Red Switch Modification**

I used Brandon's technique of drilling a hole and mounting the reversing switch in the original switch box, thus avoiding having to purchase a separate box and routing wires between the boxes. It makes for tight quarters, and I wrapped the screw connectors on the switch with a couple loops of electrical tape just to be safe and not have something inadvertently touch the screw connectors. I had to pop out the safety reset switch in order to position and secure the new switch, but it was easy as it just snaps into its mounting hole.

All in all, a very easy and cost-effective enhancement that I think I is well worth the effort. Much thanks to Bruce Perry, Brandon Mackie and the Front Range Woodturners chapter for a great contribution to your fellow (and lady) turners!



Brandon Mackie's wiring diagram

Davis Public Library Exhibit Form (Phil Brown)

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



Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, December 6, 2007
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Woodworkers Club
4950 Wyaconda Road
Rockville, MD 20853
Phone: (301) 984-9033
Program: **Don Couchman -
Turning Pens**

We're on the Web at:

www.montgomerycountywoodturners.org

MCW Contact Information

Officers

President	Phil Brown	philfbrown@comcast.net	301-767-9863
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Volunteers

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