

Volume 2008, Issue 4

April 2008

## Montgomery County Woodturners

<http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org>

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### Next Meeting and Demonstration (Eliot Feldman)

#### The next meeting will be:

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2008  
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM  
Location: Woodworkers Club  
4950 Wyaconda Road  
Rockville, MD 20853  
(301) 984-9033

#### Agenda

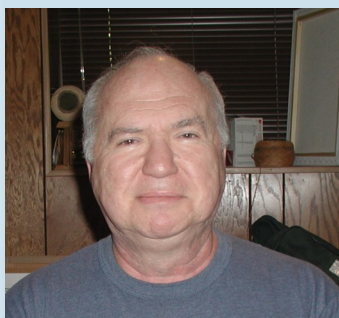
- 6:45 - 7:00 PM Bring a chair, get a name tag, register your Show & Tell item with Richard Webster, donate to the silent auction, bid on a silent auction item, check out the Lending Library videos and meet other members.
- 7:00 - 7:15 PM Business Meeting and Show & Tell
- 7:15 - 8:50 PM Program: **Eliot Feldman - Boxes**
- 8:50 - 9:00 PM Pay for and retrieve your Silent Auction items, pack up, put the lathe and space back in order.

#### Demonstrator Profile - Eliot Feldman

As MCW's program director, Eliot has been responsible for and very successful at scheduling a host of great turners, both from within our own ranks as well as regional and nationally-known turners. He is a very accomplished turner in his own right as evidenced by his regular S&T objects and items for sale at Bethesda's Sansar Gallery. In 2007, Eliot attended the Yankee Woodturning Symposium in Middletown, CT, and also took David Ellsworth's three-day class at David's Bucks County studio.

Earlier this year, Eliot teamed up with David Fry and represented MCW at a weekend demonstration at the Strathmore.

Eliot was profiled in our August 2007 MCW Newsletter which can be found at: <http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org/Documents/MCW%20Newsletter%202007-07.pdf>



Eliot Feldman



Eliot discussing one of his unique, flat, inverted-top hollow forms in maple



Maple hollow form  
6" x 3"



cherry burl hollow  
form - 7" x 6"



Walnut hollow form  
7"

## Special Points of Interest:

- Custom MCW Badges
- Mike Blake's Detailed Tool Handle Construction
- Web Site of the Month

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## President's Perspective (Phil Brown)

Don't miss the AAW Symposium - a 3-day extravaganza for woodturners. There will be many concurrent demonstrations to choose from, a large trade show, the Instant Gallery with as many as 1,500 turned objects on display, and gallery exhibitions. The Spring 2008 American Woodturner journal has a registration form, or you can register on line at: [www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2008/](http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2008/)

Just as MCW is run by volunteers, the Symposium is mostly run by volunteers - board members and members like you and me. At least 20 committees of volunteers play a role prior to or during the Symposium. Please plan to give a few hours of your time. Committees such as registration, AAW product sales, and the instant gallery need many volunteers. The Instant Gallery especially needs help during the Thursday registration period (2:30 pm to 7:00 pm) when nothing else is going on and most turners are submitting their pieces to the Instant Gallery. A list of committee teams was in our March MCW newsletter and is accessible on our web site home page by clicking on "Symposium Team Leaders". To volunteer, select a committee and call or e-mail the team leader. If your spouse is willing, his or her help would also be most welcome. Let me know that you volunteered so that you can be recognized in *American Woodturner*.

We are scheduled to exhibit in the Potomac Public Library in July. Pieces of all sizes are welcome and needed. Plan to bring any pieces you would like included in the display to our June meeting.

A CAW member, Nate Johnson, is available to make a custom, laser-engraved name tag with the MCW logo for you for just \$6. Engraving is available on white or blue plastic or on wood. You also have a choice of either a swivel clip or pin attachment. An order form is included on the next page of this Newsletter that you can complete and bring to the next meeting. Forms will also be available at the meeting. Please leave your orders with me at the meeting, and your custom MCW badge should be ready for pickup at our next meeting.

The Smithsonian Craft Show will take place the second week in April (week of our meeting) at the National Building Museum. Fifteen woodturners and wood sculptors exhibiting there are listed on the next page of this newsletter. This is a first-class and prestigious show that is always a treat to see.

For our May meeting, we have been cordially invited to see the outstanding craft collection of member, Jerry Kaplan and his wife Deena, at their home on Goldsboro Road. So take note that we will NOT be meeting at the Woodworkers Club in May. More details will be provided in the May MCW Newsletter.

With the flowers this spring, I hope your woodturning is also flowering.

## Financial Report (Doug Pearson)

The MCW bank balance stands at \$2355.54.

**Conferences & Events** (Phil Brown)**Smithsonian Craft Show**

The Smithsonian Craft Show will be at the National Building Museum during the four days April 10-13, 2008. For hours and other information, go to: <http://www.smithsoniancraftshow.org/indexmain.asp>.

15 of the 120 exhibitors are believed to be woodturners or to utilize woodturning in their work and include the following names: Michael Allison, Storrs, CT; James Edward Barnes, Woolwine, VA; Christian Burchard, Ashland, OR; Hunt Clark, Sparta, TN; John Dickinson, Sutherlin, OR; Cindy Drozda, Boulder, CO; Mark Gardner, Saluda, NC; Matthew Hatala, Danielsville, GA; Simon Levy, Ashland City, TN; Clifford Lounsbury, Tawas City, MI; Michael Mode, New Haven, VT; Mark Nantz, Colchester, CT; David Nittmann, Boulder, CO; Norm Sartorius, Parkersburg, WV; Philip Weber, Effort, PA.

**News about our Members** (Phil Brown)

Clif Poody did a 1½ hour lathe demo at the Baltimore Craft Show on Sunday February 24th.

**MCW NAME BADGE ORDER FORM****Montgomery County Woodturners**

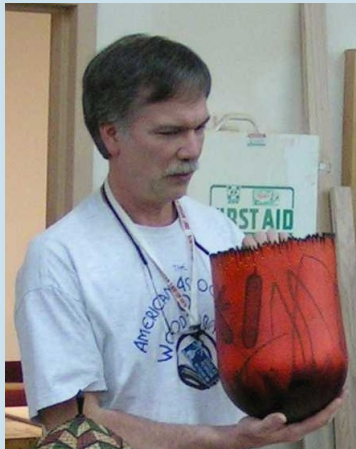
**NAME ON BADGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Style:**                    ☐ Blue    ☐ White    ☐ Wood

**Attachment Option:** ☐ Pin Back    ☐ Swivel-Clip Back

Make check in the amount of \$6.00 payable to:

Nate Johnson  
13700 Kingsman Rd,  
Dale City, VA 22193-4611



***Congratulations  
Doug Pearson!***



What's the origin  
of this Lathe?



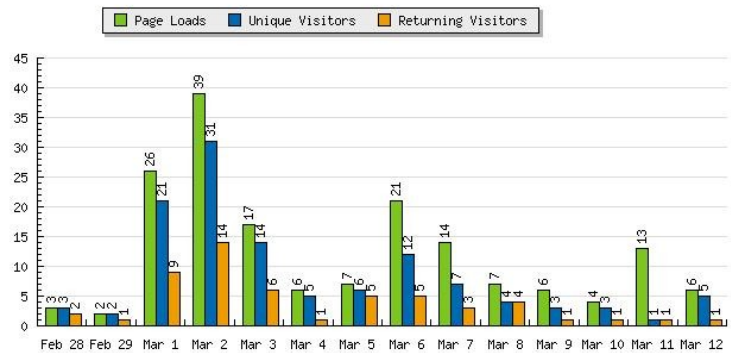
## Editor's Viewpoint (Bert Bleckwenn)

\*\*\* LATE EDITION NEWS FLASH \*\*\*

Just heard that our MCW Web Site was selected as #2 in the AAW 2008 web site contest. Congratulations go to Doug Pearson and all those that contributed to its success!

Gary Guenther is trying something new this month with a "Web Site of the Month", which I think is a great idea. Please send links and comments to Gary if you stumble across a great woodturning-related site.

The website traffic to the MCW News-letter site has increased since the first of the year as highlighted in the bar-graph statistics below. This makes Gary Guenther and I feel better that members of our



club, as well as others, are appreciating our efforts. I had posted comments on the Lumberjocks web site (<http://lumberjocks.com/>), as well, in early February after posting the Newsletter to our web site, which also likely contributed to some increased traffic. Let Gary or I know what you like about the Newsletter or what other topics you would be interested in seeing addressed.

No one has identified the mystery lathe that has been in the last couple of newsletters. It is from the movie "Heidi" and is in one of the early background scenes in "gross-father's" mountain cabin. Amazing what you eye will catch when you have a passion for something.

## Other Local AAW Chapter Happenings (Gary Guenther)

- 1) Every weekend day in April, Chesapeake Woodturners will have various demonstrators turning at "American Craftworks Collection" at 189B Main Street, Annapolis, MD (410-626-1583). The hours are 12 - 4pm and a little more depending on the day. This is a very nice store that typically displays turnings from people such as Jeff Bridges, Bob Frey, Ron Brown, Ron Liston, and Margaret Lostinus. During the month of April, a large collection of pieces by Chesapeake Woodturners members is also on display at the front of the store.
- 2) Chesapeake Woodturners is going to have a month-long show of approximately 40 pieces from May 21 - June 22 at the Maryland Federation of Art's "Circle Gallery" in Annapolis at 18 State Circle (410/268-4566). This will be a joint showing with the Maryland Society of Portrait Painters. (See [www.mdfedart.org](http://www.mdfedart.org))



## Future Meetings (Eliot Feldman)

If you have suggestions for future meeting demonstrators or would consider demonstrating something yourself, please contact our program director, Eliot Feldman at [eliot@mathtechinc.com](mailto:eliot@mathtechinc.com) or by phone at 301-493-9666.

- **May** - Jerry Kaplan's house. We are invited to go there to view his extensive craft collection, which includes some wonderful turned wood pieces. Regular time. Because of somewhat limited parking spaces in and around his house, it may be worthwhile to arrange for several people to travel in one car. Details will be provided in the May MCW Newsletter.
- **June** - Open
- **July** - Open
- **August** - Judy Ditmer. She is a nationally-known turner, and author of an excellent turning book for beginners (*Basic Bowl Turning With Judy Ditmer*). She will be coming to MCW on Thursday, August 7th - she hasn't decided what she will demonstrate for us yet. She will also be doing a CAW workshop on Friday, August 8th and will demonstrate at CAW on Saturday, August 9th at their regular Saturday meeting.
- **September** - Gary Guenther arranged to have Jamie Donaldson demonstrate for us. Jamie is an excellent turner (see [www.jamiedonaldsonwoodturner.com/gallery01/index.html](http://www.jamiedonaldsonwoodturner.com/gallery01/index.html)) who is also widely known and respected on the WoodCentral and WoW woodturning forums for the extremely helpful commentary he provides on photography issues. We have a link to his famous article, "The Phrugal Photo Studio Way to Shoot Woodturnings", on the "Links/General links" page of our Web Site.



2008 Meeting Schedule		
January 10	February 7	March 6
April 10	May 8	June 12
July 10	August 7	September 11
October 9	November 6	December 11

## New Members (Stuart Glickman)

Member Name	Location
Donald Van Ryk	Rockville

**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.

## Prior Meeting Minutes (Gary Guenther)

Twenty-three people attended the March meeting. Silent Auction and Show & Tell tables were set up while everyone got name tags and enjoyed socializing.

President Phil Brown welcomed everyone, including new members and guests, and made the following announcements:

- Anyone wishing to join MCW should give their information and membership dues to our Membership Chairman, Stuart Glickman. We welcome any guests to join MCW for a yearly fee of \$20 (\$30/family). We currently have 60 members.
- Our still photographer for Show & Tell pieces, Mike Colella, cannot always be here, as was the case for this past meeting. We would like to try to find an additional backup person who could occasionally come early to take digital pictures before our meeting and edit them for publication in the Newsletter and on the Web Site. We can provide a back drop, and Richard Webster is handling the paper work. Please talk to Phil about this if you are willing to volunteer.
- We are scheduled to exhibit in the Potomac Public Library in July. Pieces of all sizes are welcome and requested. Delivery will be at our June meeting, three months away.
- As shown in Treasurer Doug Pearson's financial report in the previous Newsletter, thanks to our low level of expenses, we have a sizable funds balance to draw upon. Phil would like to consider having a large TV screen showing video projection of our demonstrations. Before purchase of such equipment, Phil would like to solicit suggestions that any of you may have on how or where to get a cart, screen, tuner, camera, and TV.
- Register soon for the AAW symposium in Richmond. This is an opportunity not to be missed. If you are looking for someone to share a room, let Phil know. If you cannot stay for the demonstrations, note that the Instant Gallery and Sales area are open to the public.
- Flyers for the annual Utah Woodturning Symposium were available on the table.



Richard Webster, our new  
S&T Recording Assistant

## Prior Meeting Minutes (Gary Guenther)

*(Continued from page 6)*

- Program Chairman Eliot Feldman was unable to attend, but he will be the Demonstrator for the April meeting, where he is planning to demonstrate box making. A future meeting is planned to be held at Jerry Kaplan's house to view his collections.

Additional announcements were made by several others:

- Bert Bleckwenn noted that discussions and plans are pending for joint activities with Seneca Creek Joinery.
- Gary Guenther reported a gallery show opening and demonstration in Baltimore.
- Elliot Schantz noted that the large influx of new video tapes he brokered into our Library last month are courtesy of the Gold Coast Woodturners in Florida.

Show & Tell pieces were checked in and recorded by Richard Webster and photographed by Stuart Glickman with aid from David Jacobowitz. Elliot Schantz led the interesting Show & Tell discussion period. As usual, many interesting pieces were presented. [You can view them below, in these pages, or online by clicking the "March 2008" link on the Photo Gallery page of our Web Site.] I continue to be impressed by the high quality and eclectic selection of unique pieces brought for display and discussion by our Members. Please bring your work, completed or in-progress, to present at the April meeting.



**Show & Tell Table**

The Silent Auction in March was a little sparse – we could use some additional donations at the April meeting.

Phil introduced our Demonstrator for the evening, our own Michael Blake. Mike is a compulsive tool handle maker, and he did a nice job of showing us how he does it. For further discussion, see the Demonstration section of this Newsletter.

We would like to remind everyone that our excellent Web Site is located at <http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org>.

As always, if you have suggestions for changing or adding something in the Club, please discuss your ideas with one of the Officers.



## March's Demonstration – 'Handles' by Michael Blake

(Gary Guenther)

Mike Blake is an MCW member who describes himself as a "semi-retired junk mail writer and designer" whose main interest is turning boxes, but he has a growing obsession with making tool handles for all his tools. A selection of his handles was previously highlighted on page 9 of the September 2007 MCW Newsletter. He recently started making pencils, and plans to also begin turning pens. He has worked with wood and leather from the age of ten, but began hammering things (as evidenced in a family photo) at the age of two. Mike began turning with a spindle course at the Woodworkers Club about four years ago and looks forward to eventually getting into bowls by taking Clif Poodry's course.

For his Demonstration, Mike selected four different applications and forms, including an octagon knob handle, a round handle for a file, an octagon screwdriver with a hollow handle to hold spare bits, and an oval handle. As one might expect, the actual turning aspects are straightforward except for the off-center work, but the devil is in the details. He uses a Jet Mini with a small spur center, a scroll chuck with small jaws, a Jacob's chuck, and cup and cone live tail centers. He turns with a small gouge and a parting tool for most things. A wide range of auxiliary tools and techniques is used to perform the myriad of small steps that must be done in a logical order and often to fairly close tolerances. Like any good demonstrator, Mike also showed us not only a large number of tricks, but also some pitfalls that can come from trying to work too quickly and being distracted by a barrage of questions.

We would like to sincerely thank Mike for a very interesting demonstration and for providing the following information.

### General Information

Mike reports a set of basics that apply to all of these handle variations.

- Precision caliper is worth the investment – digital can be nice.
- Since the ultimate goal is to mount a "blade" in the handle, marking the centers on the blanks is extremely important so that the hole drilled for the blade is dead on center in the blank.
- If you are using the lathe to drill your holes, you have to use a chuck in the headstock, with pin or some other kind of jaws that allow you to hold the blank securely and parallel. If you are using a drill press to drill the holes, don't forget that you're going to have to re-mount the blank in the lathe.
- When using a compression nut as a ferrule, if you mount the ferrule first, it helps with both turning the final shape and with accurately drilling the hole for the blade.



(Continued on page 9)



## March's Demonstration – 'Handles' by Michael Blake (Gary Guenther)

(Continued from page 8)

- If you want an octagon section, you have to start with a very accurate square blank so when you cut the corners to make the octagon, it will also be very accurate.
- A luthier's file (for cutting slots in the bridge for guitar strings -- with teeth only on one edge) works well for making decorative grooves. He uses a 0.025" width for his small tools.
- Sawdust, sanding dust, or fine turning shavings can be pressed into the wet epoxy holding a non-round blade tang to provide an "all wood" look on the exposed end grain.
- A series of evenly-spaced decorative grooves can be achieved by cutting the first groove and then pre-marking the remainder, one at a time, with the sharp tip of a divider.
- Coloring brass fittings with a marker prior to turning them round makes it easy to see when you have gotten all the edges off.
- If you have the table saw set up, octagonal blanks are easier to begin with, even if you intend making them round.

Mike uses a micro table saw, the "Mirco-Lux Tilting Arbor Table Saw", made by Micro-Mark (The Small Tool Specialists). Contact info: [www.micromark.com](http://www.micromark.com), 800/225-1066, and they have a catalog. This is an American company, but the saw is made in Japan. The current list price is \$349.95, but it seems that every summer they reduce the price for a month or two. Another version of the saw is sold by an Austrian company named Proxxon, and it's made in China. Woodcraft stores/catalog sells them for \$379.99. Since Micro-Mark used to make the Proxxon saws, the two saws are virtually identical in specs, but with different colors. Watch your fingers! This can be a dangerous tool.

For ferrules, Mike uses compression and flare nuts made by Anderson Metals Corporation, but they do not sell directly to the public. According to their website, they still make both in sizes from 1/8 to 7/8, including 3/16, 5/16, 7/16, 3/4, and 7/8. One source for the most common sizes used in plumbing today (1/4", 3/8", 1/2", and 5/8") is Strosniders Hardware. If you are willing to buy 10 pieces, they will order the others for you. The old Fishers Hardware (in the same shopping center as the Springfield Woodcraft store) may stock the unusual sizes.

For some sanding applications, such as on ferrules, Mike uses the "Trim" ladies fingernail file boards that are available at CVS and Rite Aide stores. (Red=80, Black=100/180, Tan=180, Yellow=240, Pink=330/440; they cost about \$1.50 each.)

To decorate the ends of some of his handles and/or to cover marks from live center points, Mike uses metal "mosaics" -- brass, copper, or silver tubes filled with smaller brass, copper, or silver squares, rounds, tubes, and black or red filler. The effect is obtained from the cross section revealed when you cut off a slice. They were developed for knife makers to use as pins for knife handles. Two companies offer them: Jantz Supply ([www.jantzsupply.com](http://www.jantzsupply.com)) calls them "Mosaic Tubing", and Texas Knifemakers Supply



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## March's Demonstration – 'Handles' by Michael Blake (Gary Guenther)

(Continued from page 9)



Michael Blake  
turning a handle

([www.texasknife.com](http://www.texasknife.com)) calls them "Mosaic Pins". Jantz has the largest variety and sells 12" lengths from 1/8" to 3/8" diameter for \$14.25 to \$39.95. Texas Knife only has three sizes (1/8", 7/32", and 1/4") but offers 6" and 12" lengths priced from \$10.25 to \$32.50. These pins/tubes may seem pricey, but one can get a lot of slices out of a 12" length.

### Detailed Instructions (direct from Mike)

[Ed. note:] The following apply to small-to-medium size hand tools. Techniques for large tools are similar but may vary in terms of sizes and some techniques.

### Octagon Knob Handle

1. Choose a 1"-to-1 1/8" square depending on your hand and the size of the blade. Mark centers now or after cutting octagon. (It seems to work better when I mark the centers after cutting the octagon.)
2. Use a table saw with a zero tolerance throat plate with a 45° cut. Turn the blade to 45° and raise it at least as high as the length of the square. Rest the square on its side against the blade with the bottom corner touching the throat plate. Move the rip fence up to just touch the right-hand corner of the square and lock it down. (You might want to give the fence a slight nudge back to the left to allow for the width of the saw blade teeth.) Lower the blade so it will just nick off the corners of the square. Lay the square flat on the saw, against the fence, and cut off the first corner. Turn and cut the other three corners.
3. Mount blank in lathe and turn a tenon on the tailstock end that is about 3 to 4 thousandths larger than the inside diameter of the compression nut, so the threads of the nut can get a "bite" in the tenon. Screw the nut onto the tenon, preferably with a small wrench. (That means it's tight enough.) Back the nut off, cover the tenon and the inside of the nut with 5-minute epoxy, and re-mount the nut. Clean up excess glue with denatured alcohol.
4. If the fit of the nut is tight, you can immediately "turn" the nut to round. (If it is not tight enough to hold, wait 1 hour for glue to set up.) I use a file, but you can use a gouge, as long as you take very light cuts.
5. Drill the hole in the handle to fit the blade you've chosen. The hole should be at least 1/8" deeper than the tang of the blade.



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## March's Demonstration – 'Handles' by Michael Blake (Gary Guenther)

(Continued from page 10)

blade is round, your hole should be about 1/64" larger in diameter than the tang diameter to allow room for glue. Either use a slightly larger drill bit or a round file or rasp to enlarge by hand.

6. With the blank re-mounted, turn a 1/8" wide and deep cove about 1 1/4" from end opposite the ferrule leaving the octagon knob on the end. Turn the tapered, round section from the cove to the ferrule. Leave the handle proud of the ferrule, not flush. Add decorative grooves to the handle and/or the ferrule, as you choose.
7. Sand and polish.
8. Remove handle from lathe. Mix some 20-minute epoxy and put it in the hole and on the tang. Slowly insert the tang into the handle. You want to make sure there are no air pockets or gaps in the hole. Too much glue is better than too little. Clean up excess glue, rub in some turning shavings or sawdust if the tang is not round, let sit overnight, and finish as you desire. I prefer Watco or Minwax Wipe on Poly, about 3 coats, for most woods. Then apply 2 or 3 coats of wax. I used to use Butcher's Bowling Alley Wax, but have recently discovered (and now prefer) Renaissance Wax. For very dense woods (ebony, rosewoods, etc.), I use 3 coats of Watco Teak oil followed by 2 coats of poly and wax.

### Round Handle for Files

1. Use a 1 1/8" to 1 1/4" square, as you prefer. Mark centers.
2. Turn a tenon and mount the compression nut as above.
3. Most 8"/10" files/rasps have a tang about 2" long, tapered at about 5° from 3/8" to 3/16". A tapered hole is preferable to a round hole. First drill a 3/16" hole at least 1/2" deeper than the length of the tang; then drill a 1/4" hole about 1" deep, a 5/16" hole about 1/2" deep, and a 3/8" hole about 1/8" deep. Ream out the taper -- I use a 5° tapering tool, but you can sharpen the edges of the tang itself and use it as a tapering tool.
4. Turn the handle shape, taking in to account the width of the tang and your own preference. I have found this shape to be very well suited to file and rasp use. Add decorative grooves as you desire. Drill and add a decorative "mosaic" in the end, if you like.
5. Sand and polish.
6. If the tang fits the hole without any "wobble", fill the hole with 20-minute epoxy, slowly twist to insert the tool (or maybe give it a bit of a rap with a wooden mallet), clean up excess glue, and add sawdust. If the tool does wobble, try inserting thin strips of wood on both sides of the tang until the fit is tight. *Make sure* the blade is centered in the handle in both aspects (the flat side and the edge).
7. Let dry overnight and finish.



(Continued on page 12)



## March's Demonstration – 'Handles' by Michael Blake (Gary Guenther)

*(Continued from page 11)*

### Octagon Handle with Bit Storage for Ratchet Screwdriver

1. Use a square no smaller than 1 1/8".
2. Follow step [2] for other octagon handle above. Mark centers.
3. Mount blank with a steb center in the headstock and a pointed live center in the tailstock.
4. Turn the tailstock end first. About 1 3/8" from the right end, turn a 1/8"-wide cove to a diameter of about 1". Part the right end about 1/8" wide down to 1". Turn an arced cove from the thin cove to the right end, beginning at 1 1/8" on the left, to about 13/16" in the center, to about 1" on the right. Round over the right end and add grooves.
5. About 3 3/4" from the right, part a tenon 5/8" long (from right to left) and 3/4" in diameter. (This tenon will fit inside the hole drilled in the left (octagon) end to hold extra bits.) Turn a decorative knob to your own taste about 3/4" long.
6. Sand and polish the turned sections.
7. Part both the knob section and the left end until almost cut through. Stop the lathe and finish separating with a thin saw.
8. Drill holes. In the small end, you'll need a 1/2"-diameter hole, 1/8" deeper than the tang. In the large (octagon) end, you'll need a 3/4"-diameter hole about 1 5/8" deep to accommodate extra bits and the tenon of the knob. I use a Forstner bit successfully, even on end grain.
9. Glue the tool blade into the small end and let dry overnight.
10. For the compulsively inclined, you can make a 3/4"-diameter, 3-hole insert for three extra bits to fit inside the handle OR you can make your knob with a 9/16" tenon and drill a 9/16" hole. Three 1/4"-hex bits will fit nicely inside a 9/16" hole. Four bits require a 5/8" hole, and a 3/4" hole will accommodate seven bits. (For 5-6 bits, the fit is too awkward.)
11. Sand octagon sides, polish, and finish.

### Oval-shaped Handle

Per the Judy Ditmer article in the October 2007 issue (#164) of Popular Woodworking magazine ([www.popularwoodworking.com](http://www.popularwoodworking.com)). Mike is experimenting with multiple axis turning. He showed us some of the general principles at the meeting – such as holding the blade end by inserting a temporary bolt, cutting off the head, and mounting it in a Jacob's chuck, while using two symmetric, off-center points for the tail center.





YMMV (Gary Guenther) [Tips](#) [Hints](#) [Ideas](#) [Clues](#)

## Adjustable lighting angle to aid smooth cuts

We all know that good lighting is important to good turning, but what does “good lighting” mean? Certainly lighting intensity is important, and color can have some interesting psychological effects. One of the most important factors, however, is angle. Think about it. If you look at a photo of the not-full moon, you will immediately notice that you can see mountains and craters along the terminator, while such features are much less evident in flatter light. To see texture, it’s the shadows that are important. For maximum feature visibility, the light should be nearly perpendicular to the topography of interest.

Overhead shop lights can provide good overall ambient brightness, but they do not do a very good job of showing us what we really want to see – the ridges we are leaving behind in our “smooth” cuts. For that you want to add an adjustable light – one whose location can be moved around to different locations to highlight the cuts we are working on and the regions of difficulty or interest. For spindle work and for the areas near bowl rims, we want light right down the axis of the lathe. For the center of a bowl, we want light coming horizontally from the opposite side, to the greatest extent possible, given the shading from the wall of the bowl.

There are many types of modern lights that can be clamped on to a lathe, or stuck on by a magnet. They may have an adjustable, spring-loaded arm or just be completely flexible. Halogens pack a lot of punch from a small source. My intention here is not to recommend brands or suppliers -- that’s what the Web is for. The point is that if all you have is overhead lighting, you should consider adding an additional, adjustable, augmenting light source that you can move around to suit your needs. There are good ones out there for the purpose – just take a look. The WoodCentral Archives have lots of pertinent information. As with anything, you can put a lot of money into this -- or not.

With proper lighting, you’ll be surprised how your tool technique will improve, and your sanding needs will decrease.

+++++

*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

## Show & Tell (Stuart Glickman)



Justin Fields  
7-1/2" maple bowl



Stuart Glickman  
homemade jig for turning  
bowl bottoms



Richard Webster  
8" bowl of hackberry



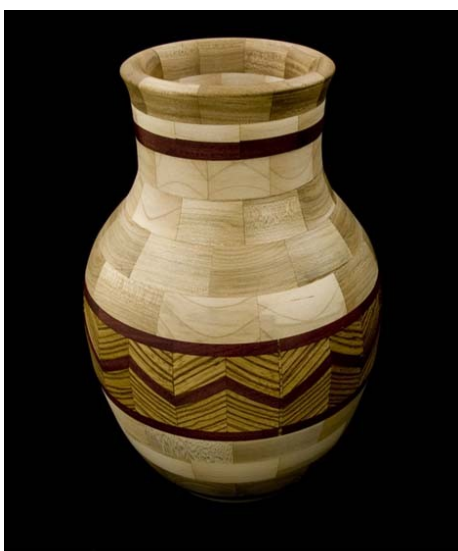
Ed Karch  
5" pear bowl with decorated rim



Ed Karch  
3" osage orange  
salt pig



Ed Karch  
5" holly sugar bowl  
with slumped glass top



Stan Sherman  
10" X 7" segmented bowl  
maple, purple heart, zebrawood



David Jacobowitz  
4"x4" segmented deep hollow  
bowl of paduak, African black-  
wood, holly and veneer



Stan Sherman  
13"x8" segmented bowl  
maple, purpleheart, zebrawood



**Member Camaraderie** (Gary Guenther)



Jerry Kaplan



Justin Fields



Richard Webster



Ed Karch



Stuart Glickman



Ed Karch



David Jacobowitz



Stan Sherman

## Web Site of the Month

### Web Site of the Month (Gary Guenther)

This is the inaugural edition of a new Newsletter feature – the recommendation of a web site link I believe to be worth your viewing time. Our computers provide us with an unparalleled window into the universe, and, on a slightly smaller scale, the universe of woodturning.

Frankly, I already spend too much time at the keyboard (so my wife tells me) processing digital photos, doing emails, writing articles for the Newsletter, using it as a dictionary and encyclopedia, and keeping up with a couple of woodturning forums. I don't have the time to be making random web searches, even though I know there's a lot of good stuff out there for woodturners. Sure, there are lists, but they are too long! That's just as bad. On the other hand, if a single, highly-recommended link drops into my lap, I'm willing to spend a little time looking. I would guess that some of you are the same way.

Well, here's your conduit. I hope to be able to give you one web site a month that may be worth a bit of your time looking at. It may be something technical, it may be artistic, ...or who knows what? They will be selected purely by whim and random chance.

This month's site is that of the gallery of the biennial "Seminars" sponsored by the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain at Loughborough University. I assume these are roughly equivalent to the annual AAW Symposi-ums.

The page to begin with is [www.awgbseminar.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.awgbseminar.co.uk/index.htm). There are links from there to the galleries for 2003, 2005, and 2007. I've only had time to look at the 2007 edition, and I can say that there are good photos of some amazing turnings shown there. If you're looking for inspiration or just in the mood to look at some truly beautiful turned wood, this is a good place to look. [Note: the included link to the so-called "Daniel Collection" is not recommended because of awkward navigation and B&W photos.]

Enjoy!





## Safety Tips - Proper Head Gear (Gary Guenther)

The topic, for lack of a better term, is “head gear”. Not surprisingly, there is a wide variation in what we, as woodturners, wear to protect ourselves, and the circumstances under which we wear it.

All forms of woodturning can be dangerous, but some situations are clearly more hazardous than others. A spindle blank does not have as high a probability for disaster as an irregular 30-pound chunk of tree with some of the bark still on. Most woodturners weigh safety in terms of comfort and convenience – sometimes to the detriment of safety.

Personally, I would never turn anything without a face shield, any more than I would drive in a car without a seat belt on. I have taught myself to be uncomfortable with a hunk of wood spinning near my face, with a rim speed of 20-30 mph, without at least a plastic shield in between. Eye protection, in the form of safety glasses, or better, goggles, is an absolute MUST, and I suspect that the large majority of turners honor this. But is that really enough? Perhaps it is for small spindles, but for turning side grain, I would posit that it is not.

My reason for this comment, and, indeed, the reason for this article, is a recent example cited on the Wood Central forum. Without getting into details, let's just say that a turner unaccountably thought that a face shield would not be a sufficient deterrent, wore only goggles, and consequently got some significant facial damage unnecessarily. The reaction to his post was partly of the “sorry to hear about that” type, but a number of others replied with the observation that his face would not have been damaged at all had he been wearing a face shield. Several responders cited specific instances where they had received considerable whacks in the face without any damage due to the fact that they had been wearing their face shields. Frankly, I cannot understand how one would feel otherwise. This applies to grinding tools, as well. Wheels can, on occasion, crack and break, and I seriously doubt if you want a piece of that up your nose at 40 mph.

Then there is the question about what to wear at a demo. Many turners who wear face shields at home will turn with only safety glasses because they can't talk with the shield on and it's an inconvenience putting it up and down over and over again. My personal opinion is that this is an unnecessary risk. A good example is Bill Grumbine. As a demonstrator, he wears his helmet when turning end grain even though he thought he would never launch an object. Well, those of us who attended his recent CAW demo saw that propeller come lose and bloody his arm. Even if it had hit him in the face, he would have been safe. He turns, and he talks, but not at the same time. Given the concentration sometimes required, perhaps that's not such a bad idea. I think we should strongly encourage our demonstrators to wear face shields for side-grain work.

I won't get into allergies, dust, masks, air helmets, etc., but it is clear that there are further considerations here.

One final thought: I have become aware of a danger that very few of us protect ourselves from. If you look at a typical baseball catcher, you will see that they wear neck protection. A foul ball, or a hunk of maple burl, in the throat could be fatal. I guess we're ignoring the risk because a solution would be uncomfortable and inconvenient. I think I'd be more comfortable with some protection there. Maybe someone will think up a way. Meanwhile, stay out of the line of fire!

**Happy and SAFE turning!**

## AAW Board Member Open Letter - from Al Hockenbery (Phil Brown)

Dear AAW Members,

It is my honor to write the March letter from the Board to you, our AAW. The AAW Board members, Executive Directors, and hundreds of Richmond-region chapter members have spent months working on Symposium preparations. My letter focuses on the 2008 Symposium.

In February we visited the Symposium site. I'd only seen Richmond from I95 and from a Woodturners Anonymous meeting. I was pleasantly surprised by the city up close. The convention center is a great facility!

The 2008 Symposium will be the best ever. Keep checking the web pages in the coming weeks for more information on demonstrations, rotation grids, special interest nights, and opportunities to win a lathe from Choice Woods.

Here are some ways to get more out of the symposium.

- Participate in *ReTurn to the Community*.
- Support the Children's Hospital of Richmond, a private, nonprofit hospital that serves children from birth through the age of 21. WANTED: Any toy that kids can play with. Suggestions include finger tops, pull string tops, toy cars and trucks, as well as rattles. I urge your club to make a combined club contribution. This lets people who cannot attend the Symposium turn a toy. Bring a sign to label your club's donations.
- Volunteer a few hours of your time at the Symposium. Each year AAW members volunteer their time to make your Symposium a success. This year we need 195 Room Assistants to help the demonstrator and videographers and 100 Assistant Instructors for the Youth classes. In addition, volunteers are needed to run the Instant Gallery, sell AAW merchandise, and run the registration desk. To volunteer, visit <http://hockenbery.net/volform.htm>.
- Plan your July club meeting to feature presentations by your club members who attend the Symposium. Each will bring home techniques, tools, photos, stories, and ideas to share. Enable your whole club to benefit from their experiences.
- Participate in the Educational Opportunity Grant auction. Donate a really nice piece or buy one. If you are like me, you can only drool over a Bonnie Klein and Jacques Vesery collaboration, but there are many marvelous turnings at prices we can afford. The proceeds go to the education fund.
- Take advantage of Special Interest Night. These are sessions put on by AAW members for other AAW members who have similar interest.
- Visit our first Symposium Resident Artists: Louise Hibbert and Sarah Parker-Eaton. Watch as they create a new work of art during the Symposium.
- Bring your work to display in the Instant Gallery! Be part of the largest exhibition of turning on the planet! It's all about your best work, whatever it might be.

I hope to see you or one of your toys in Richmond.

Happy Turning,

Al Hockenbery, AAW Board Member

## 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 for \$20.00 payable to Montgomery County Woodturners. A Family membership is \$30.00. 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 it to Stuart Glickman at the next chapter meeting.

## Member Discounts (Art Mensch)

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

MCW and other club members, 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.

**Hartville Tool Club Discount** <http://www.hartvilletool.com/>

The first year we get a 20% discount on regularly priced items and a 15% discount in subsequent years along with our chapter receiving a 3% rebate.

If you haven't signed up for this program, new participants should let Art know first that they wish to join the program. Then, he will let Hartville know they are members of MCW and sign them up.

Catalogs and ordering instructions are available from Art or at our meetings.

## Mentor Program (Donald Couchman)

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

# Use a Mentor!



## Montgomery County Woodturners Newsletter

Newsletter Editor:  
Bert Bleckwenn  
Phone: 301-718-1850  
email: bableck@gmail.com

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



## Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2008

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

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

Program: **Eliot Feldman - Boxes**

We're on the Web at:

<http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org>

## MCW Contact Information

### Officers

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Secretary	Gary Guenther	<a href="mailto:gary.guenther@att.net">gary.guenther@att.net</a>	301-384-7594
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Candid Photographer	Gary Guenther	<a href="mailto:gary.guenther@att.net">gary.guenther@att.net</a>	301-384-7594
Photo Posting	Pat Taylor	<a href="mailto:patrick.dylan@gmail.com">patrick.dylan@gmail.com</a>	301-229-7781
S&T Recording	Richard Webster	<a href="mailto:gtjazz@comcast.net">gtjazz@comcast.net</a>	301-251-1605
Wood Identification	Ed Karch	<a href="mailto:ekarch@karch.com">ekarch@karch.com</a>	703-631-3263
Exhibit Committee	Phil Brown, Hal Burdette, and Clif Poodry		