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NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DECEMBER 2009 MONTGOMERY COUNTY WOODTURNERS MEETING...

DATE Thursday – December 10, 2009

TIME 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

LOCATION The Woodworkers Club
4950 Wyaconda Road
Rockville, Maryland 20853
301/984-9033



AGENDA 6:30-7:00 — Bring a chair, if you wish... be sure to wear your name tag... meet and greet other members... register your items for *Show & Tell* with Richard Webster... make your bid on *Silent Auction* items... sign out and pay Clif Poodry for videos from the club's *Lending Library*.

7:00-7:30 — Business meeting... *Show & Tell*.

7:30-8:45 — PROGRAM – Bill Autry will illustrate his techniques for creating unique design features, incorporating carving, and offset turning.

8:45-9:00 — Pick up and pay for any of your items from the *Silent Auction*... help pack up and clean up the space.

DECEMBER DEMONSTRATION

TECHNIQUES FOR DESIGN, LAYOUT, CARVING, AND TURNING

MCW member **Bill Autry** ran a cabinet shop specializing in high-end custom furniture for over 20 years. Many pieces included turned components, and often incorporating reeding, fluting, and carving. Multi-axis turning was used to produce legs for tables and benches. Split-turning was used to create identical items to be applied to mirrors or cabinets.

In the early 1990's, Bill taught both intermediate and advanced woodcarving and woodturning for the Fairfax County. He judged the *Artistry In Wood* show, sponsored by Northern Virginia Woodcarvers, for 6 consecutive years where many turned items were included.

Designing and building items to customer specifications requires detailed drawings and computer-aided design (CAD) has been used over the past several years to create such drawings. This is very different from mounting a piece of wood on the lathe and shaping it as the mood suits. Bill will demonstrate both face-grain and spindle work – including an acorn-top candle stick, design and layout techniques for carving an ancient Celtic design on a bowl or platter, and offset turning to create a leg for an occasional table.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

PHIL BROWN

WHEN CLIF POODRY & I first discussed the idea over three years ago of organizing a chapter of AAW in Montgomery County, we had no idea the participation, talent, and support we have experienced would be so readily forthcoming. From the beginning, when many of us did not know each other, we have learned much about each other, and developed a very gratifying *esprit-de-corps*, particularly among those who attend most meetings.

Member talent in writing, editing, photography, and software use has produced an amazing record and resource on woodturning in our newsletters and website. At least 15 officers and volunteers do the work that makes all our programs and existence meaningful to woodturners.

Meeting space support from The Woodworkers Club has allowed us to accumulate a treasury that makes it possible to expand our educational activities and help ensure we can handle a meeting place emergency or change, if that were required.

Interest in woodturning seems broader than our actual membership of 64. Since not everyone can attend our Thursday meetings, and for other personal reasons, 22 former members have not renewed their membership, and 11 AAW members in the 2009 AAW Resource Directory living in Montgomery County have never joined MCW. These 33 people equal 52% of our current membership.

One of my motivations for organizing MCW was to utilize facilities and support education activities in the woodshop at VisArts in Rockville. That has not occurred, but could still happen in the future.

In looking forward to our fourth year, I'm pleased we have a full slate of candidates for our annual election at the December meeting. Candidates are:

President..... Bert Bleckwenn
Vice President..... Clif Poodry
Treasurer..... Bob Browning
Secretary..... Tim Aley
Membership..... Bill Autry
Programs..... Gary Guenther
Newsletter Editor..... Michael Blake
Webmaster..... Carl Powell



If any other members would like to be a candidate for a position this year, please let me know before the meeting date of Thursday, December 10th.

I plan to continue my involvement with MCW through the library exhibits and other community outreach opportunities, and support for chapter operations. I'm looking forward to focusing more of my attention on actually turning some wood, and traveling to see young grandchildren and places seldom or never seen.

To accommodate a request for exhibit space at the Quince Orchard Library in February, I have rescheduled our exhibit there for September 2010. The next public library exhibits will be at Potomac in April and Davis in June.

I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving with family and are looking forward to holiday giving with numerous turned pieces on your gifts list.

Please be sure to renew your MCW membership before year's end. I encourage all members to also join American Association of Woodturners.

There is an MCW-Renewal/AAW-Membership document on the following page.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY WOODTURNERS 2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Membership dues are \$20.00. Renewal is on an annual, calendar-year basis. You may pay your dues by check or cash at our monthly meetings or by check in the mail. Please mail your renewal dues check to —

STUART GLICKMAN • 2896 GLENORA LANE • ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS _____

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS 2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

222 LANDMARK CENTER • 75 WEST FIFTH STREET • ST. PAUL, MN 55102-7704

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Membership categories are shown in the box below. Dues are paid on an annual, calendar-year basis and are tax-deductible, excluding cost of *American Woodturner* [new 6-issue cost will be available in December 2010]. You may pay your dues by check or credit card and mail this application to our national headquarters at the address above. Or, if you prefer, you may join AAW on our website...

woodturner.org/member/MemberLogOn.asp

Membership Category _____ Dues Amount Enclosed \$ _____

☐ My check is enclosed made payable to *American Association of Woodturners*.

☐ I prefer to charge my payment to my ☐ MasterCard OR ☐ Visa credit card.

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____ [3-DIGIT NUMBER ON BACK OF CARD IS REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL.]

AAW MEMBERSHIP CATAGORIES/ANNUAL DUES AMOUNTS

INDIVIDUAL

GENERAL – \$48.00 FAMILY – \$53.00 YOUTH – \$19.00

SUPPORTING – \$125.00 BENEFACTOR – \$500.00 PATRON – \$1,000.00

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL

GENERAL – \$74.00 SUPPORTING – \$250.00 BENEFACTOR – \$650.00 PATRON – \$1,500.00

Our Supporting, Benefactor, and Patron memberships are for those who wish to provide additional support to the Association. AAW is a non-profit organization as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, membership dues, in any catagory [in excess of the cost of *American Woodturner*], are tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes. Thank you for joining and supporting AAW.

MEMBER NEWS

PHIL BROWN

- ❖ **PHIL BROWN** continues to have 10 pieces displayed in the exhibition gallery at the Arts Barn – 311 Kent Square Road – Gaithersburg, Maryland – through January 3, 2010. Call 301/258-6394 for information or see the Press Release at: gaithersburgmd.gov/poi/default.asp?POI_ID=309&TOC=1;671309;&id=4106

Phil has extra pieces at Thomas Moser Cabinetmakers in Georgetown for a craft-benefit sale on the December 5-6th weekend.

- ❖ **CLIF POODRY** teaches a one day **Introduction To Bowl Turning** on January 17th, March 21st, May 16th, and July 25th, and alternates monthly with a two day **Advanced Bowl Turning** on February 21st-22nd, April 18th-19th, June 21st-22nd, and August 15th-16th at the Woodworkers Club in Rockville, Maryland. For more information see:

woodworkersclub.com/practice%20class1.htm



CLIF POODRY

- ❖ **MARK SUPIK's** First Quarter 2010 schedule for full-day Saturday **Spindle Turning** and **Bowl Turning** classes at his commercial shop in Baltimore is now available on their website. The lathes and shop are a treat to see and use. The shop is at #1 North Haven Street in Baltimore, just a few blocks west from the Lombard Street exit off of I-895. 410/732-8414

Dates and details at marksupikco.com/School/schoolcurrent09-1.html

Class size is limited to 5, with each student on his/her own lathe. All classes include tool use, safety, techniques, and practice in the morning with a focus on projects in the afternoon. Lunch from a great Baltimore deli comes with the class. 20% discount on standard \$150 class fee is offered to members.

- ❖ **ED KARCH** received four 1st place, and one each of 2nd and 3rd place awards at the recent 2009 Northern Virginia Carvers competition.
- ❖ **DAVID JACOBOWITZ** will display 9 segmented and 9 other pieces in wall cases in the reception area near Admissions in the Hatfield Building (New Clinical Center) at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, from January 15th to March 5th.

DON'T BE SHY – PROMOTE YOURSELF. Let us know about your woodturning activities so they can be included in the newsletter each month. Send your information to Phil Brown at philfbrown@comcast.net, or call 301/767-9863 OR to Michael Blake at mb7298@comcast.net or call 301/589-1815.

FINANCIAL REPORT

BOB BROWNING

ACCOUNT BALANCE 10/31/09.....	\$ 3,170.23
INCOME: \$270. ⁰⁰ [Demo Fees] \$4. ⁰⁰ [Library] \$103. ⁰⁰ [Silent Auction/Hollowing Tools and wood]	
\$100. ⁰⁰ [CAW donation to Warriors In Transition] \$145. ⁰⁰ [2010 Membership/Renewal Dues].....	\$ 618.00
EXPENSES: \$200. ⁰⁰ [Demonstrator] \$50. ⁰⁰ [Demonstrator Travel] \$18. ⁹⁵ [Check printing]	
\$83. ⁵⁰ [MCW share of gift for Turned Wood 2009 judge].....	(\$ 352.45)
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE 11/30/09.....	\$ 3,435.78

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

STUART GLICKMAN

As of December 1st, the membership roster is 64. Welcome to new member Jeffery Harrop.

BREAKING NEWS – SMOCKS ARE IN

MICHAEL BLAKE

- The day before releasing this issue of the newsletter, the **MCW-LOGO TURNING SMOCKS** we have been talking about for awhile now... and that I ordered just before Thanksgiving... arrived on my doorstep. Linda Stops also ordered two smocks along with me. I will bring these real-life samples to the December meeting for everyone to see, and even try on, if anyone is so inclined. We will have one in Large and one in Extra-Large. The colors we have are Navy and Kelly Green, but they are also available in Red and Royal Blue.

A feature that makes these Smocks an particularly good value is that each one is custom-made. So, you can order long sleeves, a full-front zipper, no mesh on the back, a narrower collar... in other words, you can design your own smock to suit your precise needs.

I will also have order forms that are pre-printed for ordering Smocks, Golf Shirts, Flex-Fit Ball Caps, Denim Shirts, and Sweat Shirts. There will be two copies of the Catalog of *Shirt Art, Inc.* for members to brose through at every future meeting... there are literally thousands of items available. The order form will also be available on our website in the next few days.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

PHIL BROWN

- **Maple Medley—An Acer Showcase at the AAW 2010 Symposium in Hartford, Connecticut.**

This will be the major juried exhibit at next year's Symposium in Hartford, June 18-20, 2010. They are looking for entries made from the many varieties of the Acer genus that showcase the strength, quality or character of Maple as a material. Above all, be creative and imaginative. Following the symposium opening, the show may travel before heading to the AAW Gallery of Wood Art in Landmark Center, St. Paul, Minnesota. As many as three items may be submitted, but only one will be chosen for inclusion in the showcase. Items must be for sale.

The deadline date for initial photographic entries is February 8, 2010. The application process is demanding and lengthy. If anyone wants to enter a piece, I advise you to begin soon. See the AAW Website for the rules and the application process and forms at: woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/Maple/

WOODTURNER RECEIVES AWARD

PHIL BROWN

THE JAMES RENWICK ALLIANCE (the non-profit support organization of the Smithsonian Renwick Gallery) has recently announced that **Mark K. Sfirri** is one of three awardees selected to receive its *Distinguished Educator* award at the **Spring Craft Weekend** festivities the weekend of April 23-25, 2010. Their announcement provided these comments:

Mark K. Sfirri, a well-known turned wood artist, is a Professor at Bucks County Community College, Newtown, Pennsylvania, and Coordinator of the Fine Woodworking Program. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts and Masters of Fine Arts degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design. Mr. Sfirri is highly regarded for his innovative teaching methods and

through his long-term teaching career, has reached many students at many stages of their lives. A cross-section of collectors, current and past students, and peers wrote passionately about Mr. Sfirri's ability to motivate, help, counsel, inspire, and encourage his students. Recognized as a talented maker, Mr. Sfirri has mastered the art of "off-center" turning and has shared his design approach and his methods with many around the U.S. and around the world. His approach has played an important role in public recognition of the evolution of studio wood turning into a contemporary art form. Mr. Sfirri's work is in many private and public collections, including the Renwick Gallery.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

TIM ALEY, SECRETARY

PHIL BROWN called the meeting to order at 7:10PM and welcomed 26 members and guests. Hal Burdette took pictures of *Show & Tell* pieces, Richard Webster assisted with documentation, and Don Van Ryk trucked the pieces back and forth.



Silent Auction items packed three tables and included large selections of dry wood from the estate of former CAW President **Pat McLaughlin** and from a local turner who recently suffered a stroke. The wood was collected and delivered to the meeting by **Russ Iler** and **Phil Brown**. There were a few small pieces of Sea Grape, Rhododendron, and Dogwood to be auctioned at a future meeting. All proceeds benefit MCW. Thanks to **John Jordan** for donating 2 of his hollowing tools for a video camera fund.



AAW is requesting all AAW members to complete a survey on line by January 29, 2010. If you are un-

able to complete the survey on line, Phil Brown can provide a paper copy.

We will have an annual election of new officers at the December 10th meeting. The candidates are:

President.....Bert Bleckwenn
Vice President..... Clif Poodry
Treasurer.....Bob Browning
Secretary..... Tim Aley
Membership.....Bill Autry
Programs..... Gary Guenther
Newsletter Editor..... Michael Blake
Webmaster..... Carl Powell

AAW provides liability insurance for chapter meetings and chapter sponsored activities. To qualify, all officers of MCW must be AAW members.

Bert Bleckwenn briefly spoke on the **Warriors In Transition** program stating that there are 6 lathes operational at the shop at the Forest Glenn Annex and **Bill Autry** helped get **T.W. Perry** to donate to the program.

Gary Guenther reported on the critique program planned for January 7th. The meeting will start half an hour early at 6:30PM and there will be no show and tell. Members are to bring one item for critique and there will be a table for a second item that may be critiqued if time allows. **David Fry**, **Phil Brown's** wife **Barbara Wolanin**, and a third, yet to be named person will critique.

Michael Blake will now be organizing the logo-wear catalog ordering. He hopes to have 2 smocks with logos at the next meeting.

Clif Poodry led the **Show & Tell** session that included bowls of many shapes, tool handles, a mallet, a rolling pin, candle holders, and a bracelet tree.

Gary Guenther introduced newly-elected member of the AAW Board of Directors, **Warren Carpenter** and his demonstration about where bowls can come from.



NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL

HAL BURDETTE/GARY GUENTHER/TIM ALEY



RICHARD WEBSTER 11" x 6 1/2" BOWL [WALNUT]



GARY GUENTHER

6 1/2" x 2 1/2" BOWL

[CHERRY]

This bowl was turned recently from the same log as the bowl seen in Gary's left hand that was turned soon after the tree was cut down. The distinct difference between sap and heart wood in the fresh-turned piece is lost in the piece turned later.



STAN WELLBORN

4 1/2" x 6" VASE

[PONDEROSA PINE BURL]

{HOLLOWING NOT COMPLETED}

NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL

HAL BURDETTE/GARY GUENTHER/TIM ALEY



DON VAN RYK

[ABOVE] 7½" x 2½" BOWL

[BELOW] 7½" x 3" BOWL

[FAR RIGHT] 5" x 3" MUSHROOM VESSEL

[ALL FROM THE SAME SPALTED MAPLE LOG.]



TIM ALEY

7" x 4½"

NATURAL-EDGE
BOWL

[SPALTED MAPLE]



NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL

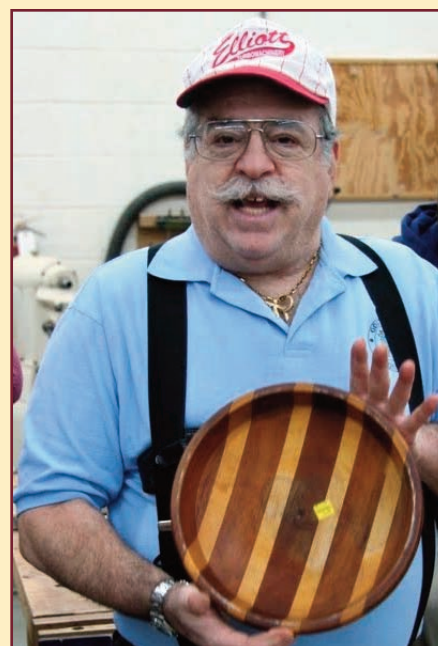
HAL BURDETTE/GARY GUENTHER/TIM ALEY



TOM ANKRUM
22" x 3" SEGMENTED ROLLING PIN
[MAPLE & WALNUT]



ELLIOT SCHANTZ
TOP 2½" x 1" TEA CANDLE HOLDERS [MAHOGANY]
BOTTOM 12"H x 8"W x 4" BASE BRACELET TREE [MAPLE/CHERRY]
RIGHT 12" x 2" SEGMENTED BOWL [\$1.99 @ GOODWILL SHOP]



THIS PIECE WILL BE "TRANSFORMED"
AND SEEN AT A FUTURE MEETING

NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL

HAL BURDETTE/GARY GUENTHER/TIM ALEY



MICHAEL BLAKE

[TOP] OVAL
HANDLE 6"
SCREWDRIVER
[BEESWING NARRA]

OVAL HANDLE 5" RASP
[TAMARIND]

[CENTER] HEX HANDLE 4½"
RATCHET BIT-HOLDER SET
[BEESWING NARRA]

[BOTTOM] HEX HANDLE 2½"
MICRO BIT-HOLDER SET
[BLACK CHERRY BURL]



RICHARD WEBSTER & MICHAEL BLAKE

4¼" x 4"
LIDDED SALT
BOWL & SPOON
[PIGNET HICKORY BURL]

LINDA STOPS

9" x 3⅜"
CARVING MALLET
[ARGENTINIAN OSAGE ORANGE]



NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL

HAL BURDETTE/GARY GUENTHER/TIM ALEY



[TOP] 6³/₈" x 2¹/₂" BOWL [SPALTED HOLLY]

[BOTTOM] 6⁵/₈" x 2¹/₂" BOWL [BURLY MAPLE]



MONTGOMERY COUNTY WOODTURNERS
FOUNDER & FIRST PRESIDENT
PHIL BROWN

[BELOW] 11⁵/₈" x 3⁵/₈" BOWL [SPALTED MAPLE]



BE SAFE**GARY GUENTHER****WORKING NEAR THE CHUCK, AND WORKSHOPS**

THE reason for the *Be Safe* column is to remind us all of pitfalls surrounding the use of machine tools, and lathes in particular. One can never know about accidents averted, but we can use accidents as alerts and teaching tools to hopefully prevent the same thing from happening to others.

Several days ago, I met a fellow woodturner with a large bandage on one of his fingers. To be purposefully graphic, his finger had been split open to the bone and required seven stitches to repair. In his own words, it happened in the blink of an eye – so quickly that he could only try to understand the full event after the fact.

What he remembers is that his bowl gouge contacted the rotating chuck. Evidence indicates that, thereafter, the cutting tip was thrown into the wood, resulting in a huge catch, and the tool and his hand then got involved in some bad places. Needless to say, a trip to the Emergency Room was necessitated. He is not looking forward to seeing the result on the first change of the dressing – nor showing it to his wife. Hopefully his finger will heal, but this brief, momentary lapse is going to cost him a lot of pain, frustration, and lost turning time, not to speak of gaining him the “admiration” of his woodturning colleagues.

How can we learn from this? Personally, I don’t like to work on the headstock side of the wood, near the chuck. Frankly, there is less room for error there and fewer options for a good outcome, if a problem occurs. Sure, we all do it, and sure, we have gotten away with it, but the potential for a bad outcome is there. When I find myself there, I don’t like it, and I ask myself – “Is this really necessary?” Often, the answer is “no”, and I change my plan of attack on the piece. I am much more comfortable working on the tailstock side.

After this experience, I will be more reticent than ever to work near the chuck. We never plan to have an accident, and it makes sense to do what we can

to lower the probability.

There is one more noteworthy thing about this mishap – it occurred during a workshop. The turner was working on a “strange” lathe and doing “new and different” things. Learning is very important to us as woodturners, but it is important that this growth comes safely.

If there’s anything I’ve learned, it’s that woodturners are individuals, and we each have our own zones of comfort and ways of doing things. As we always say, if it doesn’t feel right, stop, and rethink the situation, and don’t bow to peer pressure.



NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

MICHAEL BLAKE

AS IF working as a homebuilder for over 30 years... currently running his own custom homebuilding company... founding & running a full time art gallery... and becoming one of the best known & creative woodturning artists in the country were not enough to keep him busy... **Warren Carpenter** has just been elected to the American Association of Woodturners board... AND he had time in early November to spend 2 hours showing MCW members how he uses “screwed up” parts of trees to create stunning pieces of wood art.

Warren brought along several pre-cut blanks and recently turned pieces to illustrate what he sees in limbs and crotches. [1-7] In [2] he showed how he envisions a piece similar to the amazing 16"-tall by 26"-wide winged, natural-edge piece (front) from a two-limb crotch (back). In [3], he showed a two-limb crotch piece turned without wings and less “flare”.

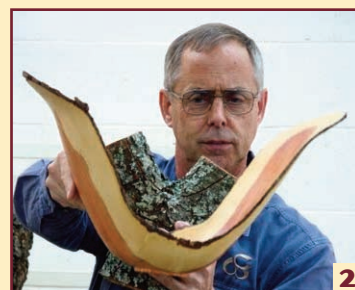
Next, Warren showed two, 3-limb Cherry pieces. The piece in [4] is 12" tall by 18" wide and the piece in [5] is about the same diameter, but about 8" tall.

Unlike many turners, Warren does not get rid of the pith in pieces like this. He controls pith cracks by using very sharp gouges and CA glue when necessary.

[6] illustrates one of Warrens signature decorations – sliced walnut shells glued in at strategic locations. With the three-limb piece in [7], Warren has created a winged vessel that has also been hollowed... another exceptional feat of woodturning skill and artistry. ↓



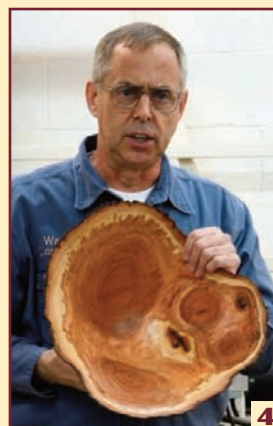
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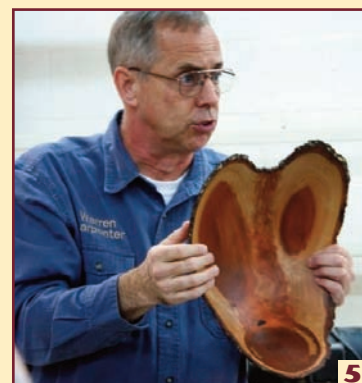
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3



4



5



7



6

NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

MICHAEL BLAKE

Waiting here on the lathe are two pieces of what many turners might think of as “waste” wood – one small piece of Osage Orange and a two-limb crotch of Black Cherry. [8]

Beginning his discussion of how he sees forms in logs like this, Warren pointed out how he had decided what to turn from this Cherry crotch before he left South Carolina. This piece has been cut into sections with a bandsaw and then glued back together so he could point out other options. [9]

Using one of the pieces he brought to illustrate his work, Warren showed how you could turn a winged piece from an orientation that follows the crotch direction [10] ...

... or choose the opposite orientation for a different winged shape. [11]

With a natural-edge bowl sample, Warren illustrated how you might maximize the “feather” pattern in the crotch by mounting the piece on the lathe at a slightly different angle. [12]

Finally separating the pre-cut pieces of the Cherry log, Warren revealed the final section of the Cherry crotch he will turn into a small winged piece. [13]

Warren next “showed off” this rather ugly Osage Orange log, claiming it had hidden wonders inside. [14] He even went so far as to grab the cut-off piece from the Cherry crotch, hold up a tiny Osage Orange sample bowl, and claim with a very determined look that you could probably find a similar pattern inside the Cherry as well. [15]



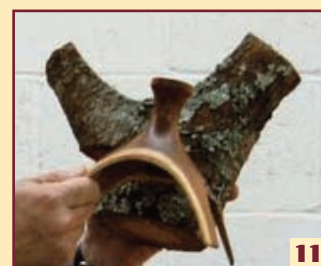
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9



10



11



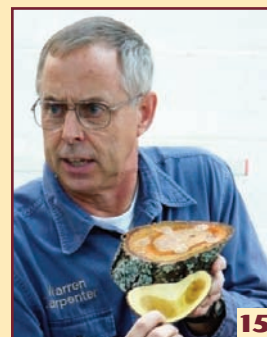
12



13



14



15



NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

MICHAEL BLAKE

Here is a tiny sample natural-edge piece with an inclusion from a similar Osage Orange log Warren brought along to illustrate his point [16] and two small bowl forms turned from the same long, but in opposite orientations. [17]

Now Warren is ready to get down to turning to show precisely how to get dramatic pieces of art out of what may appear to be undramatic pieces of wood.

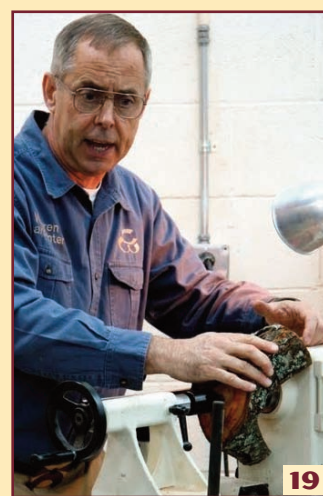
First, Warren used a dead blow hammer to “attach” a four-spur drive center to the Cherry crotch section. [18]

After mounting the drive center in the headstock, he moved the tail stock with a revolving center up to secure the piece in the best plane to achieve a balanced and parallel final shape for the wings of this piece. [19]

Warren prefers an Ellsworth-ground 1/2" bowl gouge and takes the extra time required to get the cutting edges extremely sharp. [20] Since he is most often turning very green wood that can easily move, shrink, and crack, he prepares four of five gouges ahead of time. He has found that if he has to stop and sharpen his tool in the middle of turning, frequently the wood will move or distort in a way that could easily ruin the outcome.

Shaping the outside of the piece comes first. Note that the “wings” on this piece are spinning like a propeller and it is crucial to keep the fingers behind the tool rest at all times. [21] The red arrow in this photo clearly shows the outside edge of the piece as it spins.

Even with the light cuts he takes, Warren gets down to the final outside shape fairly quickly and then cuts a tenon and a shoulder for the scroll chuck. [22] With the piece now mounted in the headstock, the dramatic crotch grain pattern is clearly visible. [23]



NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

MICHAEL BLAKE

With the piece reversed, Warren cuts from the outside edges in towards the center to keep as much mass as possible in the center to prevent/reduce flexing of the wings. He takes light cuts and takes out only about 1" at a time. [24]

He stops frequently to check his progress and to inspect the surface for any cracks, splits, or other potential problems. [25]

Because the wings are so fragile, Warren never goes back to an area he has already cut... he blends the sections only from the outside in.

This process further illustrates the necessity of using very sharp gouges. As he gets almost all the way down to the center [26], you can clearly see how Warren has been "cutting" far more air than wood.

Using both his eyes and the far more accurate sense of touch, Warren checks the inside surface for any flaws that must be dealt with before completion. [27]

Once satisfied, Warren removes the piece from the head stock, employs a wood jam chuck, returns the tail stock for support, removes the tenon, and finishes the bottom. [28]

With able hands and purple shirt background provided by Phil Brown acting as photographer's assistant, Warren certainly has proven his contention that dramatic features like this crotch grain pattern can often be found in the pieces of wood that might otherwise be destined for a firewood bin. [29]

A little CA glue and wood dust for any cracks, a little sanding and smoothing, a coat of Liberon Finishing Oil and Renaissance Wax to seal in the finish, and this winged Cherry crotch piece will be ready for the gallery.



NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

MICHAEL BLAKE

Now with an audience of more or less true believers, Warren began his pitch for trying to get a dramatic piece out of this seemingly undistinguished Osage Orange log. He had pre-cut this piece as well and tack-glued the pieces back together. [30]

The angle of the cut Warren had made will allow him to reveal a much larger grain pattern in what will soon be an asymmetric, natural-edge bowl. [31]

Mounting the piece between centers, but significantly off-center with the tail center about an inch from the edge, [32] Warren began shaping to outside. [33]

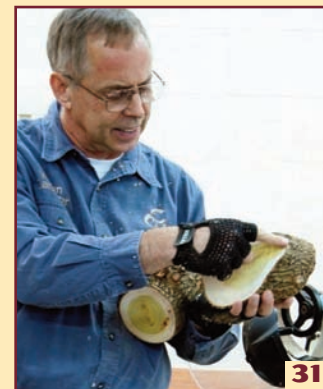
As the shaping progresses, Warren was cutting less and less “air” and finally gets down to all wood. [34]

Again using his eyes and his fingers, Warren looked and felt for any problem areas. [35]

At this point Warren usually applies thin CA glue to the pith to strengthen the fibers and avoid cracking. The next step is to turn a tenon and shoulder.

The wisdom of Warren's choices for this piece – cutting it at an angle and mounting it off-center – is now beginning to show in the dramatic grain pattern he has revealed. [36]

The piece is now ready to reverse, mount in a scroll chuck, and turn the inside surface.



NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

MICHAEL BLAKE

With the piece now properly mounted, [36] Warren begins shaping the inside surface. [37]

Unlike the Cherry piece, this piece has just one “wing” so the turning air problems are reduced a bit. But the wing is fragile, so Warren again took light cuts and worked away small areas, always cutting from the outside edge into the center. [38]

At this point in the turning, Warren also advised us to saturate the inside pith area with thin CA glue to forestall checking or cracking. [39]

After just a few minutes, Warren had almost completed this surprisingly appealing asymmetrical natural-edge bowl. [40]

As often happens at our Thursday night meeting, the clock ran out before Warren was able to reverse this piece again and remove the tenon and finish off the bottom. Considering the time constraints, Warren managed to provide us with a wealth of practical, useful, and also artistic information.

His gifts as a woodturner and a visionary artist are considerable. But unlike some extremely artistic people, Warren Carpenter is also an excellent teacher. His down-to-earth style is compelling and almost makes you think you can do this just as easily and quickly... see what's inside a “screwed up” hunk of wood, slice it up with a bandsaw, stick it between centers, flip it around into a scroll chuck, cut away on the surfaces with your whisper-sharp gouges, and, shazaam!... a fabulous, winged, high-figured piece of art made entirely out of firewood!! [41]



PHOTOS BY GARY GUENTHER AND TIM ALEY
All of these photographs are available for viewing in full size in the *Photo Gallery* section of the MCW website.

YOUR MILEAGE MAY VARY

GARY GUENTHER

SANDING DISK STORAGE

AS WOODTURNERS, we like to have an edged tool in our hands, with curls flying everywhere; but, almost invariably, we end up with sandpaper. (I used this opening sentence in a past article on non-woven sanding pads, and it seemed a good way to begin again here for this topic.) Unless we learn to make perfect tool cuts like Stuart Batty, we are going to have to do some significant sanding on most pieces. This sanding may be on or off the lathe, with or without the lathe running, and with powered or unpowered sanding implements. We use sandpaper in sheets, rolls, and discs in many grits and from a variety of manufacturers and suppliers. Unless you're highly organized, it can tend to get out of control. Efficient use requires a storage system of some sort. Although it is not financially wise, I tend to use 2-inch discs for many applications, sometimes even when I should be tearing strips off rolls or sheets. To save money, I should buy some rolls and stop doing this, but that's another story. I needed disc storage.

Over the years, I have stored my sanding discs in the labeled plastic bags they came in, with the bags stored, in grit order, in an open cardboard flat. In this way, I could always find what I wanted -- the downside was that I had to open and reclose the sealed plastic bags to retrieve the individual discs. (It is important to keep the bags closed in order to avoid cross contamination when you save a disc for reuse -- and, yes, they can be reused under certain, limited circumstances). This constant opening and closing takes time that I came to loathe spending. As a result, I decided to switch to a storage device in the form of a portable set of plastic drawers. You've all seen these for storing small bits and pieces. I saw some limited examples on a respected sanding materials web site, but these were neither cost effective nor did they meet my needs. I wanted a minimum of 24 drawers, and my requirement was that the drawers should be large enough to hold 2" or 3" discs, preferably even multiple stacks of the former. And I wasn't going to spend a ton of money.

A quick Web search showed me exactly what I



wanted and needed -- an inexpensive 24-drawer set with each drawer being 4.25" wide, 5.25" deep, and 2.15" high. The unit is the Akro 10724 24-Drawer Cabinet. It can be purchased from a number of on-line retailers at a variety of prices -- I got mine from an Amazon marketplace dealer (Ron's) for \$38, including shipping. Since the shipping is typically half the cost of the unit, you may choose to find something like it at a local store and save the shipping cost. This is basically a cheap plastic holder -- don't expect a lot of quality. Some of the drawer pullout stops came broken off. No big deal. I would not use this unit for heavy items, but it is quite satisfactory for sanding discs. It is light and can be carried easily to any desired location for use -- if desired, you can store it in a separate location. I use it to hold discs from several different manufacturers in two different grit series. I store the coarse grits on the bottom so any stray bits won't contaminate my higher, finer grits. Other units are available with larger numbers of smaller drawers. This is a huge improvement in utility; I am now very happy with this setup, and sanding is more fun. Really!

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.

FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS

GARY GUENTHER

COMING IN 2010

♦ **January 7th – Extended *Show & Tell*, with outside critiques of members' work.**

We have gotten a very positive response to this idea, and we currently have 12 people signed up. We hope to get a few more. We're going to try something a little different here. Instead of a demonstration, we will have an extended Show & Tell session with a formal critique of each piece conducted by a panel of three selected art and turning experts. Participants will bring one piece that you have made to have it reviewed. The idea is not to submit a perfect piece – rather, the goal is for us all to learn about design and turning and finishing techniques from the things each of us has made. Have you ever made anything you didn't think you could improve on? (Well, I can think of several of you who have, but I certainly haven't.) I think we're often our own worst critics, but we may not know how a piece can be improved. This is an ideal way to learn how to improve what we are doing, from our fellow turners experiences, in a friendly and instructive environment. Each participant will be asked to say a few words about the concept and techniques involved in their piece before the critics have at it. Comments and questions from the audience will also be welcome. Don't plan to bring your ego, just your work, an open mind, and your sense of humor. At the end, if time permits, the panelists will choose additional pieces, from an "extras" table, that members may bring for review. Needless to say, we want as many people as possible to come and join us for this great learning opportunity, whether or not you bring a piece to be evaluated.

We'll have a sign-up sheet at the December meeting to try to get a few more people involved. If you're not signed up and don't plan to be at the December meeting but would like to bring a piece for this event, please send me an email at gary.guenther@att.net and let me know, so we can get a good advance count for planning purposes. I'm sure you all recognize that in MCW we have a very sharing and supportive group, as evidenced by our popular monthly Show & Tell sessions, and this is guaranteed to be a fun time in addition to being instructive.

♦ **February 11th – Clif Poodry**

♦ **March 11th – David Ellsworth**

♦ **April 8th – Patrick O'Brien** from CAW will turn his signature winged, natural-edge bowls and, perhaps, his natural-edge goblets from branches.

♦ **May 6th – Return visit to Jerry & Deena Kaplan's** home and their outstanding craft art collection.

♦ **June 10th CAW's Tom Boley** will show how to make his natural-edge "barking bowls".

♦ **July 8th – David Fry** shows how to turn small objects out of metal.

If you have suggestions for future demonstrators, or would consider demonstrating yourself, please contact Gary Guenther by e-mail at [<gary.guenther@att.net>](mailto:gary.guenther@att.net) or call 301/384-7594.

AAW OPEN LETTER

BILL HASKELL, PRESIDENT

THE Board of Directors' primary objective is to provide more value to the AAW membership. The following initiatives have been implemented just this year to give our members more value for their money:

- Adoption of a health care insurance arrangement that offers significant savings to some. While this benefit will not apply to those who receive Medicare or who have preexisting conditions, it has been a significant cost improvement for some members. One member said, *"My savings in health insurance costs, resulting from switching to AAW's new program, was enough in the first 12 months to pay my AAW dues for the next 42 years."*
- Expansion of AW journal to six issues per year in 2010. This means more articles on a wider range of woodturning topics that are of interest to beginning, intermediate, advanced, and professional turners. There will also be more information on a timelier basis for such things as events and chapter activities.
- Launching of a new online sales venue where members can list their work for sale. With only two months of operation, this venue has been highly successful. Over 240 pieces of work have been listed, with a total value approaching \$1 MILLION. Sales have already exceeded \$60,000. Since the inauguration of this sales venue, AAW website hits have grown significantly. In terms of site visits, our website ranks in the top 1/10 of a percent of the total global Internet.
- Exhibitions abound! The WOOD (Wood Objects On Display) exhibits started this year with three exhibits, and there are four more planned in subsequent years. These exhibits offer AAW members more opportunities to showcase work in fine galleries while exposing more of the public to woodturning.
- Distribution of a comprehensive handbook of symposium demonstrator handouts and symposium program information to all attendees. This

four-color handbook was received with much acclaim.

- Implementation of a monthly electronic chapters newsletter. This newsletter, in a new easy-to-read format, provides information that is timelier and more pertinent to local chapters. Chapters are encouraged to forward the newsletter to their members, and many do.

The purpose of the AAW is to foster a wider understanding and appreciation of lathe turning as a traditional and contemporary craft and a form of art among the general public, hobbyist turners, part-time, and professional turners. This is to be accomplished by providing education, information, organization, technical assistance, and publications related to woodturning. This fall, we will conduct a survey of the membership to get their input, which will help us to gauge the membership's opinion on the association's success in meeting these goals. We value your feedback and look forward to your response.

We are a vibrant and growing organization that is a worldwide leader in the woodturning field and an invaluable resource for our members. Our membership continues to grow and our programs continue to expand and offer more to our members.

BILL HASKELL

bill@woodturner.org

MCW MEETING SCHEDULE - 2009

Meetings are held on the Thursday before the second Saturday each month, from 7:00 PM–9:00 PM, at the Woodworkers Club in Rockville, Maryland. See our website for a map to the meeting site.

2009 MEETING DATES	JAN 8	FEB 12	MAR 12	APR 9	MAY 7	JUN 11
	JUL 9	AUG 6	SEP 10	OCT 8	NOV 12	DEC 10

MCW'S TURNING JOURNAL

A monthly publication of Montgomery County Woodturners – A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners.

Editor: Michael Blake – Phone: 301/589-1815 – Email: mb7298@comcast.net

THE MCW WEBSITE IS <http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org>

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MCW VOLUNTEERS

Web Albums.....	Carl Powell, Gary Guenther	Candid Photography.....	Tim Aley
Mentor Program.....	Donald Couchman	Candid Photography.....	Gary Guenther
Group Buys.....	Stan Wellborn	S&T Recording.....	Richard Webster
Lending Library.....	Clif Poodry	Wood Identification.....	Ed Karch
Still Photography.....	Hal Burdette	Photography Assistant.....	Donald Van Ryk
Exhibit Committee.....	Phil Brown, Hal Burdette, and Clif Poodry		

MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

STAN WELLBORN

HARDWOODS, INC. • FREDERICK, MARYLAND – hardwoodsincorporated.com

10% off all turning stock, lumber, moldings, finishes and hardware. 10% off on all Amana router bits and blades that list for \$75.00 and under and 20% off those that list for over \$75.00. 5% off all plywood and veneer products.



ROCKVILLE WOODWORKERS CLUB – woodworkersclub.com

MCW and other club members, remember to support the Woodworkers Club by purchasing turning supplies during our meetings and save 10% on the retail price.



2SAND.COM – 2sand.com or call 800/516-7621

2Sand.com is a coated abrasive specialist focused on fast service and fair prices providing superior sanding discs, sandpaper sheets, and woodturning tools to woodshops. MCW Member Discount is 10% (discount code available in the restricted area of the MCW Website).



CRAFT SUPPLIES USA – woodturnerscatalog.com

Club members can save 10% on all finishes & disc abrasives from 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 using on the link above and going to the club member login located on the lower right portion of the page.



HARTVILLE TOOL CLUB – hartvilletool.com

Members get a 15% discount, with MCW receiving a 3% rebate. If you have not signed up for this program, let Stan Wellborn know you want to do so. He will let Hartville know you are an MCW member and sign you up. Catalogs and ordering instructions are available or at meetings.

