

Vol. 2014, Issue 9

September 2014

Montgomery County Woodturners

<http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org>

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Next Meeting and Demonstration

The next meeting will be:

Date: **THURSDAY, September 11, 2014**

Time: 7:00-9:30 PM

Location: **Woodworkers Club
11910-L Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20853
(301) 984-9033**

Agenda

- 6:45 -7:00 PM Wear your name tag... meet and greet other members... register your items for Show & Tell with Richard Webster... bid on Silent Auction items... sign out and pay Clif Poodry for videos from the club's Lending Library.
- 7:00 - 7:40 Business Meeting and Show & Tell
- 7:40 - 9:15 PM Program: **Molly Winton** (\$10 demo fee.)
- 9:15 - 9:30 PM Pay for and retrieve your Silent Auction items, pack up, put the lathe and space back in order.

September Program - Molly Winton

Molly Winton on Form, Design, Surface Enhancements, and Pyrography

A few turners produce such inspiring signature work that they rise to "one name" status. All I really have to say is that "Molly" is coming, and that should suffice. I enjoyed discovering Molly's work for myself and following her rapid rise to well-deserved adulation and fame. Her forms and unique surface treatments are second to none because of outstanding design and execution. They beg to be viewed and to be held for close inspection. Thanks to a tour set up by our friends at CAW, we are privileged to be able to present Molly and her work to you, far from her home in Edmonds, WA on the Puget Sound.



September Program - Molly Winton



Molly Winton, www.turningmaven.com, has been turning wood since 1998, and delving into various surface enhancement techniques (primarily pyrography and branding), since 2003. She has a strong commitment to form, and believes this is essential above all else. Teaching and sharing turning and enhancement techniques is also a passion, which is why she is willing to take time away from her busy family life to travel here for us. She says: "Since childhood, I have been fascinated by the creative expression of native North American cultures, their lore and artwork, as well as petroglyphs of the Columbia Plateau of the Northwest, and the cave art of Lascaux, France and Altamira, Spain. These interests have served to be an inspiration for my artistic interpretations." Her work has

been shown in numerous exhibits, featured in national and international periodicals (including American Woodturner, Woodturning Design, and more), and is available through various galleries and sold around the world.

You can see and hear Molly speak briefly about her work at www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwWpKNiNwxQ

Her instructional ability is also highlighted in an article on pyrography in the WoodCentral archives at: www.woodcentral.com/articles/turning/articles_769.shtml

In her own words, Molly says: "I was introduced to woodturning while in high school, but it wasn't until 22 years later that I again stepped in front of a lathe. In 1998, I sold my Vocational Rehabilitation business so I could be home with my growing family. At the time, my husband presented me with a lathe of my own, but I wouldn't have the opportunity to work with it regularly until my children reached school age. A brief exploration in pottery introduced me to the importance of form and design, the foundation to any embellishment of my turning, be it branding, pyrography, coloring, texturing, or carving. I endeavor to make wood pieces that pursue excellence of form and beg to be picked up and caressed. When exploring a source of inspiration for my surface enhancements, I look to my interests in Native American and prehistoric art."



In her program for MCW, she will explore the process of where to begin once an individual has decided to enhance their turning beyond the lathe. Discussions will center on what we should know prior to beginning; identification of sources of inspiration within each individual's own interests and environment, to make our enhancements unique to ourselves; overcoming an "inability to draw"; the importance of form; and the evolution

September Program - Molly Winton

of design. The program will then focus on pyrography, a technique growing in popularity to enhance woodturned art. Many different pyrography systems are available on the market today, with a wide variety of commercial pens and tips from which to choose. Many of these will be reviewed and discussed. On the other hand, making unique, one-of-a-kind brands can provide individualized styles of texturing and design that cannot be achieved through the use of commercially made pens. Molly will show how brands are made using various materials and their application on turned vessels. Effective use of pens/tips, techniques to achieve clean, crisp lines, and layout and design tips will also be covered.



There will be a \$10 demo fee.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to meet and learn from one of the New Masters of woodturning and wood art. I look forward to seeing you all there. ...GG

Special Points of Interest:

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GENERAL ANOUNCEMENTS

MCW Skills Enhancement Program (Bert Bleckwenn)

SEE PAGE 20 FOR NEW SCHEDULE

MCW Picasa Picture Gallery

Pictures from last month's meeting of our featured Demonstration and MCW Events can be found on the MCW Picasa website at:

AUGUST MEETING

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWAug14Meeting#>

AUGUST PROGRAM

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWAug14Program#>

AUGUST GALLERY

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWAug14Gallery#>

Treasury Report, as of Aug 30, 2014

August Income:

Demonstration fee collected	155
Silent auction	37
Norway maple benefit	9
Name tag	<u>9</u>
Total income	\$ 210

August Expense:

Demonstrator	124
Weidman class refunds	660
Name tag	<u>9</u>
Total expenses	\$793

Total funds available \$ 3,099.32

President's Perspective September 2014 (Tim Aley)

Wow! What a week at the Fair! I am still recovering from it. I want to give a huge Thank You to everyone who helped out. This event can't happen without everyone showing up and adding to our MCW identity. We may get a few new members, we may get some leads on free wood, but what we definitely get is lots of people thinking about woodturning, seeing many different people turning, and thinking that woodturning is something they could see themselves doing.

The pole lathe is a big attention-getter as well. Every time I turned on it, people would just stop and watch. Some tried to figure out how it worked, some enjoyed the construction, many wondered what I was making and I would explain how bodgers worked in the field. They were all very interested, both young and old.

I thought that the carvers were a great addition to our tent. Their work was wonderful and often drew a different crowd to the tent. Watching them work was often calming and always interesting.

I had a great experience with someone who may not be an MCW member but may soon be a woodturner. He and his wife came by early in the week. They were working at another booth and had to go home to Frederick County but he had a lathe (in parts) handed down to him and he was interested in getting it started and wondered if I would talk to him later. I told him to stop back by the booth when he had time, and I saw them a couple of times but not until Friday did he come by again. He was a little hesitant but I invited him into the tent. I had a spindle on the lathe and showed him several tools and took some corners off the spindle and let him give it a try. The excitement he felt at how easy it was made my day. He went home with a smile and I hope he will come to the Fair next year as a woodturner.



Keep Turning Safely!

MCW Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2014 (Jack Enders)

Opening Remarks:

President Tim Aley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, welcoming members and guests. Approximately 30 were in attendance.

New Members & Guests:

Two guests attended this meeting. Shaun Grossman & Charles Goedeke.

One guest visitor from Northern California Woodturners in Sacramento: John DePiazza.

First meeting for new member Ellen Davis

Tim again reminded everyone to wear their name tags. Laser-engraved wooden name tags are available also for \$9.00. Fill out a form at the meeting or check out the process at <http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org/NameBadge.html>

Michael Blake Memorial Services:

Tim announced long-time MCW member Michael Blake's unexpected death, and informed members of memorial services for those wishing to pay their respects. Services will be held Sunday 10 August at noon at Philip D. Rinaldi Funeral Service, 9241 Columbia Blvd., Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-585-4050).

General Announcements and Updates:

Ellsworth Bowl Raffle:

Another bowl turned by David Ellsworth in his demo at MCW was raffled off, and the lucky winner was Tim Aley.

Newsletter:

Members were again reminded that the need for more Newsletter articles continues. Sharing experience by submitting stories to the Newsletter benefits everyone and makes our group wiser. Members should submit their stories about their turning experiences or other newsletter items to Editor Mark Verna by August 30th (mark.verna2@verizon.net).

Bring Back Challenge:

Bring Back Challenge for this meeting was a birdhouse ornament turned by Mike Twenty. Lucky winner was Bill Long, who will 'bring back' an item for next meeting's drawing.

MeetingThanks and Appreciations:

To: Phil Brown, who collected demo fees for the evening's program and managing the Library exhibits; Mike Colella for photo gallery support; Bert Bleckwenn for setting up and taking down the video display equipment; Matt Radtke for videographing the meeting; Clif Poodry for managing and schlepping the video library to the meetings; program; Bill Long

MCW Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2014 (Jack Enders)

for running the Show and Tell; Mike Colella, Margaret Follas, Gary Guenther, Jim Allison, Tim Aley and other members for helping to set up and dismantle the chairs for the meeting; Richard Webster for Show and Tell piece check-in; Member demonstrators volunteering to help out at the MoCo Fair.

Scheduled MCW and Other Events of Interest to Members:

Montgomery County Fair: Tim updated members on the MoCo Fair status. The fair takes place at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg from August 8th through the 16th. The MCW/WC/MCC booth setup takes place tomorrow (Friday). The volunteer demo roster is mostly filled (emailed to members), and complimentary admission tickets for volunteers were passed out. MCW, teaming with Woodworkers Club and Montgomery County Carvers (MCC) will operate at the usual place in the Old Timers area of the exhibit space. Any members not already involved and wishing to do so, please contact Tim Aley (taley16922@aol.com).

Skills Enhancement and Lathe Maintenance Session(s): NOTE: There will be no Sessions in August, due to the Montgomery County Fair schedule.

The next following session will take place on Friday, September 12th, from 10am to 12:30 pm. These monthly sessions provide opportunities for members to experiment and practice new techniques, try new tools, and share acquired knowledge.

Contact Bert Bleckwenn if you are interested (bableck@gmail.com). The format of the session begins with the first 30 minutes or so dedicated to lathe maintenance, followed by the participant's choice of activity, under the mentorship of Bert.

[Skills Enhancement sessions are "open" turning opportunities to perfect one's skills and techniques with mentoring and members who have participated enthusiastically endorse the usefulness of these sessions. Use of WWC lathes and supplies and tools by MCW are provided. They are held on one Friday or Sunday in alternate months. The full schedule for the year is given on the MCW website and in the monthly Newsletter.]
NOTE: Participants must be active AAW members in order to participate and be covered by the AAW Liability Insurance Policy.

Upcoming Programs: Tim announced the following changes and featured programs for upcoming meetings:

September 11, 2014 Meeting: Molly Winton in conjunction with WC Course

November 6, 2014 Meeting: Jimmy Clewes

December 11, 2014 Meeting: Margaret Lospinuso (MCW Potluck Evening!)

January 8, 2015 Meeting: Panel Critique of Members' works

MCW Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2014 (Jack Enders)

March 11, 2015: Mike Sorge

May 14, 2015: Michael Mocho

July 8, 2015: Don Leydens

August 6, 2015: Barbara Dill

November 11, 2015: John Lucas

MCW members were encouraged to sign up for the WC courses offered by these and other renowned woodturning and woodworking experts. Flyers containing course details will be sent out to members when they are received as well as being posted in the WC retail area.

Fleur Bresler Collection Visit: Phil Brown announced discussions with Fleur Bresler for MCW to join with CAW members for visiting her private collection on October 19th. Confirmation and details to be determined.

Library Display Project: Thanks to Phil Brown for setting up the Aspen Hill Library exhibit for August. The schedule for upcoming displays is as follows, and volunteers to help Phil Brown with setup are always appreciated (contact philfbrown@comcast.net) :

Quince Orchard Library in October 2014
Germantown Library in November 2014
Potomac Library in January 2015
Bethesda Library in February 2015
Quince Orchard Library in September 2015

(MCW participates in the Montgomery County Library Display Program, with rotating collections of members' work on month-long displays at several County libraries. It is a good opportunity for both our club and our members to connect with the greater community about our activities and talents. Phil (philfbrown@comcast.net) is the coordinator. A pool of loaned turned objects is being established from which to draw the individual displays, to avoid the often "last-minute" rush and panic of previous months in finding enough objects for the display. Members having turned objects for loan to this program are urged to contact Phil).

MCW Wounded Warrior Project: The session on August 6th drew 5 soldiers with 4 MCW members as mentors.

Members were reminded that the bi-weekly Pen Turning sessions with WRAMC's Wounded Warriors continue with great participation and enthusiasm, drawing about 4-8 soldiers at each session. MCW volunteers (including Project Coordinator and Leader Don van Ryk) provide mentoring and one-on-one advice and supervision. The biweekly sessions require a steady participation of MCW mentors, and for the most part, the soldiers are matched rea-

MCW Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2014 (Jack Enders)

sonably well with mentors. Members are always welcome to join in supporting this great service project. The sessions take place on alternate Wednesdays from 12:30pm-2:30pm at the Woodworkers Club with the next sessions being held on August 20th and September 3rd, and alternate following Wednesdays. Contact Don van Ryk (dvanryk@aol.com) to participate.

Donations of pen blanks are always welcome. Members wishing to donate wood should contact Don directly. (dvanryk@aol.com)

Secretary's Note: MCW members mentoring this program are uniformly positive about its effectiveness. Helping to assist in the rehabilitation of our wounded soldiers in developing interest and skills in woodturning, using pen turning as the focus, has been very satisfying to the soldiers themselves. Some of the soldiers have never before done any woodworking or woodturning. It is a wonderful effort that benefits both student and mentor. Tim suggested that anyone curious about the program should drop by during one of these Wednesday sessions and see for themselves what it is all about.

Thanks were expressed to those MCW member volunteers who have been able to show up to mentor these good people, and to the Woodworkers Club which very graciously sponsors this worthwhile program with lathes and space and the great help and participation of Chris Johnstone.

Show and Tell

Richard Webster logged in (no pun intended!) the Show and Tell pieces. Bill Long emcee'd the program.

For this month, eleven members brought 23 Show and Tell pieces, as follows:

Richard Webster – Cedar Salad Bowl
Tim Aley – Spalted Oak Crotch Flat Bowl
Tim Aley – Cherry Christmas Ornament Balloon
Mike Colella – Spalted Maple Platter
Bill Long – Hard Maple Mallet
Bill Long – Hybrid Chestnut Small Bowl
Bill Long – Butternut Large Bowl
Bill Long – "Strange" Warped Bowl of Crepe Myrtle (dimensionally unstable)
Mike Twenty – Miniature Walnut/Holly/Bloodwood Bird House (Bring Back Challenge)
Jeff Tate – 2 Poplar Bowls (experimented with microwaving to dry the wood)
Jeff Tate – Bradford Pear Hollow Object
Joe Barnard – Chinese Chestnut/Cedar/Cherry Table/Stand
Joe Barnard – Cherry/Walnut Hamburger Press
Bob Grudberg – Mixed Wood Open Segmented Vessel
Bob Grudberg – Natural Edge Cherry Bowl
Bob Grudberg – Small "Natural Edge" Bowl (Bark glued on!)

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Gary Guenther – Four spin tops for MoCo Fair (various woods)
Matt Radtke – Maple Salad Bowl
Steve Drake – Cherry Salt & Pepper Mills with Yellowheart and Wenge accents.

Mike Colella photographed the pieces for the MCW website gallery, and several volunteers assisted by 'trucking' the pieces from display to photo booth and back.

[Additional detail and photos of this month's show and tell objects listed above and candid shots during the meeting can be found on the MCW website or at:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWAug14Meeting#>

Demo Program

The evening program featured Allen Alexopoulos, who shared his skills in turning beautifully-crafted complex hyperbolic candlesticks.

[Note: A detailed description of the program is found elsewhere in the Newsletter and photos can be viewed at: <https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWAug14Program#>

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm

--Jack Enders, Secretary

News about our Members (Phil Brown)

Member News

Member News

Phil Brown and **Richard Webster** each showed three turned pieces at the Annual Labor Day Art Show in the Glen Echo Spanish Ballroom.

Phil Brown and **Richard Webster** will be selling their work at JRA Day on December 6th. See www.jraday.com/JRA_Day_Home.html

Phil Brown will talk about aspects of design and his turning with Baltimore Area Woodturners on September 10th. baltimoreareaturners.org/

Denis Zegar, a member from Columbia whom we seldom saw at meetings, passed away during the Gran Fondo bicycle race on August 24th, possibly from cardiac arrest. Dennis turned colorful pens, bracelets, and brush handles which you can see at www.designsbydz.com/

MCW provided a nice showing of turned wood at the Montgomery County Fair during the week August 9th to 16th and most of the work was recognized with awards. In the HANDWORK division, recognition in the wood craft category, #368, included:

Clif Poodry, Second Place for *Dosga Geed*, a 15.5" maple bowl.

Joe Clark, Third Place for his cherry burl vase.

Margaret Follas, Fourth Place for an 8" maple bowl.

Phil Brown, Fifth Place for a 12" red oak flare vessel.

Richard Webster, Sixth Place for a 13" honey locust bowl with turquoise inlayed in three knot openings. The juror penned this note on the ID tag: "I appreciate the extra work you did on the knots. Did you look for similar wood plugs?"

Joe Barnard, Honorable Mention for a 6" black cherry bowl.

Recognition in wood craft, spindle turned items, #369, went to:

Jim Allison, First place for a pepper grinder.

Recognition in wood craft, flat work, #370 went to:

Allan Star, First Place for his fire truck.

Recognition in wood craft, large flat work, #371, went to:

Joe Clark, First Place and Grand Champion for his table with a swinging drawer.

Recognition in the hand decorated wood category, #353, possibly the first entry by a MCW member, went to:

Emily Koo, First Place and Grand Champion for her 5.25" poplar *Sunset Bowl*.

News about our Members (Phil Brown)

Recognition in models, #746, under EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL

HOBBIES division went to:

Allan Star, First Place and Grand Champion for his pickup truck.

I hope even more members will display in 2015 in support of our live demonstrations outside the Arts, Crafts and Photography building. I will collect pieces you would like to enter at the August 6, 2015 meeting, or you can deliver yourself on August 12th or 13th from 3 to 8 PM. There was no waiting line the first day from 4 to 4:15 PM this year.

CLASSES

Clif Poodry teaches *Beginning Bowl Turning* during the evening of Oct 14-15, and Nov 17-18; and *Introduction to the Lathe* Sept 29-30, and Oct 20-21 at the Woodworkers Club. A minimum of three students are required to conduct a class. To register, call 301-984-9033, or go to classes at: <http://woodworkersclub.com/classes/>

Mark Supik's workshops at 1 N. Haven Street in Baltimore include these all-day woodturning workshops from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for \$150/class, with a 20% discount for AAW and local woodturning club members. Lunch & materials are included. To register, phone or e-mail Nancy Supik 410-732-8414, or nancy@marksupikco.com

The Right Start: Learn spindle turning, having fun making bead & cove cuts to create wine stoppers, mallets, and other useful objects on Saturday, September 27th, Sunday, Oct 19th, and Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014.

Bowl Turning Fundamentals, using green wood from recently downed local trees, move from log to bowl in one day on Saturday, October 18th; Saturday, November 11th; and Sunday Dec. 14th.

Bowl Turning, Next Step is for students who have completed the basic bowl turning class and are ready for the next step, with a review of basics, bowl design, sharpening, natural edge. Sunday, November 11th.

Woodturning w/Your Child. For children 9 & up with an adult. Child is the turner for this day, the adult is the cheerleader. Saturday, Dec 27th from 9-12 or from 1-4 PM. \$75 for child, adult free.

First Saturday Morning Workshops, 9:00 AM to Noon, \$75. For students who have completed The Right Start or the Beginning Bowl Turning Workshop. First hour is a demonstration of a specific skill or project. Students then have the remaining time for directed practice of that skill. Focus is on Plates, 9/6/2014, Sharpening, 10/4/2014, Use of the Skew, 11/1/2014, Beer

Taps and other Spindle Gifts 12/6/2014.

First Saturday Open Studio follows from 1-4 pm (\$30).

News about our Members (Phil Brown)

Don't be shy! Promote yourself. Tell us about your woodturning activities in the MCW Newsletter. Send your information by the 25th of the month to Phil Brown, philf-brown@comcast.net, or call 301-767-9863.

EXHIBITS

Bresler Collection Visit October 19th

As makers and admirers of turned wood, we are very fortunate to be in an area with four large private collections focused on turned wood, several large multimedia collections with many turned wood pieces in them, as well as smaller private collections with outstanding turned wood pieces. As MCW programs, we have been to Jerry and Deena Kaplan's collection in May 2008, May 2010, and May 2014. And in June 2009 we visited Jane and Arthur Mason's collection. Picasa photo albums from these visits are linked in the Photo Gallery page of our web site.



A combined MCW and Chesapeake Woodturners visit to Fleur Bresler's collection is planned for Sunday, October 19th, from 10 AM to noon. The group size is limited and each Chapter is taking reservations for 17 members. Sign up for this visit at our September or October meetings. Spouses will only be admitted on a space available basis. I hope we can arrange another visit on a Saturday in 2015 for those interested in the collection who could not make it this year.

As background, I would like to comment on a few of Fleur's contributions to the woodturning and craft-art fields. Since childhood, Fleur has enjoyed a passion for handmade objects. She was introduced to turned wood by the Jacobson exhibition at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery in the mid 1980s, and gradually began acquiring objects and educating herself about turned wood and woodturners. As she became obsessed with collecting favorite turned wood pieces, she acquired work representing sages or the evolution of an artist's work, which is a unique and important aspect of her collection. The collection represents outstanding work of many well regarded turners over the past 30 years, most

News about our Members (Phil Brown)

of whom are still active. Several have demonstrated at MCW meetings such as Mark Sfirri, David Elsworth, John Jordan, and Keith Holt.

Besides supporting the woodturning community with her purchases, Fleur served many years on the board of The Center for Art in Wood, located in Philadelphia, which was previously known as The Woodturning Center. Fleur was board president for several of those years, and in addition to her time and leadership, contributed generously to The Center. Fleur has assisted the Renwick as a docent and as a major contributor to its exhibitions and wood collection, culminating in the catalog and exhibition ***A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection*** shown from September 24, 2010 to January 30, 2011.^{1/} About 7 to 9 years ago when Rockville Arts Place was preparing for new space and a new name, VisArts, Fleur provided strong leadership to the board as president and contributed generously in establishing the present facility.^{2/} In 2012, the James Renwick Alliance honored Fleur with the *One-of-a-Kind* award for outstanding service to the JRA, the Renwick Gallery, the wood arts and the entire craft community. In November, the American Craft Council will honor Fleur with the Aileen Osborn Webb Award for Philanthropy which recognizes exceptional contributions to and support of the field of craft.

^{1/}Responding to Fleur's suggestion, the Renwick set up a lathe for demonstrations which MCW and CAW members provided over the four month period.

^{2/}Incorrectly anticipating that meeting space would be available at VisArts for a woodturning club and teaching program, was a catalyst behind my effort to form MCW.

Milan Exhibit

The exhibit "Emil Milan: Midcentury Designer Craftsman" will run at the Henry Gallery on the campus of Penn State Great Valley in Malvern, PA through September 26th. The Gallery is free and open to the public Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm. The exhibit will travel next to The Center for Art In Wood in Old City Philadelphia November 7 - January 24. For information and updates see their website at www.centerforartinwood.org/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions/

CALL FOR ENTRIES

"Small Wonders: December 2014", will be up from Friday, December 5th to Tuesday, December 23rd at Washington ArtWorks, 12276 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. While most work submitted will be hung on the wall, 3D works up to 12×12 inches are included and desired. Submissions of up to four jpeg images for a \$25 fee are due by October 10th. Jurors will select work based on merit of the pieces and appeal to holiday shoppers. See information at: www.washingtonschoolofphotography.com/gallery/call-for-entries-small-wonders/

AUGUST EVENING PROGRAM – Allen Alexopolus (Jack Enders)

Allen Alexopolus, Chesapeake Woodturners, Annapolis, MD



Allen Alexopolus is a master woodturner from Annapolis, MD, where he is a member of the Chesapeake Woodturners. He is also a member of the Maryland Federation of Art and the American Association of Woodturners. His skills span a wide scope of forms, but for the evening's MCW program his focus was on demonstrating the design, layout, and turning of a Complex Hyperbolic Candlestick, in the form pioneered by the late Rude Osolnik.

Allen has been creating custom woodturning art in his shop in Annapolis since 2001 (www.lathescapes.com). He aims to create unique turned objects from many trees species including walnut, cherry, holly, maple, poplar, beech, oak,

Norway pine, mulberry and pear. Most pieces are "harvested" from downed trees or potential firewood. The beauty of his turnings is amplified by simple shapes combined with graceful curves. For example, in the case of his program tonight, the candlestick profile is the shape of a hyperbola. Though he has explored many areas of woodturning, his principal repertoire includes natural-edged vessels, lidded boxes with ornate finials, hollow forms, and formal vessels, all of which can be viewed on his website.



Examples of Allen's works are included in the State of Maryland and City of Annapolis Archives, in the on-line Wye Oak Gallery and commercial sites like Teknatool in New Zealand and Exotic Lumber in Annapolis. He has also taught several woodturning courses at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts.



Allen began his presentation with a discussion of design aspects of the hyperbolic curves applied to a cylinder, showing several examples of the finished turning in several varieties of wood (red cedar, black walnut, cocobolo, English yew, osage orange, wenge, cherry and Bradford pear). He cautioned against using heavily striated wood, or brittle exotics, because the narrow neck of the candlestick is not structurally able to avoid easy breakage. Concerning finish, he does not use any 'major' finish.

He pointed out that no two turnings are exactly alike, which adds to the challenge and pleasure of creating these forms. Experimenting produces truly interesting forms and even a slight change of shape introduces subtle effects.

The long/tall slender forms need a weighted base to provide stability, and it has been traditional practice to use lead for this purpose. However, given the emerging picture of lead dangers and toxicity, it is becoming difficult to source and so he and many other turners are using steel plugs as



AUGUST EVENING PROGRAM – Allen Alexopolus (Jack Enders)

a substitute.

Given that the base diameter of the candlestick is relatively small and much of it is taken up with the steel plug, the problem of signing the work arises. Allen uses a vibrating engraving tool to grave his signature on the steel plug, which is covered by a felt disk pad (he remarked that if anyone really wanted to know who the artist is, they can look under the felt pad!).

Safety is a primary consideration in making and selling/gifting candlesticks (or tea-candle holders)...recognize that wood burns! This cautionary observation arose from a question about protecting the candle-cup from melted wax. Allen is in favor of using these candlesticks as ornamental—to display unlighted candles; not as functional pieces with lighted candles. He was asked about metal inserts for the candle, and he said he avoided using them because of their implication that they would make the candlestick 'fire-safe.'



Following this introductory discussion that included describing and laying out the tools to be used, Allen began the demonstration with a 2" x 2" x 18" pear blank. He again mentioned that the wood must be stable to tolerate the narrow neck of the form. Softwoods and brittle hardwoods are unsuitable for thin sections and stability.

[Prior to tonight's meeting, Tim Aley provided members with an e-mailed copy of Allen's handout drawings showing the steps involved in creating the candlestick; it is available on the members' website]

After mounting the blank between centers, he used a ¾" roughing gouge to turn it, at 800rpm, to a cylinder. He remarked that he uses no more than 5 or 6 unique tools for this form. Switching to a 3/8" parting/beading tool, he cut tenons on each end to match the scroll chuck jaws to be used in the next step. Using a small skew, he cut a recess on the tenon base. The scroll chuck jaws are modified to have only one gripping bead at the face of the jaw, and this fits into the tenon groove just described.



A spindle gouge was then used to 'scoop' the end recess at the candle cup end, followed by a 1/16" parting tool to remove nubs and smooth the candle cup recess.



The workpiece was then reversed in the lathe, which is now reconfigured with the scroll chuck at the headstock gripping the grooved tenon. He employed a steady rest to stabilize the long protruding cylinder for the next step of cutting the candle socket.

[Here, he digressed slightly to describe his solution to boring a 'candle-taper' hole. Starting with a 1" spade bit, he ground the



AUGUST EVENING PROGRAM – Allen Alexopolus (Jack Enders)



sides 'free-hand' to a close approximation of the desired taper, with relief on the cutting edges. The spur point on the spade bit is ground to about 1/3 of its original length and file-modified into a split point to avoid 'wandering' as the bit is fed into the work.]. Mounting the modified spade bit into the tailstock, he bored the candle socket into the end of the blank (~800rpm), advancing the bit slowly.

Moving the tailstock away from the workpiece, and taking advantage of the support provided by the steady-rest, he was able to clean up and smooth the rim and scallop of the candle socket.

Reversing the workpiece again, and changing the tailstock chuck from the spade bit to a 1" Forstner bit, he drilled the socket for the steel base weight plug, accounting for a slight oversize recess to accommodate the felt pad for the base. After the piece is completely shaped and finished, the steel plug will be fastened in place with epoxy, engraved if desired, and adhesive felt base pad affixed.



With the end preparations completed, the workpiece is again reversed and the headstock scroll chuck is fitted with expanding jaws to fit into the 1" base hole. Using expanding jaws instead of compression jaws permits total machining of the shape, including the base.



Starting at the 'top' end at the tailstock, Allen used a 3/8" parting tool to begin the contour, shaping it to a hyperbolic profile. He also used a 3/4" roughing gouge to remove the bulk of the material in the neck. Key to achieving the final shape is the determination of the inflection point, i.e., the narrowest part of the neck, where the curvatures reverse. He discussed this as approximately a 1/3 –

2/3 proportion, close to "phi", the golden ratio of 1.618:1, which is most pleasing to the eye. He aims generally for about a 3/8" diameter at the narrowest point of the neck.

Once the shape has been completed, he uses the typical graded sequence of sandpapers to smooth the surface, being very careful in sanding the narrow neck. To remove any residual tool marks, he carefully hand-sands longitudinally (with the grain) with the lathe stopped. The final step is buffing and polishing with EEE or Dr. Curt's Scratch-



AUGUST EVENING PROGRAM – Allen Alexopolus (Jack Enders)

Free Polish, before applying a final coat of wipe-on polyurethane, either satin or semi-gloss, to one's taste.



The demonstration concluded with a very beautifully-formed hyperbolic candlestick that is sure to challenge our local chapter turners.

Following a brief Q&A session that concluded the session, the assembled members and guests expressed their appreciation to Allen with a rousing round of applause.

-Jack Enders, Secretary

Future Meetings (Mike Colella)

Please call Mike Colella at 301-942-2853 with your ideas

2014-2015 Meeting Schedule		
January 9, 2014 Mark Supik	February 6 2014 William Peirce	March 13 2014 Chuck Engstrom
April 17 2014 * David Ellsworth	May 8 2014 TBD	June 12 2014 Warren Carpenter
July 10 2014 Derek Weidman	August 7 2014 Allen Alexopulos	September 11 2014 Molly Winton
October 9 2014 TBD	November 6 2014 Jimmy Clewes	December 11 2014 Margaret Lospinuso with Potluck
January 8, 2015 Panel Critique	February 12, 2015 TBD	March 11, 2015 ** Mike Sorge

* one week later than normal

** Wednesday

2014 Skills Enhancement and Maintenance Schedule

Skills Enhancement & Maintenance Sessions	Day (Alternating Fridays and Sundays)
January 10th	Friday
Feb 16th	Sunday
March 21st	Friday
April 6th	Sunday
May 16th	Friday
June 8th	Sunday
July 11th	Friday
No Session - Fair	n/a
Sept 12th	Friday
Oct 19th	Sunday
Nov 21th	Friday
Dec 14th	Sunday

Membership Application Form and Interest Profile

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

To become a member or renew, please print out, complete and either mail it or personally deliver it to Bill Autry along with a check for \$20.00, payable to Montgomery County Woodturners. New membership in the 2nd quarter is \$15, 3rd quarter \$10, and 4th quarter \$5. A Family membership is \$30.00/yr. Please ensure you include your email address, as all communications are electronic via our website and periodic email notifications.

Member Discount Program

EXOTIC LUMBER, INC. FREDERICK, MARYLAND – www.exoticlumberinc.com

With over 130 species in stock, Exotic Lumber has one of the widest selections available on the East Coast. We offer a 10% discount to MCW members. We have warehouse locations in Gaithersburg and Annapolis, where you are welcome to select from our extensive selection of turning blocks.



HARDWOODS, INC. FREDERICK, MARYLAND – hardwoodsincorporated.com

10% off on 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.



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).



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.



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 on the link above and going to the club member login located at 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 at meetings.





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

MCW Contact Information

OFFICERS

President	Tim Aley
President Emeritus	Bert Bleckwenn
Vice President	Gary Guenther
Treasurer	Phil Brown
Program Chair	Michael Colella
Membership	Elliot Schantz
Secretary	Jack Enders
Webmaster	Carl Powell
Newsletter Editor	Mark Verna

VOLUNTEERS

Web Albums	Tim Aley, Michael Colella, Gary Guenther
Show & Tell Recording	Richard Webster
Mentor Program	Donald Couchman
Gallery Photography	Michael Colella, Jeff Tate, Hal Burdette
Photography Assistant	
Lending Library	Clif Poodry
Audio /Video	Matt Radtke, Bert Bleckwenn
Challenge Coordinator	Elliot Schantz
Wood Identification	Ed Karch
Candid Photography	Tim Aley, Gary Guenther
Exhibit Committee	Phil Brown, Hal Burdette, Russ Iler
Skills Enhancement Coordinator	Bert Bleckwenn
Warrior Support Program	Don Van Ryk
Clean-Up Committee	Paul Simon