

October 2014

Montgomery County Woodturners

<http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org>

Next Meeting and Demonstration

The next meeting will be:

Date: **THURSDAY, October 9, 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:
- 9:15 - 9:30 PM Pay for and retrieve your Silent Auction items, pack up, put the lathe and space back in order.

October Program - Clif Poodry - Unique Holiday Ornaments

Would you like to make some personal, hand-crafted gifts for friends or family this holiday season? Do you have any small leftovers of wood that you couldn't bear to throw away? If so, October and November are the months to reduce your scrap pile while making presents that your friends and family will cherish for seasons to come. Holiday ornaments are a wonderful way to make a gift with a personal touch.



Since they are made from relatively small pieces of wood, the ornaments can sometimes be made from a branch or remnant of a favorite old tree. Alternatively, ordinary looking wood can be spruced up for



October Program - Clif Poodry – Unique Holiday Ornaments

the holidays using colorful dyes, stains, or paints.

A key feature of a tree ornament is that it should be very light in weight and not load down a branch. Four years ago, Bob Rosand showed us a method of making a hollow globe with an icicle (a finial that hangs from the bottom).

See <https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWNov10Demo#>

The globe is really a small hollow form, and the icicle lets you put your spindle turning skills to work. This demo will be similar to Bob's, with emphasis on thin hollowing and fine spindle turning, but with an added twist -- the globe of the ornament will have windows! This is a novel design feature that will also allow you to see the hollowing tool in action. Please join us for this very timely refresher that will put you in the mood to get started on your gift turning. ...Clif

**Special Points
of Interest:**

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GENERAL ANOUNCEMENTS

MCW Skills Enhancement Program (Bert Bleckwenn)

SEE PAGE 21 FOR NEW SCHEDULE

MCW Picasa Picture Gallery

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWSept14Meeting#>

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWSept14Program#>

SEPTEMBER GALLERY

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWSept14Gallery#>

Molly Winton @ Jerry & Deena Kaplan's

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

Treasury Report, as of September 24, 2014

September Income:

September Expense:

Demo fees collected	\$ 390	Demonstrator	\$ 286.15
Silent auction	21	CCC 2015 membership	<u>50.00</u>
New Memberships	<u>10</u>		
Total income	\$ 421	Total expenses	\$ 336.15
Total funds available	\$ 3,184.17		

President's Perspective October 2014 (Tim Aley)

This is my yearly plea for members to give a little back for the good of MCW. We will hold elections in December and we are looking for a few of you to step up and share your time and expertise. I know that we have a lot of both, as woodturners and in our everyday jobs. I hope that you will share some of your talents – you don't need to take on a huge task to help out a lot.

We are looking for a newsletter editor but if that is more than you think you can manage, please think of writing an article, tip or experience for it. Jack has been doing a great job of writing up meetings but he seems to be one of the few content contributors to the newsletter, other than the items that are parts of the officers' jobs. So if you like writing or have an experience to share, please submit it!



Bert has done a great job setting up and running skills enhancement for several years, giving new and inexperienced turners encouragement, guidance and a venue to become better turners. The couple of hours a month is not a large time commitment but it is a great resource for new MCW members.

I hope that everyone has looked at the amazing gallery pictures we have amassed over the years. That is only because people bring cameras and take pictures. Gary has done most of this since MCW was formed with many others contributing in many ways. Gary would like to spend more time on other duties as we are looking for the VP to move into the President position, so we need more people taking photos – the more, the better. We can always use more pictures to tell the story of what happens at meetings. Please feel free to bring your camera or phone and share your good shots with us.

And lastly, I have started talking to the Woodworkers Club about Turn For the Troops in November. I will soon be asking for members to spend an hour or two to help new turners make a pen for the Troops and/or come down and make some pens to send off to the troops. It is a fun way to have spouses and children try out an easy project and see what turning is all about. In the past we, have gotten new MCW members from this event and it is a great way to support our troops.

Please find a few extra hours in your busy life and share them with MCW!

MCW Meeting Minutes – 11 September, 2014 (Jack Enders)

Minutes: Montgomery County Woodturners Meeting

Opening Remarks:

President Tim Aley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, welcoming members and guests. Approximately 40 were in attendance.

New Members & Guests:

Three guests attended this meeting. Mike Gerecht, Bruce Bucklin, and Rheetu Par Majarin.

One guest visitor from Capitol Area Woodturners (CAW): Ted Poirier, in connection with Molly Winton's visit arrangements.

Tim 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>

Denis Zegar death and Memorial Service:

Tim announced long-time MCW member Denis Zegar's unexpected death. He mentioned that some sort of remembrance honoring his memory will be decided upon and presented to his family.

General Announcements and Updates:

Newsletter:

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 our Editor Mark Verna by September 28th (mark.verna2@verizon.net).

Bring Back Challenge:

Bring Back Challenge for this meeting was a locust collared cup, turned by Bill Long. Lucky winner was Jeff Tate, who will 'bring back' an item for next meeting's drawing.

Officers Upcoming Vacancies:

We are grateful to those who volunteer in leadership positions to make our MCW the successful and engaging group that it has become. Nonetheless, it is inevitable that periodically those who serve must step down and move on, and it is healthy for the organization. Tim Aley noted that he has served as President enjoyably for 2-1/2 years and will step down at the end of the year. Bert Bleckwenn also announced that he will move out of the leadership of the MCW Maintenance and Skills Enhancement Sessions at the end of the year, and

MCW Meeting Minutes – 11 September, 2014 (Jack Enders)

Newsletter Editor Mark Verna will also step down. Members are encouraged to volunteer to serve in these leadership positions and anyone interested in doing so should contact Phil Brown (philfbrown@comcast.net) or Tim Aley (teaturning@gmail.com).

Meeting Thanks and Appreciations:

To: Phil Brown, who collected demo fees for the evening's program and managing the ongoing public Library exhibits; Mike Colella for photo gallery support and Joe Clark for trucking S&T pieces between display and photo booth; Bert Bleckwenn for setting up and taking down the video display equipment; Tim Aley for running the meeting; Gary Guenther for arranging and introducing the program with Molly Winton; Matt Radtke for video graphing the meeting; Clif Poodry for managing and schlepping the video library to the meetings; program; Richard Webster for Show and Tell piece check-in; Bill Long for running the Show and Tell; all members for helping to set up and dismantle the chairs for the meeting.

Scheduled MCW and Other Events of Interest to Members:

Skills Enhancement and Lathe Maintenance Sessions

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.

NOTE: Bert announced that he will continue organizing and guiding the skills enhancement sessions for the next two months, after which he will step down in October, having done this for over 4 ½ years. He asked for someone to volunteer to take on this important function of our MCW, and he will be glad to mentor their takeover. Club members expressed their appreciation for his dedicated leadership in this activity following his announcement.

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

October 8, 2014: Clif Poodry

MCW Meeting Minutes – 11 September, 2014 (Jack Enders)

November 6, 2014 Meeting: Jimmy Clewes

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

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

March 11, 2015: Mike Sorge

May 14, 2015: Michael Mocho

July 8, 2015: Don Leydens (Wednesday instead of usual Thursday)

August 6, 2015: Barbara Dill

November 11, 2015: John Lucas (Wednesday instead of usual Thursday)

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. No exhibit is scheduled for September. 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 from Walter Reed

MCW Meeting Minutes – 11 September, 2014 (Jack Enders)

Army Medical Center 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 reasonably 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 – Large Dogwood Bowl
Bob Grudberg – Large Oak Bowl
Bob Grudberg – Segmented Bubinga & Satinwood Vessel
Bob Grudberg – Segmented Vessel
Mike Collela – Large Sycamore Bowl
Mike Collela – Oak and Twig "Magic Wands"
Mike Collela – Cherry & Bloodwood Metal Core Bangle
Mike Collela – Rosewood & Ebony Ring Cup
Tim Aley – Toona (Chinese Mahogany) Bowl

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Tim Aley – Cherry Bowl
Jeff Tate – 2 Cocobolo Bowls
Jeff Tate – Bradford Pear Bowl
Bill Long – Square Collared Locust Cup
Clif Poodry and David Asab – Maple Ballbats and Balls
Joe Stout – Cherry Bowl
Matt Radtke – Curly Koa Plate and Bowl
Rebecca Meyerson – 2 Maple Pens, Acrylic Bracelet Holder
Joe Barnard – Catalpa Bowl
Joe Barnard – Chinese Chestnut Natural Edge Bowl
Jerry Kaplan – Wye Oak Bowl
Emily Koo – Painted (Maple) Sunset Bowl

Mike Colella photographed the pieces for the MCW website gallery, and Joe Clark 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/MCWSept14Gallery#>

Meeting Photos:

General photos of the meeting can be found on the MCW website or at: <https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWSept14Meeting#>

Demo Program

The evening program "Form, Design, Surface Enhancement and Pyrography" featured Molly Winton, well-known wood artist from Washington State who shared her lathework, decorative and embellishment skills, and techniques in branding and burning off the lathe.

[Note: A detailed review of the program is found elsewhere in the Newsletter and captioned photos can be viewed at: https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWSept14Program#]

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm
--Jack Enders, Secretary

News about our Members (Phil Brown)

Member News

Phil Brown's pieces are on view *Into the Woods* at Byrne Gallery, Middleburg, VA, October 9th to November 2nd (www.byrnegallery.com/); and in *Seasonal Balance* at The Gray Gallery, Winchester, VA from October 3rd to November 2nd (www.the-gray-gallery.com).

Mike Collela again at *MD Renaissance Faire* in their Guest Artist tent with his "sleeping beauties" turned wood items, September 27th and 28th.

See his website: sleepingbeauti.es



Clif Poodry teaches *Beginning Bowl Turning* during the evening of Oct 13-14, Nov 17-18, and Dec 15-16; and *Introduction to the Lathe* 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 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, sharpeining, 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.

News about our Members (Phil Brown)

Mark Supik's workshops

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 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).

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.

BIG TREE TOUR

On Saturday November 1, 2014, from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Conservation Montgomery will conduct a big tree tour in the county. Since they reserve a large passenger van or a coach bus for the tour, you must reserve in advance and pay a \$20 fee at: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e9ld447p37851a1f&llr=7ochkyda>

If you haven't seen the champion trees, it is quite an experience to behold.

And speaking of local trees, if you are not away of the book *City of Trees: The Complete Field Guide to the Trees of Washington, D.C*, scroll down this site: <http://melaniechoukas-bradley.com/>

News about our Members (Phil Brown)

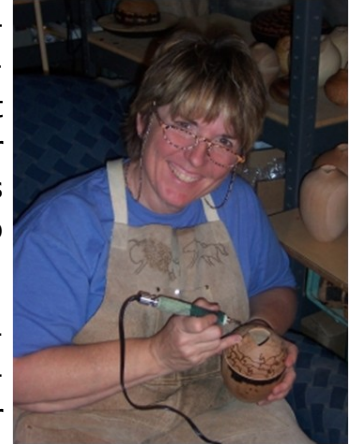


An MCW exhibit of turned bowls and other objects is installed in the Quince Orchard Library in Gaithersburg during October. Members lending work, installed with Russ Iler's help, include Tim Aley, Bert Bleckwenn, Phil Brown, Bob Browning, Bob Grudberg, Gary Guenther, Ed Karch, Russ Iler, Paul Mazzi, Jeff Tate, Richard Webster, and Stan Wellborn.

September Evening Program – Molly Winton – “Form, Design, Surface Enhancement and Pyrography”

MCW Vice President Gary Guenther introduced our guest for the evening's program, Molly Winton, of Edmonds, Washington. Gary remarked that “few turners produce such inspiring signature works that they rise to ‘one name’ status.” Molly is one of them. Thanks to our friends at Capitol Area Woodturners, who set up a tour for her in this area, we were fortunate to be able to present Molly and her work to MCW.

Her demo topic was: “Form, Design, Surface Enhancement and Pyrography”. By way of background, she traced her journey from Vocational Rehabilitation work to acclaimed artist and craftsperson. Her work combines pleasing lathework that is enhanced by surface embellishment and is found in galleries and exhibits, world-wide. She is acclaimed by many fellow artisans as the “woodburning queen.”



Molly (www.turningmaven.com) first met up with woodturning during her high school years, and found she had a great attraction to it, but it was some 22 years later that she again stepped in front of a lathe. She sold her Vocational Rehabilitation business in 1988 in order to be home with her growing family. Her husband presented her with a lathe of her own, but she could not work at it regularly until her children reached school age. Since 2003, she has been turning wood and exploring a range of surface enhancement techniques (e.g., Pyrography and branding). A previous stint of 5-6 years in pottery developed an appreciation for the aesthetics of form and design, which provides the foundation to any embellishment of her woodturning, be it branding, pyrography, coloring, texturing, or carving. Her approach is to make wood pieces that ‘pursue excellence of form and beg to be picked up and caressed’. Her work is augmented by a passion for teaching and sharing turning and enhancement techniques, making it possible for her to be with us for this program.

Her childhood fascination with 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 has served as her muse in developing her particular art form.

For the evening's program, she was asked to address two topics: Form and Design, and Enhancement Techniques with Pyrography.

Form and Design

The Form and Design aspect of her career started with her lathework, consisting of the usual ‘brown and round’ objects...bowls, spindles, platters, faceplates, etc., until she became ‘saturated’ and found that she had exhausted her opportunities to give friends unique turnings as gifts! She recognized her need to ‘monetize’ her hobby, to help pay for tools and materials. She considered two routes—craft fairs (production) and gallery (one-off special pieces). Not enjoying production, she chose the gallery route as a better fit for her work, smaller inventory, and set out to establish a unique style.

September Evening Program – Molly Winton – “Form, Design, Surface Enhancement and Pyrography”

At first, she used classic pottery (Greek, Roman, Japanese, etc.) shapes and applied her primitive figures to them. There seemed to be something missing, and at a 2002 symposium, she heard New Zealand wood artist Graeme Priddle talk about finding one's passion and use it as an inspiration for one's work. Thus inspired, she focused on her love and appreciation for native American primitive art. That turned out to be the draw that changed her gallery experience from boring to sought-after art. She was contacted by Don Derry after the Provo Symposium who said he liked her work, and asked if she had ever considered having her work critiqued? She emphasized the value of having one's work critiqued by a



knowledgeable expert as a more direct way to improve one's art. The critique must be honest and even brutal, asking lots of 'why' questions, e.g., 'why did you choose that form?' It was through that critique that she realized the primitive figure embellishments clashed with the classic refined pottery forms and Don suggested she work on aboriginal or native American pottery designs for application of her embellishment figures and patterns, pointing out that the organic form may be a better match for the aboriginal art.

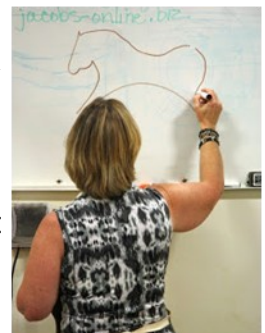
Moving to the southwestern style attracted the attention of del Mano Galleries' Ray Leier at the Kansas City Symposium, who subsequently included her work in their catalog.

Turning to her design techniques, Molly stressed that she is not a 'natural artist'...she says she 'can't draw', but was challenged by her 4 year old daughter to draw a "Hello, Kitty" face. She found a "how to" drawing book that built images line-by-line added to an initial form, and found that she could, indeed, draw the



kitty's image by breaking down the final image into 8 steps. Each adds one more detail. She outlined the steps that she takes in drawing a primitive horse a la Lascaux Cave style, avoiding the anatomically accurate representation. Step one is to draw an arch extending from the front leg to back leg. Step two is to draw a line from head/chin to front leg. Step three is a line from head along back and then a line from the rear of the horse connecting to the back leg. Step four is to

add a tail. She again emphasized that she is more a 'technical' than an 'artistic' drawer. She does not employ anatomically-accurate figures, but rather symbolic designs that suggest the whole through bold outlines and arc-ing curves.



September Evening Program – Molly Winton – “Form, Design, Surface Enhancement and Pyrography”

She moved on to sketch a sea urchin design, using the same breakdown of adding lines and curves (petals) to a basic central star shape until she had drawn the complete figure. The same process applies to, say, a trilobite figure. She noted that this step-wise construction is how she overcame her “Fear Of Drawing!” To highlight the design, she filled the carved/burnt grooves with caulk and then rubbed off the excess, bringing out the dramatic geometries of Nature’s beautiful designs.



She spoke to rim or edge treatment, noting that an organic form with a natural edge rim is more appealing than a geometrically perfect circular smooth rim. During one of her critiques, she was told, “just because it comes off the lathe without a natural edge does not mean it has to stay that way—go CARVE it!” This thought led into the question of how to deliberately design the rim to harmonize with the piece.

An example of this is changing the round or circular hole of the vessel into a square hole. To do this, one has to leave extra wood in the hole area while turning in order that a square can be subsequently carved. She sketched an illustration of how the re-shaping is achieved, using carving chisels and a rotary carver. Attention is paid to small details, such as a subtle rounding or slope inward of the edge to guide the eye. Her first attempt at incorporating a square opening was technically successful, but it



just didn’t seem “right.” Coincidentally, she got an email from Wally Dickerman, a life-long 95 year old turner from Arizona who commented on the piece, noting that the neck was too long, and the top was too flat. This insight was another example of the value of a good critique...”solicit a critique and subtract the ego so you can absorb the input...and think about it, consider it, and maybe adapt!” Dickerman pointed out that

proportion is important and can be helped by holding a simple sheet of

paper against the piece, to visualize different heights or lengths of the piece’s neck. He also



mentioned that the eye is attracted to a flat surface, and by incorporating a slight inward slope to the rim will guide the eye to a more pleasing aesthetic. Her subsequent attempt resulted in a much more pleasing piece. She also described carving modifications of a vessel’s lip to create more interest. One of many examples of doing this was



September Evening Program – Molly Winton – “Form, Design, Surface Enhancement and Pyrography”

her small southwestern bowl with a stepped notch carved into the rim, suggesting steps into the native American Kiva.

She also cautioned to beware of adding a feature to a pleasing basic form after you’ve turned it in the lathe. Especially in those instances where the base of the form is close to the chuck in the headstock, it may be tempting to try to incorporate a pedestal to avoid the headstock. This most nearly always results in an unsatisfactory contour that threatens to destroy the aesthetics of the design. It is far better to reverse the piece in the lathe and form the base by incorporating the ‘flow’ of the profile all the way to the foot.

Branding and Burning

Concluding her remarks on form and design, Molly then turned her remarks towards branding and burning. She emphasized safety in several aspects. One, she wears a heavy leather welding apron (Harbor Freight) as protection against burns, cuts, etc. She also remarked about wearing face protection and a respirator/mask when burning wood, as the pyrolysis products can be irritating, if not toxic.

Her texturing techniques include using reciprocating carvers, profile carving gouges and flexcuts, as well as rotary grinders to prepare surfaces for embellishment. There are abundant sources for these tools (e.g., Woodcraft, etc.), and for power supplies and burner tips (e.g. DetailMaster, etc.). She does most of her work with a skew tip burner that is shaped like a scalpel and is sharpened to scalpel-like sharpness so that it cuts and burns the wood at the same time.



When first acquiring the tip, sharpen it gently on a stone or diamond stone to the required sharpness and then take it to a strop. Avoid repeating use of the stone after the initial sharpening, in order to prevent erosion of the tip and destroying its structure. Instead, if re-edging is required, use a strop.

She quickly ran through some of the ‘beginners’ problems’ in using the burner...e.g., “blotches”, uneven lines, etc., most of which can be prevented by developing a smooth flowing technique in applying the tip to the wood. Practice keeping the pen moving as you enter and exit the wood to avoid blobs on the lines. Posture-wise, keep upper arms and elbows to sides and move the forearms and hands to guide tool and move workpiece as you draw the curves. The workpiece must be in the



September Evening Program – Molly Winton – “Form, Design, Surface Enhancement and Pyrography”

hand, not flat on a table, in order to permit proper control of the line curves and weight.



Starting out, bring the tip to a low temperature at first and then, by trial and error, increase the temperature gradually to where you are achieving the desired weight of the line. Following a design laid out with a soft lead pencil, she starts to burn the outline, emphasizing again that it is important to move the wood in concert with the shape of the line, not just the tip. Practice is the key to achieving a pleasing result.

After burning in the design, there is often a ‘ghosting’ char, and it can be removed easily by rubbing a soft cloth or paper towel dampened with isopropyl alcohol. Nice clean lines are the result.

Moving from the burning discussion to branding, Molly explained the basics. The heating element or tip is fashioned in various patterns from nichrome wire, 22 gage for delicate pieces and complex brands; 20 gage for more robust and larger pieces. There are many



suppliers, but one she uses is at www.jacobs-online.biz. Molly makes her own basket weave branding tip. Using a cheap hex drive 3/16” drill bit, she cuts off all but about an inch of the drill bit and the remaining piece forms a mandrel for winding the nichrome wire. Clamping the wire to one of the sides of the hex portion with locking pliers, she wraps the wire tightly

around the former bit. For her particular basket-weave design, she makes 5 wraps around the mandrel, making the branding tip twice as long as it is wide. If one wants a different brand pattern, the number of wraps could be varied. Removing the wire from the mandrel leaves her with a coil having two wire leads that are then trimmed to fit into the burning tool connectors.



Once the branding tip is securely fastened into the burner handle, select the “high” position on the control, because of the large mass of wire to be heated. Experiment on a blank piece of the same kind of wood used in the piece to be decorated, to get the feel of the branding process—how to gauge the “touch” and best duration of contact to get a good brand while

avoiding setting the basement on fire! Here, she again returned to a safety cautionary note: Use a fan to exhaust smoke from the work area and use a respirator. Wear the welding apron and a mitt to protect your hands



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and fingers.



After the first touch, pause very briefly to allow the tip to come back up to temperature, because the branding transfers heat to the wood. Molly uses a double line of brands around the piece to establish a border; the subsequent lines are single, with the brand alternating 90° to establish the basket weave texture. She turns up the heat to the point where touching the wood results in a small brief flame every time the point touches, in order to get



a consistent appearance.



For a texturing burner, she uses a different tip. Here she doubles a length of nichrome and crimps the fold into a narrow point. The two ends of the wire are trimmed as before, so they will fit into the burning tool handle. This tip is used to create a rock-like texture for background.



Since texturing and branding require many repetitive small movements of the hand and supporting fingers, the artist frequently suffers from arthritis-like pain in the finger knuckle joints. Molly remedied this with an ergonomic re-design of the hand piece that resembles a small pear. This is a more comfortable fit allowing longer pain-free work sessions. The texturing is applied adjacent to the burned design and creates a totally different artistic effect. The proper technique is to 'texture up' to the border line from the central field, rather than starting at the border and moving into the center. Contrasting patterns can be introduced by different heat settings and with different tips. The different temperatures produce a range of light-to-dark brands. There is much flexibility to this art form.

After a carving class with Dixie Biggs, Molly has experimented with combining burning and texturing with relief carving. The result is quite astounding. Note also her incorporation of a modified lip to the vessel's rim.

Molly also remarked that all of the embellishment is done on the raw turned piece, and that the usual finishes are applied after the burning and branding. This avoids any danger of heat-released volatile



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toxic gases from any finish that might be used. She said that the pieces treated this way finished up normally with the usual range of products.

The assembled MCW members rewarded Molly with hearty applause and many questions after the demo.

[Note: This brief summary cannot do justice to all of the information shared by Molly in her demonstration. Please go to the Picasa program website to see more detail through the captioned photos of Gary and Tim. <https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWSept14Program#>]

--Jack Enders

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