

Vol. 2014, Issue 11

November 2014

## Montgomery County Woodturners

<http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org>

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### Next Meeting and Demonstration

The next meeting will be:

Date: **THURSDAY, November 6, 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.

### November Program - Jimmey Clewes-Wooden Hat

We are in for a real treat! Jimmy Clewes is an internationally-known and widely-traveled turner. He teaches and demonstrates around the world, including AAW Symposiums and at many regional and local club events in the U.S. His DVDs are on everyone's "must have" list.



The following Profile is drawn from Jimmy's web site at

[www.jimmyclewes.com/jimmy-clewes-all-about-jimmy/](http://www.jimmyclewes.com/jimmy-clewes-all-about-jimmy/)

## November Program - Jimmey Clewes



"Jimmy Clewes is not your ordinary woodturner. Upon a first meeting one would think of him as a renegade, a free thinker and not within the stereotypical image of a woodturner. His charming British style, unending wit, creative mind and magnetic personality are only some of the attributes that make him popular in the woodturning demonstration circuit.

Jimmy is on the Register of Professional Woodturners in the United Kingdom and a member of the American Association of Woodturners.

He has over 22 years of experience in woodturning and woodworking. The demand for his services as a freelance demonstrator and teacher takes him all over the world including his homeland of the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, Norway, Finland, New Zealand, Belgium, Australia.

Not long after leaving school at the age of 16, Jimmy attained an apprenticeship in engineering and decided to further his studies by attending Manchester Polytechnic in Manchester, England. He received a 2:1 Honours Degrees with special emphasis on learning 3-Dimensional Design. With that focus, he began to specialize in designing and making furniture which was influenced by Japanese tools and design. It was during his time in college that his interest in woodturning was rekindled. The combination of his college education, his limitless imagination, and his professional skills was a perfect fit for Jimmy to pursue his creative abilities as a woodturner and to take that ability to the next level.



When asked what drives him, he shares, "My energy comes from those around me. When I can stir the creativity of one's mind, that for me is very satisfying. As with any art form, expression is only limited as one's mind and I want to 'raise the bar' and create an awareness of the art form that has been virtually unknown to most people." As an avid sportsman and adventurer, when he is not busy teaching and demonstrating, you will find him expanding his creativity by exploring nature and enjoying the beauty of the desert. Or you might find Jimmy in his new workshop in Las Vegas creating innovative woodturning designs.

Jimmy is the first to acknowledge that personal tutelage is by far the best way to learn.

However, since that is not always possible, he released the critically acclaimed DVD *Turn-around with Jimmy Clewes*, which sold thousands of copies around the world. He then released a 3-box set DVD *Turn it On with Jimmy Clewes* that incorporates a range of new projects and some fascinating extra features from technical tips to a special trip to a Roman museum. A second 3-box set DVD, *Turn it Up with Jimmy Clewes* includes new projects and discusses various methods of mixing and using colors. A third 3-box set DVD, filmed in High Definition Widescreen, *Turning the World with Jimmy Clewes* includes projects filmed in Norway, Scotland and the United States with special features including the renowned



## November Program - Jimmey Clewes

Norway Woodturning Cruise. *Back to Basics with Jimmy Clewes*, a 2-hour single High Definition DVD answers questions in detail on many topics he is often asked during his travels and includes three detailed projects perfect for the novice turners."

For his demonstration for MCW, Jimmy will make a "**medium-to-small wooden hat**", which he says is "A great project and one which the turner will appreciate needs patience and careful final cuts! This does not necessarily have to be a Cowboy hat; there are many styles of Headware!"

There will be a \$10 demo fee.

Please join us for the unique opportunity to learn directly from this turning legend.



**Special Points  
of Interest:**

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**GENERAL ANOUNCEMENTS**

**MCW Skills Enhancement Program** (Bert Bleckwenn)

**SEE PAGE 22 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:

**Gary Nickerson, In Memoriam**

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/GaryNickersonInMemoriam922014#>

**OCTOBER MEETING**

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWOct14Meeting>

**OCTOBER PROGRAM**

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWOct14Program>

**OCTOBER GALLERY**

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWOct14Gallery>

**Quince Orchard Library**

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWOct14QuinceOrchardLibrary>

**Germantown Library**

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWNov14GermantownLibrary#>

**Treasury Report, as of October 28, 2014**

October Income:

October Expense:

Membership	45	Flowers for Fleur Bresler	<u>23.85</u>
Silent auction	27		
Jimmy Clewes class	1,050		
Norway maple benefit	<u>15</u>		
Total income	\$ 1,137	Total expenses	\$23.85
Total funds available	\$ 4,321.17		

## President's Perspective November 2014 (Tim Aley)

### President's Perspective November 2014

One of the great things about woodturning is the wonderful, sharing people who do it. Local demonstrators share what they know for free and professional turners come with a fee, but show us how they do the very thing that they make a living doing. This club only exists with volunteers that give their time so that we can share our love of woodturning with others.

Most of us can remember the excitement of turning our first project, taking our first class, or getting our first lathe. And think how much we have learned since then! We all have so much to share.

Mentoring has been an important offering of MCW since it was founded. Several MCW members have been mentors over the years, but one of the most willing to share his time with new and experienced turners is Eliot Feldman. I have received several wonderful letters and emails from people he has helped. I would like to share new member Ellen Davis's recent email as an example of what mentoring means to new members.

*I must share with you the unbelievable day I had today. Today I went over to Eliot's home to meet him and spend a little time. I'm sure I don't have to tell you what a great guy he is but just in case you didn't know, he really is a great guy. Eliot spent 3.5 hours with me sharing his know-how and humor and if I didn't have to go to pick up my kids from school I wouldn't have left. We even had time to make a cup, which now is overflowing with happiness!*

*Thank you so much for helping me find someone who is willing to work with me, to teach me, to guide me on this great adventure.*

I have been connecting new members with mentors for the last year and I am afraid I have let it slip a little. If you would like to connect mentors to mentees, please let me know if you can help share the MCW knowledge with new members. It is a very rewarding job that need not take up a lot of time.

Until we find a new mentoring chair, if you need a mentor or have some time to share your experience with a new member please let me know!

## MCW Meeting Minutes – 9 October, 2014 (Jack Enders)

### Opening Remarks:

President Tim Aley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, welcoming members and guests. Approximately 38 were in attendance.

### New Members & Guests:

The group welcomed new members Rheetu Pal Mahajan, and John Houghton.

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>

### 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 October 26<sup>th</sup> ([mark.verna2@verizon.net](mailto:mark.verna2@verizon.net)).

#### December Elections -- Officers Succession:

Tim announced that MCW leadership elections will take place at the December meeting. Current candidate volunteers for open offices are:

Gary Guenther – President  
Matt Radtke – Vice President  
Program Chairman – Tim Aley  
Membership – Jim Allison  
Treasurer – Phil Brown willing to continue  
Webmaster – Carl Powell willing to continue  
Secretary – Jack Enders willing to continue, with backup

The position of Newsletter Editor is open.

In addition to the formal officers' slate, Jeff Tate has volunteered to take over the task of meeting photography from Gary Guenther.

Should any member wish to put their name in the hat for any of these positions, please contact Tim Aley ([teaturning@gmail.com](mailto:teaturning@gmail.com)) or Phil Brown ([philbrown@comcast.net](mailto:philbrown@comcast.net)).

AAW 29th Annual International Symposium: Tim reminded members of next year's AAW Symposium to be held at the Westin Hotel (David Lawrence Convention Center) in Pittsburgh, PA, June 25-28, 2015. AAW Group rates of \$145 (single or double) are available at



## MCW Meeting Minutes – 9 October, 2014 (Jack Enders)

the Westin Hotel or the Omni William Penn Hotel on or after December 1, 2014.

Since the venue is within striking distance of Montgomery County, Tim urged our group to attend as one of the national chapters and enter the Chapter Collaborative juried exhibit (Creativity in Construction—A Collaboration of Materials. See the AAW website for more information). Tim asked for volunteers to organize this effort. In order to compete, we need at least 6 members turning some part of it. The overall theme is “Merging”, referring to combination and merging of multiple materials, with individual chapters free to adopt their own theme within this overall idea.

The AAW has in the past given a free symposium admission to one member of each club. Tim proposed that, given the importance of representation at the annual meeting, that the incumbent president be rewarded for his/her time and effort with this complimentary admission, and further proposed that if/when AAW discontinues this practice, that MCW pay the president’s or designated member’s admission for the purpose of MCW representation at the symposium. The members present voted to financially support the registration fees for a chapter officer or designated member to attend future AAW Symposia, if funds are available at the time.

There is an opportunity for an award of a scholarship to Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN, or John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown NC for our members. Twenty-eight scholarships will be awarded to selected AAW chapter members. MCW is given 2 entries, who must be both a member of AAW and of MCW. See Tim for additional information BEFORE THE NOVEMBER MEETING ([teaturning@gmail.com](mailto:teaturning@gmail.com)). Awardees will be chosen by pulling names from a hat.

Five free AAW magazines were made available at the meeting for non-members.

Metal Lathe Available: Elliot Schantz announced the availability of a metal lathe. Please contact him if interested ([schantz@bellsouth.net](mailto:schantz@bellsouth.net))

Fleur Bresler Collection Visit: MCW will join with CAW members for visiting Fleur Bresler’s private collection on October 19th. Interested members should contact Phil Brown ([philfbrown@comcast.net](mailto:philfbrown@comcast.net)).

Special Plea for Woodworkers Club Support: During the Show and Tell session, Gary Guenther reminded members of the great privilege afforded MCW by our host, Woodworkers Club in providing space and support for our meetings and ancillary activities (e.g., Wounded Warriors, Skills Enhancement, etc.). He pointed out that WC is a small business, dependent upon its woodworkers’ membership fees and its retail store. The Store carries an extensive inventory of items that is unique for this region, making it possible for customers to see, handle, buy, and walk home with needed supplies and tools, unlike the sight-unseen and delayed internet purchases that most of us engage in. He urged members to consider more than just cost savings when re-supplying and re-equipping our shops and whenever possible, make those purchases from WC. It is a case of use it or lose it, in ensuring that we continue to benefit from this mutually dependent relationship.

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

Remembering Michael Blake: Gary Guenther announced the preparation of a retrospective of our late MCW member Michael Blake that will be available to members. Michael was an energetic participant in MCW from its early days until his death earlier this year, serving, among other positions, as Newsletter Editor. Gary said that members will be notified when the project is accessible.

### Bring Back Challenge:

Bring Back Challenge for this meeting was a sapele bowl, turned by last month's winner, Jeff Tate, and presented to this month's lucky winner Bob Browning, who will 'bring back' an item for next meeting's drawing.

### MeetingThanks and Appreciations:

To: Phil Brown, for managing the ongoing public Library exhibits; Don vanRyk, for his tireless and dedicated coordination and mentoring of the Wounded Warrior Pen Turning Project; Jeff Tate, for photo gallery support and trucking S&T pieces between display and photo booth; Bert Bleckwenn, for setting up and taking down the video display equipment, and for serving as Coordinator and Mentor of the Skills Enhancement Sessions for the past 3-1/2 years; Tim Aley, for his active outreach in fostering the MCW and its activities; Gary Guenther, for overall coordination of evening programs and the assemblage of the Picasa photo galleries of each meeting's work; Matt Radtke, for videographing the meeting; Clif Poodry, for managing and schlepping the video library to the meetings and presenting the evening's 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 the superb job of cleaning up and taking down after the meeting; and to Woodworkers Club for their continuing steadfast support of our group.

### Scheduled MCW and Other Events of Interest to Members:

#### Skills Enhancement and Lathe Maintenance Session(s):

The next following session is planned for Sunday, October 19th, 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.

This will be Bert Bleckwenn's final session as Skills Coordinator. Please contact him if you are interested in participating([bableck@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Tim announced that Matt Radtke has stepped up and volunteered to take on the job of Coordinator of the Skills Enhancement Sessions. The members present expressed their appreciation to Bert for his service and to Matt for his taking over with vigorous applause.



## MCW Meeting Minutes – 9 October, 2014 (Jack Enders)

*[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:

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 (note: Wednesday instead of usual Thursday)

May 14, 2015: Michael Mocho (note: one week later than usual)

July 8, 2015: Don Leydens – Cancelled, due to illness.

August 6, 2015: Barbara Dill

November 11, 2015: John Lucas (note: 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.

Library Display Project: Thanks to Phil Brown for setting up the Quince Orchard Library exhibit for this month. Those who have viewed it are unanimous in their praise for the exhibit. The schedule for upcoming displays is as follows, and volunteers to help Phil Brown with setup are always appreciated (contact [philbrown@comcast.net](mailto:philbrown@comcast.net)) :

Germantown Library in November 2014

Potomac Library in January 2015

Bethesda Library in February 2015

Quince Orchard Library in September 2015

Phil will return 'swapped' items to members in December, and asked for loans of additional turned objects for the 2015 year exhibit pool. Contact Phil directly to arrange for loaning your turnings.

## MCW Meeting Minutes – 9 October, 2014 (Jack Enders)

*(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 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 wishing to loan turned objects for this program are urged to contact Phil). ([philfbrown@comcast.net](mailto:philfbrown@comcast.net))*

MCW Wounded Warrior Project: These biweekly sessions in pen turning on alternate Wednesdays draw a steady flow of 5-8 soldiers per session from Walter Reed Army Medical Center. MCW members volunteer as mentors for these good folk, who need help in their rehabilitation.

A 'core' group of MCW mentors is carrying the load, and Richard Webster appealed to the broader membership to step up and augment the existing volunteer base by giving some time to this important service. He described several instances of personal pride in accomplishment by the soldiers in making their very own pens, and how some of them have returned for subsequent sessions to perfect their newly-acquired skills. He pointed out that though most appear physically fit and able, many carry deep psychological scars from PTSD, and that the pen turning process seems to offer a calming influence as they concentrate on the task at hand. He emphasized that the act of mentoring by the MCW members carries its own feelings of satisfaction from helping, in a small way, these traumatized soldiers forward along their difficult path. That in itself is more than a reward for volunteering one's time.

These bi-weekly Pen Turning sessions with WRAMC's Wounded Warriors are managed by Project Coordinator and Leader Don van Ryk. MCW members 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 urged 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 October 15 and October 29<sup>th</sup>, and alternate following Wednesdays. Contact Don van Ryk ([dvanryk@aol.com](mailto:dvanryk@aol.com)) to participate.

Donations of pen blanks are always welcome. Members wishing to donate wood should contact Don directly. ([dvanryk@aol.com](mailto: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 also expressed to the Woodworkers Club which very graciously sponsors this

## MCW Meeting Minutes – 9 October, 2014 (Jack Enders)

worthwhile program with lathes and space and the great help and participation of Chris Johnstone.

Turn for the Troops Weekend: Woodworkers Club is hosting its annual "Turn for the Troops" event on November 8 & 9, 2014. Come in to the Club from 10am to 5pm and turn as many pens as you want to (or can!). All completed pens are donated to our troops. Last year the Baltimore club showed up in greater numbers than our own MCW, and Tim urged us to accept that challenge for this year. Bring your family members so they can have an opportunity to try their hands at pen turning.

In preparation for the event, we need to make up pen blanks (cut to size, drill lengthwise, insert tubes). Two days, October 22 and October 29 from 4 to 7pm have been designated as work days to make the blanks. We need 4 to 6 people each night. Any surplus pen blanks not used on the Turn for the Troops days will go to our own Wounded Warriors Pen Turning project. If you can help with the blanks, notify Tim ([teaturning@gmail.com](mailto:teaturning@gmail.com)).

### Show and Tell

Richard Webster logged in (no pun intended!) the Show and Tell pieces. Bill Long emcee'd the program. Jeff Tate photographed the pieces and trucked the pieces between the display and the photo shoot.

For this month, eleven members brought 14 Show and Tell pieces, as follows:

Bob Grudberg – 5" x 5" Walnut and other Open Segmented Bowl  
Bob Grudberg – 8" x 6" Walnut Closed Segmented Vessel  
Elliot Schantz – 3" x 3" Black Olive Wine Glass  
Elliot Schantz – 3" x 4" Black Olive Wine Glass  
Jeff Tate – 8" x 5.25" Black Cherry Fruit Bowl  
Jeff Tate – 6.5" x 2" Sapele Bowl  
Jeff Tate – 4" x 1" Chechen Recipe Holder  
Tim Aley – 7" x 1.5" Chinese Mahogany Natural Edge Bowl  
Gary Guenther – 5.5" x 1/2" Pommele Sapele Pen  
Gary Guenther – 5.5" x 1/2" Caribbean White Cedar Pen  
Gary Guenther – 5.5" x 1/2" Buckeye Burl Pen  
Joe Barnard – 8.5" x 2" Osage Orange Bowl (also discussed microwave drying experience—short bursts, followed by cooling intervals)  
Paul Simon – 8" x 4" Maple Bowl (unfinished, microwaved)  
Jerry Kaplan – Large Big Leaf Maple Burl Bowl

*[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/MCWOct14Gallery#>*

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm  
--Jack Enders, Secretary

## News about our Members (Phil Brown)

**Phil Brown** and **Richard Webster** will be selling their work at JRA Day, a one-day showcase on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, for artists who are members of the James Renwick Alliance. It runs from 11am to 5pm at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, 7931 Connecticut Ave in Chevy Chase, MD, and admission is free. A few images of our work and of a previous MCW demonstrator, Bill Pierce, by clicking on artists by medium, wood, at: [www.jraday.com/JRA\\_Day\\_Home.html](http://www.jraday.com/JRA_Day_Home.html)

**Phil Brown** will discuss and demonstrate wood turning at 7 PM on November 18<sup>th</sup> for local Carderock Springs residents at the Swim Club House, 8200 Hamilton Spring Ct., Bethesda.

**David Fry** wrote an insightful review of Sfirri's retrospective exhibit, *Heavy Lifting: Mark Sfirri Weighs in at Penn State Gallery* published on page 51-55 of the October 2014 issue of American Woodturner. Mark demonstrated at the MCW September 2010 meeting. You can view a "Program" photo album on the MCW website Photo Gallery for that date, and Mark's handouts are available in the Member Only section of the MCW website.

**Clif Poodry** teaches *Beginning Bowl Turning* during the evening of Nov 17-18, and *Introduction to the Lathe* membership December 15-16 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](mailto: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, 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 18<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>; and Sunday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

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 11<sup>th</sup>.

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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to Phil Brown, [philf-brown@comcast.net](mailto:philf-brown@comcast.net), or call 301-767-9863.**

## News about our Members (Phil Brown)

### MCW Library Exhibits

Over the past 6 years we have shown member work in 22 library exhibits in Montgomery County. And in November we show our work at the Germantown Library for the first time. For 2014, we began borrowing your work for the entire calendar year, and want to do that again with new work for 2015 by returning the current pieces at the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and receiving a new loan of work at the same meeting. So please look at your inventory and planned turning for November to select a loan of up to 4 pieces to MCW for 2015. All types of work enhance interest in the displays. So everything is welcome, such as between center turnings, bowls, boxes, surface textured and colored pieces, and everything your imagination and talents can create.

### Creative Crafts Council show in 2015 by Phil Brown

MCW and Capital Area Woodturners (CAW) jointly have a membership in the Creative Crafts Council (CCC). We began this membership in 2013. I represent MCW, and Gerry Headley represents CAW on the CCC board.

From June 6, 2015 - July 26, 2015, the CCC will sponsor a juried exhibition of contemporary craft in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD. Entries will be submitted on line this winter and early spring, probably until the end of April.

**Now is the time to plan the pieces you wish to enter**, and if not now ready, do the turning, finishing, and photographing.

Craft artists organized the CCC over 50 years ago to provide a biannual venue for showing their work. While there are more opportunities now to show and sell your creations, the Mansion at Strathmore provides a lot of space in an excellent location with good promotion support, resulting in good public support through purchases of the craft items. So craft artists still appreciate the exhibition and sales opportunity the CCC provides.

### Exhibits to Enjoy

*Emilie Brzezinski: The Lure of the Forest* (monumental chain-saw sculptures)

Kreeger Museum; Washington D.C., through December 27, 2014. Open 10 am to 4 pm Friday and Saturday, and reservations are not needed these two days.

[www.kreegermuseum.org/exhibitions/view/current](http://www.kreegermuseum.org/exhibitions/view/current)

The exhibit "Rediscovering Emil Milan and His Circle of Influence" is on view at 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/](http://www.centerforartinwood.org/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions/)

### Festival in Reston

December 7, 2014 is the application deadline for the 2015 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, May 15 - 17, 2015, at Reston Town Center. Apply at: [www.juriedartservices.com/index.php?content=registration&event\\_id=840](http://www.juriedartservices.com/index.php?content=registration&event_id=840)



## News about our Members (Phil Brown)

### GERMANTOWN LIBRARY EXHIBIT

MCW exhibit at the Germantown Library includes 39 pieces by Tim Aley, Phil Brown, Bob Browning, Bert Bleckwenn, Bob Grudberg, Gary Guenther, Ed Karch, Russ Iler, Bill Long, Paul Mazzi, Jeff Tate, Richard Webster, and Stan Wellborn.





## News about our Members (Phil Brown)

### Visiting the wood art collections of Fleur Bresler – by Tina Chisena

(photo credit: Emily Koo)

Seventeen members of the Montgomery County Woodturners and seventeen members of the Chesapeake Woodturners were privileged to be invited to view the delightful and extraordinary wood art collection of Ms. Fleur Bresler on Sunday morning, October 19. In the photo, Fleur welcomes us to her home for the first “public” showing of her newly expanded installation. The Bresler collection is staggering and includes a large number of turned and carved wood objects by all the masters in this field.

Ms. Bresler also collects fiber art, teapots, netsuke, a few enamel objects, and some steel pieces. Additionally, there are tables, beds, screens, wall pieces, decoys, and miniature (she called them ‘cocktail’) decoys, as well as a few knives, spoons, and other items. Ms. Bresler allowed us to photograph and handle nearly all of the accessible works in her enormous collection. Her knowledge of the works, and the artists represented in the collection, is

extensive, and she shared many wonderful stories and anecdotes with us. There will be a more extensive report on our visit in next month’s issue of the Newsletter, and a Web Album will be created to show a large number of images from the visit.



## October Evening Program – Cliff Poodry's demo on Turning a Hollow Ornament ( Jack Enders )

Gary Guenther introduced our own MCW member, Cliff Poodry, as the evening's program demonstrator. Cliff's topic was designing, turning and finishing holiday ornaments on the lathe.

Cliff's membership in MCW goes back to the founding dates and he has been a frequent contributor to the club's activities, demonstrating, and advising. Prior to MCW, he was a member and past president of the Chesapeake Woodturners. He started woodturning late in life and was initially self taught (badly, he says) but a weekend class with David Ellsworth made a huge difference. He sold his work, mainly bowls, at craft fairs and a gallery in Virginia for about a dozen years. He teaches beginners' woodturning for the Woodworker's Club.



He noted that small ornaments are ideal projects to undertake, using found wood, scrap box cutoffs, and otherwise unusable materials. October and November is the ideal time to focus on turning ornaments for holiday gift-giving—gifts that will be cherished by family and friends for many years as a tangible creation of your own efforts. The range of appearances is vast, also, from preserving the natural colors and grains of more precious woods to painting and decorating scrap woods in a variety of holiday-appropriate colors. Today's 'supply cabinet' contains an array of dyes, pigments, pigmented stains, oils, non-staining lacquers and urethanes, as well as other finishes that can be used to produce truly unique ornaments.

Cliff pointed out that MCW's past demonstration programs have provided a rich trove of techniques and know-how that apply to ornament-making. Along with the basic turning process, the product can be finished in many ways, including texturing, burning, branding, etching, carving, painting, and selective bleaching.

Properly done, with appealing design and proportion, these ornaments can also be a sales item at craft fairs or boutiques, bringing prices beginning at \$30-40 or more, depending on size and complexity.

Since these are mainly hanging ornaments, they must be light, and hollowing is the way to reduce the hanging weight of the object.

Cliff told of an experience he had with a tree branch that had a natural hole in it, and as he was hollowing the section with the hole, he could see the tip of the gouge through the hole as it spun on the lathe, revealing a lot about how the mostly-unseen hollowing takes place.



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He brought an array of sample ornaments he had turned to the meeting and circulated them among the attendees. They showed a range of designs, shapes, complexity, and applied finishes.

Following this discussion, the remainder of the demonstration session was given to turning an 'open' ornament, i.e., a globe with four holes in it, with a top finial and a hanging 'icicle' on the bottom. He credited a workshop by Bob Rosand in which he learned the methods.

Clif started with a drilled square blank on each side surface of which he had drilled shallow holes with a Forstner bit. These holes can be of any size up to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the square dimension of the blank. With the blank mounted in the lathe, he turned an ovoid shape, making sure that the side holes were centered. Responding to a question, Clif noted that the ornament design can incorporate 4, 3, 2, or any number of holes, bearing in mind the proportion of the hole size to the circumference of the ornament. He drilled a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter entry hole in the end of the ovoid blank, noting that though MCW member Eliot Feldman, our resident expert



on hollowing, would probably use a smaller, say  $\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter hole, the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole facilitates hollowing for the average turner.



He uses Bob Rosand hollowing tools ([www.rrosand.com](http://www.rrosand.com)) for his projects.

Clif checks the wall thickness frequently as the hollowing takes place, using both a simple shop-built wire caliper and a commercially-made instrument. He discussed several methods of checking thickness.



One of the critical points of hollowing, Clif pointed out, referring to a sketch on the whiteboard, is the transition point on the inside surface, where the curve reverses itself. This region is particularly vulnerable to 'breakthrough' of the hollowing tools, if not carefully mastered.



This skill is refined by making finer and finer cuts as the desired wall thickness is approached.

After the hollowing is accomplished, a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole is drilled in the bottom to accept the 'icicle.' He emphasized that this hole





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should be kept on the same scale as the ornament itself...if it is too large, the icicle pendant becomes disproportionately large in diameter at the joining point, destroying the harmony of the piece. The icicle mounting hole should be as small as practical.

After drilling the 1/4" hole, a short 'neck' is turned to 1/2" diameter so the globe can be finish sanded before making the final cut to remove it from the blank.



Next, he worked on the icicle. He started with a large blank for 'robustness,' using long jaws in the scroll chuck and backing up with tailstock for the initial roughing. The icicle is begun at the very tip and worked back towards the end to be joined with the ornament body. He likes to use the side of his very sharp Ashley Isles roughing gouge as a skew. As the diameter is reduced, he used his finger as a 'steady rest' to prevent fracture of the thin spindle. The thumb is balanced on the tool,

with the finger on the workpiece. The profile of the finial is the turner's choice, and with rounds and coves and grooves, a very attractive form can be achieved, again in harmony with the ornament body.. In the case of the icicle, instead of the decorative rounds and coves, the common choice is to turn 'droplets,' symbolizing the circular ridges found on a real melting icicle. Starting at the very tip of the blank, the diameter is reduced to a near point, working back towards the thicker end of the icicle, so that the greater mass of the upper blank supports the turning of the very thin and delicate tip. Using the thumb on the tool and the finger as a steady rest, the droplet ridges were carefully shaped...up to 3 or 4 droplets are common, consistent with the length of the icicle. A 1/4 inch tenon is turned on the large end of the icicle and matched closely with the hole in the bottom of the ornament body.



Since the icicle is probably the most delicate and vulnerable part of the completed ornament, close-grained woods that can accept fine detail are preferred: Holly, Dogwood, Maple, some exotics, etc., are ideal for this part.

Next, he turned the top cover or cap of the ornament, using a knurling tool to make surface decorations and drilling a hole to accept a small eyescrew for hanging the ornament. He cut a 3/4 inch tenon to fit it to the top of the globe.

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As for finishing, Clif starts sanding the three parts with 400 grit, progressing to 600 and 800. Application of sealer and polish is carefully done. (Rosand has pointed out that in some very thin sections of icicles or finials that friction polishing can sometimes fracture the wood, as a consequence of rapid heat buildup that expands the wood beyond its intrinsic cellular strength). The finial and icicles can be of contrasting woods that carry the final appearance on their own...i.e., say, a dark ebony for a finial with a light holly or maple icicle. The main body of the ornament is a canvas on which an infinite variation of colors, paints, dyes, or natural finishes can be applied, according to the turner's preferences.



Assembly of the completed ornament requires care, due to the fragility of the finial and icicle. Titebond glues are adequate for setting the finial and icicle tenons into the mortised holes in the main body. The cap should have been finished with a large enough diameter on the tip to accommodate a very small screweye or fishhook inserted into a drilled hole and preferably anchored with a drop of glue (isocyanurate-super glue, or epoxy), to provide a hanging point for the ornament.

Clif responded to many questions throughout and at the end of his demonstration, and appreciation was shown by the assembled members and guests with a rousing round of applause.

*--jack enders, secretary*

[Note: For the full program photo gallery, go to:  
<https://picasaweb.google.com/106891946865477202075/MCWOct14Program#6074744380219539970>]

## Future Meetings (Mike Colella)

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

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

\* one week later than normal

\*\* Wednesday



## 2014 Skills Enhancement and Maintenance Schedule

<b>Skills Enhancement &amp; Maintenance Sessions</b>	<b>Day</b> (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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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