



MEETING AGENDA

6:30-7:00 - Set-up, Check in Show & Tell
Silent Auction, Shop
7:00-7:30 - Business meeting
7:30-7:50 - Show, Tell & Ask
8:00-9:20 - Program
9:00-9:45 - Clean up, Claim & pay for
auction items

Meeting Location

WOODWORKERS CLUB
11910-L PARKLAWN DR
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852
301-984-9033

**REMEMBER TO PARK IN
BACK**

January 11, 2018 Program 9th Annual Show & Tell with Panel Critiques

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Critique panel January 2016

If you are bringing a piece to be discussed, please be sure to read the important instructions below.

The Show & Tell Panel Critique event has been a big hit for eight years, and we are happy to continue this MCW January tradition. Instead of a demonstration, we will have an extended Show & Tell period with a critique of each piece by a panel of three selected craft, art, and turning experts. Our goal is to get fresh perspectives, from the outside looking in, at what we're doing, how our forms relate to those of other media, and how we may be able to improve them. As a group, you responded to Steve Haddix's Survey with strong support for "Design".

DUES ARE DUE

Well, that's one of our keys here. Our panelists this year will have turning experience as well as long and serious expertise in graphic arts, painting, photography, and pottery. Our panel this year will be:

1. Professional woodturner - **Joe Dickey** <http://www.joedickey.com/>
 2. Graphic and pastel artist and photographer -- **Elroy Williams** http://elroywilliams.com/gallery_photography.html
 3. Ceramics professor, teacher, and maker -- **Denise Joyal** <http://www.kilnjoy.com/>
- More information on each of them is provided, for your interest, at the end of this email.

Participants (that's you) may bring one piece that you have made, to have it reviewed. We encourage all of our members to attend this meeting and to join us for a great learning opportunity, whether you bring a piece to be evaluated or not. Some comments from the audience will be welcomed, as time permits. We intend to keep it informal and to just have fun with it, as we always do. As in our normal, monthly S&T sessions, finished pieces are encouraged, but the idea is not necessarily to submit a 'perfect' piece, or even necessarily a finished piece – rather, the goal is for us all to learn about design, turning, and finishing techniques from the things each of us is making or has made. This is an ideal way to discover how to improve what we are doing in a friendly but knowledgeable and informative environment.

For those who wish to enter a piece:

1. You must reserve a spot in advance. Your desire to enter a piece, must be pre-registered with Gary Guenther at gary.c.guenther@gmail.com. Simple. Please do not apply unless you are committed to bringing a piece to show. What you bring is totally up to you -- I have no need to know. This will be a first-come, first-listed process. I will accept the first 16 and reply to you with confirmation. I will put any remaining entrants on a wait list and so inform you. This is your big chance to get some real, meaningful feedback. Come one, come all. Remember, as always, this is just for fun.
2. **On the 11th, it is very important that you bring your item and have it on the table no later than 6:30p.m.** When you arrive, please do the usual things: put a numbered dot on your piece, place it on the table, and sign it in on the sheet with type, size, wood(s), and any other important features. Two things have to happen between 6:30 and 7:00:
 - 1) the Panelists need the time to look over all the works and collect their thoughts, and 2) Mike Colella has to photograph all of them before the Business Meeting begins at 7:00p.m. Time at these events is precious and fleeting, so if you are bringing work to show, please be there at 6:30. (Note, no pieces will be photographed after 7:00).
3. When your piece is presented to the Panel, you, as the maker, will have **60 seconds** to say why you brought it and what you hope to learn about it. Plan ahead -- this is important because it gives the Panelists a reference point on which to base their discussion, for your benefit. The panelists will then each have a chance to say something about it, over a period of about five minutes. If you are not bringing a piece to be reviewed, but coming to watch the show, the meeting will begin for you, as usual, at or before 7:00 p.m., as you like. We have

an excellent Panel who will provide lots of feedback from their varied perspectives. This is guaranteed to be another fun and instructive time. One way or the other, don't miss it! ...GG

See Panelist information on page 23



President's Perspective

by Ellen Davis

Happy New Year! I would like to send out a huge "Thank You" to everyone who served as an MCW Board Member and to everyone who has volunteered their time to MCW.



Looking back over 2017 we accomplished so much (and this isn't even close to a full list).

1. With the great leadership of Roman Steichen we helped turn over 900 pens for Turn for Troops program
2. We helped several charities in our community raise over \$550 with Bob Browning's coordination of our Turning Works program
3. Our very own Phil Brown received the Lifetime Impact Award from Montgomery County, MD (see full article later in this issue).
4. Gary Guenther organized another fantastic trip to see Fleur Bresler's magnificent collection
5. Our Wounded Warrior program under the direction of Don Van Ryk has helped countless military personnel
6. Skills Enhancement has continued to be a true crowd pleaser under the tutelage of Matt & Eliot
7. Several of our members have sold many of their pieces at shows and fairs.

With 2018 just beginning MCW is already starting off with a bang.

1. Mike Colella has taken over as our Newsletter Editor and we're about to officially have a name for our newsletter.
2. With Tim Aley's focused attention on the MoCo Ag Fair its sure to be another winning year.
3. Steve Haddix has some special programing headed our way as well as coordinating our Beads of Courage program.

As tradition has allowed, we begin the year with our Expert Panel Critique. Looking forward to a fantastic 2018!

Ellen

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." – Marcus Garvey



Editor's Corner

As new editor, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few brief words about my new club position. Most know me as the Show and Tell photographer, over in the corner under the white tent, making pictures. Well for now I have decided to try my hand at assembling a newsletter. I said 'assemble' because I'm not much of a writer, I'm a photographer, so I will be looking to the membership to provide information to fill these pages, and I will make it look good. You know the current adage on the subway "See something, Say something", that's what I want you to do. If you see wood, tools, books, articles, anything that you might think your fellow turners would benefit from, let me know and I will publish it. Not a great writer, don't worry, neither am I, but we're not out to win the Pulitzer prize for literature here, just jot it down and send it to me, and I'll fix it (thanks to spell-check). Learn a new technique, find a problem with a tool, or a vendor, we all can benefit from this info. I will do my best to publish the necessary information regarding the monthly operation of our club, but I would like to make it even more. My email is michael.j.colella@gmail.com which I check multiple times a day, and because I do like to spend time in the shop making things, I don't want to have to spend hours chasing down people that have material that needs to be included in these pages, so do stick to the submission deadlines which at this time I would like to have material by the last day of the month prior to the next meeting. If it doesn't make it, I will put it in the following month. So for now bear with me till get used to this whole thing.



Mike Colella



Minutes: Montgomery County Woodturners 12/7/17 Meeting (Steve Drake)

President Ellen Davis called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm, welcoming approximately 43 members and guests.

General Announcements:

- Guests –We welcomed Marc Nelson as a new member and Daniel Jonas, Doug Watt, Jose Hernandez, Cory Gray, LaTonya Crowell, Marjorie Haddix, and Richard Zeml as guests.
- The next meeting is on January 11, 2018 and is the Panel Critique meeting. Gary Guenther is working on assembling the panelists but has already confirmed that Joe Dickey, a woodturner, will be one panelist. Gary is also trying to get a graphic arts designer and a potter.

Bring-Back Challenge and prize raffle:

Bob Grudberg won last month's Bring-Back Challenge and has made an open segmented piece for this month's drawing. Richard Webster won the drawing and will bring something to next month's drawing.

-Elections:

Elections were held and the following people were elected to hold office for 2018.

Co-Presidents – Ellen Davis/Tina Chisena

Vice President – Bob Anderson

Program Chair – Steve Haddix

Secretary – Daniel Jonas

Treasurer – Phil Brown

Assistant Treasurer – Tim Aley

Membership Chair – Jim Allison

Newsletter Editor – Mike Colella

Webmaster – Jeff Struewing

-Sidney Stone and Gary Guenther volunteered to assist with videography. There are still backup positions that need volunteers such as photography and backup secretary. **-Mike Colella** took this opportunity to say that the newsletter represents the club and is a great place to talk about a place or show that you have been to or a turning experience you have had. Please consider sharing with the club through an article.

-Steve Haddix announced that Tim Aley and he would be sending out a "What do you want to see?" survey and that would help him set up next year's programs.

-MCW and AAW memberships:

2018 dues are due this month and next. They are remaining at \$25/person (\$35/family). AAW is having a special membership drive where people can join AAW for \$20 for 3 month with the option of \$40 for the next 9 months. Membership in both MCW and AAW qualifies a member to enter the drawings for the AAW turning scholarships.

-AAW Turning scholarships:

Ellen stated that anyone interested in entering the drawing for the AAW scholarships should email her by December 15th and she would randomly draw the names of the two people MCW would submit to AAW for the national drawing.

-Turn for the Troops:

Thanks to the hard work of Roman Steichen, MCW turned a record 527 pens for the troops over the past year and the Turn for the Troops weekend. Congratulations everyone and thank you to Roman.

-Public Library Exhibit:

Joe Barnard announced that he had several pieces that needed their owners to collect them. He will be collecting the new pieces for the 2018 exhibit in January.

-Sharing of Bresler pictures:

Steve Drake has offered to coordinate the sharing of pictures from the club's tour of the Bresler collection. Everyone should bring their pictures to the January meeting on a thumb drive and Steve will group them together and redistribute them to everyone and to the gallery.

-Activities and Opportunities:

Black Rock:

The Blackrock Art Exhibit is a juried show for woodturners within 100 miles of Washington DC. The deadline for the show has been extended to allow for more entries. Please consider joining this fantastic show as it would be a great opportunity to showcase some of your work.

Gallery Photography:

Thank you to Mike Colella for taking the Gallery pictures of the Show and Tell items.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

--Steve Drake, Secretary

MCW Exhibits

Hey, MCW! Coming up in just a few days is our January meeting! I can't express how much we appreciate everyone who is about to let us borrow pieces for the library exhibits. Some members have already brought pieces for this year's exhibits, and thanks so much! Also appreciated is those of you who have let me



Quince Orchard Current Exhibit

know that you will bring pieces to exhibit to the January OR February meetings. You know who you are. For those who have procrastinated, or forgot, now is the time to be most content. Bring a piece, or two, or even three to one of these meetings, and we'll show it off. I submitted four of mine to the Black Rock Woodturning Exhibition. Three of those will be displayed at the libraries in 2018. Probably more people will see those pieces than the one that is going to Germantown.

A new year is upon us. Make a resolution that's easy to keep! I just want to show people a few of your pieces. Attached is a copy of the form we need for the libraries to insure your work (in all the years Phil did this, and this last 6 months or so I've been doing it, there was no damage). I'll also have a few copies at the meeting, if you remember to bring something but forget the form. Hell,



Quince Orchard Current Exhibit

I'll help you fill it out if you want. Every time I've done a setup or takedown, people stop and discuss things with me: they really are engaged when they see your fantastic work. The librarians all love our displays, so we are a positive influence. Several of those people have been interested in our meetings, though I don't know how many have translated that into membership or attending a meeting. We need your work for them to see. In each of the displays, a list of contributors with

phone numbers is displayed, and each piece has a label with the name of the piece and the contributor. Prices are not listed, but if people want to buy...they can call you. But not if you don't let me show your work!

Don't forget that you can take pieces out,

If, for example, you realize the piece you provide would be a perfect wedding gift for that unexpected wedding someone didn't inform you of. Or if you decide to cruelly move away from here to the Gulf Coast (one day, one day...). Just call me and I'll arrange to get the piece for you.

I'm well aware that all of us have pieces that are sitting on a shelf, or in a box. It's not just me, right? ...right? Please tell me I'm not alone in this.

That's all I can do; it's up to y'all now. (Loaned Work Form on page 21)

Joe Barnard



AAW Focus (Gary Guenther)

DISCOVER WOODTURNING is an online learning portal that introduces the art and craft of woodturning to the general public and enables them to learn about woodturning, its origins, appeal and how to get started. (tiny.cc/DiscoverWT)

Clicking on the “read more” link at the end of the last, *The Rise of Artistic Woodturning* paragraph brings up this excellent illustrated article by Kevin Wallace

<http://www.woodturner.org/?page=DiscoverWTHisWallace>

It gives deeply insightful information about pioneering turners James Prestini, Bob Stocksdaile, Rude Osolnik, Melvin Lindquist, Ed Moulthrop, Mark Lindquist, Stephen Hogbin, Giles Gilson, David Ellsworth, William Hunter, Hap Sakwa, and Michael Brolly, each of whose work we were privileged to view recently in Fleur Bresler’s collection. It also has a nice photo of local collectors Jane & Arthur Mason, whose home we visited in the past. I recommend this article to everyone.

The “read more” link at the end of the *What, Me a Woodturner?* section leads to an article written by our own Stan Wellborn.

<http://www.woodturner.org/?page=DiscoverWTWhoMe>

This is another good example of why many of us are AAW members and one more reason we recommend AAW Membership so highly to all MCW members.

If you wish to join AAW, you can do it at <http://www.woodturner.org/?page=DiscoverWTBecomeMemb>

There’s even a button on that page for a 60-day free trial.

You have nothing to lose -- it’s all upside.



Wounded Warrior Program Schedule Don Van Ryk

Listed below are the dates for the upcoming WWP pen turning sessions for the first half of the year. As before, they will be held at the woodworkers club from 12:30-2:30. Each of these days is a Friday. If any changes are made I will inform you ASAP. I will also send out reminders as before.

19 January, 16 February, 16 March

13 April, 18 May, 15 June

Please contact Don van Ryk at dvanryk@niaid.nih.gov to let him know if you will be there to assist.

Hope to see you there.



How'deDoDat?

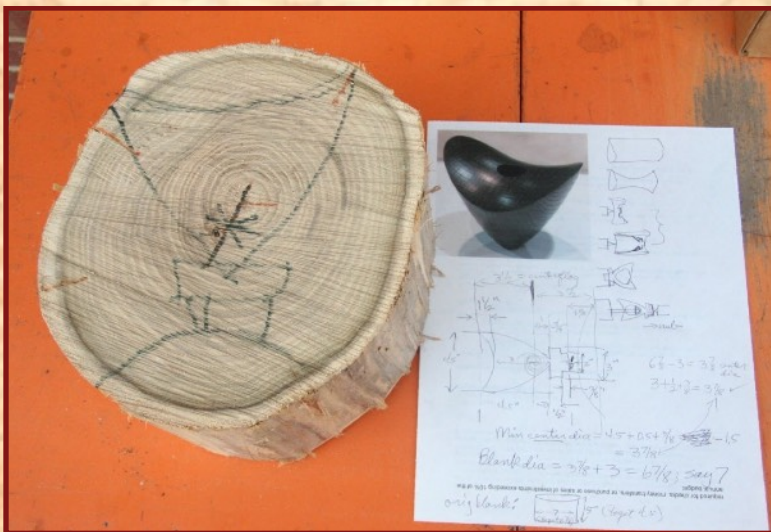
Your Mileage May Vary (Gary Guenther) Tips Hints Ideas Tricks

A unique hollow form shape – how to...

For the December Show Tell & Ask session, I brought a multi-axis hollow form with a unique shape that I call “Batman” (or I could also go with “cat’s ears” or a “saddle”, your choice). You get the picture. I tried to explain how I made it, but several members wanted more information, so I’m providing that here to clarify the process.

I got the idea for the shape for something I saw online, from an unidentified maker. So while I can’t take credit for the idea, I did have to work out the plans by myself. It’s not really that difficult once you get the two axes oriented in your head. The one I saw had been dyed black to show off the shape, but I decided to go with natural black locust, in “double bull’s eye” format to show off the grain patterns, which I love.

I find that having a written plan is a good idea because it forces me to think through the whole process ahead of time. The first step on the lathe is to begin with an endgrain round (debarked log section) on the pith. The pith should not be too far off center because that will limit your options later. Drying these without major pith cracks is a job that takes thought, patience (years), and care. They must be kept indoors in an area with slow variation in temperature (like a cellar), and they must be Anchorsealed and double brown paper bagged to slow the drying process. For a really green (wet) log, the bags will



have to be rotated ever day or two at first to prevent mold. I’ve had very good luck with this process over the years, with a variety of woods. I might add that black locust loves to crack! A little shot of thin CA glue on the pith, before applying the Anchorseal, is a very good idea, but that only soaks in just so far, so it’s not enough by itself when dealing with a log section.

You can choose to turn this from green wood, but you’ll have to turn

and hollow to completion in one session, keeping it damp, as with any side-grain hollow form, because it will begin warping quickly.

Mount it between centers, on the pith axis, or close to it, for best results. Turn it round, first into a cylinder, and then give it a deep concave profile to create a wheel-like form.

Rotate it 90 degrees and remount it between centers on a new axis down the middle of the minimum diameter. In general, you have an infinite number of rotational choices for this orientation, and the choice can be critical. You want to optimize the grain pattern on the top of the final form, but, perhaps even more importantly, you want the pith axis intersecting at, or near, the center of the shape. If you did not turn the wheel on the pith axis, then you have an offset, and only a limited range of choices will bring the pith on or near the new axis of rotation. Study your wheel carefully and, within this constraint, find the optimum location for the orifice. Put your drive center on it, and the tail center diametrically opposed.



This is now a side-grain orientation. Working outward from the tail center with a bowl gouge, remove a lot of wood on what will be the bottom half. (Do NOT use a SRG!) I like to draw the plan on the wood so I can see what I'm doing. Add a tenon, with shoulder, for chucking, and shape the lower end. Special note here: you're turning a lot of air, and before long, it will be absolutely critical that those edges stay sharp, with zero tearout or chipping on the wings. The leading "attack" edges (air to wood) are no problem. The trailing ones on the "back side"

of the cut (wood to air, twice for every rotation) are where the problem can occur, as seen in the adjacent image where roughing is still taking place (dry black locust is a brittle, chippy wood). That cannot be permitted when you get close to the final form. The final cuts must be made lightly and carefully, on the bevel with a freshly-sharpened, small (3/8") spindle or detail gouge held at a shearing angle. Sanding would just round the edges over and ruin the shape. This is a turning project, not sanding practice!

Reverse into a scroll chuck and hollow with your tools of choice. Note: You cannot hollow the ears! Don't even think about it! :-). As a result, this form will be a bit top heavy. So it's not worthwhile turning it unnecessarily thin. Leaving a little weight in the bottom for balance is a good idea.

Give it a try; it's great fun and produces a striking result.



Always use common sense. Things that work in one situation may not work in another. Follow all Safety Rules. If it feels wrong, it probably is; stop and rethink. Your Mileage May Vary



SHOW, TELL & ASK



Bob Grudberg - Open Segmented



Bob Grudberg



Bob Grudberg -Segmented



Bob Grudberg



Mike Colella - Maple, Resin, Ebony



Mike Colella



Mike Colella - Maple, Resin



Mike Colella



Mike Colella - Maple, Resin



Mike Colella



Tim Aley - Maple Platter



Tim Aley



Tim Aley - Maple



Steve Haddix - Maple, burned



Steve Haddix



Steve Haddix - Maple, burned



Steve Haddix - Maple, burned



Steve Haddix - Maple, burned



Steve Haddix - Maple, burned



Ellen Davis - Cedar



Mike Colella - Oak, paint



Amy Rothburg, Walnut



Amy Rothburg, Walnut



Joe Barnard, walnut



Joe Barnard, walnut



Joe Barnard, walnut



Joe Barnard, walnut



Paul Mazzi, Locust box



Paul Mazzi, Locust box



Paul Mazzi, Locust box



Ken Lobo - Saplel



Ken Lobo - Saplel



Ken Lobo - Saplel



Ken Lobo - Saplel



Ken Lobo - Saplel



Ken Lobo - Saplel



Ken Lobo - Segmented Saplel



Gary Guenther, Black Locust



Gary Guenther, Black Locust



Gary Guenther, Black Locust



Gary Guenther, Black Locust



Paul Wodiska, Oak



Paul Wodiska, Oak



Paul Wodiska, Oak



Tina Chisena, Maple, Birch



Tina Chisena, Maple, Birch



Tina Chisena, Maple, Birch



Tina Chisena, Maple, Birch



Tina Chisena, Maple, Birch



Roman Steichen - Stabilized Oak



Roman Steichen, Stabilized Oak



Roman Steichen, Stabilized Oak



Roman Steichen, Stabilized Oak



Roman Steichen, Walnut, Maple



Roman Steichen, Walnut, Maple



Roman Steichen, Christmas alumilite



Roman Steichen, alumilite



William Flint, Maple Aluminum



Dean Elliot, Walnut pen

Members in the News

Meet the Artists Reception: HANDCRAFTED: Fiber Art & Turned Wood
Kay Gallery, Reception at [The BLACKROCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS](#)
[ARTS](#) | Saturday, Jan 20, 2018 | 2:00 PM | \$Free

Please join us Saturday, January 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for a reception to meet the artists presenting their work in exhibition “HANDCRAFTED: Fiber Art & Turned Wood,” a regional juried exhibition featuring both traditional and innovative works by contemporary artists and fine craft artisans working.

EXHIBIT ON VIEW: January 13 – February 24, 2018

The exhibition “HANDCRAFTED: Fiber Art & Turned Wood” will be on view from January 13 through February 24, 2018 in The Kay Gallery at BlackRock Center for the Arts.

12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown, MD 20874

www.blackrockcenter.org

Exhibit Description: The regional juried exhibition HANDCRAFTED: Fiber Art & Turned Wood presents the work of contemporary artists and fine craft artisans working in fiber art and turned wood. The exhibit will feature works of fiber art that employ traditional and experimental materials that are woven or stitched using textile techniques which include weaving, quilting, embroidery, beading, felting, crochet, knitting, lacework, hooking, sewing, spinning, tapestry, and mixed media along with current innovations in this evolving medium. Fiber Art entries will be judged by Camille Anne Brewer, Curator of Contemporary Art at the George Washington University Textile Museum in Washington, DC. HANDCRAFTED will also include a variety of functional, sculptural, and creative turned wood pieces created using the lathe, hand-held tools, and a steady hand to carve original spindle and faceplate turnings, often combining new techniques and materials, to demonstrate the range of forms which can be achieved on a rotating axis. Turned Wood entries will be juried by Fleur Bresler, a collector of turned wood who is a Commissioner for the Smithsonian Museum of American Art.



DON'T BE SHY – PROMOTE YOURSELF. Let us know about your woodturning activities so they can be included in the newsletter each month. Send your information to Mike Colella at michael.j.colella@gmail.com or call 301/942-2853

Phillip Brown, Montgomery County Woodturners, Receives Lifetime Achievement Award (11/20/2017)

Thursday, November 30, 2017

2017 Lifetime Impact Award Recipient: Phillip Brown

by Gary Guenther

At the *2017 County Executive's Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities*, on Nov. 6 at the Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland, Montgomery County Executive, Ike Leggett, presented awards to eight individuals to recognize their contributions to the county's arts and cultural community. Mr. Leggett presented the *2017 Lifetime Impact Award* to Phillip Brown for his work with [Montgomery County Woodturners](#). Vicky Guenther presented Phil with a program signed by a number of Phil's friends and associates who attended to wish him well.

The ceremony, which started in 2002, honors the work of individuals who have made a mark in the community through arts and culture.

Leggett and his wife, Catherine Leggett, presented these awards during a special gala ceremony that included performances by Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras of Strathmore, Flying V Theatre, Metropolitan Youth Ballet, Bel Cantanti Opera, Jazz Encounters, and a screening from Gandhi Brigade Youth Media.

"We are thrilled to honor these incredibly gifted artists and scholars and appreciate the power of the arts and humanities to bring grace, hope, understanding and perspective to our world," said Suzan Jenkins, CEO of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County. "By celebrating these eight recipients, we celebrate all that is right and beautiful in our community."



Phil was interviewed prior to the ceremony, and gave the following responses to questions:

In what ways do you think your involvement in the Montgomery County arts and culture sector is impactful?

The formation of [Montgomery County Woodturners](#) (MCW) provides how-to-do-it training to amateurs, some of whom later create quality work accepted for exhibits and which sells in craft shows. MCW has exhibited member work at eight county libraries, those with exhibit cases, for the last 10 years. MCW has arranged multiple visits for members to major turned wood and craft collections in this area, including those of Fleur Bresler, Jerry and Deena Kaplan, Jane and Arthur Mason, and Judy and Jeff Bernstein. I have shown my turned work in invited or juried exhibits at the Tower and Popcorn Galleries, Glen Echo Park; Kramer Gallery in Silver Spring; Blackrock Center for the Arts in Germantown; VisArts and Washington Arts (now Artists and Makers) in Rockville; and in Creative Crafts Council exhibitions at Strathmore Mansion, and serve as the CCC treasurer. I helped hang pictures and shown in the Labor Day Art Shows at Glen Echo Park.

What do you love about the arts and culture sector in Montgomery County?

I like that there are art centers and galleries where I can see exhibitions in all media, theaters like Round House and Olney, and the Baltimore Symphony at the Strathmore Music Center.

What advice do you have for anyone looking to get involved in arts and culture?

I would recommend people identify the medium they are most interest in, volunteer at an organization, and attend events and exhibitions focusing on the medium. If they want to make art, there are classes at VisArts, Glen Echo Park, other art centers, and other places.

What was your earliest “art spark” or impetus for an interest in the arts?

An important and lasting spark for me was seeing the Craft Multiples exhibition at the Smithsonian Renwick Gallery in 1975. This exhibition caught the attention of numerous people who became craft artists or collectors.

After the ceremony, Phil's wife, Barbara Wolanin, had these recollections:

Phil was very pleased and gratified to be recognized by Isiah Leggett with a Lifetime Impact Award, one of the County Executive's Awards for Excellence in the Arts and

Humanities, on November 6, 2017, at Round House Theater. Phil's was the last award presented in a long program of awards, performances, and recognition of numerous grantees, and one of only two awarded by the County Executive himself. The focus of the award was Phil's founding of Montgomery County Woodturners and his acting as its first president. MCW has continued to be very active and successful, with many members attending the demonstrations, critiques, and skill enhancement sessions each month. Phil has arranged exhibitions of members' work in eight county libraries with display cases for ten years, enriching county residents and bringing attention to the field. He and other members demonstrate at the county fair each year. His award certificate reads "Phillip Brown / Montgomery County Woodturners," so in a real sense the chapter itself was recognized for its "vital contribution to the cultural life of Montgomery County." Phil was pleased to learn he was the unanimous choice of the judges.

In Phil's acceptance speech, he noted how twelve years ago, at a meeting he organized to see if there was interest in a new club, 23 people paid membership dues, and individuals volunteered to take on the website and the newsletter, which were both amazingly created in just two weeks. He thanked "the nine volunteers for elected positions, fifteen other volunteer roles, and our Woodworkers Club free meeting space, that keep MCW running as a vibrant educational organization" and continued "I was the catalyst who brought everyone together and provided encouragement to engage in outreach and educational endeavors." Phil was appreciative of the fellow turners and friends who came to celebrate with him.

Thank you, Phil, for all you've done.



Below is the actual link to the article from AAW: [article about Phil Brown's well-deserved 2017 Lifetime Impact Award](#) from Montgomery County, written by Gary Guenther. Also is an announcement of CA Savoy's passing, noted by Gary with [a link to an article on CA from Stan Wellborn](#). CA was a stalwart of Capital Area Woodturners across the river in Alexandria. He will be missed.

Last Month: Fractal Burning by Bob Anderson

The process of Lichtenberg fractal burning can produce interesting and beautiful patterns. The American Association of Woodturners, however, citing deaths of people who have been killed doing the process, has prohibited its use at their sponsored meetings and even banned discussion of it in AAW publications. It can be deadly.

As we know, though, woodturning itself can be dangerous for those who do not respect the hazards inherent in wood spinning at 1000 or 2000 or 3000 or more rpms. But, just as there are ways to minimize dangers in turning, there are also methods to safely utilize Lichtenberg fractal burning. At our December 7, 2017 meeting, Bob Anderson demonstrated his method of SAFE Lichtenberg fractal burning and members had an opportunity to try it on their own pieces.

A method to add decoration to wood, LFB involves applying a conductive liquid (most often baking soda or borax dissolved in water) to the wood and then using electrodes to pass a current through the liquid to create a burn pattern in the wood. The pattern created is random and is often said to look like a tree's branches or root system.

Bob began with a few short videos of Lichtenberg fractal burning information found on the Internet. The videos were instructive in terms of listing potential dangers (ranging from shock to death) and also showed some of the incredibly unsafe practices that some practitioners have unfortunately endorsed. The dangers of the practice and the warnings for safety were prominent, and the overriding message Bob stressed throughout the



Coating wood with conductor

presentation was

that the single most important factor is remaining safe; a decoration on a wooden vessel is not worth anyone's life.

He said that the most common power sources used in fractal burning are a neon light transformer, a microwave transformer, or an oil burner transformer. The microwave transformer, while very inexpensive when using an old microwave, is VERY DANGEROUS due to its high power; it was this type of setup which has resulted in a number of deaths to wood artists and led to the AAW ban in their



Attaching probes to wood



Power on!

stepped on it; a power strip with an on-off button, a lamp to show when there is power to the electrodes; a number of insulating devices; and the wooden scaffolds and plastic holders for the electrodes. Finally, everything remained on the floor so if something

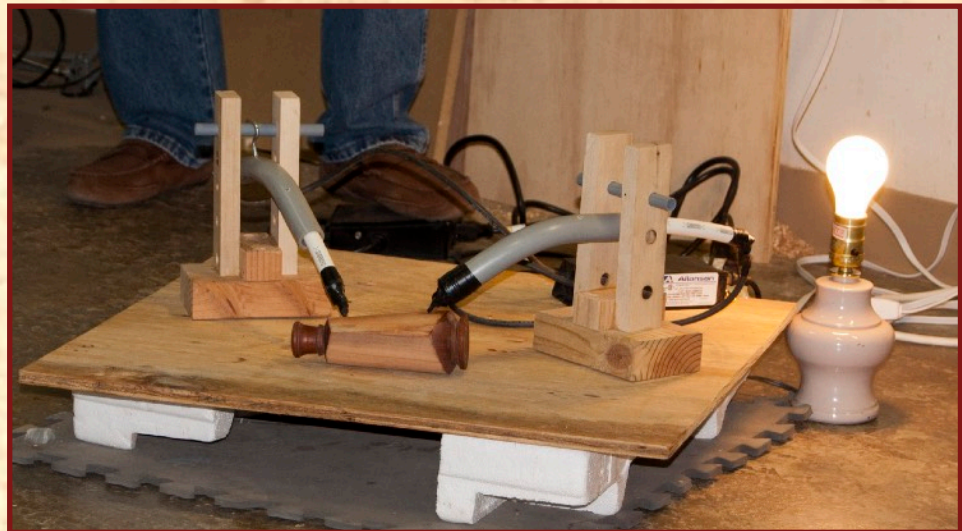
fell there is no involuntary reflex to grab it (as would more likely happen if the system were higher, as on a table.) At the end of the presentation and a few examples of his own, members had the opportunity to try the process on their own pieces.

In closing, here are some general thoughts about the process from the presentation:

1. NOTHING IS WORTH YOUR LIFE. NEVER BE NEAR ANY OF THE EQUIPMENT WHEN IT IS LIVE, WITH ELECTRICITY FLOWING. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED.
2. While the pattern is random, the burn pattern can be somewhat guided by applying the liquid in the pattern you want.
3. Irrespective of number 2, there is real serendipity involved, and electricity can take unintended

publications and demonstrations at their sponsored events. Bob recommended that no one EVER use one. The process Bob used involves a neon light transformer, which has a much lower amperage and is much safer than the microwave transformer. Due to the danger involved, he strongly emphasized would NEVER use a microwave transformer. (This is repetitious, but it bears repeating.)

He went through a number of protections that allow fractal burning in a safe manner. First, unlike some artists who hold the insulated electrodes and move them to the wood, Bob showed how the artist can situate the electrodes on the piece by using a small wooden and plastic pipe scaffold setup while they are not electric, i.e., never being near the electrodes when they are connected to the power source. Secondly, he used a dead man's switch, positioned six feet away from the electrodes, which only conducts electricity when he



Insulated probes, ready light, insulated base

routes (following cracks, glue lines, unique wood patterns).

4. If the electrodes are placed too close together, the electricity may arc in the air and not burn the wood.

5. If the electrodes are placed too far from each other, the electricity can make the conductive liquid dry up (at least partially) and there will be no electrical charge through the wood.

6. In terms of fluids to use, a baking soda solution will darken the wood a greater or lesser degree, depending on the wood. Borax tends to not darken the wood appreciably, or at all. We will use a borax solution.

7. The neon light transformer (which we used) and oil burner transformer are both low amperage and will give a much more delicate pattern than the more high-powered microwave transformer.

8. As noted in 3 above, the pattern tends to follow something, such as grain, cracks, glue lines, etc. (A segmented piece could be quite unpredictable.)

In general, though, fractal burning works far better on side grain than it does on end grain, which most often creates an ugly pattern of burned stipples, although there are surprises.

9. Typically, the dark burned pattern shows up better in dark woods. Also, tighter grained woods like cherry or maple do best.

10. Some people like to cover their work in burns, and others like to just use it as a single accent to a piece. It's just a matter of preference.

11. There are a myriad of videos online about the process. Most show rather unsafe (and flat-out UNSAFE) practices. If you're interested, do a search and take a look at some of the videos. Note how the artists create dangers for themselves. Contrast what most of them are doing with what we did at the meeting December 7.

12. Seven people had signed up to try the process at the meeting. If members didn't get a chance at the meeting and would like to try it, Bob will be glad to make arrangements for you to come to his house and give it a go.



Foot peddle engaged



Burning sample





SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

It's that time of year! Registration is now open for AAW's 32nd Annual International Symposium, in Portland, Oregon, June 14-17, 2018.

Secure your spot by registering today!

The AAW Annual International Symposium is an excellent opportunity to watch world-class demonstrators share their techniques, find out about the latest innovations in tools and materials, and be inspired by the instant gallery and other woodturning exhibits. Join us to experience in person the creative passion of woodturning while enjoying the company of others who share your interests.

Learn more at these links:

The action begins on Thursday evening, June 14... with sessions for focused disciplines, including Ornamental Turners, Principally Pens, and Segmented Woodturners. Specialty group meetings will take place along with forums on other relevant woodturning subjects.

Christian Burchard

Also on Thursday night, Christian Burchard, globe-trotting woodturner, sculptor, furniture-maker, house-builder, goat-tender, cheese maker, and much more, will reflect on his journey in life and in woodturning in a presentation, "Predictable Unpredictability." While today he trusts his creative process, he says it was once hard to find his way.

The agenda continues Friday through Sunday, June 15-17... with a super selection of demonstrations and panel discussions that will appeal to wide variety of skill levels.

And, don't forget the awe inspiring exhibitions, auctions, and enormous trade show! Watch our website for more information on these exciting events!



MCW Calendar

- Saturday, January 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for a reception to meet the artists
- January 13 HANDCRAFTED: Fiber Art & Turned Wood exhibit at Black Rock Kay Gallery opens (see article on p.15)
- January 20th from 2:00 - 4:00p.m. Meet the artists reception at Black Rock
- January 19, Turn for the Troops at WWC, Rockville
- **February 8th Demo - Chuck Cohen**, will be showing the club the method that he uses for creating hollow forms with hand held tools, going through the bottom. This is a technique where the top opening is too small to hollow out the inside of a larger vessel, but when finished, it's not evident to others how it was hollowed.



Skills Enhancement Schedule Matt Radtke

Skills Enhancement Dates (subject to change). You must contact Matt Radtke at matt.radtke@gmail.com to reserve your spot for Skills Enhancements.



Turn For The Troops - Article from Woodcraft Blog

AIRCRAFT CARRIER CAPTAIN TURNS PENS AT WOODCRAFT TURN-A-THON

Navy Captain Will Pennington of the USS George H. W. Bush aircraft carrier was among volunteers who turned 12,661 pens at the 14th Woodcraft Turn for Troops National Turn-a-Thon on Veterans Day weekend. The captain turned pens at the [Virginia Beach Woodcraft](#). The 2017 pen total brings the grand total since 2004 to 158,742.

Last year Capt. Pennington and his crew were on the receiving end of 4,840 of these unique wood pens that are sent annually as thank-you gifts to US military personnel on active duty and recovering in rehabilitation centers. “I much enjoyed the opportunity to turn a few pens to contribute to your great program,” Capt. Pennington said.

“Woodcraft is honored to have Capt. Pennington among the ranks of the volunteers who made the Turn for Troops program successful for the 14th year,” president Jody Garrett said. “Woodcraft commends him and the hundreds of other volunteers of all ages who cared enough to spend time [turning pens](#) for the people who are defending the US. Without these caring volunteers, many who show up every year, Woodcraft would not be able to say thank you in such a personal way to our military.”



Photo: Vietnam veteran and Lenexa, Kansas, Woodcraft manager Charlie Wilson (above) and USS George H. W. Bush Captain Will Pennington turned pens at the 2017 Turn for Troops event.

VOLUNTEERS WHO CARE

Volunteers who participate in the Turn for Troops National Turn-a-Thon, as well as those who [turn pens](#) year-round for the program, are a diverse group of people who often are retired military or have family or friends in the military.

For example, Charlie Wilson (opening image), who manages the Woodcraft store in Lenexa, Kansas, is a Vietnam veteran and a turn-a-thon volunteer. Jeff Brockett, who has a nephew in the military, volunteers at the Nashville store turn-a-thon and has turned over 1,000 pens in the past three or four years. Sean Bramer, a retired Navy veteran, brought his 13-year-old daughter Cyndi to the Virginia Beach Woodcraft turn-a-thon this year as a father/daughter outing to give back to the troops. It was Cyndi's first turning experience, and she turned four pens.



Photo: Jeff Brockett, a veteran pen turner, watches as a volunteer turns a pen during the Nashville Woodcraft Turn for Troops Turn-a-Thon.

2017 STORE LEADERS

The same four Woodcraft stores that have led in the highest number of pens turned annually and overall for the past several years kept their top spots in 2017 with one switch –

Nashville, Tennessee, is the top store for 2017 with 2,313 pens turned, while Grand Rapids, Michigan, is second with 2,268. Rounding out the top four are Tucson, Arizona, third, 1,480, and Boise, Idaho, fourth, 1,127. Tucson leads the stores in number of pens turned over the past 14 years: 17,544. Nashville is second, 17,531; Boise is third, 15,068; and Grand Rapids is fourth, 12,701.

Woodcraft of San Carlos is the closest store to the top four with 792 pens in 2017 (a jump from 475 in 2016) and 9,318 in 14 years. Three other stores achieved major increases over their previous year totals: **Rockville, Maryland (235 in 2016; 760 in 2017)**, [editor's correction, MCW turned over 900 pens] Milwaukee, Wisconsin (75 in 2016; 641 in 2017), and West Atlanta, Georgia (89 in 2016; 216 in 2017).



Photo: These gorgeous pens were turned by Ellen Davis, president of the Montgomery County Woodturners, for the Woodcraft Turn for Troops program. She and other members of the club turned hundreds of pens on their own and at the Rockville, Maryland, Woodcraft store during the turn-a-thon in November. Her note of appreciation, included with each pen, is pictured also.



Photo: Some of the pens turned by the Milwaukee Area Woodturners Club are packaged and ready to be sent out by the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Woodcraft store to military personnel worldwide.



[Article from Woodcraft Blog](#)



January Panelist Bios:

Joe Dickey is a good friend of MCW, having demonstrated for us twice and participated as a Panelist in a previous Critique. We welcome him back. Joe was a Founding Member of Chesapeake Woodturners in Annapolis in 1992. He has taught woodturning at the John C. Campbell School and, for many years, at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis, and was twice President of the Maryland Federation of Art. He is currently a Director in AAW and holds the office of Treasurer. He had a rewarding career as a much-published physicist who specialized in acoustics (in several very different venues) and plays a mean banjo (yes, that's acoustics) in the band Shenandoah Run -- but that just shows his wide range of interests and talents. Early on, he was a Congressional Science Fellow and was active in the governance of the Acoustical Society of America. As a turner, Joe has shown his works in a wide range of exhibit spaces, including recent shows at the Watergate Gallery, where he achieved a Best in Show. His designs can be amazing and mind bending, and his turning is highly technical and can include more air (and glue and Styrofoam...) than you could have believed.

Elroy Williams has a degree in Visual Arts and specialized in graphic design. As a career commercial artist, he received design and concept awards. He served in roles of Art Director and Marketing Designer at several firms in New York and Maryland. At the same time, he continued his personal development as a fine artist, studying with established New-York-based art teachers, as well as expanding into still photography, where he received commissions for portraits and other projects. He has exhibited his drawing and painting widely, including a solo show in Manhattan, has spent a year as a member of a traveling art-exhibition group, and has earned places and awards in both local and national venues, with a number of juried exhibits and shows to his credit. Most recently, Elroy has been working in pastels, and is a member of the Maryland Pastel Society.

Denise Joyal is the Adjunct Professor of Ceramics at Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA, where she won a prestigious teaching award. Denise has a BA in Art and an MFA in Ceramic Arts. She has also worked as a Ceramics Instructor at the Frederick Clay Studio. Her work focuses on functional stoneware and porcelain forms inspired by the interplay of light and shadow in landscapes, and the use of illustrated surface design. She currently soda-fires the majority of her work in a propane-fueled kiln but also participates in several anagama firings per year. (Anagama is a historic Asian firing chamber fueled by wood, in which the pieces are literally painted by fire.) Denise exhibits widely, and in 2017 alone, showed work in Nevada, Missouri, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and DC. She is a member of a number of professional organizations and also does service and charity work.



Chapter

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Volunteers

Wounded Warrior Support Program Director	Don Van Ryk
Skills Enhancement Program Director	Matt Radtke, Eliot Feldman assistant
Public Library Exhibit Committee	Joe Bernard, Phil Brown, Russ Iler, Mary Beardsley
Beads of Courage Program Director	Steve Haddix
Turning Works Program Director	Bob Browning
Montgomery County Ag Fair Program Director	Tim Aley
Turn for Troops Project Leader	Roman Steichen
Backup Secretary	open
Backup Newsletter Editor	open
Lending Librarian	John Laffan, Joe Barnard backup
Videography	Joe Stout, Joe Barnard, Sidney Stone, Gary Guenther
Gallery Photography and Web Albums	Mike Colella, Tim Aley
Candid Photography	Tim Aley
Show Tell & Ask Leaders	Mike Colella, Matt Radtke, Clif Poodry
Show Tell & Ask Recording and Trucking	Richard Webster and Jim Allison
Demo Fee Collection	Bob Grudberg
Setup Committee	Jim Allison, Margaret Follas
Clean-Up Committee	Paul Simon
Discount Deacon	Steve Drake
Brochure Boss	Phil Brown

MCW Resources

MCW Hands-on Mentoring Program: Hands-on mentoring is one of the most effective ways of learning turning techniques, tool use, and safety. We all have unique knowledge and ideas to impart. We encourage all Members to sign up to share a few hours of their time and knowledge at the lathe with each other, on a peer-to-peer basis, either in their homes or at Skills Enhancement sessions. We particularly encourage our new Members and beginners to use this opportunity to learn techniques and safety. Please let Ellen Davis know if you would like to participate.

Skills Enhancement: Once a month, we have an open lathe session at WWC, alternating on the Fridays and Sundays after the Meetings, under the guidance of Matt Radtke and Eliot Feldman. Please check the Newsletter and Web Site Calendars for monthly dates and reserve a limited slot in advance with Matt at mattradtk@gmail.com. Everyone shares skills and information, and its lots of fun.

MCW Facebook Group: Ellen Davis has created a Facebook Group just for MCW Members. The idea behind this is to allow you to post pictures of your work, ask questions, and provide another venue for our members to get to know each other better. For our MCW Facebook Group, please click the following link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/194941367515051/> and request to be added to the group. If you do not have a Facebook account and want one, please contact Ellen. We have over 45 Members involved.

MCW Lending Library: Now Free! Books and DVDs are available for borrowing. We have a good selection of video demonstrations and instructional materials from many top professional turners. If you missed a Meeting and would like to see the Program, you can check out the DVD. Please sign the form to check them out from John Laffan. If you have titles out, please return them promptly. There is no charge for this service.

Silent Auction: Not everyone has access to a chainsaw or a band saw, which makes it nice to have access to reasonably-priced, properly-sized turning blanks. Thanks to the generosity of Phil Brown and other Members, our Silent Auction provides this benefit at every Meeting. Please bring your 'road kill' to share with other Members.

Discounts: Steve Drake has assembled a selection of retailers who provide MCW Members with monetary discounts. First and foremost, of course, is the Woodworkers Club, but we have a number of others too. Please check out the list of participating merchants on the Web Site or at the end of each Newsletter.

Web Site: <http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org> Thanks to Webmaster Jeff Struewing we have an outstanding Web Site.

Newsletters: The MCW Newsletter Archive, accessible on the website, is a tremendous resource, containing the complete history of all MCW programs and activities from day one, as seen on a monthly basis through the years. All past issues back to Volume 1, Issue 1 in 2007 are available at <http://montgomerycountywoodturners.org/newsletters/>

Our Hosts: Our most important resource is our space. We are deeply indebted to our hosts, [The Woodworkers Club](#), for their continuing support in sharing their facility with us as we move into our tenth year. Please give Amy, Chris, Matt, and Ralph your individual expressions of appreciation, both verbally and with your wallets. If you need something, they will get it for you, either off the shelves or from the catalog – with no shipping charge.





Membership Renewal Form

Montgomery County Woodturners (MCW)

Please Print Legibly!!

Date_____/_____/20__

Name_____

Please review your status and personal information on the MCW Website.

If anything below has changed, please update below:

Address_____

City_____State____Zip_____

Phone(s) _____

Email_____

Website_____

AAW Membership Yes____No_____

Membership Types:

___Regular \$25 ___Family \$35 ___Apprentice - Free for members under 18.

Please make check payable to MCW.

Form of payment Cash \$_____ Check # _____\$_____

Checks should be made out to MCW and delivered at the meeting, to Phil Brown, or mailed to: 7807 Hamilton Springs Road , Bethesda, MD 20817

Date____/____/20__

Receipt for monies paid to MCW for Membership for the year 20__

From_____Amount \$_____

MCW Representative_____

MCW Member Loaned Work for Public Library Exhibits, 2018

We will receive your year-long loan of turned wood pieces at both the December 7, 2017 meeting and the January 11, 2018 meeting, for month-long wall case exhibits at Montgomery County Public Libraries in 2018. Approximately 50 pieces of all sizes are needed, and particularly pieces fitting on a 7 inch wide shelf. This includes candle sticks, tree ornaments, wands, tool handles, bottle stoppers, balls, boxes, platters, bowls, hollow form vessels, and sculpture, including easel-mounted platters or bowls. Do not include display stands since we have stands. Your phone number, but not prices, will be displayed. Any sale is directly between you and the interested buyer with delivery after the display is over. Pieces will be available for pickup at the MCW meeting on December 8, 2018, or earlier by request.

We could use new pictures of members turning at the lathe - either an 8x10 print or a jpg file.

If you have questions, contact Joe Barnard at 301-943-1807 or barnards@wood-crafted.com

This information form is needed with your pieces in order to prepare a label, insurance, and phone lists.

Please bring your pieces in a box, or well wrapped for stacking if in a bag, with **your name on the container**.

Turned Object Information for Public Library Exhibits in 2018

Member Name _____

Piece #1:

Title or Name (if named) _____

Kind of wood(s), other materials & treatments (dye, burned, finish, etc.) _____

Size (height and diameter) _____ Insurance value \$ _____

Piece #2:

Title or Name (if named) _____

Kind of wood(s), other materials & treatments (dye, burned, finish, etc.) _____

Size (height and diameter) _____ Insurance value \$ _____

Piece #3

Title or Name (if named) _____

Kind of wood(s), other materials & treatments (dye, burned, finish, etc.) _____

Size (height and diameter) _____ Insurance value \$ _____

Piece #4

Title or Name (if named) _____

Kind of wood(s), other materials & treatments (dye, burned, finish, etc.) _____

Size (height and diameter) _____ Insurance value \$ _____

Member Discounts

Woodworkers Club Rockville, Maryland (www.woodworkersclub.com). The Woodworkers Club, a Woodcraft affiliate, offers MCW Members a 10% rebate on all regularly priced items. After reaching certain plateaus of spending, you will become eligible for a rebate which you will receive by email and is good for 3 months. Non-qualifying items are power tools, items already on sale, gift cards, and items from companies that prohibit discounting (Festool, SawStop, Leigh, and a couple others). Our relationship with Woodworkers Club is very synergistic and important to us, and I encourage you to make your woodturning and woodworking purchases from them. If they don't have something in the store that's in the Woodcraft catalog or on their web site, they will get it for you, and you can save on shipping by picking it up at the store.

Exotic Lumber, Inc. Frederick, Maryland (<http://www.exoticlumber.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 with membership badge. We have warehouse locations in Frederick and Annapolis, where you are welcome to select from our extensive selection of turning blocks.



Craft Supplies USA (www.woodturnerscatalog.com) is a family-owned and operated business serving the woodturning community. Individual MCW Members can save 10% on all finishes & disc abrasives -- just mention "Montgomery County Woodturners" and save, all year long.



Hartville Tool (www.hartvilletool.com) is a nationwide retailer of general and specialized tools for woodworking and home improvement. They offer free shipping to all. If you have accepted the MCW offer to "opt in" to be a member of the Hartville Tool Club, you will get a 15% discount on all tools (excluding sale items, gift cards, special orders, and Festool Products)



North Woods Figured Wood (www.nwfiguredwoods.com) North Woods is a multi-generational family-owned supplier of wood and wood blanks specifically selected with the woodturner in mind. They specialize in Pacific Coast native species of trees and have sizes from single pen blanks up to 1,500 lb. whole burls. With 20+ species in stock, there is something for everyone. Members get a 15% discount by mentioning their MCW membership during a phone order or by entering "WOODTURNERS" as a coupon code during online ordering.



DUES ARE DUE

2018 dues are due this month and next. They are remaining at \$25/person (\$35/family). AAW is having a special membership drive where people can join AAW for \$20 for 3 month with the option of \$40 for the next 9 months. Membership in both MCW and AAW qualifies a member to enter the drawings for the AAW turning

Tailstock



Spalted maple, stabilized with purple and red resin (Cactus Juice) Ebony lid, 3"x3"
Michael Colella, 2017