

## June 26, 2025 Demonstration – Tom Huber – Turn and Embellish a Platter

Our April demonstrator will be Tom Huber from CAW. Tom last demonstrated for us in Feb. 2019 when he showed us some kitchen gear – a cookie/biscuit cutter and a spurtle. Believe it or not, that's now six years ago. Seems like yesterday.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Ae6iDRoKRvDs2S2A7>

More recently, you may remember Tom as one of our Critique panelists from last September, where he did an outstanding job – and he will be joining us again this year in that role.



**For our June demo, Tom will be showing us how to Turn and Embellish a Platter.** In this demonstration we will be using a turning technique used by Tom Wirsing. This method uses a faceplate to create a stable uniform piece. As part of the demonstration we will see Jimmy Clewes' method for turning an ogee on the bottom of the platter. Once we have finished the completed platter we will explore four ways to embellish the rim. The first is a burning technique that highlights the grain and allows decoration with burnishing/liming creams. The second technique is a double-dying technique. The third technique uses gesso and carving. The final technique involves cutting, carving and shaping. You won't want to miss this one!

Like most practitioners of woodturning, Tom Huber is a hobbyist turner. His only advantage is that he is fully retired and can spend as much time as his wife will allow him on his passion. As a result, Tom has a wide range of interests ranging from spindle turning, bowl turning, hollow forms, and off-center turning. Tom likes to turn items that have a purpose and isn't normally interested in doing art for art's sake. He believes embellishing a piece can elevate it and make it more interesting, but he rarely makes "art" pieces.

Tom is a long-time member of Capital Area Woodturners. Like many turners, he started off with making pens for friends and family. After taking a bowl turning class at Woodcraft, he joined CAW and AAW in 1996. He took advantage of CAW's Skill Enhancement Workshop program and was mentored by very talented local turners. After becoming more confident in his skills he began to take workshops from CAW's visiting artists including David Ellsworth, Mark St. Leger, Barbara Dill, Jimmy Clewes, Stuart Batty, Rudy Lopez, Mark Sfirri, and Jacques Vesery.

For a long time, Tom was a "lurker" -- content to remain in the background, attend CAW monthly meetings, and take the occasional class. After a while he realized how much CAW had given him. He was part of a long established craft, he had a creative outlet, and he was in contact with others who shared his enthusiasm. As a result, he volunteered to become the CAW Program Manager and Newsletter editor in 2016. In this capacity, Tom has had the ability to explore the craft of woodturning by bringing in artists who span the diverse range of the craft. In addition he has written articles for the newsletter that explore various elements of the craft, as well as information about design, wood composition, and the various timbers used by woodturners.

Tom has also trucked many CAW demonstrators to MCW, for which we thank him.