



CAW Newsletter



www.capwoodturners.org

100 Bowls Of Compassion-A New Year's Challenge!



Tree Of The Month

Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), belongs to the rose family. American colonists used the cherry for its fruit, for medicinal properties and for their home furnishings. The juice of the cherry was mixed with rum to make a Cherry Bounce, a popular drink for the colonists. They used the bark to produce drugs to treat bronchitis, and the stalks were used to make tonics. It grows throughout the Midwestern and Eastern United States, from Pennsylvania to New York and into Virginia and West Virginia. The average height of the Cherry is 60 to 80 feet, and specimens are known to live as long as 150 to 200 years. The wood presents a hard straight grain with firm texture.



Since May 2001, artists have joined to create a distinctive event in Washington, DC – an upscale fundraiser that makes a significant difference in the lives of the homeless. [Miriam's Kitchen](#) is an organization that provides food as well as a wide range of social services to the homeless and has been actively serving the homeless since 1983.

Every year, Miriam's Kitchen has a fundraiser called "100 Bowls Of Compassion" to raise money by auctioning off bowls of various media: wood, ceramic, glass, metal, paper, photos, paintings or drawings. They also accept vases and pitchers (hollow forms for us Woodturners) for flower arrangements and these items are sold at the end of the event.

CAW would like to challenge all Woodturners to make a beautiful bowl or hollow form and donate it to this event for Miriam's Kitchen. Those of you who donate an item, will receive a ticket to the event. For a donation of two or more pieces, you will receive two complimentary tickets. Individual tickets sell for \$250. The event has a

live and silent auction along with live music, dinner and an open bar.

This is an opportunity to help the community as well as get some exposure for woodturning. Artist's names are listed next to their bowls (and business cards if you have them), as well as an artist statement if they choose to have one (the club name can also be listed there).

A "Call To Artists" will go out in January 2009 and we will forward that to our members via email when we receive it. Donations are due by mid-April (the exact date TBD). The event this year is scheduled for May 10, 2009 from 6 - 9:30 p.m. at the National Building Museum in DC. Your donations will be collected at April's CAW meeting and be delivered to Miriam's Kitchen. However, you are free to personally deliver your donation if that works better for you. Our contact at Miriam's Kitchen is Kristi Martinson, 301-219-0776 or 100bowls@gmail.com.





CAW President's Message (Gerry Headley)

The 2008 CAW Woodturner's Ball was a great success. We had a great turnout this year. There was plenty of food, great deserts, and plenty of fellowship. Frank Stepanski arranged to for us to have a youth orchestra for the happy hour, which was a wonderful prelude to our evening. Thanks to Tom Boley for getting the space for us and Judi Boley who did so much to prepare, provide, and coordinate the decorations. C.A. did a wonderful service by finding us a high quality mini lathe we could raffle and brought lasagna from Primo's. I wish there was enough room in the newsletter to thank each and every one of you who worked to make this event a success. All I can say though is thank you to all the members and spouses who showed up early to help set up and remain our unspoken hero's of the club. Congratulations to the winner of the mini-lathe, Tom Huber and his wife. Congratulations also to the winners of the ornaments and gift exchange:

Gift Exchange Winners	Ornament Winners
1st Place: Ed Karch	1st Place: Al Melanson
2nd Place: Al Melanson	2nd Place: Priscilla Glasow
3rd Place: Tom Boley	3rd Place: Harriet Maloney

Our new year looks to be very promising. I would first like to say thank you for your confidence in electing me as the club's new president. With the support of returning board members, C.A. Savoy, Al Melanson, Phil Mannino, Mark Wollschager, and our new additions, Bill Bearden and Christine Zender, I hope that the time we have together will be educationally challenging, socially rewarding, and most of all fun. If it isn't fun, we're doing something wrong.

Having a successful club is that much easier when we are starting with a well-run club to begin with. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Frank Stepanski and Richard Sherwood and all the hard work they put into the leadership of the CAW. Frank was a collaborative leader who was always appreciative, gave credit where credit was due, and led the board to do the right thing all the time. He produced professional DVDs of the club demonstrations, got us involved in the Virginia Symposium and was always opening us up to new opportunities. Just this past summer, he organized our largest group buy of wood, which took us three meetings and auctions to distribute! As a result of his leadership of volunteers at the last AAW Symposium, we received an award of over \$1200 from the national association. Frank promises to continue with our video skills and I look forward to his help as I transition in his big shoes. I hope I can do as well and keep his "Happy Turnin'" attitude.

Richard has been just phenomenal for the club. His newsletter has been an impressive journal of what we do each and every month. It's a professional work with just the right amount of text and photography. Richard always put out a polished product, on target and on time. He added a strong voice to the board and was instrumental to the course of where we've come these past four years. Thank you, Richard, for all your hard work.

Just for the fun of it, our new year will start out with a President's Challenge. Frank Stepanski turned us onto a woodturner's treasure trove of curly maple and other kiln dried woods at the Woodturner's Ball. Not only did he bring some impressive pieces for the prizes, he found that Dunlap Woods sells their "scrap" as firewood. This "firewood" comes from the same board cut for high quality musical instruments, gunstock, and other prod-



CAW President's Message Continued - (Gerry Headley)

ucts. The pieces are perfectly sized for the mini-lathe. Long story short - I followed Frank's lead and loaded up my truck at a discount. I've stuffed this wood into large paper grocery bags and will be offering them as grab bags at the January meeting. The bags will be priced at \$5 each, two for \$9, or three for \$12. (Second and third bags can be bought at the lunch break, so that everyone gets a chance to buy a grab bag.) No mixing and matching, of course. There will be at least thirty bags of goodies, available first come, first served. To make the grab bags even more fun, the President's Challenge will give everyone one month to see what he or she can do with their bag of wood. At the February meeting, we'll have "braggin' rights" for folks that can be the most creative, most prolific, most humorous, and highest quality with what they brought back from their shops. Again, the emphasis is to have fun.

The money we collect from the grab bags will go into the general fund to offset what might normally be used as an "Appreciation Fund." This is the money we use on behalf of the CAW to say thanks and goodbyes to members. We will also have offerings of cut bowl blanks from local trees. I have a number of extra cherry bowl blanks and Scott Ware has offered a number of walnut blanks. If you have any extra blanks you'd like to contribute to this endeavor, please feel free to bring them.

See you in January,
Gerry

Call Of The Lathe (Tom Boley)

Wow, what a push! Like every year, when Christmas is approaching, I suddenly realize that I need to make some Christmas presents. What better way to do so than on the lathe. That really solves our needs for presents - Christmas, birthday, wedding, anniversary, graduation, and so forth. Of course, I have learned over the years that I need to keep track of what I give to whom so that I don't merely repeat the following year. I made a Christmas ornament one year for my aunt in Virginia Beach, one of those like CA has shown us. She opened it and exclaimed, "Oh, it'll go well with the one from last year!" Duh. I went from pretty excited to rather deflated in realizing I had just given her the same thing again. And she was my favorite aunt. So keep track of what you give. Sometimes, as much as we love woodturning, being under pressure to quickly knock out a bunch of stuff for Christmas presents for the family can turn, so to speak, a hobby into real work. Suddenly, it is like being a production turner with deadlines! Aaarrggh. If you have been turning all along during the year and have built up a stock of finished products, then it is easy. If not, then having Christmas arrive and move on into history may be a bit of a relief. Now that Christmas is behind us once again, we can settle back into our woodturning comfort zone, turning when we can and when we feel like it. So now, as the Call of the Lathe nudges us once again, we can relax, take our time picking the wood, and really enjoy the feel of the tool cutting into the wood, slicing off nice thin shavings as we slowly shape the piece. It's a whole new year, but better plan a bit farther ahead this time.....



About Our Members (Joyce Beene & Phil Brown)

Don & Harriet Maloney have been selling their turnings at various art shows at the following places: Aldie Mill, Aldie, VA; Burwell-Morgan Mill, Millwood, VA; Franklin Park Art Center, Purcellville, VA; Art In The Foothills, sponsored by The Friends of Bluemont, Bluemont, VA; The Round Hill Art Center, Round Hill, VA. The Maloneys expect to have some pieces for sale at the gift shop at the Museum of the Shenandoah in Winchester, VA.

Steve Bishop, Mike DeWan, Scott Hurley, Jonathan Hess, Mark Heathwole, Bob Kahane, Frank Stepanski and Annie Simpson, along with Tom Boley, a Woodcraft instructor, and Woodcraft employees, participated in mentoring pen turning for the troops, an activity held at Dulles Mall November 8 to 11, 2008. **CA Savoy** coordinated the effort for CAW but did not participate in the mentoring due to illness.

Phil Brown, Eliot Feldman, Stuart Glickman, Gary Guenther, David Jacobowitz, Ed Karch, Doug Pearson, Cliff Poodry, and Stanley Sherman lent pieces for an exhibit by Montgomery County Woodturners in four wall cases at the Bethesda Public Library. The exhibit is up for nearly two months to January 30, 2009 at 7400 Arlington Rd, Bethesda, MD. Telephone 240-777-0970.

Shown in November, **John Noffsinger** had a truly beautiful Small Macassar Ebony and African Blackwood lidded vessel juried into the Art League Gallery "Small Works Show". John had ten pieces in the "Collectors Showcase Exhibit" an event on Dec. 12 from 6-9 pm at Lorton Arts, in bldg #G16 Main Gallery.

When participants register in advance, **Bob Stern** and **Aaron Grebeldinger** teach an introductory lathe class for turning pens on the third Saturday of every month at the Wood Shop on Gunston road at Fort Belvoir.

Cliff Poodry teaches each month with BEGINNING BOWL TURNING January 17, March 21, May 16, July 25, and September 19. Then alternates with ADVANCED BOWL TURNING on February 21 and 22, April 18 and 19, June 20 and 21, and August 15 and 16 at the Woodworkers Club in Rockville, MD. See: <http://www.woodworkersclub.com/practice%20class1.htm>

Aaron Grebeldinger will teach *Bowl Turning* on Saturdays January 3rd, February 7th, and March 7th, 10 - 5 PM. **Nate Johnson** teaches *The Art Of Wood Burning* on Saturday, February 28, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. *Introduction To Hollow Turning* with **John Noffsinger** is scheduled on Wednesdays February 4th and 11th from 6:30pm - 9:30pm at WOODCRAFT in Springfield, VA. Call the store at 703-912-6727 to register, or see www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=327&nav=classes.

Tom Boley will be teaching *Turning a Plate*, Saturday January 24th, *Bowl Turning* on February 7th and April 4th, and *Turning Natural Edge Bowls* on Saturday March 7th. Classes are from 10am - 5pm at the Leesburg WOODCRAFT store. To register, call 703-737-7880 or email them at: Leesburg@Woodcraft.com. See the class schedule at: www.woodcraft.com/stores

Mark Supik offers a Saturday class once a month at his commercial Baltimore shop, on either beer taps (between centers turning) or bowls from green wood. The lathes and shop are a treat to see and use. For details see: <http://www.marksupikco.com/School>



About Our Members - Continued (Joyce Beene & Phil Brown)

CRAFT SCHOOL CLASSES

The **Arrowmont** spring 2009 catalog is out with these seven classes listed at:

<http://www.arrowmont.org/registration/>

Bowls for Function & Visual Pleasure, with Ray Key, March 8-14.

Woodturning: A Few Steps More, with Ray Key, March 15-21.

Mini Lathe Explorations, with Alan Leland, March 15-21.

Mineral Crystal Inlays, with Stephen Hatcher, March 22-28.

Turning Open Bowls & Platters, with Alan Stirt, March 29-April 4.

Segmented Woodturning Demystified, with Malcolm Tibbetts, April 5-11.

Working Collaboratively: Turning & Carving, Jacques Vesery and Bonnie Klein, April 5-11.

The **John C. Campbell Folk School** at Brasstown, NC, (in southwest corner of NC) holds a different wood turning class each week. Their web site lists classes into June 2009 at: <http://folkschool.org>

Exhibit Opportunities (Phil Brown)

The Creative Crafts Council will hold its juried Biennial Exhibition at the Mansion at Strathmore in North Bethesda, MD from May 30 through July 11, 2009. March 20th is the application deadline. The application will be available at www.creativecraftscouncil.org Several members of the James Renwick Alliance will be jurors. For turners wishing to market their work locally, this is an important and quality exhibit to get into.

Contemporary Craft in Pittsburg, PA has a call out for entries to a very competitive show at http://www.contemporarycraft.org/The_Store/Raphael_Prize.html, with an application file in PDF at the bottom of the page. Of interest to more of our members is a video interview of turner David Singel, the 1999 winner, that you can see at: http://www.contemporarycraft.org/The_Store/David_Sengel.html David glues rose thorns onto turned pieces that he paints black -- which you may have seen in pictures.

Don't Be Shy! Promote yourself. Tell us about your woodturning activities in the CAW Newsletter. Send your information to us by the second weekend of the previous month. Deadlines tend to be early in the month. Send to: Phil Brown, phillbrown@comcast.net or call (301) 767-9863 or Joyce Beene at joyce.beene@gmail.com or call (703) 978-2032.



Upcoming Meeting Information - (Mark Wollschlager)

January 10th Meeting ,the 2nd Annual 'It's Your Turn'

We started this last year and it was a success.

Can't make it to Skill Enhancement during the week.

Want to get some advice and assistance on your turning technique?

Its Your Turn!

Bring a bowl, platter, or spindle blank and your favorite gouge.

There are 12 lathes of various sizes to use.

Basic turning tools are available for use, bring your own favorites if you have them.

CAW members will be available to assist and advise.

You probably won't have time for a complete project, but we can get you off to a good start.

If you intend to turn, remember eye protection. Bring safety glasses.

There are face shields and some safety glasses in the shop, but I guarantee you will be happier with your own.

You must be a current member of the CAW and AAW to turn wood.

Everyone can watch and enjoy.

We will try to accommodate as many turners as we can during the day

Also featuring the always popular

Sharpening your tools with CA Savoy.

So bring a blank and have fun and turn.

If you are interested in assisting this year please contact Mark Wollschlager

markwoll@his.com or 703-329-6305

Calendar Updates

February Meeting

Wayne Dunlap of Dunlap Woodcrafts in Chantilly. He will have a presentation on wood selection, preparation, and properties. He also has slides and samples of turnings from Fiji. He will also have blanks for sale.

March Meeting

Walt Bennett will be demonstrating oval turning.

April Meeting

April 11th meeting is the CAW Mini Symposium.

May Meeting

Barbara Dill will be demonstrating offset spindle turning, with a hands on workshop to follow in the afternoon.

June Meeting

CAW Picnic and AAW Symposium in Albuquerque , NM.

July Meeting

Terry Scott from New Zealand (tentative)

August Meeting

J. Paul Fennell Carved and Pierced Hollow forms. There will be a workshop.

September Meeting

Alan Hollar "Now You Have a burl, What are you going to do With It? " There will be a workshop .

Upcoming Meeting Information Continued - (Mark Wollschlager)

Mini symposium

During the April 11th 2009 meeting, we will conduct our fifth annual CAW Mini-symposium. We have members with a lot of experience and skills. This is your chance to share your knowledge with the club. Demonstrators are needed for the symposium if it is going to be interesting and a success as it has been in prior years. This year's symposium is an ideal opportunity for you to share your skills, to gain additional experience from being a demonstrator and to show your fellow turners a project or technique. Demonstration slots will be 90 minutes in duration. If you have a demonstration in mind, or want to discuss possibilities, please contact Mark Wollschlager, Program Director (markwoll@his.com 703-329-6305), or any board member to express your interest and your demonstration topic.



Flashback to NOV.
A group photo of some of the CAW members at November's Virginia Woodturning Symposium in Fishersville, VA.

Monthly Meeting Information - Bryant Adult Education Center 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, VA

Map with driving directions here: www.fcps.edu/maps/bryant.htm

Directions: From VA or MD, take I495/I95 towards the Wilson Bridge over the Potomac River. Take Exit 177A (Rt. 1 South) on the VA side. Approximately 1.9 miles south, you will pass the Beacon mall complex with Lowe's on your right. Drive past the main entrance to Beacon mall, go 4 more stop lights (about 1/2 mile.) The 4th stop light is Popkins Lane. Turn left and go two blocks. Bryant Center entry is on the right. Drive to the East side of the building. Parking is on the side or in the rear of the building. The entrance to the wood working shop and meeting rooms are off the back corner of the east side of Bryant Center. Meeting schedule info on last page.



Letters & Email From Our Members & Editor (Christine Zender)

This is my first newsletter as Editor and I'm very excited to be given the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I have some ideas of change (a new format being one of those changes) for the newsletter and will always welcome thoughts or suggestions from our woodturning members. I'm only one person, and typically, there are lots of good ideas out there but they haven't been heard. So I'm all ears! (xine-z@runbox.com)

A bit about myself.... I started woodturning in October 2007 when I saw a woodturner on a mini-lathe making a variety of objects at a craft fair. I remember being mesmerized by what he was doing and talked with him for about an hour about woodturning. He told me about CAW and that night, I looked it up online and I've been hooked ever since. I've taken a couple of [Adult Ed classes in Fairfax County Public Schools](#) (look under "Fine Crafts" for the Woodturning classes) with [Aaron Grebeldinger](#) and [Drew Mitchum](#) and learned quite a bit from them. I highly recommend these classes even if you've been woodturning for awhile. Your skills will improve after attending one of their classes and the projects are always fun.

So now, I've gone into debt buying all the necessities of the craft. I do believe I now have most everything I need. Mind you, I said "need" and not want. I still have a 'wish list' and am working on that. I really enjoy woodturning and am primarily doing bowls. I have done a few other things; pens, a box, platter, ornaments, and 3-legged stool. But I really like doing bowls at the moment and want to perfect that before I move on to another project. Currently, with the bowls, I'm learning on how to reduce the tear out on the end grain portions of the bowls with a scraper and bowl gouge.

I'll now share a few personal items with you on myself. I live in Fairfax, VA and have lived in NOVA since 1991. I moved here from Tampa, Florida. I have 3 brothers and one sister....the 3 brothers living in this area as well. My sister is in Iowa. I've worked for Fairfax County Public Schools in their IT department since 1998 and really enjoy it. I run 2-3 times a week covering about 2 miles each run. Nothing major....just enough to keep my weight in check. I was in the US Air Force for 4 years living in Okinawa, Japan and Altus, Oklahoma during my tour. I was a crew chief on KC-135 air refueling tankers. I was fortunate in that I traveled quite a bit during my tour.

I'm also fortunate in that I found a great club to be part of and have to comment on how kind everyone is. I look forward to many years of turning and club events!

PS. Sadly, I will not be at the January meeting as I will be in Florida visiting my parents. They live in Leesburg, Florida (near Orlando) and it just so happens the Florida Woodturning Symposium is scheduled for Jan 9 - 11 and about 20 miles from my Dad's place. I will be taking my Dad to the symposium on Jan. 10th as he is fascinated by my new woodturning hobby.

Interesting Tidbits

Plant trees on special occasions; birth, marriage, death, anniversary, graduation, etc.

State Trees

Washington, DC - Scarlet oak; Maryland - White oak; Virginia - Flowering dogwood

Random Thought - Having a smoking section in a restaurant is a little like having a peeing section in a pool.

In 1860, Benjamin Franklin Sturtevant invented a machine to automate the manufacture of the wooden pegs used in shoemaking. He also invented the first exhaust fan that he installed in his Boston shop when the fine wood dust from his woodturner disturbed his employees.



A Letter Of Thanks From Joe Clark

I want to thank the club for giving me the grant to further my wood turning skills this last summer. I went to Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, TN for a 5 day class with David Ellsworth.

In addition to being a first class person, David is an excellent teacher. He was always available to help figure out how to "see" the cut, discover a better way to hold the tool for the desired effect and finding a more efficient method to remove the wood. His favorite tool is the 5/8" gouge with his signature grind and in his hands, it does about everything.

The most important aspect of the week was to be able to turn 10 – 12 hours a day, having an unlimited supply of freshly cut blanks to be able to practice, practice, practice. I was encouraged to push the envelop, get a better rim or foot, try for a thinner wall or better transition in the inside at the base and the wall of the bowl. Changing the bevel angle on the gouge (a second gouge I had brought) to more of a 70 degree angle helped to work the bottom of the bowl.

When the time came for hollow turning, Ellsworth has this strange piece of welding rod he uses for measuring the wall thickness, while it took some getting used to, it did work for the most part. I rather imagine it was more my being confident of my cuts than the rod itself. After a few "early exits", I was able to get a fairly smooth inside.

What I learned to do most of all in the hollow turning was to listen to the sound of the cut being made, feel the inside ridges of the cuts, work on just the right "touch" to know where I was on the inside and to have patience, especially in working down the "nib" on the center of the bottom. It is really turning blind, closing your eyes and visualizing where you are on the inside of the bowl. That's where turning 10 hrs a day helped.

Arrowmont is a beautiful place and the wood turning shop is remarkable in its comfort. There is an exhibit of various artists which can and should be an inspiration to all who enter. The machines are the best quality, well maintained and the room was air conditioned! We had ten people in our class (there were still 5 machines not being used.) The class size was just right, a good mix of experienced turners and ones just beginning. The man on the lathe next to me was 82 years old, a retired boat captain from Florida and at his first class ever. By Thursday, he was beginning to get comfortable and do a bowl!

Two things which stand out for me in this experience: first, I decided on the way down I didn't care what I brought home to show for a week's effort. I wanted to learn the "how" of turning. In fact, I probably blew more bowls than anyone else but I'll also wager I learned more too. Some of the students turned to bring something home to their spouses. I brought home one half way decent hollow form and a box full of pieces and forms with holes in them. I saved them because they teach me something.

Second, the most important thing I learned was to have participated in the CAW skill enhancement sessions the first 6 months of the year. That brought me to a place where Ellsworth's teaching could be much more helpful. And the help I get from our own CAW instructors I now realize is as good as it gets. For that, I am grateful and appreciate those guys in a whole new way. Thanks to CAW for the grant!

Woodturner's Ball Featured (Mystery) Woodturner (Richard Allen)



The Woodturner's Ball was terrific but still most club members missed the event. I counted less than 40 woodturners at the party. This is a terrific social opportunity for every member of CAW. This is also an opportunity for spouses to find out how other spouses deal with the dust, wood shavings and piles of woodturnings their loved one presents.

There were two opportunities for woodturners to express themselves. One was the ornament contest. There was a nice variety this year and there were 8 entries (three won prizes!). The "grab bag/swap table" had 20 entries and they were all treasures. There were 3 winners in this category as well. Color decoration won the day. I spoke with someone and he indicated that he usually ended up with something that he considered to be of less value than what he had brought to the event. My experience is just the opposite. I always bring and walk away with a treasure. I inspected

all of the pieces on the table and every piece looked like a treasure to me.

One piece in particular attracted my attention. A small natural edge limb vase. I tried to find the maker of the object without success. I guess you know who you are and perhaps you will offer some insights about the piece. What I liked first was the form. For me that form works in most any size. It is an elongated ogee shape which showed a lot of lift. That shape is difficult for me to produce without a lot of tear-out, especially on the underside of the rim. I detected no tear-out.

The rim was a natural edge which by its rough nature is "protective". That "protective" edge gave way to an inviting slope into the vase. Perhaps it was the way that the "protective" edge could be looked beyond which helped make the form so inviting. If the natural edge were higher the opposition between the natural edge and the slope of the rim would have caused conflict. But the natural edge came across more like the frontier for the vase. As if disconnected from the vase yet a boundary for the vase. Yes I know that is all getting way too "touchy feely". Still those are some of the things I think about when I am going about the business of turning wood. I am usually concerned with how the object I am making will impact the person experiencing it. I evaluate most turned objects in that way. Some provide a cohesive story for me and some have a lot of conflict. This doesn't mean that the maker had these things in mind. For me, this sort of evaluation let me better evaluate my intentions when I turn wood.

When looking inside, the biggest impact on me was the strength of the growth rings. The pith was off to one side and came out near the bottom. My eye was drawn to the bottom of the vase when looking in. The color also shifted from the sapwood to the heartwood as my eye was drawn inside. From the outside the foot of the vase lifted the vase up to the flared rim. So on the inside I was drawn in and from the outside my gaze drifted up to the rim. This made for a very successful form.

Some of the things I wondered about:

The pith. Cracks start at the pith. Because the pith was located at the edge of the bottom there might be enough room for the pith to move without forming a crack.

The natural edge. I wonder how secure that edge will be. I wonder if glue was added to help maintain the edge.

Thickness. I wondered why the vase was so thick. If the vase had been scaled up to 10" that proportional thickness might have looked "clunky". This isn't a requirement but in this case a more delicate wall thickness might have balanced the overall form of the vase.

So while I didn't get a chance to talk to the maker of this wonderful object I have several observations which will impact my future woodturnings. *(At the time of printing, it was discovered Harriet Maloney made this natural edge bowl.)*

CAW Feature Article

The Negative Rake Scraper (NRS)

A reprint of an original article from the October 2004 newsletter of Woodturner's of Southwest Missouri woodturning club by Andrew Hilton. Reprinted with permission from Andrew Hilton.

by Andrew Hilton - Hilton Handcraft of the Ozarks (www.HiltonHandcraft.com)

You may have seen a new tool being used and discussed lately by some professional woodturners. This isn't too surprising as many pros will create or adapt tools to their particular turning needs. But, this one has actually been used for many years in one form or another by both the professional and the beginner. Instrument makers (flutes, etc.) have used these tools for centuries! The beginner just hasn't likely realized what they've been using and how best to exploit this tool's best features.

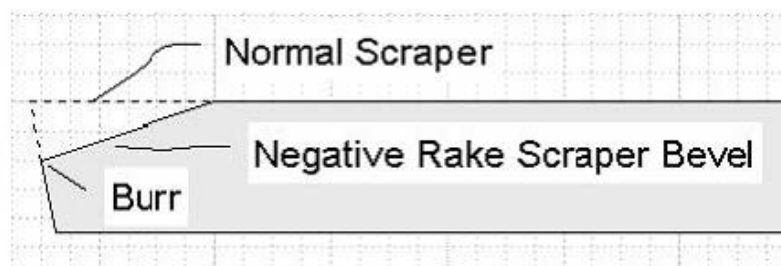
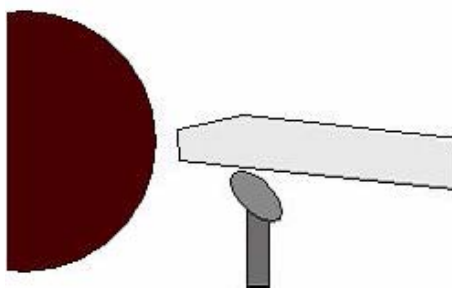
A turner will take their skew, parting tool or bedan and use it as a scraper. We've all done it at one time or another. Some of us do it far more than we'd like to admit as well. Ha! They've actually been using a NRS tool. They need some minor modifications to really rank as a NRS though. See these three pictures for 2 versions. The basic design of a NRS is a scraper with an additional bevel on top of the tool where it's normally flat. This gives that negative rake. The burr is still necessary and it's formed at the juncture of the two bevels as you'd expect.

So, what's the big deal? The idea of NRS's is to slightly ride the bevel (the lower, smaller bevel) just as in a gouge but the "flute" of these tools is extremely small.... the height of the burr you raise on the end. With a reduced "flute" size as compared to a gouge, you get only so much bite or cut into the wood at any one time thus reducing (not eliminating!) huge catches. Of course, you only get so much bite or cut into the wood and can't really hog out wood like you can on a gouge either.

So, you can adjust the flute size by simply adjusting the burr you form on it. Of course, the burr (your cutting edge and resulting flute) doesn't last long at all and has to be refreshed frequently. Why does this leave a good surface? I think that we all know that we can get an exceptional surface from a scraper as long as we can control it and have an even burr all around the edge. Well, unlike a regular scraper, you're supposed to be riding that bevel under the raised burr of these negative rake scrapers. This gives you control that you don't normally get with a normal scraper. It's more of a gouge in that regard. It's less "catchy" when you have that support under you and doesn't want to "bite" into the wood as quickly.

Another reason is that negative rake or the upper bevel on this tool. It allows you to position the cutting end of the tool level or even a little above the handle end while still getting a cutting action on that burr. See the below, left picture. You can't do that with a normal scraper unless you turn it over on its side to get a "shear scrape". But then you run into problems of controlling that angle and tool position.

Give this tool a try. You can make this tool yourself if you can't find one in a catalog. As seen below, right, you can just take a regular scraper and grind a (hollow-ground) bevel on the top of it to make a NRS tool. A slight curve along the top of the tool is usually better than a flat front. It's a nice finishing tool, especially for those very hard, dense exotics!



Meet The Turner - Bob Horowitz



How long have you been actively turning?

About 4 years; the last 2 as almost a full-time job, as I now have a small business selling my creations. My business name is "Bob The Woodturner" (which I created long before Joe the Plumber) and my website is www.bobthewoodturner.com.

How much time do you spend in the shop turning?

When I first started, I spent a few hours a week. Now, I often turn up to 6 hours a day

What do you typically like to work on?

Natural edge bowls are my favorite, although I like doing different things. Since I sell at craft fairs, I need variety in different price ranges.

What is your most memorable moment in woodturning?

Making my first platter in class at Fairfax adult education, but forgetting it needed a foot! Aaron bailed me out at that time. Now, when I don't have a foot on a piece, it's because I did not intend one.

If you had to choose a favorite piece you've made, what would it be, and why?

I love making natural edge bowls (forms) from the crotch of a tree. The figuring is usually incredible and beautiful to look at. But these are challenging pieces to turn (I call them knuckle busters).

What is the largest and smallest pieces you have made?

My largest piece is a 17" diameter salad bowl; smallest are my bottle stoppers and toothpick holders (in other words, I am not yet doing micro work).

Have you entered any competitions, shows or exhibits? If yes, can you give us some details?

I have not yet entered any competitions (that's something I want to do), but I have been accepted to, and sold at, several indoor craft shows in the area. I am also a juried member of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild.

What is your favorite wood to work with? Least favorite? Why?

I like working with reclaimed wood from neighborhood streets; it's environmentally friendly and inexpensive. I prefer rough turning green wood such as maple, cherry and walnut, then using the quick cure process (water/dish liquid), and then finish turning the piece. For my small, decorative pieces such as bottle stoppers, I prefer the exotic woods.

For someone that is considering woodturning as a hobby, what advice would you give them?

Buy no equipment, first take a course from adult education, such as Fairfax County, to make sure you like it, then when you are hooked, spend like crazy. I also would first talk to CAW members and other woodturners about what equipment they like before you buy. For example, do you buy a mini-lathe to start, or invest in a larger lathe, since most of us outgrow the mini lathe quite fast.

Is there anything you've never tried to turn?

I don't turn pens; not sure I will until I'm too old to lift larger pieces of wood onto the lathe.

What lathe are you using in your shop? Can you tell us your likes/dislikes about your lathe?

I use a Powermatic 3520B and I have no dislike about it. For the price, it's a lot of lathe. And Powermatic has been very good about correcting any problems (such as my inverter quit on me; they sent a repair person to my shop to replace it).

Meet The Turner - Bob Horowitz (Continued)

(I also have a Jet mini lathe (variable speed, which I highly recommend).)

Tell us about your workshop.

I converted my son's old bedroom in my basement to a shop. In addition to my lathe, I have a band saw, sharpening system, workbench, finishing table, vacuum system and air cleaner. Even with the vacuum, I still produce a fair amount of dust, but it seems to stay contained mostly to that room. I love the convenience of simply walking downstairs to work.



What are your favorite turning tools? Why?

I don't have a favorite; I like whatever is right for the job. I probably use my bowl gouge the most.

Where are you from originally? Where do you currently live?

I grew up in Fall River, Mass, went college in New Hampshire and law school in Florida. Then my wife and I migrated to the DC area for my work with the U.S. Coast Guard. We currently live in Falls Church.

What else do you like to do aside from woodturning?

Gardening, although woodturning has consumed most of my time of late.

What is your occupation / past occupation?

I was a lawyer for the Coast Guard, then Chief Financial Officer (please spare the lawyer/accounting jokes) until I retired from the government in 2006. Rather than going to work at another high-pressure job, I decided to do woodturning full time, and now do it as a small (very small) business. I just completed my first full-schedule craft show season and had a great time.

Tell us something we don't know about you?

I was a math major in college and took physics as well, but I still can't figure out why most natural edge bowls look oblong rather than round at the natural edge.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

The CAW has been a great source of knowledge for me. I especially would like to thank all the "old-timers" who answer my questions, provide advice and don't laugh too hard at show and tell.



January 2009

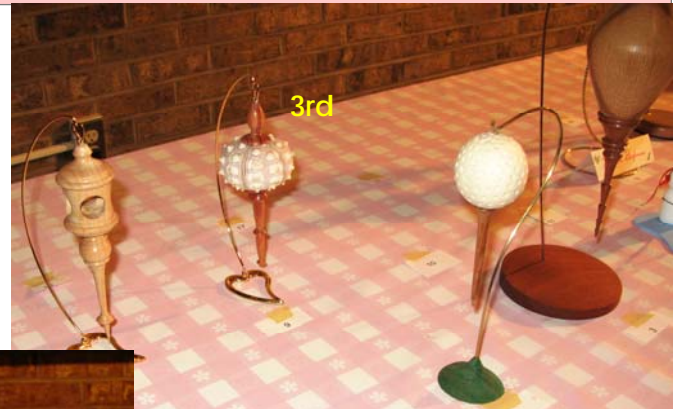
CAW's Woodturner's Ball

The voluntary (free of charge) performance by several members of the McLean Youth Orchestra during our CAW ball was nothing short of exceptional. As a form of more than deserved payback I would like to solicit CAW members to donate a turned item for use in their Spring-time fund raising auction. Please contact Frank Stepanski at any CAW meeting, items must be turned over to by 1 March 2009. Thanks!!



CAW's Woodturner's Ball - Ornament Contest & Gift Exchange

The ornament contest had some wonderful entries. The members who placed are Al Melanson, 1st place, Priscilla Glasgow, 2nd place, and Harriet Maloney, 3rd place. Prizes were nicely figured pieces of various types of wood. A big thank you to everyone who participated.



The concept of the gift exchange is that anyone who wishes can bring an item that is judged for a prize. At the end of the evening, everyone picks a number from a bowl and you get to take whatever piece matches the number. The winners this year were Ed Karch, 1st place; Al Melanson, 2nd place, and Tom Boley, 3rd place.



CAW Announcements

CAW Mentoring Program

Do you want help with a specific project or improve your general woodturning skills? Then the CAW mentoring program is for you. You can contact Rob Stroman, at rj@2sand.com for an explanation of the process or assistance in finding a mentor in your area. Current list of mentors:

- Al Melanson, Fairfax, VA, almelanson@msn.com - Basic Turning and Bowls
- Joyce Beene, Fairfax, VA, joyce.beene@gmail.com - Woodburning
- Phil Brown, Bethesda, MD, phillfbrown@comcast.net - Bowls
- Ed Karch, Chantilly, VA, ekarch@karch.com - Any Woodturning

CAW New Members!

Welcome! We are happy you've chosen to contribute your talents to our club. We look forward to the contributions you will make and the pieces you will bring in to Show & Tell. Your participation will add to our mutual love of woodturning and to our collective knowledge and skill. Membership in the CAW Chapter is open to anyone interested in the art and craft of woodturning.

-No new members this month.

Don't forget, the 2009 CAW annual dues of \$25 are due. See Phil Mannino to give him your check.

We want to hear from you!

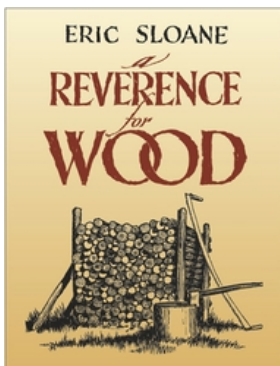
Your comments and articles are welcome for the next newsletter. Please submit by the 15th of the month for the next newsletter. Email or contact Christine Zender. Contact info on last page.

Become A Member Of CAW Today!
CAW Application

<http://www.capwoodturners.org/cawa.htm>

Books-O-Wood

A Reverence For Wood - by Eric Sloane



This refreshing and delightfully written book underscores the important role that wood has played in the development of American life and culture. Charmingly illustrated with author Eric Sloane's own sketches, the text illuminates with rare insight the enormously varied and useful qualities of wood.

Covering such topics as the aesthetics of wood, wooden implements, and carpentry, Sloane remarks expansively and with affection on the resourcefulness of early Americans in their use of this precious commodity. From cradle to coffin, the pioneer was surrounded by wood. It was used to make tools, fence the land, and build barns. People sat at wooden tables on wooden chairs and ate from wooden dishes. Charcoal, one of the many by-products of wood, was used to preserve meat, remove offensive odors, and produce ink. The bark of various trees was processed to make medicine. This book is out of print but can be found on Amazon.com, eBay or AbeBooks.com.

Vendors & Classifieds



C.A. Savoy places orders throughout the month. Check your catalog or website at: www.oneway.on.ca. Email your order to **C.A. at cadjsavoy@cox.net**. C.A. makes every attempt to have your order within one week. Items can be picked up at Bryant Center on the 2nd Wednesday or last Tuesday during the Skill Enhancement workshops, at the monthly meetings or by special arrangement. C.A. can also ship your order to you. Payment is due upon receipt of your order. **CAW Oneway Sale for January: 20% off most products except lathes. Plus shipping.** Will provide quote upon request. Happy and safe turning!!



2Sand.com is a Maryland-based coated abrasive specialist serving woodworking and woodturning workshops, founded on the principles of fast service, fair prices and superior products. We carry sanding discs, sandpaper sheets and woodturning tools, and we can ship them to you today. If we offer a product on our web site then we have it in stock and ready to ship. R.J. Stroman, a CAW member, operates 2sand.com. Contact **Rob at RJ@2Sand.com** or (800) 516-7621 or visit their website at: www.2sand.com

Penn State Industries



The holiday season is fast approaching. Whether making gifts for your family or items to sell in craft shows, its time to get your order in for Penn State pen or project kits. Check out the new Penn State website at www.pennstateind.com and email **Amy Rothberg at amy@landingcrafts.com** with your orders or questions. Also note that Amy is a Teknatool dealer of Nova and Super Nova chucks and accessories.



CAW Classifieds

Do you have a woodturning item for sale, trade or free to a good home? Is there something you need? Email Christine Zender to get your classified entered, xine-z@runbox.com.

Send me your photos, drawings, stories, articles, etc. Do you see George Washington's face in a bowl blank? What about a burl in the shape of Alaska? If so, send me a photo with your story. Who knows, it could make you rich. Do you have a funny story or anecdote you want to share with the club? A woodturning joke? Send to Christine at xine-z@runbox.com



CAW 2009 Officer Roster

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Club Support Volunteers

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Don Kelley, Show and Tell Photos
Richard Chilcot, Video Library
Aaron Grebeldinger, Education Outreach
George Salinas, Bryant Display Window
Jonathan Hess, Walter Fink, Raffle/Auction
Mike DeWan, Raffle/Auction
Bob Pezold, CAW Clothing
R. J. Stroman, Mentor Program
Priscilla Glasgow, Group Buys

Dates To Remember - January

10th —**Monthly CAW Meeting** At Bryant HS (8:30 - 3pm)

14 & 27— **Skill Enhancement Workshop** At Bryant Adult Learning Center (9-3pm; 5\$ fee if using any tools (Lathe, band saw, drill press, etc.) Must be AAW member to use any tools. Watching is free.

Skill Enhancement Point Of Contacts

C.A. Savoy: cadjsavoy@cox.net

Don Johnson: dripapaw@aol.com

Al Melanson: almelanson@msn.com

Patrick O'Brien: ohbewood@comcast.net

Alan Becker: alan-becker@comcast.net

Please contact C.A. Savoy if you would like to reserve a specific lathe for skill enhancement.

2009 Schedule

January 10	"U Turn"	July 11	Terry Scott
February 14	Wayne Dunlap	August 8	J. Paul Fennell
March 14	Walt Bennett - Oval turning	September 12	TBA
April 11	CAW Symposium	October 10	TBA
May 9	Barbara Dill	November 14	TBA
June 13	CAW Picnic	December 12	Woodturners Ball

If your contact information changes, including your email or mailing address, please contact Phil Mannino at phileman@cox.net.



Monthly Meeting Details For January 10, 2009

8:30 am - Set up for the demo. Look over the For Sale items. Have a cup of coffee and donut with your fellow turners. Discuss the "show & tell" items or rent a video. Talk tips and techniques with other members.

9:00 am - "Show & Tell." Photos of items will be taken for the next CAW newsletter. The tape/DVD library will be open (except during business meetings and demonstrations.)

9:30 am - The business meeting.

10:00 am 12:00 noon - Your Turn! Lathe stations will be available for turning.

1:00 - 3:30 pm - Your Turn Continues

3:30 - 4:00pm - Clean Up



Christine Zender, Editor
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