



# South Central PA WoodTurners

## February 2012

### President

Don Wilson  
(717) 741-1226  
wilson.don@verizon.net

### Vice-President

Tom Deneen  
(717) 927-9004  
Tomdeneen  
@emailaccount.com

### Treasurer

John Stewart  
(717) 757-2212  
JRWS3088@aol.com

### Secretary

Carol Woodbury

### Newsletter

Bryan Sword  
(717) 225 6807  
bryansword@gmail.com

### Club Web Site

www.PAwoodturners.com

### Dates to Note

**March 6**  
**Club Meeting - Jacobus**  
Metal Turning w/  
Barry Stump

**March, 10 & 11**  
Mark Supik Classes  
410 732 8414 Baltimore

**Totally Turning**  
March 31 April 1  
Saratoga Springs, NY

**May 23**  
Full Day Club Demo  
Beth Ireland



### Thoughts from the President Don Wilson

So much wood and so little time. If you are willing to turn green wood there is an abundance around us. Green wood turns easier than dry wood and doesn't make the dust. Green wood is usually free for the taking. Even the PA Dept of Transportation lets it lay along the road side for the taking when they are clearing the right of way. Green wood is a great way to sharpen your turning skills and learn new skills without the cost associated with kiln dried wood. I was told by a saw mill operator that "you turners are a cheap lot because you can make something out of almost anything and you won't pay much for wood." I thought about it for a few seconds and had to agree with him.

We don't always turn wood. Come to the March meeting and watch metal being formed on a wood lathe. Did you know that you can actually turn brass, aluminum and copper on your lathe using the tools that you have? Spinning metal allows you to make complimentary pieces to your wood turning.

The **burl wood challenge** is going to be interesting for all who participate. Just because a burl is a burl does not mean it is an easy piece to create an outstanding turning. I hope you take time and visualize the chunk of wood in different positions to try to make a mental image of what it will become. That is the interesting part of wood turning. "The wood talks to me and tells me what it should be" is a comment that many wood turners make. A lot of us have wood that sits around for years before it talks to us. But the challenge has a time constraint set for the May meeting.

Safe and happy turning  
Don

### February Meeting Minutes

By Carol Woodbury (Thank You Carol!)

President Don Wilson presiding.

### Guests

Guests introduced themselves: Terry Frantz, Clark Bixler, Dorothy and Paul Kerst, Jack and Kirk Kapp, and old member Tom Hagarman.

### Announcements

#### New Microphones



Don is using our new sound system with wireless mics. Everyone appreciated the absence of squealing feedback.

### Member Makes the AAW Journal

Bryan Sword appears in a photo on page 27 of the Feb, 2012 *AAW Journal*. (Bryan says he was about to offer advice, but Richard Raffan handled it. (However, he says "Now that I have made the Journal, one item on my "bucket list" can be crossed off!" Bryan is also offering to autograph anyone's *Journal* for no charge.)



### AAW Vote needed

AAW requests we vote so that they can keep their non-profit status as a 501 C 3. Now that the headquarters has moved from Texas to Minnesota.

### AAW Fundamentals

There is a new section on the AAW website called Fundamentals of Turning. You must sign up to receive it bimonthly. It should be good for both beginners as well as advanced turners wanting a refresher.

### CA Glue Available

There is a new order of CA glue available for sale/distribution.

### Full Day Club Demo

Beth Ireland will give a full day demonstration Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> on "Turning a Bandsaw Box" and "How to be creative without going to Art School".

Don will open the session to other clubs as well. Lunch will be available.

### Wood Allergies

Wood allergies were discussed. Cryptomeria (monotypic genus of conifer in the cypress family) and Western Red Cedar have properties that Don is allergic to. This is of particular concern with some of the exotic woods and we should all be aware of the possibilities of allergic reactions.

### Burl Turning Challenge

Take a piece of maple burl from Jon Amos' box to create a piece by the May meeting. Don demonstrated how burl grows from a central point, a "nidus", and expands. So you want to position the burl sideways to cut into the end grain for the interior hollow. Phil and Don recommend taking your time to study the wood from all angles over a period of time before deciding how to approach the project. If you are turning green burl, it's important to continue turning until completed so it doesn't crack. In fact, it helps to seal it occasionally, as the little burls are inclined to separate if you don't.

**Tips and Tricks** John Stewart reminded everyone to keep a fire extinguisher in the workshop.



Within seconds the seam was tight enough to place the base end into the chuck again. Don wasn't pleased with the shape of the vase so he modified the top at this point. Then using the flute of his spindle gouge at about 2:00 and leaning back to the left, he now hollowed down to where the drilled hole and bulbous space met. This positioning allowed him to get deeper and make a nice cut, so he didn't have to do a lot of sanding.



### **Tricks and Tips and Questions**

- \*Don says "hollowing" the bulbous end and leaving just the small drill hole connecting to the top part creates the illusion of consistently thin vessel walls !
- \*When parting, Don makes several stepped cuts.
- \*He sometimes uses a 2" sanding disk to smooth the bottom.
- \*The plug and wall should be approximately the same thickness.
- \*To make a piece look pleasing, there should be no square corners.
- \*Cedar has resin, therefore if you put varnish over it, it will look great for about 9 months – then begin to look awful. So use an oil like Danish oil. Pour it in and roll it around and pour it out several times. Cedar soaks up a lot of oil finish. Two to three coats over 2 to 3 days are best.
- \*This demo piece has relatively thick walls. Don would make for a really special product wall about 3/16" – 1/8" thin.

### **HOW TO MAKE A HOLLOW FORM CHEAPLY WITHOUT SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT** or: "How The Old Guys Did It"

by Carol Woodbury (Great summary)



Don Wilson began his demonstration with a preformed vase-shape of cedar. Using his skew, he made a cut at the bottom end. Then, oddly, he first drilled a hole



with a long bit in the top end, removing it frequently to clear the chips. He then reversed the blank in the chuck and took off the large bottom end and reserved it for later.



Cutting with the end-grain from the outside in so as to not pull the piece away from the chuck, he hollowed the bulbous end of the blank. His tool was held against the wood with the left wing and he rolled it a bit as he cut across. We all noted the chatter that occurred when the long tool got too far beyond the

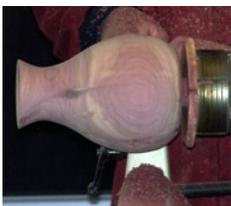
tool rest.

Finally he met the previously drilled hole. Using the flat of a skew, the opening was flattened in preparation for plugging it with the previously parted and reserved chunk of



base.

Then, matching the grains and adjusting the opening slightly, the plug was inserted and glued with medium CA glue and an accelerator applied. [Even our venerable president had to admit he should have first marked the grain before parting the pieces]



The "old guys"(above, but not paying attention) would be proud, Don.



Thank you for sharing.  
Artist, Skilled Craftsman and Teacher

***And good luck on the replacement of the replacement hip!***  
*Don has to go back in the repair shop for new parts!*

## Jerry Kermode Quickie Clinic

By Bryan Sword



Mike Carnes and I took advantage of a short clinic offered at Mark Supik's Shop in Baltimore. Where for the modest price of \$10 for 2 hours (including a shop tour and home made cookies) about 40 or so Baltimore area club turners and we two SCPWT members shared the art of nonviolent woodturning as presented by Jerry Kermode, artist, skilled craftsman and teacher. He was in Baltimore for the American Craft Council Show and will be at the Germantown Friends School craft show in Philadelphia March 2- March 4.

Jerry is quick, funny and full of tips and tricks. First thing he demo-ed was a string pull top. The top had a brass point to give it endurance and stability. Plus a groove for a pull string which gives the top tons of speed and long lasting spinning time. Next year- Cabin Fever - \$10 tops., you bet!



Then in setting up his "artsy" type bowl, Jerry first turns using a scraping cut with a bowl gouge between centers. Jerry whipped out the bowl in about 30 or so minutes to the point where it was almost translucent. Jerry always has a pedestal style foot on his bowls to "set them up" for display. He says he stores his bowls for a year to dry before final finishing at which point he sands to 1200 grit. His uses a wax and oil finish.



The most interesting trick was the insertion of a "stitch" in the bowl. Assuming you had a crack that needed reinforcing (which almost all my bowls need) and you own a plate joiner, you can insert a "stitch" in the crack to hold it together. Jerry just holds the joiner over the



crack and uses the plate joiner to make the cut. He then inserts a wood biscuit (he custom makes his) using CA glue. Then carefully with a hand chisel, he shaves away the excess protruding biscuit, then sands the biscuit until it is flush. Looks good and is stronger than just glue alone.



Jerry had a display of his bowls which he priced from right to left, at about \$380, \$800, \$600 and the small bowl center for \$185.



Picture by Mike Carnes

Mark Supik & Co. shop was

also very interesting. Mark (who gave us a demo last July) gave a tour of his "shop". He was written up in Oct. 2011 issue of the *American Woodturners Journal*. So for a complete overview of his shop, go to the article in the *Journal*. Besides his huge lathes and commercial work, Mark does a great business in beer tap handles for micro breweries. Mark offers all day clinics ranging from beginner basics to special projects.



## Show and Tell

Show & Tell Pictures by Phil Reed, Candid Pictures by Bryan Sword



**Tom Deneen**

2 bowls  
Oak Burl



**Don Wilson**

Hollow form  
with finial  
Spalted Sycamore



Nuts and bolts  
Cocobolo, Japanese yew



**Lloyd Shelleman**

Bowl  
Dogwood



**Donald Titus**  
Pepper mills  
Cherry, Walnut



Mulberry bowls



**Gene Jackman**

Vase  
Spalted  
Norway Maple



**More Show and Tell**



**Barry Stump**

Cherry Burl vase



Dyed Maple bowl



**Charlie Stuhre**

Teacher's pen  
Burmese Rose  
& Osage Orange



Classic Elegant Pen



**Joyce McCormick**



Curly Maple shaving set  
Pendant for necklace  
Paduk Exacto knife holder



**John Stewart**

Bowls  
Maple Burl  
&  
Sycamore



Gary Vreeland  
Small Bowls - Cherry, Oak, Cedar



**Things For Sale**



**Craftsman Rally  
Steel Tool Box**

Lightly used  
4 lockable drawers  
2 keys  
20.5"L x 8.5"W x 14.25" H  
Some scratches. No dents.  
Keep your tools safe & with  
you at all times.



New was \$75 at Sears  
**But Now Only**

**\$35!!!**

Contact Bryan Sword @ meeting. (717 225 6807)

**Olive Wood**



I have a wood turner friend in California who has harvested a 100+ year old abandoned olive grove. The wood from these trees has spectacular grain and patterns.

I have done several turnings with this wood, including my one and only hollow form. Even though the wood was harvested over the last 8 years, it still turns easily and you can smell the olive oil in the wood as you turn.



I have told my friend that I would get his web-site in the newsletter, so here it is!

[www.olivewoodcreations.com](http://www.olivewoodcreations.com)

These samples represent hillside-growth wood, 100 years old.



The operation of the selling of the wood is run by Pam. They will ship in flat rate postal boxes to keep the costs of freight down. It sells for \$10/lb. Check out the site and contact Pam.

I will answer any questions that I can, but this is about what I know.

Bryan Sword