

GAW Newsletter — January 2011

Inside This Issue

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Reminders, Items of Interest</i>	2
<i>Tips & Hints</i>	4
<i>Demonstrations, Events</i>	4
<i>December Social Photos</i>	4
<i>Video Tape Library</i>	6
<i>Woodturning Instructors</i>	6
<i>Woodturning Schools</i>	6
<i>Contact Information</i>	7

Points of Interest

- *2010 Year in Review—p.2*
- *Empty Bowls Program—p.3*
- *Upcoming Demonstrators—p.4*
- *December Social—p.4*

President's Message

Happy new year to all of our members and their families! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and fulfilling holiday season and that everyone has come through the snow and ice without injury to themselves, their family members or their vehicles!

Last fall club members completed a survey in which they indicated the topics they would most like to see as well as their personal woodturning interests. Ron Britton and I reviewed the survey responses and set the goal of addressing as many of the popular topics as we could in 2011, starting with those receiving the highest number of votes.

Two of the top items were "methods for preserving freshly cut green wood to prevent cracking" and "drying a green wood turning to prevent cracks from occurring." So, Ron has scheduled this topic for our January meeting. To give our members as wide a perspective as possible, we've brought four of our members together and each will be given time to discuss their techniques. We will then close out the evening with a question and answer session.

The presenters will be Wes Jones, Frank Bowers, Mark Sillay and Steve Pritchard. Here is a little information about each:

Wes Jones has been a woodturner for over 35 years. Wes retired in 2001 and now works full-time as a woodturning artist specializing in large decorative pieces, such as

bowls, hollow forms, and vases. He is most well known for his large hollow form creations made from native trees.

Wes' work is extremely varied. To enhance the grain of his turned pieces, he often uses pyrography, carving, colored dyes, or the inclusion of other materials such as glass or metals.

Frank Bowers has been turning since 1992 when he attended a pen turning demonstration at the Atlanta Shopsmith store. One demonstration and he was hooked. Frank says that he's taken hands on classes from every woodturner that passed through Atlanta in the 90's.

Frank loves teaching as much as he loves turning and has taught over 800 classes at Highland over the years. One of his specialties is natural edged bowls, which are turned from green wood.

Mark Sillay enjoys recycling native Georgia woods. He maintains a large supply in a warehouse in the form of logs, burls, bowl blanks and cut blocks. Also located in the warehouse building is his woodturning studio and instruction room.

Mark loves using the lathe to transform recycled woods into useful items and artistic objects and he finds satisfaction in both the creative process and in overcoming the challenges to complete fine quality finished work.

President's Message—Cont.

Steve Pritchard has been drawn to work with wood throughout his life. In 2000, he found woodturning and has become addicted to it as a medium for expression. He finds few things in life more enjoyable and satisfying than seeing the personality emerge from a large lump of wet wood and doing his best to bring out its beauty and character. He believes we need to remember that the tree spent a lifetime developing its unique qualities and we should try to bring out those qualities. While he enjoys creating a variety of turned items and makes his share of bowls, ornaments, bottle stoppers etc.; he particularly enjoys creating hollow forms.

While their techniques and interests may vary widely, all of these woodturners have one thing in common: their work requires the use of "wet" or "green" wood. This should be an interesting and lively discussion. If you have any interest in processing wet wood, plan to be there!

As you know by now, the AAW has selected a new executive director. In case you missed it, Cindy Bowden is a long-time museum administrator and a

leader in the international craft community. She assumed her new duties on January 3, 2011. She has been executive director of the American Museum of Papermaking at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta for the past 17 years. She also is currently president of the World Craft Council North America.

Thanks to Nick Cook, Cindy attended our December meeting. It was probably her introduction to local woodturning club meetings and I'm sure she was positively impressed. She is charming and personable and will make a great addition to the AAW staff.

Elsewhere in the newsletter is an article about the AAW's Empty Bowls project. Please take a look at it. If there is enough interest, the club can collect the bowls and send them on one shipment to save some postage.

That's all for this month. See you at the meeting on the 20th!

Steve Pritchard

Reminders, Items of Interest

2010 - Another Outstanding Year of GAW Activity

Wrapping up our past year at the December Christmas Social opened memories of what an active year this has been and at the same time offered insight at what where we may be moving in the near future. Enjoying the festive occasion were both long standing GAW members and eager new ones. Exchanging turned items gave a glimpse of the talent residing in this club.

We entered 2010 with Alan Lacer, long known for his expertise with the skew, leading hands-on sessions



and a demo capped off with a competition between Alan and our home grown skew "mogul," Nick Cook.

Ron Britton, program chair, worked hard to bring us varied

and entertaining turning demos throughout the year that encouraged turning challenges from differing turning techniques, design, and the use of less com-

mon turning materials such as Banksia pods. We enjoyed the talents of wood artist, Tania Radda, who introduced us to "comp wood," coloring, and surface design that we could apply to our



turning. This fall we learned of the complexity of kaleidoscope construction from Jim Duxbury and the necessity for great accuracy in turning to achieve a functional end result. David Datwyler's demo showed what can come from Banksia pods. These were but a few of the excellent monthly programs we enjoyed.

Several members joined our forward looking board bringing new ideas and changes that have improved the club. The newsletter has been upgraded in several ways including the publishing of instant gallery photos identifying those who shared their turnings with us. Steve Sandler continues to expand the offerings of the DVD/tape library and keep it in good functioning order also. Jane and Danny McCravy hosted a midyear get together at their beautiful home where turning talents and an appetite for BBQ

Reminders, Items of Interest-Cont.

were both highly visible.

Once again, our Unicoi Symposium was a sell out under the dedicated direction of Harvey Meyer and his good wife along with many willing GAW member workers. We marveled at the skill this top level turning talent brought to the symposium again this year, appreciated Tim Ryan's auctioneering abilities that brought in more funds for the scholarship program, to say nothing of the valuable social aspects experienced.

Beyond those people mentioned above have been a goodly number of others that made the year what it was. Under the leadership of our president, Steve Pritchard, the GAW can anticipate that 2011 will be another banner year. Needless to say, it takes the willing effort of many members stepping forward to maintain this continuing progress.

New AAW Executive Director Attends GAW December Social

Joining the festive GAW social this past December was Cindy Bowden and her husband Tom. The AAW sought her out for the position after learning of her long term success as director of the American Museum of Paper Making at Georgia Tech. Upon learning that Cindy was located in Atlanta, Nick Cook contacted Cindy and invited her to be with us. She met many of our folks and asked for their input as to what they would like to see the AAW doing to further woodturning in the artistic community? Both she and her husband appeared to thoroughly enjoy the evening and we were honored and pleased to have the opportunity to get to greet and know her at this early stage of her AAW association.

AAW Return to the Community project

The AAW Return to the Community project this year is "Empty Bowls." Turn a bowl - feed the hungry! It's that simple. We would like to encourage each member that attends to donate a turned bowl for "Empty Bowls." Woodturners could make a huge impact towards feeding the hungry!

As many of you know, Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement to help end hunger. The 2011 AAW Annual Symposium Return to the Community project is Empty Bowls. The goal of Empty Bowls is to raise money to help organizations fight hunger and raise awareness about the issues of hunger and food security.

Many AAW local chapters have participated in the

Empty Bowls project by raising funds and awareness. At the Empty Bowl display in the 2011 AAW symposium Instant Gallery, bowls will be collected and sold, with the proceeds from sales going to Second Harvest to fund food for the hungry. Purchasers will take home a bowl to keep as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. We are asking every AAW member to contribute a bowl to the project. Let us build on past chapter success, celebrating our woodturning community and skills, and turn a bowl to help feed the hungry.

Second Harvest Heartland works to reinvent hunger relief through leadership and innovation. As the Upper Midwest's largest hunger relief organization, they deliver nearly 60 million pounds of food annually to hungry seniors, families and children through 1,000 non-profit member agencies and programs, including food shelves, soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers, faith-based organizations, and children's after-school programs serving 59 counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Second Harvest Heartland's goal is not only to help our hungry neighbors today, but to provide the means for everyone to be fed tomorrow. In addition to delivering tens of millions of pounds of food each year, they're constantly pioneering ways to reduce waste and better use the abundant resources available in this land of plenty. For each \$50 donated, Second Harvest Heartland can distribute more than 180 meals to those in need. For more information, visit <http://www.2harvest.org>.

If you will not be attending the 2011 symposium, please mail or UPS your donated bowls to:

American Association of Woodturners
Attn: Empty Bowls 222 Landmark Center
75 5th St. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

2011 GAW Dues are Due

Your 2011 GAW dues are due in January. They are \$25 for individual and \$30 for family. If you have not already done so, bring a check to the meeting this Thursday, or mail it to Jane McCravy.

If you are an AAW member, 2011 dues were due in December. Remember that there is an "online" membership now that is only \$38. So if you are not a member, that is a lower priced option now available to you.

Tips & Hints

Tip from Roger Sword

I sometimes use thinned / full strength Tightbond II glue as a sanding sealer for my turnings. I've found that it dries clear and doesn't yet yellow the color of the wood when used on light woods as CA does. I use a foam brush to apply the glue. It also raises the grain slightly which allows the final sanding before Beall buffing to really make a difference. At least I think so.

Tips & Hints Requested

If you have a tip that will make turning easier, more fun, safer, or make our pieces turn out better why

not share it. Just send it to me—the newsletter editor at editor@gawoodturner.org

Newsletter input request

We are always soliciting members input (Articles, News items, suggestions, etc.) to make this newsletter better serve GAW members. Woodturning articles, tips, product reviews and any other content that you have to share. Send ideas / content to: editor@gawoodturner.org

Demonstrations, Events

Upcoming GAW Demonstrators:

All meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. See Contact page for location information.

- Jan 20th 2010—The Four Wet Logs—The four will tell how they use green wood. They will each discuss their techniques on how they protect fresh cut wood and also how they protect green wood after they have turned it. They will each have about 15 minutes then we will open it up to the members to ask questions
- Feb 17th 2011—Cliff Lounsbury—Cliff is a nationally recognized professional wood turner from northern Michigan. Cliffs specialties are extensive

carving and alteration of his hollow forms some of which reach 8 ft in height. Cliff is an enthusiastic demonstrator and loves to share his perspective on tooling and design. Cliff's web site is www.riverturnings.com. Demo topic: Turning on the power: Routers and the role they play in turning

AAW 25th Anniversary Symposium

The AAW's 25th anniversary symposium will be held in Saint Paul, MN. There is an outstanding slate of demonstrators and panelists, so if you are a member, please consider attending and make your reservations early.

December Social

December Social Photos

The club had their annual social event in December. Everyone had a good time as evidenced by the photos below. The company and the food were great and the "brown bag" gift exchange was a big hit, as usual. No demonstration was conducted in December.



December Social—Cont.



DVD/Video Tape Library

The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW) has instructional videos available for rental before each GAW meeting. A full list of the videos is shown on our website. Only members may rent tapes and DVDs. Rentals are \$2.00 per month. Rentals are lim-

Take advantage of this valuable and money saving resource.

ited to 2 tapes or DVDs per month, and the items must be returned the following month. Late fees of \$2.00 per month will be assessed for each item not returned on time. New titles are being added every month!

Woodturning Schools

The following schools in the Southeast offer classes in woodturning, as well as other arts and crafts. Check out their websites to see the scheduled course offerings.

John C. Campbell Folk School www.folkschool.org

Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts www.arrowmont.org

Highland Woodworking www.highlandwoodworking.com

Appalachian Center for Crafts www.tntech.edu/craftcenter

Dogwood Institute School of Fine Woodworking www.dogwoodwoodworking.com

Woodturning Instructors

The following GAW club members give private woodturning instruction in their own shops. Contact them for more information.

Frank Bowers
fcbowrs@aol.com
404-292-1107

Phil Colson
pcolson@mindspring.com
404 518-4925
404 292-1107

Nick Cook
nickcook@earthlink.net
www.nickcookwoodturner.com
770 421-1212

Wes Jones
wwjones@comcast.net
770 972-6803

Take your skills to the next level. Have more fun.

Jack Morse
johnmorse@bellsouth.net
770 316-7941

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678 947-4562

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404 556-1736

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478 972-3111

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The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW) is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), dedicated to providing education, information and organization to those interested in woodturning.

The GAW services those in the metro-Atlanta area. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at Highland Woodworking (www.highlandwoodworking.com) in Virginia Highlands. Meetings are open to all. Enter through the loading dock at the rear of the building and go up-stairs. Highland Woodworking closes at 6:00 P.M. on Thursdays, so come early and shop.

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Closing

This newsletter is published monthly by the Georgia Association of Woodturners, (GAW). All opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Officers, or the GAW.

Woodturning Schools and Instructors listed in this Newsletter are not recommended or endorsed by the GAW, but are made available to the GAW members and others as a convenience only.

Your GAW questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. You may contact any officer through the contact information in this newsletter, or our website's contact webpage:
www.gawoodturner.org/contact.shtml