



# Woodturners of St. Louis

**July Meeting:**  
Sunday, July 27  
1-4 PM

Woodcraft Supply  
12511 Olive Street  
Road  
Dierberg Heritage  
Center

## Woodturners of St. Louis Officers President

Fletcher Hartline  
(618) 457-8211  
(618) 457-2286

## Vice-President

Dean Hooks  
(314) 741-0923

## Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Wulfers  
(314) 739-1819

## Corresponding

Secretary  
David Wahl  
(314) 993-4843

## April Meeting Minutes

Gary Johnson reported on two upcoming shows:

University of Arkansas -  
Little Rock  
31 October to 12 December  
1997

This is a juried show...slides must be submitted by 20 June 1997.

The show will contain traditional and non-traditional turnings.

Wharton Esherick,  
7 September to 31 December  
1997

The show is titled #Toying  
With Wood#

This is a juried show...slides must be submitted by 1 July 1997.

Contact Gary for more details.

Ken Schaefer reported on our Joy of Turning symposium to be held 12-14 September 1997. Announcements will be sent out 1 June. The group discussed potential liabilities associated with the hands-on demonstrations and voted to include hands-on sessions in the symposium.

## Turning Tips

Fletcher Hartline noted that superglue can be used to help mask indents. The superglue fills the indent and has the effect of making the defect harder to see. Do not use accelerator as it tends to make the superglue opaque.

Roger Branson mentioned that used to have problems with green wood slipping out of his 3-jaw chuck. He now adds a drop of superglue where each jaw contacts the wood and has had no problems. Loosening the chuck easily breaks the glue bond when your are finished turning.

Fletcher has found it helpful to sharpen the threads of some commercial screw chucks. The sharpened threads go into green wood easier and hold better.

## Drawings

Thanks to Woodcraft for donating prizes!  
Ed Mark won two Sorby beading scrapers. Dixie Smith won a book on Traditional Toys with Turnings. Jim McKenna won a block of Lignum Vitae.

## Finishing Homework

Mario Vitale brought a piece he had finished with a lacquer/oil combination. The piece had a nice satin sheen. Additional coats could be applied if a glossy finish was desired.

Elaine Navarro's beautiful chalice made a return visit. The piece has developed mysterious fingerprints that are underneath the top coat of finish. The real mystery is that the cloudy fingerprints appeared 2-3 weeks after the last coat of finish was applied. Our esteemed group of amateur chemists offered several potential suggestions without any real explanations. The most popular thinking was that oil from the offending fingers had reacted with the finish. No one in the Navarro household accepts responsibility for the fingerprints in question.

Thanks to Roger Branson who brought in several nice pieces of wood for our drawing. The following people have some nice wood to work with:

Ewald Altmann - Japanese Yew  
 Gary Johnson - Pear  
 Richard Hong - Zelkova  
 David Wahl - Zelkova  
 John Buehrer - Japanese Pagoda  
 Hans Neumann - Japanese Pagoda

Sandy Minor - Zelkova  
 Oscar Mueller - Japanese Yew

Herb Bilgram mentioned that his neighbor's cherry tree has recently come down. If you are interested in some cherry wood, call Herb.

Remember to keep practicing your shear scraping.

### Show and Tell

This was a good month with a lot of interesting items.

Richard Hong - several large bowls turned green, dried, and returned

Hans Neumann - cherry salad bowl from air dried wood finished with Deft and mineral oil

Jim Bumberner - segmented bowl of cherry and silver maple with an interesting bottom interior

Elaine Navarro - mall maple boxes, one that exploded and onewith no problems...Elaine notes how important it is to remove bent tools from small openings with great care.

Gary Johnson - small lacewood bowl and a segmented bowl and

base of paela, bloodwood, and maple

Mario Vitale - small bowl of spalted maple and a box of unidentified found wood

Bill Hammann - kids rattle of maple and a hollow Easter egg colored with analine dye

Roger Branson - small bowls

of zelkova and Japanese pagoda  
 Scott McCloughan - segmented lidded bowl with the lid made from the hollow cutout

John Buehrer led a demonstration and discussion on various types and grinds of roughing and spindle gouges. Everyone seems to have developed their own personal preference on tool shape and usage.

Thanks to John for bringing out many different ways to rough and shape spindles.

### May Meeting

#### Show & Tell

At the May 25, 1997 meeting (Memorial Day weekend) Gary Johnson turned a thin walled bowl from pear wood, he said it was the sweetest turning wood he ever used. When he finished turning it the inside looked smooth but once he put the finish on it he could see circular rings on the inside that he could not see before. There appeared to be bruising from the bevel rubbing on the soft fruit wood. Possible solutions were not rubbing the bevel so hard, buffing the heel of the bevel, and using sanding sealer to stiffen the fibers before your final cutting pass with the gouge. Dave Wahl showed three bowls made from olive wood that he picked up while in Rome. Two of the bowls had check marks because they had

been untreated. The olive wood had a slight pinkish cast in the heartwood, but only time will tell if it will change to brown. Dave had a natural edged cherry bowl turned from a fresh cut cherry log that also had bruising rings on the inside from rubbing the bevel. With wet tender wood, the fibers need to be stiffened with a sanding sealer or lacquer, and a light touch on the bevel. Charles Yonk has a nice collection of turned pieces; a small box and a beautiful candlestick made from apricot, and one of his many snowmen that he turns and paints and his wife also helps paint that he microwaves dry. He also had a small walnut fluted dumbbell that he had bleached with Clorox on each end and then finished with clear finger nail polish. At first, the Clorox really lightened the wood but after several days, what was initially white turned to a light brown. Hal Harsin brought a beautiful collection of five mushrooms, four were made from walnut and one from beech. Fletcher Hartline had an ash bowl with two knots and a split in it. Although some splits and knots can be overcome or worked around, sometimes it is best just to throw the thing away and start with a new piece of wood.

### Program

At the May meeting, Elaine Navarro, in teaching us how to

make long stemmed flowers (which some people refer to as long stem goblets) not only revealed her talents as an accomplished woodturner, but also demonstrated how a good instructor plans for and comes prepared for certain inevitable disasters. Elaine came prepared with her flowers or goblets in various stages of completion. She started with a dowel about one and a half inches in diameter and eight inches long in novachuck; but it could also be glued to a block of wood on a face plate. Using the tail stock for initial support, she marked off where the base of the flower/goblet would be, and marked off where the flower would be and then turn the outside of the flower down to about half an inch from the stem would be. She then removed the tail stock and turned the inside of the flower almost all the way down to its base but not quite so that she could again use the tail stock as support in the flower while she turned down the outside of the flower to final shape. She then removed the tail stock to complete and finish the inside of the flower. She made a small bud at the base of the flower for two reasons. One, it looks nice; and two it gives a little more support before the 1/8 inch diameter stem is turned. She turns the stem about 1/4 of an inch at a time. While she was

finishing the inside of the flower, with the tail stock removed, a large bumble bee which flew in the open door of Woodcraft flew over the class and straight toward Elaine startling her, which caused her to slightly jerk her gouge and tear the flower off of its narrow stem. But as a well prepared demonstrator, Elaine had another flower that was already turned completely and about 1/2 inch of the stem turned down to 1/8 of an inch diameter. Unchucking the broken flower that was ruined because of the bumble bee, Elaine chucked up the partially completed flower and continued her demonstration. After working the stem down 1/4 of an inch at a time, Elaine asked Ken Schaefer to demonstrate how he turns stems. Ken took the spindle gouge and reduced the 1 1/2 inch dowel down to a little less than a wooden pencil thickness for its entire 6 inch length. Then with one hand pinching the stem at the base of the flower/goblet, with one hand he used his spindle gouge to trim the stem down to a little over an 1/8 of an inch thick. As an accomplished woodturner, Ken put aside his spindle gouge and showed us a file

that he used to file the stem down to 1/8 of an inch diameter, again while pinching the stem at the base of the flower with one hand. For a completely unknown reason, when the stem was about 5 inches long, it broke, but Ken was also prepared and had an 1/8 inch diameter drill which he drilled into the base and then inserted the stem with super glue and turned a smooth curve into the base so that the joint was not visible. He parted off the bottom and everyone cheered for Elaine and Ken. The bumble bee escaped unharmed.

## **June Meeting Minutes**

### **Dues**

Please send your \$20 local dues to Jim Wulfers immediately.

### **Announcements**

If you have not sent your reservation to attend the St. Louis' Third Annual Joy of Turning Symposium on September 13 and 14, 1997, pop it in the mail or call Dave Skinner at 314/227-2256, to get an application. If you want, just mail to Dave Skinner, 2236 Whitby Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017, \$120 for the two days and \$23 for the banquet on Saturday night (\$143 total). If you want

to attend the "Meet the Demonstrators" on Friday night, September 12 and have a good meal and talk to the demonstrators very casually, it is another \$19.

The 1997 Joy of Turning will have Betty Scarpino doing surface treatment, bleaching, texturing and design; John Jordan demonstrating the deep fluted bowl gouge and hollow vessels and texturing; Michael Hosaluk will demonstrate bowls with flanges, production work and bowls with carved feet and surface design; Johannes Michelsen will demonstrate full-size, mini and micro hats and stands.

### **Show & Tell**

Herb Bilgram showed an egg and four fluted flower holders and two vases that were turned inside-outside. The fluted flower holders were made from cherry, walnut, mahogany and holly and the vases were from maple, walnut, cherry and holly, each with a graceful design. This is Herb's second month doing inside-outside turnings. Dave Wahl who attended Johannes Rieber's class at Arrowmont showed a twelve inch maple bowl and a six inch box elder bowl.

### **Program**

Gary Johnson gave his presentation on how to make

segmented bowls and segmented hollow forms that are reversible, i.e., pleasing to look at with the top up or the top down. Gary had charts, slides and segmented bowls in various stages of completion to assist in demonstrating how to make segmented bowls and hollow forms. In a very clear fashion, Gary led us through the process of design, selection of wood, jigs for cutting the proper angles for each segmented piece, types of glue to use, coloring the glue black, glue fillers, turning and finishing. On gluing the segments together which are endgrain, he uses polyurethane glue like Excell, Probond and G-2. Probond is a little thinner and easier to spread. He likes to finish them with Behlen's Master Gell and Deft, which dries faster than the Master Gell. Gary will give his demonstration at the National Symposium in San Antonio on July 18 - 20 and at the Tennessee Association's Mini Symposium at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, TN on August 23 - 24, 1997.

Dave Wahl showed how to reverse chuck bowls using the jam chuck with inside and outside jams; pressure plate chucks where the bowl is just pressed up against a round disc that is covered with ultra suede or a very thin rubber foam like flat woodworkers use to put on

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \* WOODTURNERS of ST. LOUIS**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this application along with your check for \$20.00 for one year's dues to:**

**Woodturners of St. Louis  
11808 Birmingham Drive  
Bridgeton, Missouri 63044**

Applications for membership in the American Association of Woodturners are available at each Chapter Meeting

*Woodturners of St. Louis  
c/o Chuck Dombek, Editor  
113 Fiesta Circle  
St. Louis, Missouri 63146*



David C. Wahl  
10041 Conway Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63124

63124+1237 21

