



# WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

February/March 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new year is here and I would like to look back at our accomplishments in 2006. The Woodturners of St. Louis had a wonderful collaborative project that took best of show in Louisville. We had a two great demos and workshops from Ray Key and Alan Lacer. Our picnic went great with two instant creature creations that are currently touring through members homes. Our membership continued to be very strong and we had fun all year.

I had a great first year as president of our chapter and look forward to my second. This group has continued to inspire me to learn and push myself to evolve as a turner. I hope all of our members use our chapter to do the same.

2007 has a lot more in store and I hope everyone takes the opportunity to become involved. We are working on multiple professional demonstrations that will be sure to inspire and guide us toward new levels. We are currently working on a collaborative project for this year's symposium. Later this year will be working on a collaborative project that will eventually (in 2009) be on display at the Missouri Botanical Garden. We also have many new faces that will be giving club demonstrations this year, I am really looking forward to that.

In the two short years I have been a member of the Woodturners of St. Louis I have found a new avenue to explore my creative side and formed many new friendships that I hope will last a lifetime.

Thank you Woodturners of St. Louis,  
Matt Keim

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### NEXT MEETING

March 25th, 2007 ~ 1-4pm  
Woodcraft

2077 Congressional Drive  
Maryland Heights, MO 63146  
Phone: 314-993-0413

## SAVE THE DATE!

Malcom Tibbetts is coming to St. Louis this May. He is well known for his creative outlook on segmented turning and will be sharing his secrets with us. Malcom will be presenting a demonstration in lieu of our regular meeting, May 27th. A full day workshop will be held on Saturday, May 26th at Stubby USA. More details will be in the next newsletter.



## BERNARD VOSS TEACHES AT CRAFT ALLIANCE

Bernard Voss has been teaching woodturning at Craft Alliance for the past year. He teaches both adult and children's classes. His classes offer aspiring turners the opportunity to learn the basics and get a hand at starting out. These classes are open to the public. If your interested in signing up please call Craft Alliance at 314-725-1177.



## A SAFETY WARNING FROM CECIL



I purchased this ladder new over 20 years ago. The feet show marks of being slid across the concrete. You better check your ladders!

## WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

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STLWoodturners

### Newsletter Editor

Micki Keim  
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On November 15, 2006 I climbed up this ladder to get into my attic. Before the fall my feet were at the height where my left hand is. And the ladder was straight. This is NOT a fold up ladder. The feet of the ladder slide out from under me and the top of the ladder fell and hit the utility sink in the garage. I was on top of the ladder at this point. This really bent the ladder.

I suffered trauma to the head with a build up of blood between my brain and skull. I was in the hospital ICU for one week. When I left the hospital the doctors said my recovery time would be from 4 weeks to 12 weeks.

## MY EXPERIENCE AT ARROWMONT

by Matt Keim

Last year I applied for an Educational Opportunity Grant through the AAW. I requested for funds to assist me in attending a formal course on woodturning. I was selected by the committee as one of the recipients of a grant and attended a course at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in August of 2006.

The class I chose was with Matthew Hill and the course was on lidded vessels and containers, very much in line with what I enjoy doing. Being relatively new to woodturning I was not sure what to expect. I have heard both good and bad stories about various club member's experiences and hoped I would have a positive one. I left St. Louis determined to have a great week.

My wife and I arrived in Gatlinburg a few days early in hopes of seeing the Smokey Mountains. As we drove up the mountain headed for the lookout at the top, our transmission went out! This was not my idea of a good start to the week. We had to leave the car with the dealer the remainder of the week. Fortunately, it is not necessary to have a car in Gatlinburg, as it is mostly a walking town with shuttles available for 50 cents.

Sunday afternoon we went over to check in and stake our claim on the lathes we wanted. This is apparently important to do, since by the time we arrived almost everyone had claimed their lathe. I was very impressed with the equipment at Arrowmont. They had lathes ranging from Stubby, Vicmarc, Woodfast, Oneway and more. All considered top of the line lathes. Each lathe had 2 lights, compressed air, dust collection, anti fatigue mat and a nice work station

with a lockable cabinet. I could tell I was going to enjoy the opportunity to work in such a well equipped shop.

The class started on Sunday evening after a nice reception to welcome the students for the week. We spent two hours on Sunday evening setting up for Monday and getting to know everyone in the class. We had a very wide range of experience in our class. Some had never turned before and others had been turning for more than ten years. I wondered how the teacher and assistant would handle such a diverse group.

Since turners are impatient and could not leave Sunday without making chips fly Matthew Hill and Carl Short, our teacher and assistant for the week, started us off with learning to make beads and coves with a 3/8" spindle gouge. I have been turning in every free moment for the last year and a half and until this day did not stop to learn this basic technique. We all made several spindles covered with beads and coves until it was time to retire for the evening.

On Monday we began our first project. Matthew and Carl started the day by making this important statement. "There are many ways to complete the same task; you are here to learn new ways and techniques, so for this week do it our way." Woodturners are a stubborn group. Most



## Arrowmont Continued...

of us think we know better and would dismiss the new way in lieu of the old if allowed. If I attended this class and completed each project the same way I would have prior, I would have learned nothing and defeated my purpose for going.

One of the focuses throughout the week was shear scraping. This is something I have done little of and welcomed the advice of Matthew and Carl. They encouraged me over and over to take another pass. By the end of the week I felt very confident shear scraping and worked through some issues with the slow and steady technique. I tried new tools and techniques and learned how they should be used. I learned a new method for making it easier to remove a lid from a jam chuck without damaging it. I observed two guys who love to teach, and picked up pointers I can use in the future when I have the opportunity to teach what I learned.

One great thing about Arrowmont was that they encouraged you to visit the other studios to see what other students were doing. They had slide shows every evening so we could all see the work of the various instructors and assistants.

Inspiration was everywhere. One of the other classes was on band sawn boxes. Jenna Goldberg was the teacher and after seeing her slide show I mentioned to Matthew that I was interested in learning about her surface technique shown in the slides. Matthew had Jenna come over to our class and give a brief demonstration on her process. Where else would you have such a quick response and action to help expand your knowledge in woodturning?

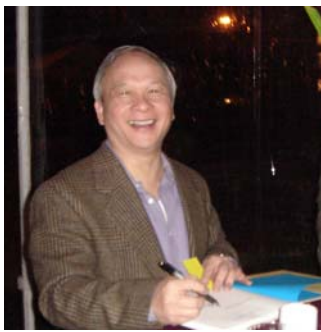
I have turned 50 to 60 lidded boxes prior to this class so my expectation was not to learn how to make the box but rather how to be a better turner. I accomplished this and now feel more confident, both in the knowledge I have learned throughout the last year and a half, as well as what I gained in class. This experience may not be for

everyone but I believe it is for everyone who enjoys turning, or has stopped calling themselves a woodworker in favor of the much better sounding and mysterious title of woodturner. It is intense, exciting, and sometimes exhausting but at the end of the week you will wish it was not over. If you open yourself up to actually learn what is being taught you will most definitely walk away a better turner.



# RIVER OF DESTINY

By Elaine Navarro



We were so fortunate to be able to visit a gallery full of one masterpiece after another. The Long Beach Museum of Art held the opening of Binh Pho's *River of Destiny* exhibition on December 7. If you go anywhere remotely close to California, you must see this.

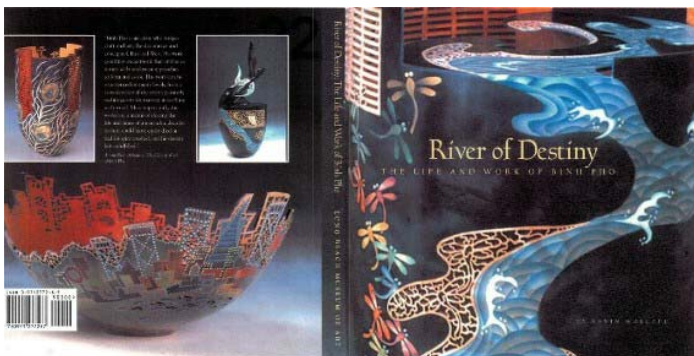
It was overwhelming to stand before *Moonlight in Yosemite*, and *Dust in the Wind* – two pieces that have exquisite turnings nestled in gigantic burls that he 'cut up' as only Binh can do. Pictures in no way prepare you for this awesome experience. I would have wanted a bench, in front of each and every piece in the gallery, for staring time.

The exhibition opening was also the release of Binh's new book, *River of Destiny, the Life and Work of Binh Pho*. A California traffic nightmare made us too late to witness Binh's opening speech. Our frustration was only assuaged by Binh's hug and a glass of champagne. We bought a copy of the book for ourselves, and picked one up for the library. It is truly fascinating, and probably already checked out. I'm sure you should be able to buy it somewhere, though. Email Binh ([toriale@email.msn.com](mailto:toriale@email.msn.com)) if you'd like one of your own.

Who knows when Binh will be able to gather so much of his widespread work in one spot again.

You've got until March 4 to visit the exhibition in Long Beach, California.

It's worth it.



# TOP 10 REASONS TO HUG A TREE

By Bernhard Voss

**Trees Absorb Carbon Dioxide.** Rising levels of CO2 are a cause of Global Warming.

**And they give us oxygen.** Before green plants existed the amount of Oxygen in the atmosphere was almost nothing!

**This page!** Wood pulp makes this paper.

**Modern and traditional medicines come from trees.** Malaria, cancer and headaches are all treated with medicines from trees.

**Firewood.** Most people around the world still cook and heat with wood.

**Trees shelter us and our homes from harsh weather.**

**Trees provide musical instruments.** Enjoy a violin or a guitar, clarinet oboe? They're wood too.

**Lumber, furniture, ships, boats:** Wood.

**Apples, Oranges, Peaches, Plums, Cherries, Cashews, Walnuts, Pecans, Hazelnuts, Chocolate.** Mmm, Wood.

**And for this woodturner?** In wood that might have been chips or mulch, exquisite forms emerge; pleasing the eye, the hand, and maybe even the soul. Wood on the lathe becomes an object of utility and art. It has warmth, color, and personality - its entire life is revealed in its rings.

## March Demonstration

In March we will be visited by Binh Pho. He will perform a demonstration and will have copies available of his recent book for sale.

## March Challenge

It's time to stop thinking about burning firewood, instead start thinking about turning it! For the March Challenge bring a piece turned from the firewood pile.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION --WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

\$30 Individual Membership • \$40 Family Membership

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this application along with your check for one-year's dues to:

**Woodturners of St. Louis**  
**2420 Cypress**  
**St. Charles, MO 53301**

or, bring it to the next Meeting.

## WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

**Micki Keim, Editor**  
**2649 Forest Glen Drive**  
**Pacific, MO 63069**

### CALENDAR

**March 10th, 9:00am**  
Collaborative meeting at Bill Farny's

**March 25th, 1-4pm**  
Regular Meeting at Woodcraft  
Demonstration by Binh Pho

**April 14th, 9:00am**  
Collaborative meeting at Bill Farny's

**April 22nd, 1-4pm**  
Regular Meeting at Woodcraft