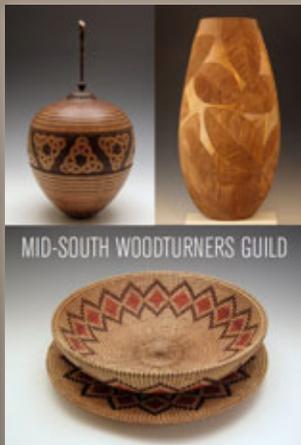


Mike Maffitt: Editor



CBU: Beverly & Sam Ross Gallery.  
Letter of Thanks

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Cover photo:  
Skip Wilbur Basket Weave

Inside Panel:  
Rick Stone Hollow Form

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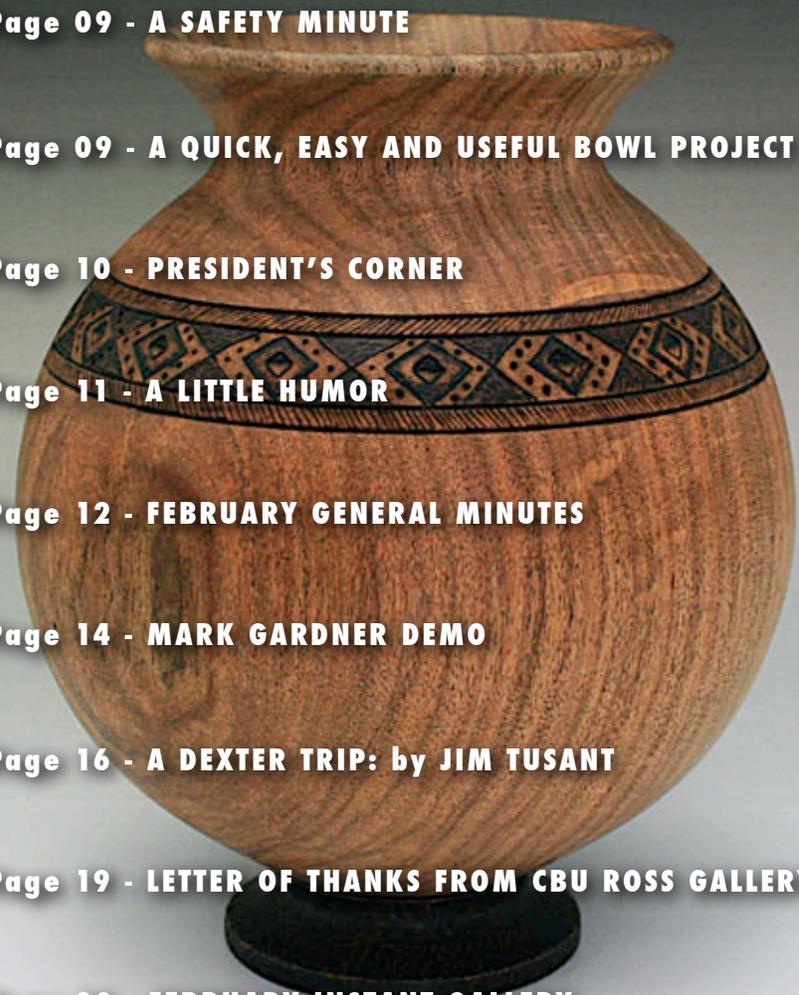
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# SHOP TALK

With:  
**JIM TUSANT**

2

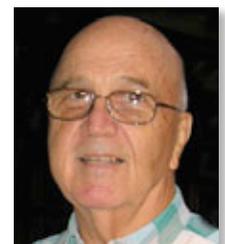


1

Jim Tusant<sup>1</sup>, now serving a second two-year term on our MSWG Board of Directors, recently moved from his life-long residency in Memphis to Somerville, TN. He retired just a few years ago from the Memphis Police Department as a deputy chief, having begun as a patrolman 35 years earlier. Jim and Linda have a son and daughter and five grandchildren, but none seem seriously interested in woodworking. In addition to their new house, Jim built a 20 ft x 40 ft shop<sup>2</sup> which houses his former long-time hobby of leather

(cont. on next page.)

**Ray  
Tanner**





work<sup>3</sup> and his more recent (8 year) interest in wood turning. He seems to have every tool a turner could desire and the skill to use them, all neatly housed in a very well organized shop. Lately, he's begun to use his leather honed artistry in decorating and embellishing his turnings<sup>4</sup> with both wood burning and carving tools.

Jim has three lathes, a Steel City Mini, a Jet 1612, and his favorite, a Vicmarc VL300<sup>5</sup>. He built a special filter<sup>6</sup> to prevent sawdust coming off the work-pieces on his vacuum chucks from damaging his Gast vacuum pump. His 8" bench grinder, equipped with the Wolverine system, has one 46 grit wheel and one 100 grit. He is an ardent believer in the use of sharp tools and enjoys teaching others how to maximize their enjoyment and minimize sanding by maintaining razor sharp cutting edges. For detail sanding and special surface shaping Jim uses a high speed Optima Micromotor Set<sup>7</sup> with sanding discs cut from sheet



(cont. on next page.)



stock and held on by double sided tape. Long board storage is on a slightly sloping vertical rack<sup>8</sup> with bowl blanks and green wood kept under various tools and work surfaces.

Jim is a craftsman/artist of many talents and interests, including loading his own cartridges and shotgun shells<sup>9</sup>, though his interest in hunting has waned. He uses a central vacuum dust and chip collector but connects it manually to whichever machine tool he's using. He has yet to install a ceiling-hung air filtration unit. Heat for the winter is supplied by two small oil-filled electric heaters<sup>10</sup>. Summer heat is mediated by 6" insulation in the walls and ceiling and opening doors at each end of his shop. An important part of his shop resides in an upstairs room of his home – a full-fledged drafting table with all the necessary instruments for layout and planning of future shop projects. Jim's turnings range from the delicate<sup>11</sup>(Drake or Lace Bark elm) to the robust<sup>12</sup>(oak burl) and all display his artistic sense and attention to detail.







## WOOD SPIN

# Persimmon, The American Ebony

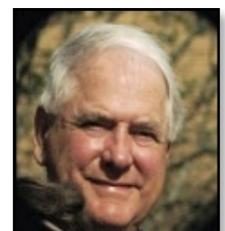
I fell for persimmon my first year behind the lathe (2005) and, although tempted by other long limbed beauties, I have remained true to *Diospyros virginiana*, the American persimmon (or white ebony, as less commonly known). There is simply not another tree in the United States similar to persimmon, and that statement holds true from a woodturning perspective. If restricted to one source tree for all of my future wood turning, I would choose persimmon, although maple and hickory would be strong contenders.

The ebony genus, *Diospyros*, consists of some 400 species in the tropics, but only one in the temperate zone, with our persimmon tree (*D. virginiana*) being the only ebony species in North America.

An interesting feature of this plant is the great wood color variation, tree to tree -- from almost pure white, to yellowish, to some gray, even green to a brindle or flecked pattern, sometimes with those valued streaks of ebony heart wood. Unlike most of our native hardwoods, most of the persimmon tree is sapwood. Heartwood may be almost nonexistent, perhaps an inch or so diameter in a 12" diameter log. The heartwood may be a deep black color or it may not, and a perfect black

(cont. on next page.)

**Emmett  
Manley**



circle is never seen, rather streaks and segments of black. At first glance, the woodturner believes the black areas to be rotten and soft, but that is not the case, the ebony areas are usually tough and hard. In fact, the sapwood is also quite firm, especially when dry. This is a close grained wood and both the sapwood and heartwood polish like glass



Persimmon log and split section

This hard wood was used for golf club heads until displaced by high tech metal club heads about 20 years ago -- this wood resists compression and has a resiliency or springboard effect which made it popular with golfers seeking those extra yards. Interestingly, another common tree which shares this characteristic is dogwood, and some golf clubs were made from this wood although the requirement of a 10" diameter uncracked trunk eliminated most dogwood trees from this application.

Unfortunately, there is no way to predict what will be inside the trunk of a persimmon tree in terms of coloration and ebony, but if the bark is riddled with tiny pinholes, you can be certain that insects are present and active. Wormy persimmon provides interesting patterns for the woodturner to display, if you can use the wood before the bugs eat it all. The worm channels

also seem to prevent wood cracking, most likely by removing stress. Cutting into a persimmon tree is like opening Forrest Gump's box of chocolates -- you never knew what you are going to get.

This tree is quite adaptable as it will grow in full sun, where it spreads out with gnarly limbs covered with lichens, or in dense shade where persimmon trees grow much taller, with a straight unbranched trunks of seemingly uniform diameter. Persimmon trees are easy to spot in the forest as the bark is black and is made up of raised segments one to two inches on a side. The American persimmon is a sexual tree with the female bearing fruits which are prized by many animals, including opossums. ESM has tried to eat persimmons all his life and can't get past the pucker factor as the fruits can be very astringent, even if picked after the first frost, after being almost mushy, cooked in bread, turned into pies, etc.



Characteristic bark of persimmon tree

Despite being a hard wood, persimmon is attacked by insects and fungi and extensively wormy persimmon can be spectacular but don't tarry; like hickory, another seemingly tough tree, once persimmon is on the ground it is gone in a matter of months, especially in the summer

(cont. on next page.)

The woodturner will find persimmon a joy to turn as the wood is easily worked, non-irritating, and emits a faint odor of cracked pepper. The finish one can obtain with this close grained wood is glass magnificent, as good as with osage orange and black locust. Other positive features include the fact that warping and cracking are minimal and the bark is tightly held to the wood, making persimmon a go-to wood for bark edge bowls and similar items.

To know persimmon is to love persimmon -- be careful, or you, too, may be smitten by this beauty.

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## A SAFETY MINUTE

---

Properly made safety glasses cover the sides of your eyes as well as the eyebrow space above and fit closely on your cheeks -- their cost cannot even be compared with the value of an eye!

---

## A QUICK, EASY AND USEFUL 'BOWL' PROJECT

---

Use cross grain stock, begin with a piece of wood ~ 3/4" thick, cut out a circle on the bandsaw just large enough to fit in your 4 jaw chuck (~2-3/4" dia.). Chuck it and turn the inside deep enough to hold your morning/evening pills. Finish sand the interior and apply quick drying varnish or wax. Reverse chuck the piece using a vacuum or jam chuck in order to turn the bottom and thin the sides. The bottom may be footed or plain but make sure it sits well on a flat countertop. Take repeated light cuts and use the tailstock with a scrap between it and the workpiece so that it does not fly off your lathe. (A piece this small will likely have less than 30 lbs atmospheric force holding it in place, hence the need for the tailstock support.) The amount of force

holding a vacuum chucked item equals the inner diameter of your vacuum chuck squared times 0.79 times the amount of vacuum your gauge indicates. For example: for a 2" chuck the force =  $0.79 \times (2")^2 \times 10 \text{ psi} = 32 \text{ pounds}$ . If your gauge indicates 20 inches mercury pressure that is 10 psi (30 in. mercury = 15 psi).

You may want to make several plates of different woods for other members of your family.



Hers

His

Pill Plates – Prevent pills rolling off counter onto floor, easier to pick up than single pills. Approx. 2 1/2" diameter, any thickness, any wood, almost any shape but cupped in center.

Ray Tanner, 2/15/13



# The President's Corner



Last month we hosted Mark Gardner for an all-day demo. What a great demonstrator and teacher. We had one of the largest turn outs I have seen in quite some time. I counted 62 in attendance for the morning session and 35 for the afternoon session. This month we will be talking about the various ways to chuck up your piece of wood and have a "hands on" in the afternoon. The "hands on" session will be chucking problems and any other problem areas you may have. Mentors will be available to answer your questions and address your problems and we'll even get to play a little behind the lathe.

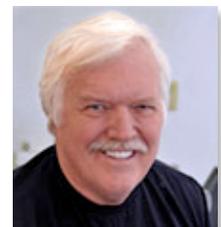
Next month we will have another all-day demo with Robin Costelle. Robin does some fabulous work (I have one of his pieces I received at the TAW auction a few years ago). Robin specializes in hollow forms with finials.

Rick Stone recently completed a beautiful lathe shield for our demo lathe complete with power supply and lights. This is very unique and special and I might add, 'very cool'. Thank you Rick, for your time and design expertise.

Now here's a little something I'm excited about – woodturning schools. If you remember every meeting I ask if anyone has been to a school or woodturning workshop during the past month. The individual giving the report is usually always excited and positive about the school they just attended, giving us an insight into their experience. We usually have a number of catalogs available during our meeting for most of the premier schools. Here are some of the schools for you to consider: John C. Campbell, Arrowmont, Marc Adams, Arkansas Craft School and Appalachian Craft School. I have been to two of these schools and look forward to returning. If you have any questions about a specific school contact me and either I can answer your question or I can put you in touch with someone who will. This is by far the best way to improve your woodworking skills, a week long total emersion into woodturning with top rated instructors while making new friends. Oh, did I mention the food? Yes it's great.

(cont. on next page.)

**Skip  
Wilbur**



As if that is enough we have yet another way for you to improve your skills if you can't get away for a week, our library. We have provided for you numerous books and videos in woodturning. You'll be able to check them out (for free) and return them the following month. Chances are many of the authors and video demonstrators are the very same people who teach at the schools I've mentioned.

*"He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist."*

*St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), patron saint of animals and the environment, founded the Franciscan Order*



## A LITTLE HUMOR

---

### The Sahara Forest

A Canadian logging company needed to hire another lumberjack, the first guy to apply was a short little skinny fellow, who was laughed at by the manager and told to leave.

"Just give me a chance," the little guy pleaded.

"Okay," the manager replied, "Grab your axe and cut down that cedar over there."

Two minutes later he was back at the managers office, "Tree's cut. Do I get the job?"

"I don't beleive it, that is so much faster than even my best lumberjack could have done it. Where did you learn to use an axe like that?" the manager inquired.

"Sahara Forest," the little guy replied.

"Don't you mean the Sahara Desert," the manager corrected him.

"Sure, that's what they call it now."





**Call to Order** - 9 a.m. by Skip Wilbur. Minutes were approved and seconded by club members. Skip extended a welcome to everyone.

**Treasurer's Report:** Matt Garner, Treasurer

Account Balance - \$7,504

**New Members and Guests:** New Members: Larry Sanders, Mark Maxwell, Guy Thompson and Lou Kinsey. Guests: Don Richey, Gary Hudson and Jared Burns.

**Annual Membership Dues** – Please renew your dues for 2013 if you haven't already paid your renewal fee. Dues are due by the end of March.

**Roster** – The roster was passed around to solicit any changes needed. Look for an updated roster on the club's website.

**Library** – Please return the library list if you took it home and think of the club if you have woodturning magazines you'd like to recycle.

**First Time Impressions for TAW Attendees** – Larry Cutliff was impressed with the instructors and classes. Ray Tanner felt it was well worth the trip.

**Lathe** – The MSWG Oneway is 6 to 7 years old so the Board asked Jim Tusan to research the marketplace for a new lathe. After extensive research, Jim reported the Jet 1642 was available from Woodcraft in Franklin, TN with a 15% discount if the club purchased the lathe by March 10. Skip announced the Board agreed to accept bids for the Oneway with the deadline of Midnight, March 1. Please submit bids to Skip Wilbur. All bids will be confidential. The club is also accepting donations for the new lathe. The Board would like to thank Rick Stone on behalf of MSWG for constructing a shield for the Demo lathe.

**Tip, Technique, Source** – Keyless Jacob Chuck with a #2 Mortise taper are available on EBay. See Skip for email address. If you are interested in free wood, see Mary Lou Beauchamp.

(cont. on next page.)

**Terry Maffitt**



**AAW Insurance** – Same coverage is available as what we have now with a \$90 renewal fee.

**Vendor List** – Skip passed around a list for members to sign if they are interested in receiving emails from vendors offering discounts.

**March Demo** - All About Chucking with an afternoon Hands On

**April Demo** - All Day with Robin Costelle. Tool Sale Swap

**July** – Wine stopper challenge contest.

**Mobile Museum of Art** - is hosting an exhibit called Shadow of the Turning: The Art of Binh Pho in Mobile, Alabama through April 7. Talk to Larry Sefton if you have questions. <http://www.mobilemuseumofart.com/index.php?sector=3&view=2>

**Demo** – Mark Gardner, [markgardnerstudio.com/](http://markgardnerstudio.com/)  
Mark lives in Saluda, North Carolina. He graduated from college in 1995 with a BFA in Theatre Design and Production, College Conservatory Music from University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH. From 2000-2003 he was an assistant to Stoney Lamar and prior to that he assisted John Jordan at Arrowmont. Mark's work is held in public collections such as the Museum of Art and Design in New York. He is the recipient of several awards and his work has appeared in several exhibitions throughout the United States. Mark created a hollow form vessel and a square bowl during his demo sessions. My notebook is filled with notes because Mark not only turns; he teaches at a pace that everyone can appreciate. Mark offered hands on Sunday where the students joined him creating a hollow form embellished with carving and pyrography.



# MARK GARDNER DEMO:



A kinder, more entertaining turner than Mark Gardner is a difficult thing to find. Mark shared his talents and instruction during an all day demo at the Saturday MSWG meeting.

Mark demonstrated his two piece hollow form technique and then later in the afternoon walked those in attendance through the steps required to make one of his square bowls.

Mark talked about surface enhancement and spoke on his techniques of embellishment and coloring his work.

Thanks for sharing your talents with the group.

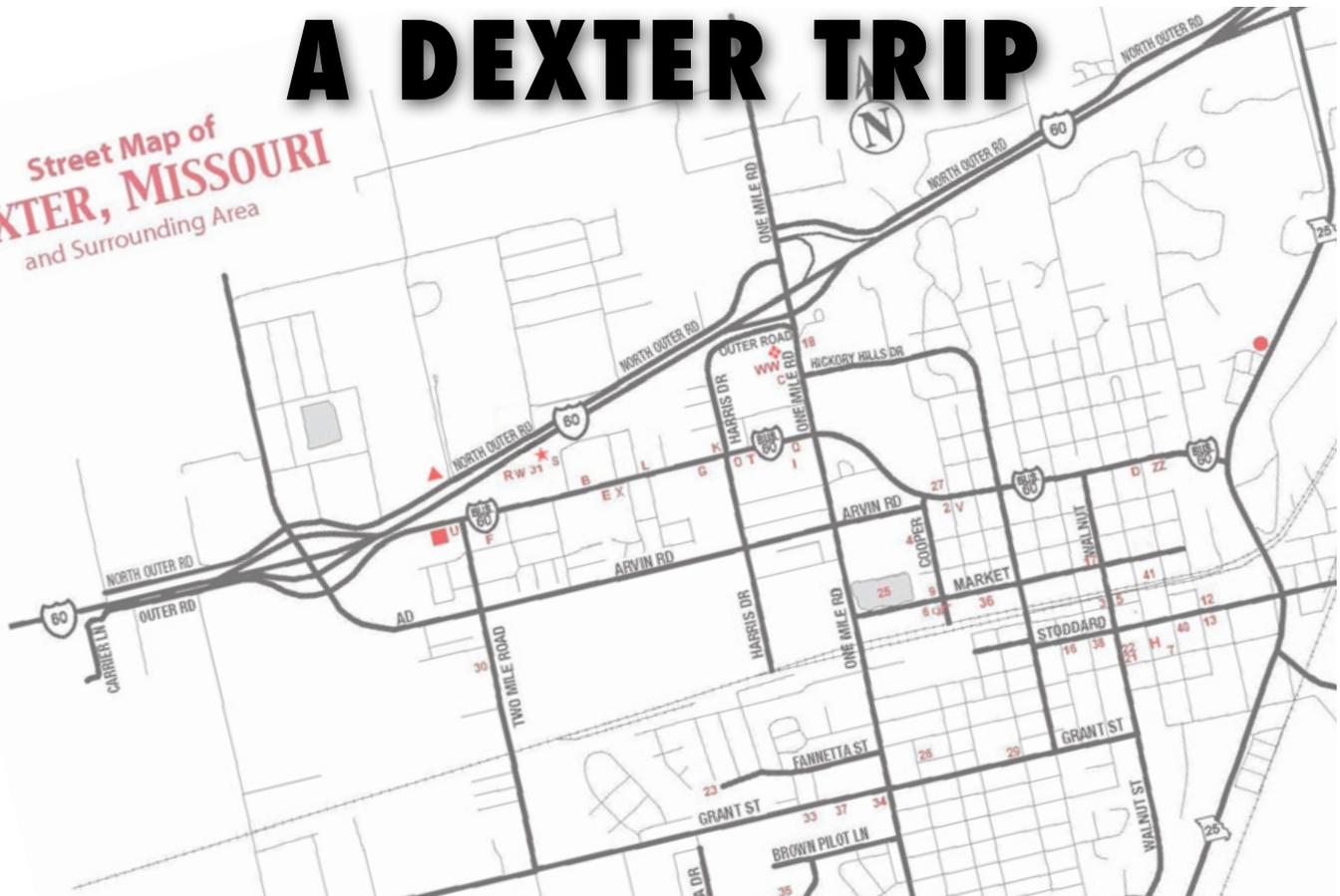
MSWG



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# A DEXTER TRIP

Street Map of  
**DEXTER, MISSOURI**  
and Surrounding Area



Our president, Skip Wilbur, and board member Jim Tusan spent Valentine Day weekend with Jim Adkins at his home in Dexter, MO. We were attempting to learn advanced techniques for turning and decorating bottleneck baskets. What is second nature for Jim was as foreign to us as learning the Russian language. While we were being instructed by Jim, notes were taken of his shop.

A visit to Jim's shop is a step back in time just like the kindly owner of the shop!! For you see, Jim has a 1952 Delta Milwaukee Crescent 20" 5hp bandsaw he uses for cutting his turning blanks or other flatwork projects. Also, he has the following equipment: a 1953 Delta 10" cabinet saw, a 1952 10" radial arm saw, and a 1960 Delta 13" 2hp floor planer. It is quite a step back in time and I might mention that all the equipment is in great shape just like the ancient gentleman that taught us! However, like most of



(cont. on next page.)

**Jim  
Tusan**





us, Jim's cabinet saw has become a storage table for wood. I wonder why that is Mr. President?? Skip was green with envy over the amount of wood stacked on the saw and tried to load down the car with copious amounts of wood for our return home.

There are other pieces of equipment such as a 6" jointer, drill press and a Dewalt scroll saw. Also, there are numerous, too many to mention, tools hanging on the wall. For turning, Jim has a 750 Stubby he got for Christmas 2007. Being the lucky fellow Jim is, he won a brand new Vicmarc VL300 in a raffle while attending the 2012 SWAT Symposium in Texas. I had the pleasure of turning on the new lathe and it runs as smooth as silk.

Jim's shop measures 24' X 48' with a bathroom and is heated by a wood burning stove that keeps you toasty on the coldest of winter days. There is no shortage of wood and if you can't find something to turn it is because you don't want to.

Jim's wife, Jeri, fixed lunch for us and provided an endless supply of coffee to drink. Jim's home is decorated with beautifully displayed turnings he is so famous for. We wish to thank Jim and Jeri for allowing us to spend time with them and for their gracious hospitality.

(cont. on next page.)







The Mid-South Woodturners Guild exhibition at CBU in the Ross Gallery this past January and February attracted, as it always does, a large group of visitors. The opening reception on January 11 brought over 170 admirers and during the weeks was viewed by over 2,500 visitors.

“Wonderful!” wrote one visitor in the guest book, “brilliant work” and “amazing artists” wrote another. “Extraordinary” wrote yet another and “how nice there are still folks who are gifted and willing to spend the time to create for other’s enjoyment” wrote H. Cloud.

Woodturning exhibit is always one of the favorite of the students attending CBU. They are often amazed and in awe of the work they see. In their “fast-paced” lives it is a quiet moment of enjoyment for them as they wonder through the exhibit from one amazing creation to another. They all come away in great admiration.

At CBU the students are used to seeing wood creations on display in the university library when the permanent collection of pieces from the MSWG are displayed. Their admiration for the work in the permanent collection drew them in large numbers to the latest exhibit. Perhaps “if you turn it, they will come” is true after all.

As always we thank the members of the guild for lending the beautiful pieces that were on exhibit. We are grateful to you for sharing your talents and art work. We look forward to hosting you again.

Brother Robert Werle

CBU Gallery Director

# FEBRUARY 2013

# INSTANT GALLERY



Maple Burl cup.

**BILL BLEAU**



Walnut & Jobillo candlestick holders. The pieces are made to screw together with inserts.

**BILL HANDEL**



Wenge, Maple and Purpleheart cup.

**BILL HANDEL**



Cherry hollow vessel.

**DENNIS PAULLUS**



Wormy Red Maple hollow vessel.

**DENNIS PAULLUS**



Hollow form with pyrography.

**DON FARAGE**



Cherry Cup

**GARY HUDSPETH**



Bowl.

**GARY HUDSPETH**



Honey Locust bowl.

**JIM TUSANT**



Walnut fluted vase.

**JIM TUSANT**



Elm fluted vase with pyrography.

**JIM TUSANT**



Hollow form.

**JOE HAGAN**



Segmented shallow bowl.

**JOE HAGAN**



Fluted vase.

**JOE HAGAN**



Laminated candlesticks.

**JOHN JOHNSON**



Bowl.

**JONAS NEMANIS**



Natural edged Oak bowl.



**JONAS NEMANIS**



Oak bowl.



**JONAS NEMANIS**



Clock part resin pen and wooden pen.

**JONAS NEMANIS**



Platter.

**MATT GARNER**



Winged Leaf Elm bowl.



**MIKE MAFFITT**



Pill plates of various woods.

**RAY TANNER**



Hollow form with pyrography.

**RICK STONE**



Maple basket weave pot. The inside is faux clay lined.

**SKIP WILBUR**



A laminated plater with a lizird inlay.

**SKIP WILBUR**



A bent pushrod from Tom's plane. Glad both it and you made the trip back.

**TOM DOROUGH**



Baseball caps. Hackberry wood.

**CLIFF & WILLIAM VALENTINE**



Baseball caps. Hackberry wood.

**CLIFF & WILLIAM VALENTINE**



Cowboy hat of Hackberry.

**CLIFF & WILLIAM VALENTINE**



# Upcoming Demos & Events

- March 23rd, 2013 MSWG
    - Chucking demo with discussions led by 3 members.
    - “Hands On” in the afternoon for help chucking items on the lathe. We will also be available to help with any other problems you would like help on.
  - April 27th, 2013 MSWG
    - Robin Costelle will be demonstrating an all day demo.
    - The 1st Quarter, 2013 Tool Swap .
  - May 25th, 2013 MSWG
    - We are looking at several possibilities for the next several months.
  - June 22nd, 2013 MSWG
  - July 27th, 2013 MSWG
  - Wine Stopper Challenge
  - October 26th, 2013 MSWG
    - Jeff Brockett will demo at our Octoberfest.
- 

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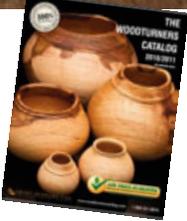
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