



TURNERS TALK

THE MID SOUTH WOODTURNERS GUILD





MSWG

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Cover Photo

Monaco turning demo bowl

Photo By: Rick Stone

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Last month, MSWG's annual Oktoberfest meeting, was held at a new location: Larry Cultiff's shop, in Mason, TN. The change from our usual venue at Joel Benson's shop was due to a conflict in our schedules. I trust you will join BoD's expression of deep gratitude for the unwavering support Joel provides the Guild.

This picture shows Matt Monaco having some fun at the expense of the front row of the audience. Anyone who did not attend missed a very "interactive" demo from guest demonstrator, Matt Monaco of Springfield, MO.

Matt, also, introduced to us a new strain of maple, local to his area - Norwegian Maple (very soft).

President's Corner



By: Mike Maffitt

We were blessed and excited to host Matt Monaco for our Oktoberfest meeting and he certainly didn't disappoint the attendees. Matt threw shavings into the crowd displaying his tool-handling abilities and putting everyone at ease with his pleasant demeanor. He produced a finished thin-walled 14" bowl, which was beautifully turned and which he donated to the club for our auction. Matt was a fantastic demonstrator and I am so sorry if you weren't able to attend. We had a wonderful barbecue meal and (thanks to Larry Cutliff), we had a beautiful facility to host the event in and shelter us from the rain. I believe our October event was a giant success.

During the Oktoberfest meeting, we announced the members who have volunteered to join our board of directors for the term 2020 through 2021. The three members who will be joining us are Jeff Brann, Rick Stone and Doug Woodward. Thank you, gents, for agreeing to donate your time and efforts for the club. The three members who have completed their terms and have helped lead our club for the last four years are Sam Dawson, Matt Garner and Bob Wolfe. Please take a moment of your time this weekend to let them know they are appreciated.

In November we will have a wonderful and innovative turner, Mark Sfirri. Mark has turned at many regional and national symposiums and he will certainly open your eyes to offset turning. I think you will find his work amazing and original. Anyone who wants to attend Mark's demo and is not a member of MSWG will be asked to pay

\$25.00 for the event. This will also be an all-day event and on Sunday we will have a hands on class on offset turning. Members should have already signed up for the hands-on event and the class fees are now due. For the people who have volunteered a lathe for the club to use for the hands-on class, we will need to pick up the lathes on Friday and we bring them back Sunday after the class.

This meeting will, also, include our final President's Challenge - Christmas Ornaments. There will be gift certificates for each participant, and we will be using all the pieces in the auction at our Christmas Party. We hope you will consider participating and we look forward to seeing the beautiful pieces you produce.

December 14th, we will have our club Christmas Party and Auction. This is always a fun event with the "bring-a-gift/get-a-gift" exchange, holiday food, and plenty of camaraderie. The Woodwork Shop kindly donates a gift certificate that covers our meat and we rely on our club members to bring the sides and desserts. We will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting for attendance and side dishes. We know this is a difficult time of the year to try to hold club events, but we try to plan this event early enough where it doesn't interfere with family holidays. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

The Christmas Party Auction is a great fundraiser for the club and if you have any pieces you would like to donate, we would love to add

President's Corner (cont'd)

them to the items being auctioned. We have a beautiful bowl from Matt Monaco, pieces from our Mid South Perspective donations and President's Challenges and we will have pieces from Mark Sfirri to add to the collection. The Nashville club, Tennessee Association of Woodturners, has generously donated a 2-day event ticket, including a banquet ticket, covering one attendee to their Regional Symposium. It will be held on January 24th and 25th of 2020, at the Cool Springs-Marriott Hotel. The Symposium ticket will be auctioned off during the Christmas Party.

We are currently accepting dues for the 2020 season. Dues are \$35.00 per person per year so please see the treasurer at our meeting to go ahead and pay for the new year. What a bargain!

Your Board of Directors works diligently to develop monthly events and bring talented, entertaining turners to Memphis for you. This often takes a year to 18 months to set up and bring people in to demonstrate for our club. Your dues, the Christmas auction, the Pink Palace Craft Fair and member's donations keep this club running and give us the ability to put on a monthly show. We are currently busy talking to potential demonstrators in planning the schedule for the new year and beyond. We have signed up three talented people for early 2020, Jason Clark, Trent Bosch and Kimberly Winkle and we will be looking to our club talent to help fill in the voids very soon. If you are interested in demonstrating for the club, please talk to one of our board members, let them know what you are interested

in presenting and we will attempt to fit you into the rotation.

In 2020 we will start a quarterly turning event, geared to the novice and learning turners in our club. We have a list of mentors in each newsletter and we will be asking these talented individuals to help by sharing their knowledge to help teach these classes and keep them interesting. We have not decided on the topics of the classes yet, but we are open to any ideas. We all started our turning journeys as novice turners and from every demonstration I see, I pick up a new fact, procedure, idea or concept. I never think I am too good to learn, and I often see, in my own shop, where I need to improve. Let's make these events successful and plan to come on out and participate.

We will not be highlighting the Instant Gallery this month. You can bring pieces, but we will not discuss or talk about them. Mark Sfirri will be given as much time as we can possibly allow, and he plans to complete as many pieces as possible in the time allotted. We will take an hour break for lunch and then rejoin for an afternoon session, so come prepared to enjoy a little longer event.

Mike Maffitt



Remember the universal motto of all volunteer organizations:
 "If *EVERYONE* does a bit of the work; *no ONE* does all the work!"

Special Chapter News

By: Joseph Voda

The website for the Tennessee Arts Commission displays a mission statement under the picture of its directors, stating a goal of, “Cultivating the Arts in Tennessee”. Drilling down into the home page you will come across a grant-based program of the Tennessee Craft Division of the Tennessee Arts Commission named, the Master Artist / Apprentice Program (MAAP).

For the past two years, the greater Memphis, TN area has been fortunate to have local woodturners chosen as the assigned masters for the program. In FY2019, Dennis Paullus of Arlington, TN was chosen to guide an apprentice in further development of his craft/art skills. For FY2020, Rick Cannon of Memphis, will do the same for his charge.

In addition to the honor of the program’s masters coming from the membership of the Mid South Woodturners Guild (Memphis, TN), this local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners has further added to the accolade by fielding the apprentices for each of these annual programs. In 2019, Matthew (Matt) Davis of Memphis, TN, apprenticed with master Dennis Paullus to complete the program’s requirements, toward further development of a career path in the craft. For 2020, William (Bill) Bleu of Arlington, TN will work with master Rick Cannon to accomplish his goal.

Please join the Board of Directors of the Mid South Woodturners Guild in congratulating these four individuals for their efforts to successfully navigate the selection process. It honors the Guild to be able to call them all members and represent the Memphis, TN area.



“Have You Met Our New Member(s)?”

By: Joseph Voda



Jan O'Dell

A native Californian, I have come to embrace my move to Memphis, to teach Endodontics, at the *UT Health Science Center, College of Endodontics*.

When not teaching, I spend most of my spare time enjoying traditional crafts. After several years of furniture-making, I have taken up woodturning. I have a Jet lathe and an assortment of tools. I am not a member of the AAW, nor have I been a member of a local club.

A few months back, I acted upon an invitation to visit a meeting of the MSWG. In September, I joined the Guild, deciding to take advantage of the demos and camaraderie, displayed during my visit.

While, I hope to learn new skills and techniques, most importantly, I look forward to meeting like-minded folks. It's a pleasure to be welcomed into such a friendly group.

Give out a card...
Start a conversation,
Bring in a member!

(This is our new card design. Keep a few close at hand, so you are ready to invite our “next, new member”!)



**Mid South
Woodturners Guild**
meeting the 4th
Saturday every month at:
**Bartlett Station
Municipal Center**
5868 Stage Road
Bartlett, TN 38134

www.midsouthwoodturners.com

“In The Rear-view Mirror”

Large Thin Bowls - Matt Monaco

Text by: Joseph Voda, Photos by: Mike Maffitt, Rick Stone, Larry Sefton & Joseph Voda

To stress what Mike said in his President’s Corner:

“Matt (Monaco) was a fantastic demonstrator and I am so sorry if you weren’t able to attend. We had a wonderful barbecue meal and (thanks to Larry Cutliff), we had a beautiful facility to host the event in and shelter us from the rain. I believe our October event was a giant success.”

Although the weather was not the best we have had at our Oktoberfest meetings, it was not the worst we have endured either. This was, also, an opportunity for those, who have not been to see Larry Cutliff’s workshop, to experience a layout we all can dream

about building. To be fair, when one stands in the middle of the floor, one realizes the size is demanded, not by its use as a woodturning shop, but its need to support a working cattle

farm. And as an aside, it is a few miles, and minutes, closer to our normal meeting place than Joel’s.

Putting the fascination with the shop aside, the venue provided ample space for all the attendees to get a good view as Matt Monaco showed us how he has honed his production bowl process. To help all understand a production turner’s process, Matt added comments about what would be done differently,

when in production mode. Matt actually turned on two blanks. The first one was Norwegian maple, which he stated was the softest of all the maples he has turned.



Note that he demonstrated tool techniques on the maple blank, but used oak for the signature bowl he is known for. Enjoy the rest of the recap in pictures.



“In The Rear-view Mirror” (cont’d)

Large Thin Bowls - Matt Monaco

Text by: Joseph Voda, Photos by: Mike Maffitt, Rick Stone, Larry Sefton & Joseph Voda



“In The Rear-view Mirror” (cont’d)

Large Thin Bowls - Matt Monaco

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November Demonstration

Featuring: Mark Sfirri

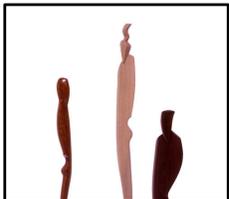
By: Joseph Voda



Mark Sfirri received his BFA and MFA in furniture design at Rhode Island School of Design. He works mostly in wood and incorporates lathe-turned forms, often turned on multiple axes, in his work. He has lectured and demonstrated his techniques throughout

North America and Europe, as well as in Australia and New Zealand. His work is included in twenty-seven public collections.

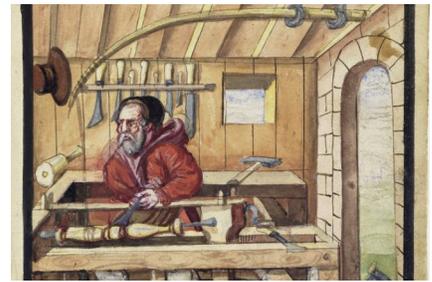
Sfirri has run the Fine Woodworking Program at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pennsylvania since 1981. He has received two national awards: the “Distinguished Educator Award” in 2010 from the Renwick Alliance of the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institutions and, in 2012, a “Lifetime Achievement Award” by the Collectors of Wood Art.
<https://www.marksfirri.com/>



A Shop Visit

Jim Tusan's Workshop

Text and Photos By: Eric Caron



Intro

Welcome everyone to another installment of Shop Talk! This month we visit with Jim Tusan. Whether it is furniture, cabinetry, or most anything made out of wood or other select materials, Jim has lent his talents to create lasting memories.

Professional Life

After studying business and starting out in pharmaceutical sales, Jim quickly decided life on the road was not for him. For those who did not know, Jim retired as a Deputy Chief from the Memphis Police Department after 35 eventful years. For the next 10 years he chaired a local non-profit, the Memphis-Shelby County Law Enforcement Foundation, that has helped the MPD purchase much-needed equipment and resources that would not otherwise be possible through public funding. Have you seen any blue lights and their associated cameras lately? This is only part of the resources provided to allow the MPD make Memphis and Shelby County safer.

Working Wood

In 2007 Jim was building a table and needed to turn an oak pedestal, but he had never done that. So, he called Bill McMillan, and he shortly learned how to turn the pedestal. And it was all downhill after that...

Workshop

The main lathe in the shop is a Robust American Beauty, which is surrounded by everything needed to create small and large turnings. One thing you see on



the lathe is a can of Kiwi Neutral shoe polish. Why?! Jim uses it on the tool rest and ways. The lathe is surrounded by retractable shower curtains held up by a custom rod system bolted into the ceiling. Combined with the dust collector, this makes for very little dust in the rest of the shop. A home-made dust filtration box is on wheels, thus can be moved anywhere in the shop it is needed (or not needed), and the ceiling-mounted air filtration unit



combine to remove the last specks of dust from the air. Behind the lathe is a home-made vacuum chuck system, with an easily visible pressure gauge and a bleeder valve. All the necessary sanding pads are on the wall



A large outboard tool rest is used with captured boring tools for the larger vases Jim creates.



Jim also has a VicMarc VL300 with a Sherline motion controller which indexes for line

A Shop Visit (cont'd)

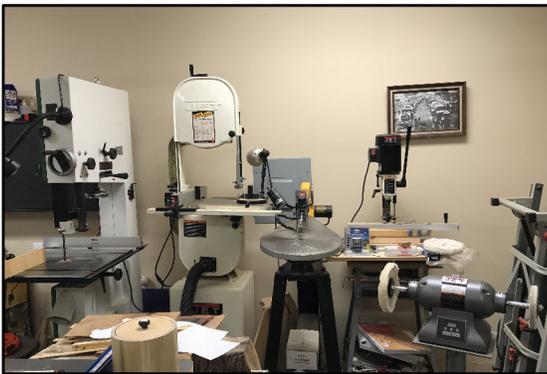
Text and Photos By: Eric Caron

layouts. A Steel City midi lathe sits at the ready with a Baxter threading jig for all the threading needs.

Everyone has appreciated Jim's enthusiasm for proper sharpening of tools at the Oktoberfest meeting, and that certainly extends from his shop. A Rikon grinder mounted with two diamond wheels are ready for his sharpening needs. Similar to a grinder, but for the finished product of woodturning, a Jet buffer is ready to finish Jim's hard work.



Two bandsaws fill the resaw needs of Jim's shop – an 18" Rikon, and a smaller but trusty 14" Jet with a large



height clearance. Several other tools are in the shop – A scroll saw, a mortiser, a shaper, oscillating spindle sander, jointer and planer. Those are the bigger tools, but there is no lack of smaller tools, such as



carvers, airbrushes, and all manner of hand tools.

Woodturning inspiration?

Jim has looked at many contemporary woodturning artisans as inspirations, such as Steve Sinner based in Bettendorf, Iowa. In 2010, Jim learned that J. Paul Fennell would be teaching a woodturning class at the Marc Adams School of Woodworking, so he had to attend. Beyond those, Jim has made extensive use of our MSWG library, which is replete with enough woodturning materials to keep everyone busy for a few lifetimes!



Creative Portfolio



Many have seen Jim's large vases, specifically the sea turtle vase and the 2016 TAW People's Choice winning vase, a large boxelder amphora.

A Shop Visit (cont'd)

Text and Photos By: Eric Caron



With a turned mushroom, even the gills are carved under the cap.

Depending on the need or want, Jim will inlay silver, stones, or other materials. Beyond these, Jim will airbrush patterns and images onto his turned pieces, at times to accentuate the wood, or to use the turned surface as a starting point for painted, stained, colored or carved embellishments.

For many years Jim has also produced fine oil paintings for his home and for others.



If that was not enough, we all know that Jim produces incredible leatherwork. With many smaller projects completed, Jim produced horse saddles for several friends. After completing one of his saddles, a friend

asked, "Can you make me one, too?" Jim told him he would make it under 2 conditions: 1) Provide all the materials needed to complete the saddle, and 2) "Don't call me to find out when I'll be finished – I'll call you when it's done." Jim was a busy man, with family and work responsibilities, and worked on the saddle in his spare time. How many times do you think his friend called? Jim will be happy to answer that question!

Current Projects

Other than bangles and bracelets, Jim's current woodturning projects includes developing a locking, lidded turned box. That locking-lid turned box has already been finished and shown during our monthly meetings' Instant Gallery.

Future Interests

In the shop there is a stack of walnut, acclimating until the time that it would make itself known as a Sam Maloof chair. While it is a completely different design than the Campaign/Roorkhee chair made by Jim and Skip Wilbur, I am certain it will be of the same exceptional quality.

Jim indicated he will continue to focus on the turned shape, indicating this is a learned aesthetic that requires many attempts to approach the best form possible. Practice, practice, practice!

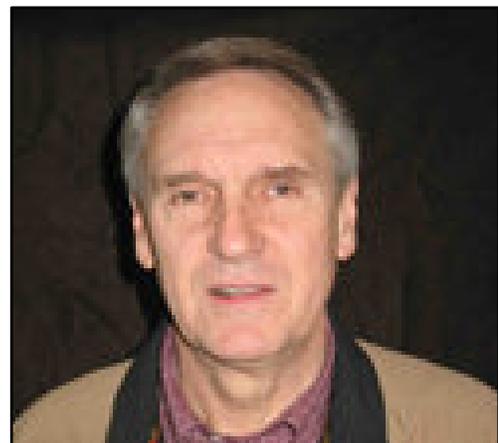


A Shop Visit (cont'd)

Text and Photos By: Eric Caron

And last, but not least, a tip: Use a scale to weigh the wood you intend to turn. If the weight is stable, then it is OK to turn. If you do a rough turn first, let the rough-turned blank weight stabilize before moving onto the final turning. Weigh the piece every month, every week, or every day until you know the weight has stabilized, which indicates maximum water loss.

Thank you again Jim for allowing me to visit your shop and to share your work with our MSWG members. We look forward to seeing your turned art in the monthly Instant Gallery and thank you for your many years serving the communities of Memphis and Shelby County!



Instant Gallery

Photos by: Mike Maffitt

For the benefit of our new members, and all visitors to our website, there is no Instant Gallery held at our October and December meetings. Thus, the November and January issues of Turners Talk do not contain this page.

Reasons include:

At our Oktoberfest meeting, the setting is not acceptable for the standards we set for photography. Also, as much time as is available, is dedicated to our guest demonstrator.

In December, the meeting is focused on our annual Christmas Party with our spouses. At this event, space is always at a premium for table seating and access to the food! The party also includes our annual Educational Funds Auction, which provides attendees an opportunity to acquire one, or more, item from our monthly demos held during the year; donations from benefactors; and/or a full two-day registration to the annual TAW Symposium (Franklin, TN), held in January of the following year.

Check back following each of these months to see what our members were producing in the Gallery's absence.

Upcoming Events

2019 - 2020

- **2019**

- November 23 - !! *EXTENDED-DAY DEMO* !! Mark Sfirri (<https://www.marksfirri.com/about>)
- November 24 - Mark Sfirri, Hands-on Workshop (10 students maximum!)
- December 14 MSWG Guild Christmas Party [BSMC] (9 am - 12:30 pm)

- **2020**

- January 18 Jonas Nemanis, TBD
- January 24-25 Tennessee Association of Woodturners 2020 Symposium (<https://tnwoodturners.org>)
- February 22 Jason Clark (<http://jtcturning.com/about.htm>)
- March 28 Trent Bosch, Video Demonstration (<http://trentbosch.com/about/statement/>)
- April 25 TBD
- May 23 Kimberly Winkle (<https://kimberlywinkle.com/home.html>)
- June 4-7 AAW Symposium, Louisville, KY
- June 27 TBD
- July TBD SWAT Symposium, Waco, TX
- July 25 TBD
- August 22 TBD
- September 25, MSWG Public Demo - "Pens For Troops"
Bartlett BBQ Festival @ Freeman Park, Bartlett (Friday 6-9:30 pm: Saturday 9 am- 6 pm)
- September 26
- October 9-11 2020 Pink Palace Craft Fair, Audubon Park, Memphis
(Friday 9 am-8 pm; Saturday 9 am- 8 pm; Sunday 10 am- 5 pm)
- October 24 TBD
- November 28 TBD
- December 12 Guild Christmas Party [BSMC] (9 am - 12:30 pm)

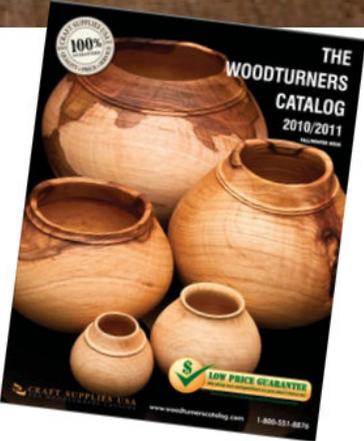
Mentors Program

All members of MSWG are invited to contact the following mentors to learn a new technique, improve their turning skills or turn something different. Mentors are volunteers and do not charge.

Contact information is on our website under Members Only and the Roster. Sessions should last no longer than 3 hours and be scheduled at the convenience of the mentor.

Benson, Joel	Wood Selection, Turning Green Wood, McNaughton Coring, Chain Saw Sharpening/ Maintenance, Chain Saw Use/Safety
Cannon, Rick	Segmented Bowls
Maffitt, Mike	Bowls, Platters and Lidded Boxes
Sefton, Larry	Milk Paint, Make Your Own Pyrography Unit, Hollow Forms
Stone, Rick	Finials, Bowls (incl. Natural Rim), Boxes, Spindles, Carving, Finishes, Pyrography, Making Tools, Turning Tool Basics (incl. Sharpening)
Tusant, Jim	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Pyrography, Carving, Dyeing, Tool Use
Wilbur, Skip	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Goblets, Finials
Wolfe, Bob	Bowls, Hollow-forms, Platters, Embellishment

Club Sponsors



Phone:
1-(800)-551-8876

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>

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8500 Wolf Lake Drive
Suite 101
Bartlett, TN 38133

Phone: (901) 755-7355

Fax: (901) 755-2907

Email: thewoodworkshop@bellsouth.net



Jim Cole Tommy Crawford Evans Woodward Floyd Carter