The Mid South Woodturners Guild

Turner's Talk

Bob Speier, Editor *August 2009*

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What's Coming Up !
Tim Yoder
"Woodturning Workshop" on PBS
August 22nd

Learn to turn a block of wood into beautiful pieces with host Tim Yoder in Woodturning Workshop. Using a lathe to "turn" the wood as he carves, Tim creates decorative pieces like a green bowl, wooden goblet and paper-weight, as well as functional household items like a wooden scoop, rolling pin and chair spindles.

Once again a great opportunity for MSWG. Tim Yoder is coming from Tulsa OK to spend the day with us. This demonstration is free to members of MSWG and guests are more then welcome for a fee of $25 which welcomes them to the demo and also makes them a member of MSWG.

Click on this link to learn about

Tim Yoder's Public Broadcasting Network woodturning program

President's Pick By Keith Burns

Sandi Speier

The Mid South Woodturners Guild is a proud chapter of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

President's Corner

We have an exciting time coming up for the Mid South Woodturners Guild. We have Tim Yoder for our August Demonstrator, the Bartlett Festival in September, OctoberFest at Joel Bensons and the Jewish Community Center art Show in October/November.

Last but certainly not least the CBU Collection Committee has finalized their selection for inclusion to the private collection at Christian Brothers University (see page 8).

With all that's going on, member participation is essential to the success of these projects. I want to thank all those that have been asked to help in getting the Bartlett Fest going and those that are planning to participate in Sept. Stepping up to the plate and being involved is what makes MSWG a successful Guild.

See you at the Tim Yoder demo August 22nd.

Bob Speier

BTW, Kudos' to all that participated in the Instant Gallery in July. A great representation of the talent we have in MSWG.

Worth taking a look at……..

I received a email from two different members about this clip on YouTube. Quoting them "this is fascinating to watch" but they didn't like the background music, I did, it fits the era, late 20's. You have got to watch this clip, Thing's haven't changed that much in turning with the exception of maybe some safety gear (Larry you must have been beside yourself). Cut and paste this link in your browser and hit enter, if you've seen it before hope you enjoyed it.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-z_Ph6nZfGE&feature=PlayList&p=CFADB317D4CD22D8&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=8

YouTube offers a wide selection of short videos on woodturning, be sure to check it out.

MSWG Board of Directors for 2009

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Bob Speier

Places to go near by

Clay Foster will be teaching a one week class at Arrowmont, September 20th through 26th and there are still openings in the class. Here is an opportunity for your chapter members to advance their skills and creativity.

Whether it's a bowl, bottle, vase, urn, or box, containers have been essential to human life. Functional or decorative, practical or expressive, each participant will receive ample attention from the instructor in pursuing their interests in the turned container. Assignments with flexible directions will be offered, with both engineering and design advice available. Instruction and demonstrations will range from tool shaping and sharpening, low tech methods of securing turnings, surface decoration, and principles of design. The studio assistant for the class will be Jennifer Shirley.

Online registration is at ***Arrowmont***

John Hill (AAW)

MSWG MEETING MINUTES July 25th, 2009

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Bob Speier, President, who welcomed the members. There were two visitors: Cecil Bowers and Dick Gourley. Johnny Johnson was welcomed back as a previous member.

Approval of Minutes

Tate Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting. George Yohanek seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Financial Report

Matt Garner, Treasurer, gave the financial report. The account balances as of 7/20/09 were:

General fund balance	$ 2751.46
Education fund balance	$ 817.73
Video fund balance	$ 1586.73

The June raffle money went to the education fund. The video fund balance includes a $200 donation.

The August Tim Yoder demo will be for one day and will be free to members but $25 for guests, which will include a membership. Those under 18 years of age will be admitted free.

Larry Sefton suggested that the raffle money go to the general fund, then if the general membership wants to vote to use if for the education fund, it can go toward that. The Board had voted for the raffle money to go toward the education fund, and unless the membership wants to change it, the raffle money will continue to go toward the education fund until after the Yoder demonstration.

Richard Hiller made a motion to accept the financial report. George Yohanek seconded the motion. All were in favor and the financial report was accepted.

AAW

Sandi Speier reported that the recent Symposium in Albuquerque was a great success. There were 225 volunteers and, despite the economy, there was a good turnout. The EOG auction was successful, bringing in $102,000. The AAW website has been ranked 323,780 out of 1,000,000, putting it in the top third of all websites.

The AAW elections are in November. The vote will be only by paper ballot because there has been confusion over how the ballots were counted. An outside auditor will count the ballots with the results announced in the January American Woodturner journal.

A collector purchased Joan Kelly's piece in the AAW instant gallery. One of Larry Sefton's pieces was purchased for a collection.

Announcements

Craft Supply had donated some gift cards that will be put the raffle.

Today, July 25th, is the last day to place pieces in the Mid-South Perspective: Building Blocks. All pieces should be given to Joan Kelly who asked that all pieces be appropriately labeled and packing provided. The pieces will go into the Memphis Jewish Community Center show but they won't be for sale.

Pieces to be in the selection for the CBU collection are also due today. One piece had been submitted thus far and it (a Valentine brothers' hat) will be going into the collection.

Don Wilcutt announced that there is a TAW display at Greenhills Library in Nashville.

Bob Speier asked that everyone take some of the MSWG brochures that he had designed and had been printed by Jerry Hosier.

There were tools for sale outside the meeting room and there would be some in the raffle.

Memphis Jewish Community Center Show

The MJCC show will be three weeks, beginning October 18th with a live demonstration on opening night. This show will put the MSWG out into the public. Anyone wishing to put pieces into the show should let the Board know by the August meeting.

Bartlett Fest

Rick Gillespie announced that the September meeting will be held at the Bartlett Fest. There will be three teams demonstrating with rotations of 1.5 hours per demonstration. There will be food available for members for a small charge.

Delta Fair

Entries need to be in for the Delta Fair by August 20th. The entry form is in the information book. If

Shop Talk

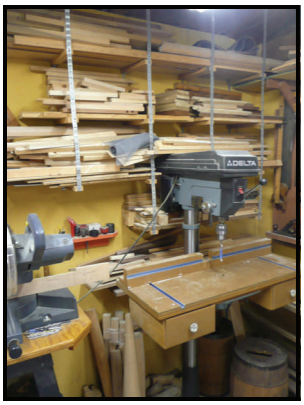
The Bartlett shop of James Baker

By Ray Tanner

'Baker' as everyone calls him, has a very handy shop in an expanded utility shed in his backyard, just far enough from the house to diminish noise. When he planned the shop his wife insisted he include a toilet "to prevent him from bringing sawdust and dirt into the house". Turns out this was a very sensible inclusion, along with his small sink, fire extinguisher, telephone, windows to 'observe the passing of the day', heater and air conditioner, paper towel dispenser, and air filter (hung on the ceiling). These might even be termed the 10 essential components, other than tools, of any well equipped and user-friendly shop. Actually the 10th is a sawdust collection system which he has just not gotten around to installing.

Baker told me he does not work in his shop for fun; he only does projects to fill needs, but he did mention that one of his favorite wood turning projects is making pens, and that the reason he has a shop is that when he retired from the U.S. Postal Service 28 years ago he decided woodworking would be his hobby. His hard rock maple workbench is a testament to his skills as are his beautiful pens. He presses the pen parts together using the large vise on the front of the workbench. An innovation on his lathe is a switch which reverses the direction of rotation and allows him to sand with the work piece turning opposite that of the cutting direction. His pens are so beautiful that he has sold a number of them.

Baker's compact shop is larger than it seems due to the use of roller mounted machine tools (e.g. jointer, planer, jigsaw, sander, router, etc.), and multiple wall mounted racks for turning tools, chucks and faceplates, clamps, boring bits, saws and saw blades, drill motors, and other small hand tools. This arrangement prevents searching through innumerable drawers, increasing frustration and lengthening the time spent per project. His supply of wood is neatly stored on a high wall rack with the outer shelf edges suspended by steel banding hung from the rafters. He owns several antique tools and has a couple of stools made from nail kegs with slotted tops for handles. One of his favorite tools is a bench-top oscillating spindle sander. He is an active member of the Greater Memphis Woodworkers Club as well as the MSWG.



Wood Spin

by Emmett Manley

Food Safety

Woodturners often face this question -- Is this wood, or wood finish, food safe?

The answer is almost certainly yes. But since we have some column space remaining, let's present the evidence for the dogmatic answer. And remember that food safe is different from food friendly – a few drops of linseed oil or turpentine won't harm you, but the flavor of your food may suffer.

In fact, the solvents and wood dust inhaled in the average shop constitute a vastly greater health hazard than any wood or wood finish that might be ingested by placing food in contact with a finished wood item.

In a previous life, I was a pharmacologist/toxicologist who spent a lot of time evaluating the toxic potential of drugs and other substances foreign to the body. It is important to know that most foreign chemicals are quickly removed from the body, typically by some biotransformation in the liver, followed by elimination in the urine.

Dose is a critical factor. As Paracelsus (circa 1530) stated: ***All things are poisonous, for there is nothing without poisonous qualities; it is only the dose which makes a substance a poison.*** Cherry wood and apricot pits contain cyanide, one of the most toxic chemicals found in nature, but the amount of cyanide is too small to produce problems under most circumstances. On the other hand, drink enough water, and it will kill you.

Let's take an extreme case. Rather than ingest a tiny amount of shellac with each bowl of cereal, we could swallow the amount of shellac covering a wooden bowl in one gulp. What would happen? Not much. Shellac is a resin secreted by an insect, the lac bug. And you won't be consuming all the shellac at once, probably not even over many years. A similar situation exists for most other common finishing chemicals.

Most ingested oils and waxes are not absorbed by the body to an appreciable extent; in fact, long chain hydrocarbons (mineral oil, etc.) are used as lubricant laxatives because they pass right through the gastrointestinal tract.

How did all this concern about containers being food safe get started? Remember I said most foreign chemicals are quickly eliminated from the body. Well, there are a few exceptions and heavy metals constitute a major exception. Lead, for example, accumulates in the body when ingested over a period of time. And, it does not take a lot of lead to produce serious toxicity to the brain, heart, kidney, and just about every other critical organ in the body.

About 50 years ago there were a rash of toxicities reported in people using unglazed lead-containing pottery from Mexico. Daily consumption of acidic beverages (orange juice, etc.), which leeched lead from the pottery, and over a period of years, resulted in irreversible and serious neurotoxicities, including developmental disorders, seizures, coma, even death.

If you want to worry about food safety – think about the last person who used your fork at your favorite restaurant. Did they have hepatitis? Was the tableware really sterilized in the dishwasher? Did the kitchen guy making the cold salads have E. coli smeared all over his hands? There is a lot to worry about relative to food safety, but a few micrograms of polyurethane in your cereal is not one of them.

A postscript for the professional woodturner. If you are trying to sell "food safe" products, you have to respect what customers believe, even knowing that they are wrong.

Some people are so caught up in the green, organic, and natural world that they are totally opposed to any commercial "chemicals." Therefore, you may be forced to use mineral oil, beeswax, walnut oil, and other perceived "natural" finishes to make a sale.

July Instant Gallery

Bill Shaw

Dennis Paullus

Don Farage

Don Wilcut

Jim Tusant

Keith Burns

Dick Absher

Rick Gillespie

John Ginski

Larry Sefton

Terry Reynolds

Swann Parks

Skip Wilbur

Wiley Patterson

UPCOMING EVENTS 2009

- **August 22nd (Sat.)**
  Tim Yoder
- **September 26th Bartlett Festival**
- **October 18th—November 8th**
  Memphis Jewish Community Center Art Show
- **October 24th Oktoberfest**
  Joel Benson's in Rossville, TN
- **November 28th Skip Wilbur (?)**
  Demonstration TBA
- **December tba - Christmas Party**

MSWG has a great opportunity in October to present and sell our wares. The dates are Oct. 15 thru Nov. 9th. For those that are interested in participating please start getting together your pieces for the show. If there are any Questions please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee members for details.

Not only will we be participating in the art show, we will also be providing a demonstration on Sunday Evening Oct. 25th in the lobby of the community center. We are also working on a plan to provide hands-on classes for youth and adults at the center. This will take place in 2010, so keep that in mind as well.

This is a fabulous opportunity for MSWG to gain exposure in the community.

MSWG MEETING MINUTES *continued*

woodturners don't participate the opportunity won't exist in the future.

Demonstration

Bob Speier introduced Dick Absher who demonstrated turning tops and a baby rattle with captive rings. He used hard maple for both projects.

Raffle

The monthly raffle was held at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Boatwright, Secretary

Classifieds

Did you miss the "No Tax" weekend? Well, maybe I can help. I have two "Gateway" computers for sale. One operates with XP and the other operates with Vista. Both have keyboards and one has Dolby speakers included. One has 40 gb's and the other has 140 gb's. Both have several USB ports and RW drives. If your looking for something for a school kid or something for your shop this is a good deal.

40gb $50
140gb $75

Contact Bob Speier
756-9315 or robtspeier@aol.com

Christian Brothers University

The CBU 2009 Committee has made the selections for three pieces of wood turned art to be added to the CBU permanent collection. They are Sandi Speier's Birdseye Maple Box, Matt Garners Red Mallee Burl Platter and Cliff & William Valentine's Sycamore Hat. These turnings are an excellent addition to the collection and the artist's and the club can take pride in what they have produced and donated. They have invested a lot of time and creativity in these pieces and they are to be commended. Well done guys (and gal), well done !

Keith Burns, ***Chairman,***

Sandi Speier

Matt Garner

Cliff & William Valentine

Just a little Humor

courtesy of Rick Gillespie

You don't have to own a cat to appreciate this one! You don't even have to like 'em!

We were dressed and ready to go out for the New Years Eve Party. We turned on a night light, turned the answering machine on, covered our pet parakeet and put the cat in the backyard. We phoned the local cab company and requested a taxi. The taxi arrived and we opened the front door to leave the house. The cat we put out in the back yard, scoots back in the front door. We didn't want the cat shut in the house because she always tries to eat the bird. My wife goes out to the taxi, while I went inside to get the cat. The cat runs upstairs, with me in hot pursuit. Waiting in the cab, my wife doesn't want the driver to know that the house will be empty for the night. So, she explains to the taxi driver that I will be out soon, 'He's just going upstairs to say Goodbye to my mother.'

A few minutes later, I get into the cab. 'Sorry I took so long,' I said, as we drove away. 'That stupid witch was hiding under the bed. I had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out! She tried to take off, so I grabbed her by the neck. Then, I had to wrap her in a blanket to keep her from scratching me. But it worked! I hauled her fat butt downstairs and threw her out into the back yard!

The cab driver hit a parked car.

WoodCentral 10 1998 2008

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Elegant Forms

A TURNING CONTEST

The competition:
Create an elegant turning.

"Elegance" is a term of great impact and one that is equally broad in interpretation. For the purposes of this contest, it could mean a turning that relates to function or is strictly decorative -- as simple as a child's toy, s useful as a lace bobbin, or as powerful as a sculpture. Contestants are urged to define elegance for themselves, and then to incorporate their vision in their entry.

JUDGES: David Ellsworth, Cindy Drozda, Trent Bosch

ENTRY DEADLINE: September 15, 2009 ENTRY FEE: $15

PRIZES: FIRST PLACE:
$500 Gift Certificate from Craft Supplies USA
SECOND PLACE:
$250 Gift Certificate from Klingspor's Woodworking Shop
THIRD PLACE:
$100 Gift Certificate from Klingspor's Woodworking Shop
SEMI-FINALISTS (Up to 10):
$25 Gift Certificates from Bad Dogs Burl Source

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.woodcentral.com/contests/turning5

A WoodCentral CONTEST

SPONSORED BY:

CRAFT SUPPLIES USA — THE WOODTURNERS CATALOG —

KLINGSPOR'S WOODWORKING SHOP

Bad Dogs Burl Source

MEDIA SPONSOR Woodturning Design MAGAZINE

Getting to know the "Pro's"

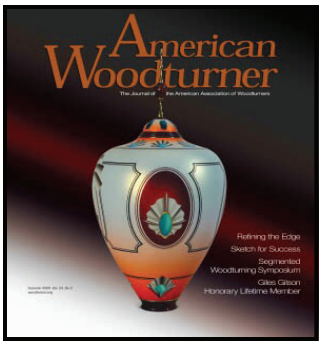
Benoit Avery

Benoit Averly
"La Montagne"
71520 Saint Point
France.
benoitaverly@orange.fr
www.benoitaverly.com

Born in 1980, Benoît Averly grew up and lives in Burgundy (France). He began woodturning in 2002 and had the oportunity in 2004 to work with Richard Raffan and has been assistant in both France and the United States. In 2006 Benoît won the prestigious national contest for young craft artists "Concours Jeunes Createurs" and the "Prix Départemental de la SEMA". Invited several times to teach and demonstrate in several countries, he enjoys sharing his knowledge. He has a production of boxes, and being also a woodcaver, of one of a kind pieces.
Benoît sells his creations on shows, exhibitions, to shops, galeries and interior decorators.

I have had the privilege of watching a demonstration by Benoit's in Richmond VA. During the 2008 AAW Symposium. He is very talented and demonstrate that with his unique humor.

AAW Summer 2009 Journal
Join or Renew now!



Happy Turning
and do it often!

Delta Fair dates to remember

Delta Fair & Music Festival 2009
Crafts, Culinary & Collectibles

DATES TO REMEMBER

Entry forms due on or before **Thursday, August 20**

Bring crafts, collectibles, photography, student art
to the outside entrance of Wing D at the Agricenter
Saturday, August 29 9 am till 6 pm

First culinary show **Thursday, Sept 3**
bring entries **noon till 1:30 pm**

Bring 10 day gardening entries
Friday, Sept 4 9 am till 11 am

Delta Fair's Best Cook Contest
bring entries noon till 1:30 pm
Judging at **2 pm, Tuesday, Sept 8**

Bring gardening showcase entries
Thursday, Sept 10 9 am till noon

Pickup entries at outside entrance of Wing D
Monday, Sept 14 noon to 6 pm

Don't forget, your entries in the Delta Fair craft competition are do by August 20th. Turn in is August 29th.