

# Catoctin Area Turners

Issue Number 7 August 2009



## August Program

**August 13th, 2009**

### Greetings!

Our August meeting program will be hosted by Debra Breton. She's going to demonstrate a couple of techniques used to embellish a piece after it's been turned. We'll see how you can use a Powercrafter tool for piercing and texturing, a Razertip tool for woodburning a design or accent and finally, how to use a Dremel for carving & sanding. We look forward to seeing you for this demonstration. It promises to be very interesting and hopefully, if time permits, there might even be a chance for some hands on time too!

As always, if you have ideas for future programs or demonstrations, please let me know. I can be reached on email at [davemartin88@gmail.com](mailto:davemartin88@gmail.com) or by phone at 703 727 7917, thanks again, Dave Martin.

### Table Of Contents

Program Information.....	1
Officers.....	1
Call of the Lathe.....	2
Woodcraft Information.....	3
Club News.....	4
Ucoming Meetings.....	4
Show and Tell.....	9

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**Remember our meeting location at  
Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve!**

Summer is well upon us now and for many, it's pretty darn hot in the garage where the shop is located. That presents many problems such as rust from dripping sweat on the bare metal surface of the lathe, not wanting to put on a dust mask when needed because that just makes it so much hotter, and not wearing a long turning smock, which results in getting your pockets filled with shavings. But working with the garage door open and a fan on will help with the added advantage that having the door open will invite neighbors to look in on you and you can talk to them about the craft. What a great opportunity! We all enjoy talking about things which we enjoy doing and woodturning is certainly one of those things. Showing off a turning or two at work or having some things on a shelf when company comes over are great ways to promote the craft. If you have not done so, grab a couple of our club brochures at the next meeting to keep them handy when you find someone who may be interested.

Did you read the article about the Virginia Woodturning

Symposium? Sure, it's pretty far ahead to be pushing an event which won't happen for another fifteen months, but there is a reason. We need to have a representative who can be on the symposium committee. I am the temporary rep, but would like to spread these opportunities out among our members so would like to have someone volunteer to take this on. You would have to attend a couple meetings in central Virginia but most of the work is done by e-mail. You don't need to be a skilled woodturner, just interested in woodturning and in doing something to promote the craft in Virginia.

Please let me know if you would like to take on this very enjoyable job in Virginia woodturning and represent CAT among Virginia clubs.

Whew! That demo in July was a tough one. It just shows how important it is to firmly anchor the lathe before you take on something out of balance. I was doing the natural edge bowl cut on the bias, which is fun to do, and thought I had the lathe pretty well anchored so it didn't vibrate off the Black and Decker Workmate which I use

for it. Well, it didn't fall off as I had it pegged in place, but I didn't have it CLAMPED in place, either, so had a lot of vibration. I guess you could tell. It's another lesson to all of us that when we are turning, it is very important to properly prepare for the piece of wood we will be turning. I clearly remember one time having put a piece of wood which I had carefully rounded with my chain saw on Stubby.

I had it well-centered and then turned on the lathe. But of course I hadn't turned the speed down before hitting the "Make It Spin" button. In half a heartbeat, Stubby was rocking from front legs to back and I thought I was within a second or two of having Stubby fall over against the wall or on me when I got it turned off, and Stubby is nearly 900 pounds!

It settled down immediately and all was well, but the lesson was to always turn the lathe speed down before turning it on the first time with a new piece of wood mounted. The wood itself was round but the water in the wood had settled to one side of the piece, thus throwing it way off balance. It was a good lesson which I share

with a lot of folks. Don't ever let The Call of the Lathe become so loud in your ears that it obscures your good sense and allows you to make errors like that. Safety, besides including hearing protection, eye protection, and lung protection, also includes thinking through something before doing it. Turn the speed down before turning the lathe on!

We are surely blessed with a great group of folks who are interested in woodturning. Your officers are all very pleased at the great attendance we have been getting at our meetings and with the enthusiasm with which you all have embraced the craft. Thanks to all of you for being a part of Catoctin Area Turners. If you are getting this newsletter, but haven't yet joined CAT,

please come on out to a meeting, chat with your fellow woodturners, and see what you can learn about woodturning. If you have any questions about the club, the meeting place, or woodturning in general, please feel free to call or write to me at 540-338-1718 or [tboley@erols.com](mailto:tboley@erols.com).

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## WOODCRAFT®

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Organizations such as the Catoctin Area Turners would not exist if it weren't for the kindness of their sponsors. We are blessed to have the Leesburg, Virginia Woodcraft store supporting us and our activities. If it wasn't for their initial kindness, the Catoctin Area Turners might still only be an idea. Please remember this and support them at every opportunity!

## Upcoming Meeting Programs

Here is the latest list of programs for our meetings through the rest of the year. They are subject to change or updating but wanted to let you all know what we have planned:

September- Craft Show Preparation (Tom Boley)  
October- Christmas Ornaments (Harriet Maloney)  
November- Mark St. Leger  
December- Pen Turning (Joe Flanagan)

I also want to take a minute to thank all of the people who have done a program at one of our meetings and for those who have volunteered to present at a future meeting. Having said this, we still need programs for future meetings and frankly, I could really use some help to get some more volunteers lined up. It may look like we have the list set but we'd really like to have a few more topics set to go, especially if there are some things we could do on short notice if plans change or presenters have something come up at the last session.

Remember, this is our club and we'd really like to see some additional involvement from our members, please talk with me if you need some help moving from an idea to a presentation, I might be able to find you some help from others as well.

Here's the list of future topics that have been suggested, if you can help make one of these or another presentation/demo happen, please talk with me at a meeting or via phone/email!

Texturing Techniques- chattering, etc.  
Chucks, various types and advantages/pros and cons of each type  
Turning green wood/translucent turnings  
Turning screw threads  
Turning a box with a friction fitted lid  
Laminations and Finishing techniques using CA and other methods

Thanks again, see you on Thursday night.  
(Dave Martin, 703 727 7917,  
davemartin88@gmail.com)

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## July Meeting Minutes

The CAT meeting was called to order by President Tom Boley at approximately 6:30. Tom brought his Delta mini lathe for the demonstration tonight on the turning of bias bowls. During the Show and Tell portion of the meeting Don Maloney talked a bit about the AAW Symposium in Albuquerque. If other CAT members went to the Symposium, please let Bob Parson (our Secretary) know. His email address is rparson@gmail.com, and we'd like to recognize our members who were in attendance.

Tom mentioned that Jeff Greene had accepted the position of Operations Officer for the

club, Tom also updated the club on two issues concerning IRS approval of our 501C(3) application. The issues had to do with a specification of the "purpose" of the club and the disposition of club assets if the club were to be dissolved at some point in the future. Since the club has already provided this information in our application to the Commonwealth of Virginia for incorporation, this technical matter was handled with a re-statement by Tom on the IRS application and we expect to receive 501C(3) status soon.

The first club picnic last month was discussed. It was a great success with approximately 35 folks in attendance. AJ Lewis coordinated the picnic and brought games for

the kids which were enjoyed by all. Three lathes were set up. Mark Duffel brought (and cooked) angus burgers and, as they say in book and song "good times were had by all".

Upcoming events for the club were discussed, including the possibility of bringing in Mark St. Leger to do a workshop for interested club members. Much interest was generated and we will continue to pursue this opportunity for interested club members. Any suggestions for events or demonstration ideas for our club can be given to Dave Martin. One idea for a demonstration by club member Lee Hanson would be on how to shave a ferret with a skew chisel.

## **Catoctin Area Turners Now a Tax-Exempt Charity**

Our woodturning club is now eligible for 501(c)3 status as a tax-exempt charity under the rules of the Internal Revenue Service. It took four months for the IRS to approve our application for same, which involved first amending our Articles of Incorporation with the Commonwealth of Virginia to meet specific criteria for a tax-exempt entity. The Revenue Agent from the IRS was very helpful in providing guidance on just what deficiencies we had in our application so that we were able to quickly make corrections to meet their criteria. We received our notification of status in the mail on 7 Aug 2009.

Now what does this mean for us as a club and as individual members? First, as a club, it may give us entrée to facilities which we may be able to use at no cost to the club. When we set up for the Arbor Day event at Oatlands, one of the questions asked of us is if we were tax-exempt. We were not at the time so we don't know what difference that may have made, but we did get a tent there at no cost to us anyway. As individuals, we are now able to make donations of money and equipment to CAT and have them be tax-deductible when we file our own income tax returns. For example, we will be applying to the American Association of Woodturners for a grant to purchase a full size lathe for our meetings and to use for any demonstrations at Banshee Reeks which we may be asked to do. The

grant will likely not cover the whole cost of purchase. Using our dues alone to make up the difference may leave our treasury a bit parched. Donations from members could make the difference in being able to get a lathe. That is just one example. Some of our members have spoken of making donations of equipment to the club. Now that we are tax-exempt, that is something which we would certainly welcome.

All in all, this is a great leap forward for Catoctin Area Turners and something which will be of value to us for years to come. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come see what woodturning is all about.

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## **Presenter Information**

I am delighted to tell you that Mark St. Leger will be holding a one-day workshop for us in Nov in conjunction with doing our demo at the meeting that month and a workshop and demo for Capital Area Woodturners. The workshop will be Thursday, 12 Nov, at Woodcraft. Times will be worked out and announced. Then Mark will come to the CAT meeting that evening and do a demo for the membership. You can find out more about Mark at his web site, <http://markstleger.com/>.

The workshop will be limited to seven for now. I haven't asked Mark how many he would take, but we'll make it seven. If he wants to limit the workshop to fewer than seven, then we will do

it on a first come, first served basis and the cost may be a bit higher. If he can take more and we can get the lathes to support it, then we'll consider going to eight and the cost will be a bit lower.

Our Program Director, Dave Martin, will keep the list of those who are interested. However, to reserve a spot in the class, you must mail a check made out to Catoctin Area Turners to Dave, telling him it is for Mark St. Leger's class. We will have to be able to cover his fee in order to hold the workshop. If we don't get enough by a month before, the 12th of Oct, we'll have to cancel. The fee is \$75. Mail your check to Dave Martin at 20596 Woodcock Ct., Leesburg, VA 20175.

Once we have your checks, they will be deposited in the CAT account rather than holding them until Nov. This is a commitment to take the class. If you are later unable to attend and we are able to get someone to replace you in the class, you will get a refund. If no one replaces you, then you will forfeit the fee as we still must pay Mark.

Mark is a great guy and a very good teacher. In fact, he IS a teacher. He teaches high school shop, I think. You will really like him and enjoy both his workshop and his demo at the meeting. Of course, you must be a member of CAT in order to take Mark's workshop. I think he will take all levels of skill, too, as I don't think he limits this to just advanced woodturners.

## Plan Ahead for the Virginia Woodturning Symposium

Put 23-24 October 2010 on your calendar. That will be the weekend for the Virginia Woodturning Symposium in Fishersville, VA, near Waynesboro.

The format will be much as last year since it worked so well. Each half day will start out with an hour and a half demo. We'll have a large room and there will be demonstration stations set up around the perimeter of the room, maybe a dozen or so. After the beginning demo, attendees will be able to wander among the stations, watching a whole demo or just

drifting from one to the other. In the center of the room will be the vendors with wood, sanding supplies, and equipment for sale.

The symposium committee has already invited two turners to demo for the symposium. Alan Lacer is well known among turners worldwide as he has been a turner for 30 years, has demonstrated widely, and is a past president of the AAW. Alan's wife, Mary, is the Executive Director of AAW. You can learn more about Alan at his web site, <http://www.alanlacer.com>.

Alan will do the Saturday and Sunday morning demos. The other turner invited to demonstrate on Saturday afternoon is our own president, Tom Boley. Tom was

quite surprised and, of course, pleased at being invited to demonstrate at the state symposium. Being second-billed with Alan Lacer is a great honor! It may seem too early to be thinking about something NEXT October, but this is an event worth attending.

The symposium committee will be publishing more information about this event as we get closer.

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## Meeting Information

Remember, all Catoctin Area Turner meetings will be at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve.

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month and start at 6:30 at the Education Annex across from the visitor center within the Preserve.

From Leesburg, BRNP can be reached by going south on US15 towards Warrenton \*only about a quarter mile from the Leesburg Bypass and then \*make a left on Evergreen Mills Rd. (Route 621) and travel south \*about 5.3 miles\*. After passing the entrance to the Loudoun County Landfill on the right, take the next right, Woods Road and travel about a mile to the

entrance to the park on the left. Woods Road is gravel but passable for all types of vehicles. \*Once in the Preserve,\* stay on the paved road until reaching the parking for the visitor center and annex on the left. The Education Annex is the white building to the right of the large stone Visitor Center. The Annex entrance is on the back side of the building. Look forward to seeing you there.

Directions from other locations are found at the link below.

From Gilbert's Corner, drive north on Rt 15 for 4.3 miles and turn right on Oatlands Mill Road. Go straight across Gleedsville Road and watch for the park entrance on the right.

From the southeast, take Rt 50 west to Evergreen Mill Road and turn right. Follow Evergreen Mill Road about 8 miles to The Woods Road and turn left. The park entrance will be about a mile along on the left.

Banshee Reeks Nature Reserve is located at:  
21085 The Woods Road  
Leesburg, VA 20175  
703-737-7843

You can find out more information about the Preserve at the following links:  
<http://www.loudoun.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=884>  
<http://www.bansheereeks.org/>

**Don't forget your RAFFLE money!**

# American Association of Woodturners

## Local Chapter News

Local Chapter emails will continue to develop and expand as a tool for the AAW as well as the Local Chapters. On the left you will notice links to current events on the AAW website.

## LOCAL CHAPTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Chair Dale Larson called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and introduced the Board of Directors members; Bill Haskell, Cassandra Speier, Tom Wirsing, Jean LeGwin, Frank Amigo, Malcolm Tibbetts, Executive Director Mary Lacer, and AAW Office Administrator Linda Ferber to the Chapter representatives present. Dale explained that the goal is to increase communication between the AAW and its Local Chapters.

Dale provided some interesting facts: The AAW is a growing organization. There are 13,077 members worldwide, 12,248 members in the United States, and 12 new local chapters have been formed so far this year. Symposium attendance for this year is nearly 1,300. There will be approximately 1,000 attendees at the Symposium's banquet this year.

Dale Larson's next topic: Regional Local Chapters and problems communicating with the AAW Board. Ideas included: All 310 Chapter Presidents to have a council to bring questions/issues to the Board. Have Local Chapter Presidents collect local members' information to be passed along to the Board.

Dale asked if there was any

interest in having some sort of a Regional Presidents Council, or a Local Chapter Presidents Council to increase communication? There seemed to be good agreement for this idea, however, a member suggested that adding a Presidents Council would create yet another duty for the Chapter Presidents. They'd have to meet at some point, and it's possible that some Presidents can't cover the meeting's travel expenses.

Another idea suggested was to create a forum or blog on the internet to communicate. It could be done on the AAW forum or blog with a moderator and be a virtual organization, not a physical one. That may be the modern way to solve the problem instead of traveling. Telephone conference calls are another option for people who don't like computers.

Dale Larson and the Board were pleased with the Local Chapter input and discussion. Watch for further updates and progress on communications. Dale is working with Ed Davidson, our webmaster, to figure out how to best run the blog with local chapter presidents. The Chapters Presidents meeting agreed that physical meetings of the presidents was physically and financially not doable. If you have suggestions or comments please contact Dale Larson. The board set up a committee to work on a survey of the membership. We hope to have it out by the end of this year. It will be a chance to learn about our current members and what they would like to see from AAW.

**CALL FOR DEMONSTRATORS**  
If you or any of your club members are interested in demonstrating at the AAW's 2010 Symposium in Hartford, CT, the application

deadline is October 15th. This is the AAW's largest annual event and generally attracts in excess of 1,200 woodturners. Watch for the announcement on the AAW website for complete instructions to submit your application and photos using our FTP site. For more information or assistance, please contact the AAW offices at [inquiries@woodturner.org](mailto:inquiries@woodturner.org) or 651-484-9094.

## SYMPOSIUM PHOTOS

Please check out the hundreds of pictures of Symposium activities.

**TEACHING GUIDE** At the last Board meeting Mary Lacer recommended the Teaching Woodturning Basics instruction guide be converted into a PDF and put on the members-only section for current AAW members as a free download. Bill Haskell administered a voice vote. All were in favor. Motion was approved unanimously. The Board agreed that this will be a nice membership benefit. The PDG is now on the website. To access this free download log in with your member information from the home page and select the Downloadable Articles and Resources from the menu on the left. Then select Keyword Search of all Articles, enter Teaching Woodturning Basic and press search. The article will be listed and ready for you to download.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

AAW is developing a marketing plan to cover all aspects of our organization. We are looking for someone with expertise and experience in the marketing field.

John Buso is also looking for someone with expertise and

experience in the insurance industry to serve on the insurance committee. Please forward this message on to your Local Chapter members and have them contact Mary Lacer if they are interested in helping AAW promote woodturning.

**LOCAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS** We would like to share the Local Chapter Newsletters. This link is to Montgomery County Woodturners website newsletter. They are the first place winners in this years newsletter contest. Also check out

their home page for photos of the awards ceremony at the AAW Albuquerque Symposium.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS** To add your event or demonstration to the calendar of events please email, details to Linda Ferber.

**SEPTEMBER 12-13 "11th Annual Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium,"** Loveland, Colorado

**SEPTEMBER 18-20 "Turning Southern Style XV,"** Unicoi State Park Lodge near Helen, Georgia

**OCTOBER 23-25 Greensboro, NC Woodturning Symposium**

**OCTOBER 16-18 "Turning 2009" biennial Symposium of the Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild.**

**SEPTEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 21 "Spirit of the Southwest" Annual juried member exhibit, this year with a focus on Southwestern themes. Gallery of Wood Art, Landmark Center, St. Paul, MN**

# Show and Tell!



Gene Overton presented us with his first ever Square turning. Way to go Gene! Made from Walnut.

Don Maloney brought this Red Wood Burl Urn to the meeting. Don, when I go, I want to be put in one just like this! (right)

While Harriet Maloney displayed these three stamp holders. (below)



Karl Hummer brought several pieces for us last month. To the right are two flower vases made from padauk and spalted tamarid. To the left are three bottle stoppers made from spalted Tamarid, coyote wood, and ivory wood. Thanks Karl!

