

Catoctin Area Turners

Issue Number 5 June 2009



June Program

June 13th, 2009

Greetings!

The CAT Picnic is just around the corner and we want to know if you're coming!

If you are coming, please send AJ an email (l.adrienne@gmail.com) including your first and last name and how many people you expect to bring.

We need to know how much BBQ to get.

Also, it was not noted at the meeting but this will be a dry picnic. There are no alcoholic beverages permitted on the Preserve.

We hope to see you all at Banshee Reeks on June 13th!

**New Membership cards
are available for all
members!
Pick yours up at the
meeting!**

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

One of the great benefits of doing something with others is that you have the power of many behind you.

We see that in team sports events, companies, and in woodturning clubs. One of the benefits we have as woodturners is being able to purchase in bulk rather than individually. The buy we just made on Ruth Niles Bottle Stoppers is a great example. Those run \$5.95 when purchased individually but are \$4.75 if buying over a hundred. I found out when talking to Ruth about the order that they are even cheaper when a club makes a buy of the quantity we bought. She charged us \$4.60 each. I think the club should benefit somewhat from a group buy, too, so I am charging everyone the "over 100" price of \$4.75 and giving CAT the 15-cent difference. That will enhance the CAT coffer by about \$23 and everyone still gets a great deal on stoppers. I would very much like for one of our members to take on the task of being the Group Buy Coordinator. If you are interested in being that person, please let me know. This is something which directly benefits everyone who takes advantage of it.

Thanks to Ron Circe' for that tree walk around the pond. Besides ticks, we picked up a lot of very interesting and useful information.

For me, the most interesting piece of information was about the ailanthus, Tree of Heaven. I had seen VDOT contractors cleaning up the sides of Rt 7 last year but didn't know what they were taking down. Now I know that it was the ailanthus, a weed tree.

I had two in my yard until a couple weeks ago when the wind took one out. Yeah, I'll have to fix the fence now, but at least that tree is gone.

We all start out wondering if we will really like woodturning.

Lots of questions. Should I buy a lathe? What tools should I get? Oh, and a grinder is a must, but that's a lot of money, etc. My first tools were a 1" spindle gouge, a 1/2" square scraper, and a 1/4" spindle gouge, all made by Sears. These came with the used Sears 4-speed I bought through the Post classified ads. After trying to sharpen them on a whetstone, I figured out pretty quickly that I needed a decent grinder with the Wolverine jig in order to do a proper job of it. Nothing like having the right tools, you know. After I took Bill Hardy's class through Fairfax County adult ed, I bought a couple more tools and thought I had all I'd need. Of course, we all know that did not turn out to be the case and over the years, I have bought more tools, not all at once, but sort of piecemeal as I thought I needed them. I have one tool which I rarely use but which is just perfect when I need it. It is essentially a 5/8" square scraper which I have modified by sharpening it on both the square end as well as about an inch up along the left side. I use it for squaring the bottom corners of boxes. Since I make about one box a year, it doesn't get a whole lot of use but I keep it in my tool bucket "just in case." And voila, I just had to use it on a commercial spindle job making 3" high walnut collars for a construction project. It is so gratifying to actually

use one of those many tools I have which I rarely use. So I guess the moral of the story is that when The Call of the Lathe is telling you to go ahead and buy that new specialty tool, go ahead. You might actually use it sometime!!!

See you at the picnic this Saturday since we have no meeting on Thursday evening because of the picnic two days later. Please remember to let AJ know at l.adrienne@gmail.com that you will be able to come so she can plan accordingly. And if at the last minute you find that you can come, please do so. See you there.

Do you have wood you are not using? How about a tool you never pick up anymore? If so, we would love to have them for the silent auction! Bring them to the next meeting and we will make sure that they go to a good home.

Well, the last several weeks have been quite busy here. Unfortunately, things got so busy, that the newsletter is later than it should be. My apologies, and I hope to keep it from happening again.

On to better things. This month will be the first annual Catoctin Area Turners picnic! AJ has been doing a great job organizing things. AJ, the entire board sends their thanks! if anyone has any questions, please contact AJ at l.adrienne@gmail.com or 703-727-5244. I will see you all there.

This newsletter includes a reprinted article from the newsletter of The American Association of Woodturning. If you aren't a member yet, put this newsletter

down right now and go sign up. Believe me, it is worth every penny. Go ahead, I will be here when you get back. The article covers insurance options available to AAW members.

The picture to the right is of a burl covered tree I came across while in Edinburgh, Scotland. I was itching for a way to lop off 'just a bit' to make a souvenir of our trip, but alas, decided against it. It was a great trip anyway and while I don't have a piece of this tree, I do have its picture!

See you all at the picnic!

Please, please, please make sure you wear AND USE the proper equipment while turning.



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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:

June- Picnic

July- Termite Tool Demonstration (Joe Flanagan)

August- Piercing/Carving (Debra Breton)

September- Craft Show Preparation w/ imaginary lathe demos (Tom Boley)

October- Christmas Ornaments, Fast! (Harriet Maloney)

November- Tool Selection (Don Maloney)

December- Pen Turning (Joe Flanagan)

Believe it or not, we're starting to think about our programs for next year. We've had a number of topics suggested and I'm now looking for volunteers who could present or at least take the lead in pulling some of

these together. Suggestions have included:

Texturing Techniques- chattering, etc.

Chucks, various types and advantages/pros and cons of each type

Turning green wood/translucent turnings

Birdhouses

Turning screw threads

Turning a box with a friction fitted lid

Turning using laminations

Finishing techniques using CA and other methods

If you would be willing to present on one of these topics, please let me know or as always, if you know someone that would be a good fit, please let me know as well and I'll make the approach. Thanks to all who either presented already or have volunteered to present, these programs are critical to the success of our club. (Dave Martin, 703 727 7917, davemartin88@gmail.com)

Tree Identification Workshop

We received a few requests after our May meeting program about tree/wood identification about the possibility of having a longer, more detailed walk in the nature preserve. First, I want to thank Ron Circe again for presenting during our meeting. Ron has graciously agreed to lead a workshop/hike if there is enough interest from the membership. The plan would be target a Saturday or Sunday morning, reasonably early to beat the heat, in late June or July. This would allow time to take a look at a few more of the species that are in the nature preserve as well as talk a bit more about each tree and answer questions. Good chance for a little exercise and to pick up some

knowledge as well. If you would be interested in participating in something like this or have additional suggestions on the content to cover, please let me know. (Dave Martin, 703 727 7917, davemartin88@gmail.com)

Wood Sample Project

A couple of our members have volunteered to pull together a wood sample exhibit that we could use at meetings or local events showing the different types of wood that are available to use in our projects. The suggestion is to collect small samples of wood from our members and then cut/assemble them on a large board for presentation. The sample wouldn't need to be larger than about 3"X5"X1". Depending on how many samples we can collect,

we may be able to group them to show woods available in the local area, domestically, or imported as an example. We can always add additional samples later as our members travel or otherwise come across new examples. For the short term, we'll assume we have the basics covered like red/white oak, elm, hickory, and cherry but if you have an unfinished sample of other types of wood you could donate, please let us know by email- at this point, let's not start collecting the samples but will ask for these once we have input from members on what they can provide. If you can help, please send your email with the type of wood you could provide to davemartin88@gmail.com.

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/>

Reminder!

We still have not decided on a logo for our group! Get those creative juices flowing and help us create an identity. In order for us to be able to reproduce the logo, it needs to be clean, clear and with minimal colors. If the logo has too many colors, or is too intricate, we may have problems embroidering the shirts we all want to wear!

If you have not paid your dues yet, please do. It will help keep the organization operating.

Don't forget to bring a little (or a LOT!) cash for the Silent Auction and Raffle!

The First Annual

CATOCTIN AREA TURNERS



Where: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve
21085 The Woods Road
Leesburg, VA 20175

When: June 13, 2009

Time: 10:00am -4:00pm

Who: Club members, Family Members, and Prospective Club members

To ensure we have a variety of delicious foods please bring the food item listed next to the letter corresponding with the first letter of your last name. Please bring about 10-15 servings of your dish.

A - C Breads/Rolls

D - L Salads/Side dishes

M-R Desserts

S-Z Beverages (nonalcoholic)

Main dishes, condiments, and paper products will be purchased by the club.

Please contact AJ Lewis with any additional ideas or questions at l.adrienne@gmail.com or 703-727-5244.

If you own a shade canopy, large cooler, or buffet warmer and are able to bring them to the picnic, please let AJ know

We also encourage members (who are also members of AAW) to bring their mini-lathes and stands to set up and do some turning during the picnic. In order to turn at the event you must be an AAW as well as CAT because of insurance rules.

Insurance Coverage for AAW Members

After many years of searching, the AAW has reached an agreement with a well-respected national company that specializes in providing health and other insurance to associations such as the AAW. We can now offer most of our U.S. resident members and their families medical insurance policies at very competitive rates through Association Health Programs (AHP) from Overland Park, Kansas.

AHP administers the health insurance needs of over 180 national associations, representing 2.5 million people. This huge block of buyers allows AHP to negotiate the lowest premiums available. On average,

AHP expects to save AAW members substantial amounts on premiums. This may be the biggest benefit of your AAW membership.

We talked with many associations that already do business with AHP, and without exception they were all delighted with the service and premiums. Complaints were minimal and always handled promptly to members' satisfaction.

AHP offers a 100% guarantee. If you are insurable, they will always be able to give you the lowest costs, compared to any other source. If you have any existing medical conditions, AHP guarantees that their liberal un-

derwriting will allow you to pay less. They further guarantee that upon annual renewal, they will obtain for you the lowest rates on health insurance and analyze your coverage to keep premiums in line with alternative insurance suppliers.

AHP will place our AAW members and their families in with a large block of buyers in each state, with members from all the other associations that they represent. They will only use "A" rated insurers such as Humana, Blue Cross, Aetna, United Health Care, Healthnet, or Assurant. In all of these, policy rates and renewals will be based on age and not your future medical conditions. Once a policy is issued, our members cannot be cancelled due to any change in your medical condition.

AHP cannot offer medical insurance coverage in the states of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Vermont due to state health insurance laws. Due to state mandates, there are limited health insurance opportunities in New York and New Jersey. Alaska and Hawaii have limited policies available as well.

In general, you can expect \$5 to \$8 million of lifetime maximum benefits per person, comprehensive full-coverage major medical insurance, unlimited routine care, unlimited prescriptions, PPO options or the ability to see any doctor or hospital of your choice, and coverage that is good anywhere in the United States.

AHP can also offer group policies for any business of three or more employees or officers. They can also provide policies to cover Health Savings Accounts, Medicare Supplements, and Medicare Part D coverage, dental, disability income, critical

Answers to some frequently asked insurance questions:

1. Can the AHP brokered insurance be used anywhere I travel in the United States?

Yes.

2. Will all doctors and hospitals accept this coverage?

Yes.

3. Does the health insurance program cover pre-existing conditions?

Yes, on insurable conditions like asthma, high blood pressure, cholesterol, or broken limbs, for individual policies. On group policies, there are never pre-existing condition exceptions. Individual policies will not cover pre-existing conditions such as heart problems, malignant cancers, strokes, Crohn's disease, diabetes, seizures or severe chronic ailments. For members with these

chronic pre-existing conditions, AHP has the availability to help members in 32 states with the state health insurance guaranteed risk pools. This service will be done at no cost to our members.

4. Are pre-existing conditions an issue on acceptance to a plan or the premium rates?

Yes, each case will be individually evaluated, and appropriate recommendations will be made.

5. Does AHP require a health examination?

No.

6. Do I need to be a current AAW member to get the benefits of these policies?

Yes.

illness, and international travel insurance. Through their large-block purchasing power, AHP can also provide the lowest premium rates on life insurance for term, whole life, second to die, key man, or universal life.

If one of the insurance policies you need is long-term care insurance, through AHP you can save a substantial discount off of premiums that provide for home care, assisted living care, adult living care, and nursing home care. AHP offers policies that provide for 100% coverage for any services that you may need in any care. Insurance companies providing this coverage include MetLife, John Hancock, Principal, Guardian, Medical Mutual, Physicians Mutual, and Genworth.

AHP can also help save you on the costs of premiums for your auto and home insurance.

If someone you know who is not an AAW member wants to pursue this opportunity to purchase insurance through our large buying block, represented by AHP, they can either contact AHP at 1-888-450-3040 or go to www.associationpros.com/assoc/aaw and submit an application. Be sure to ask for the AAW rates. If they are pleased with the quoted rates, they can join the AAW by going to www.woodturner.org.

To get an application to receive a quote, either call 1-888-450-3040 or go to www.associationpros.com/assoc/aaw, fill it out, and click submit. ■

John Hill, Chair AAW Insurance Advisory Committee.