



# Central Connecticut Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturning

Dedicated to the Advancement of Woodturning



February 2010

## Next Meeting

Tuesday February 23rd  
7PM

Jim Kephart's shop

Jim Degan  
Piercing & texturing with  
the NSK

March 23rd  
Bolton Woodturning  
Willimantic

## Upcoming Events

Totally Turning 3/27-28  
Saratoga Springs, NY  
www.totallyturning.com

AAW  
National Symposium  
June 18-20, 2010  
Hartford, CT  
Www.woodturner.org

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## President's Note:

I would like to say thanks to Jim Kephart for offering his shop to the Central Connecticut Woodturners for an afternoon of woodturning fun. On Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 2pm. The people attending will have the opportunity to work

together on a project or two of their choice. It will be an afternoon of great fun, great conversation and maybe even some turning will be done. If you plan to attend, please bring your turning tools, a brown bag lunch if you chose, and some wood

to turn. If you want to attend, please call Corey at 860-267-0830 to reserve your spot. I look forward to seeing you. Submitted by Corey Anderson, President-CCW



## Aesthetics in Bowl Design

### What is aesthetics and why do I care?

"A sense of the beautiful. While related to cultural and individual perception, aesthetics can be learned through dialogue, instruction and study."<sup>1</sup> "I know what I like, and that ain't it." This presentation will help you see why you like a piece (or not) and help in creating your own work.

### Design – What is it?

"A verb – to conceive, invent, contrive. When we attempt to arrange parts in a way that is most efficient, attractive and meaningful, we are engaged in design."<sup>1</sup> Design begins with predetermined conditions (the size of the blank, how big is our lathe, the type of wood) but as a turner we mustn't allow those to limit the vision we have for our pieces.

### Critique Disclaimer

This discussion is about making your work better. It doesn't mean "bad". I want you to think about what you see when you look at a bowl, so that the bowls You like you can emulate, without copying. And you must understand that people viewing your work have individual perceptions of aesthetic. This assumes that a piece is turned with a level of technical quality...no tearout, finish doesn't have runs and sags, etc. Please see **Bowl/3**.



## Meet Jim Degen

A longtime woodworker, Jim began woodturning after retiring from a thirty-four year corporate career. Educated as a mechanical engineer, with no former background in the arts, he has studied woodturning with Beth Ireland, Andy

Barnum, Angelo Iafate, Michael Hosaluk, Binh Pho, and Richard Raffan. He continues to hone his skills by attending national symposiums and weekend workshops. A member of the American Association of Woodturners, he is a past president of the local

chapter, the Nutmeg Woodturners League. He is a woodturning instructor at the Brookfield Craft Center and has exhibited his work regionally including the Brookfield Craft Center, Ironwood Gallery, Riverguild, Outsiders Art Gallery, and juried craft shows. He works from his own studio, Lost Loon Wood Works, in Brookfield, Connecticut.

### Totally Turning 2010

The Adirondack Woodturners Association is proud to bring you the seventh Totally Turning Symposium. Totally Turning 2010 will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28, 2010 in Saratoga Springs, New York. On March 27 and 28, 2010, the Adirondack Woodturners Association will present Totally Turning 2010 in the same location as SHOWCASE. Every Totally Turning registrant will have full access to BOTH the woodturning rotations of Totally Turning 2010 and to all of SHOWCASE 2010.



### "Member at Large"

An announcement was made at the last meeting that John Lorch has been appointed as a "Member at Large" to serve as an additional contact point for the members to communicate with the officers. John has been involved in woodturning for many years. John is an instructor at the Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking. John has also lent his time and efforts to the Freedom Schooner Amistad.

John can be reached via email at: jlorch@aol.com

### Time to get active & try something new

At the last meeting it was announced the creation of a monthly mini-challenge. Which unlike our traditional large chapter challenges, these challenges will not be judged and have no prizes. Their intent by having smaller, short timeframes will have you focusing on a variety of skills through the year in order to expand the skills of the membership and stimulate broader participation in the monthly Show and Yell.

For the February challenge: candlesticks!

## AAW News

Rick and I met with the AAW board and the other club representatives. We reviewed the committees and their needs, then we took a tour of the convention hall and the many venue rooms. Being on site & seeing everything added to the excitement of the upcoming event, but, we need your help.

Regardless if you are an

AAW member or not, you can help. Volunteers are needed for set ups, gallery monitors, demonstrator runners, clean up, registration, sales and many other areas.

I'm looking for volunteers that are willing to share their knowledge of their craft in the Spouse's Craft Room.

This room will have rotations like the symposium

and generally there will be 40-60 people in attendance. Remember a happy spouse is one that will probably not notice as much the new "toys", wood and other items that you just have to have!

AAW symposium registration costs: now til 5/15-\$250, after 5/16-\$290, and at the door \$330.

~~Lynda Zibbideo



## An added note about Tasmanian Myrtle

A few years ago the CWW entertained a demonstrator from Sydney, Australia, George Hatfield. My reward for ferrying him about was an adorable fuzzy koala which I treasure to this day. He (or she-I can't tell which) dangles from a cabinet handle above my desk. There was also an added gift, a chunk of what he referred to as "Pink Tasmanian Myrtle Burl". I wish here to offer a few comments to supplement last

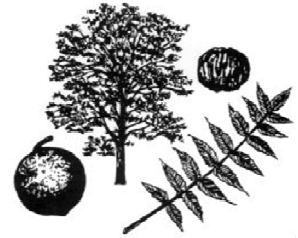
month's Wood of the month. Over the years, I have used this wood to make pens. They are the most popular in my inventory. In crafting some types of pens it is critical to maintain the dimension (length) of the copper tube insert. I offer the following admonition. This burl tends to hold water & after barrel trimming it shrinks! I com-

pletely failed to pick up on the problem. While drilling the holes for the copper tubes, the wood seems "rubbery". I was clueless!! Remedy? Make the blanks, insert the tubes in the usual manner but wait. My shelf is as dry as the Sahara by I still delayed barrel trimming for at least one month. Problem solved!!

~~Gil Hite

## Wood of the Month

**American Walnut** *Juglans nigra* (Juglandaceae)



**Grows:** Canada & USA.

**Health risks:** Irritation to eyes & skin from the dust and contact with the wood. If you have a nut allergy, this wood may cause anaphylactic symptoms.

**Description:** The heartwood ranges from a light grayish-brown to purplish-black, with the sapwood ranging from whitish to a yellowish brown. Its dull luster will develop to a lustrous patina in time. Burls,

stump wood & crotches are valued for their notable mottling, curly & wavy figure.

**Properties:** It works well with machine & hand tools.

**Typical Uses:** It is prized as a cabinetmaking wood, and the chosen wood in the USA for gunstocks & rifle butts. It is used for furniture making, joinery, boat building, musical instruments, carving & ornamental veneers. As an added bonus its nuts

are edible!

**Additional Note:** Walnut shavings should **NOT** be composed as their chemical compound will damage or kill surrounding plants. Nor should it be used as bedding for animals for this same reason.

Aesthetics in Bowl design.....continued

### Basics of Design

#### Line

An element of art that is used to define shape, contours, and outlines, also to suggest mass and volume. It may be a continuous mark made on a surface with a pointed tool or implied by the edges of shapes and forms.

Bowl sides should be fair curves – without flatspots – rims can be straight. Use length of chain to begin to see how look.

#### Form (Shape)

When a line crosses itself or intersects with other lines to enclose a space it creates a shape. Shape is two-dimensional it has heights and width but no depth.

#### Categories of Shapes:

Geometric Shapes-Circles, Squares, rectangles and triangles. We see them in architecture and manufactured items.

Organic Shapes-Leaf, seashells, flowers. We see them in nature and with characteristics that are free flowing, informal and irregular.

Positive Shapes-In a drawing or painting positive shapes are the solid forms in a design such as a bowl of fruit. In a sculpture it is the solid form of the sculpture.

Negative Shapes-In a drawing it is the space around the positive shape or the shape around the bowl of fruit. In sculpture it is the empty shape around and between the sculptures.

Static Shape-Shapes that appears stable and resting.

Dynamic Shape-Shapes that appears moving and active

### The Golden Mean<sup>2</sup>

The Greeks perfected and used the "Golden Mean," a formula for the ratio between the short side and the long side of a rectangle that will appear balanced to the viewer.

The Rule Of The Golden Mean simply states that:

"The smaller is to the larger as the larger is to the whole."

Without a lot of discussion, this can be reduced to: "The relationship between the smaller and the larger is the ratio of 1 to 1.618". To complete the "rule" the sum of the length and width is the same as the length multiplied by 1.618.

To apply the "Golden Rule" to a bowl design, we divide the diameter by 1.618 to determine its height and divide its height by 1.618 to determine the diameter of its base.

As an example: If we want to turn a 10" diameter bowl, its height will be:  $10 \div 1.618 = 6.180$ ", or  $6\frac{1}{4}$ " height And the base diameter is:  $6\frac{1}{4} \cdot 1.618 = 3.72$ ", or  $3\frac{3}{4}$ " These dimensions will give us a bowl of pleasing proportions, as taught by the ancient Greeks.

Aesthetics in Bowl design.....continued

### Value (Tone)

Value is the lightness or darkness of a color. Value is also called Tone. It is the difference between the light and dark areas in a painting. The greater the difference the more attention the area attracts

### Texture

Texture is the surface quality of an object. A rock may be rough and jagged. A piece of silk may be soft and smooth and your desk may feel hard and smooth.

Texture in your turning can be manipulated, by your choice of wood (cherry vs bigleaf burl vs Banksia Pod) – straight rim vs natural edge or adding texturing to a surface.

### Color

In turning, color can be controlled by choice of wood, heartwood vs sapwood, bleaching, ebonizing, dyes & paints

### Composition

Putting together parts and elements to form a whole. There are rules of composition...here are a few...

- Symmetry tend to promote stability
- Asymmetry tend to be dynamic
- Diagonals are more active than horizontals
- Proximity creates tension
- Sameness is often boring
- Regularity creates rhythm
- Contrast exaggerates effect

### The Rule of thirds<sup>2</sup>

When placing features on a form, divide the form into thirds.

Rule 1 - The bottom diameter is 1/3 that of the largest diameter."

Rule 2 - "The height is either 2/3 (preferred) or 1/3 (optional) that of the largest diameter."

Rule 3 - When the largest diameter is not at the top rim, it shall be located at 2/3, or 1/3 (optional) of the Height above the base. "

Most turned shapes have a more pleasing appearance when the maximum diameter is not at the top rim, but is located below the rim. This "Rule" tells us how far.

Rule 4 - "The diameter of the rim, or top opening, shall be some multiple of 1/3 or 2/3 that of the Maximum Diameter."

Rule-4 (Optional for Bowls only) - "The diameter at the rim is smaller than the diameter by approximately 1/2 the distance that the largest diameter is below the top of the bowl."

Rule of thirds vs Golden Mean (GM) - the Rule of thirds works out to be an approximation of the golden mean calculations...

Bowl height - GM - 10" diameter bowl, its height will be:  $10" \div 1.618 = 6.180"$ .

Rule of thirds 10" diameter  $\times 2/3 = 6.666\dots$

Base Diameter - GM -  $6.180" \div 1.618 = 3.72"$  Rule of thirds 10" diameter  $\times 1/3 = 3.333\dots$

So we see here that the rule of thirds is a approximation of the Golden mean proportion, thus creating pieces that are visually pleasing without resorting to breaking out the slide rule.

### Elegance

"Refinement in grace in movement, appearance or manners."<sup>1</sup>

Lift – gives a piece elegance. Does the piece float, or appear rooted to the table? Use the chain loop to visualize. Using feet to increase lift

Elegance – thin walls & finials, graceful curves

### Function

Solving for a specific problem.

The proportions of a form should be suitable to the function...Salad bowls with tiny feet...

Being something to look at is a function!

### Integration

"The resulting whole made by bringing parts together, organization, unification."

### Intention

"The determination to do a specific thing in a specific manner"<sup>1</sup>

We have presented a long list of things to think about...guidelines for turning "good design". Any or all of these can be broken or ignored **if you intend to!**



<sup>1</sup> Kathleen Dustin – Aesthetic Tools Presentation at Pinkerton Academy – June 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Design Rules by Russ Fairfield - <http://www.woodturner-russ.com/Design-2.html>

# Knights of Columbus Craft Show

DATE: Saturday, May 1, 2010  
 LOCATION: Cromwell Middle School  
 6 Mann Memorial Dr, Cromwell, CT 06416  
 TIME: 7am – 9am  
 SETUP: 9am – 3pm Doors open to public  
 ENTRY FEE: \$45.00 Single space (approx 9'x8') \$80.00 Double space  
 Late application fee of \$10.00  
 Confirmations will be sent within 10 days of receipt of application.

FACILITIES: Some electrical is available at the show (\$10.00 charge). Chairs will be provided if requested prior to the show. Bring your own tables.

PROMOTION: Media campaign for Radio, TV, Newspapers, Signs, Posters and at Craft Facilities as available.

REQUIREMENTS: We reserve the right to accept or reject your application. Please provide photos of your craft.

Each exhibitor is responsible for his/her own sales tax. Hand-crafted items only – no imports or kits allowed. No more than two crafters per booth. All Artist/Crafter photos will be returned the day of the show.

**Deadline for Application: April 15, 2010 – NO REFUNDS after this date.**

For more information contact:  
 John Croasdale  
 (860) 671-9257  
 or (860) 635-3487



Photos by  
 Abel Tangarone

## Show & Yell

- Joe Doran
- Kris Connors
- John Lorch
- Ken Rowe
- Al Czellecz
- Larry Graves-Douville
- Tome Stevenson
- Gil Hite
- Dayton Stimson
- Al Moltz
- Eric Holmquist
- Mike South
- Lynda Zibbideo



## Final Notes

The CCW library has grown over recent years with the purchase of past issues of the AAW magazine and videos. This library is available to all CCW members. With the recent cabinet acquisition for the A/V equipment, I've been able to consolidate the library into a bigger cabinet for ease of browsing. For a \$5 per item up front returnable fee you can choose as many items as you want to view. There are a few rules that need to be followed when

taking out materials. Do not loan it to someone else or have someone else return it for you. You are responsible for the items. All borrowed items are due back when we have our meetings at the CT Valley School of Woodworking in Manchester. If you have any videos, books or magazines that you are no longer wanting and are in good condition and would like to donate them, please come and see me.

~~Walter McMahon

I'm looking for articles for the next newsletter. Articles need to be to me by the 10th of the month so that I can get them in. Don't have a computer....no problem, write legibly & I'll get it in. With or without photos too. Gallery announcements can be put in the newsletter & I can put them out on the web!

forever green  
 ~~Lynda Zibbideo



**Central Connecticut Woodturners**  
**c/o Lynda Zibbideo**  
**158 Reynolds Dr.**  
**Meriden, CT 06450**



~ Legal Stuff ~

The Central Connecticut Woodturners (CCW) was founded in 1994 to support the needs of woodturners in the central Connecticut area. Its purpose is to promote a higher standard of excellence in woodturning by providing an ever expanding source of information and resources to its membership. Memberships are calendar basis from January 1 through December 31. Annual dues are \$35 or \$20 for six months or less.

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Webmaster: Nutmeg Web Service

www.nutmegwebservice.com



Central Connecticut Woodturners - Membership Information

New:  Renew:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues (\$35) payable to:  
 Central Connecticut Woodturners  
 c/o **Alan Moltz**  
 21 Decosta Drive  
 Newington, CT 06111