

November 2009

# Shavings

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A monthly newsletter issued by:



The Detroit Area Woodturners is a Chapter of  
The American Association of Woodturners

## **Presidents Message**

Last month, if you could not make it, you missed an impressive demo by Steve Wilson. He showed us how he turns little scoops and the fixture he uses to hollow the bowl of the scoop. Don't fret if you could not make the meeting, a write-up on how to do this great project will be posted on our website, so you can give it try.

As always we still need help. Remember this is your club, there are many things that need to get done so that demos to be put on the library can be available, as well as all the other things we do. Any help you can give will make your experience better as well as the experiences of your fellow members. Currently, we are looking for someone that can take care of the audio equipment, and as always the newsletter can use articles. Please think about it, if you have an hour or two you can spare during the month it would make a big difference.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting November 15.

Frank Marabate

P.S. This month Mike Foydel will be doing a demo on turning a Christmas ornament.

## *Jam Chucks*

**Jamb chucks** are an inexpensive, flexible, alternative at anytime, but particularly when your scroll chucks are in use or might damage a wood-turning's finish. The basics of cutting a recess into flat material, getting a very snug fit, and hoping you don't get a catch that pulls the piece out are common knowledge. Using a tail-stock against the base is one measure to prevent release from the jamb-chuck. It is particularly useful for repetitive jobs where the stock is a uniform size. The jamb chuck is suitable for inside or outside, depending on the turned article's shape.

Common sense says the tail-stock should be used whenever possible. Of course, the tail-stock will leave a mark at the center of the turning's base. That mark is useful and should be the last thing turned off of the piece. Most of my jamb-chuck failures occur while I'm turning the perimeter of the piece. That's because the leverage at the perimeter is much greater and more favorable positioned on the piece to pull it out of the chuck. Thus removing the tail-stock only for the final center area cleanup can reduce the probability of a catch. Another means to ensure the jamb chuck remains secure is the addition of a vacuum chuck.

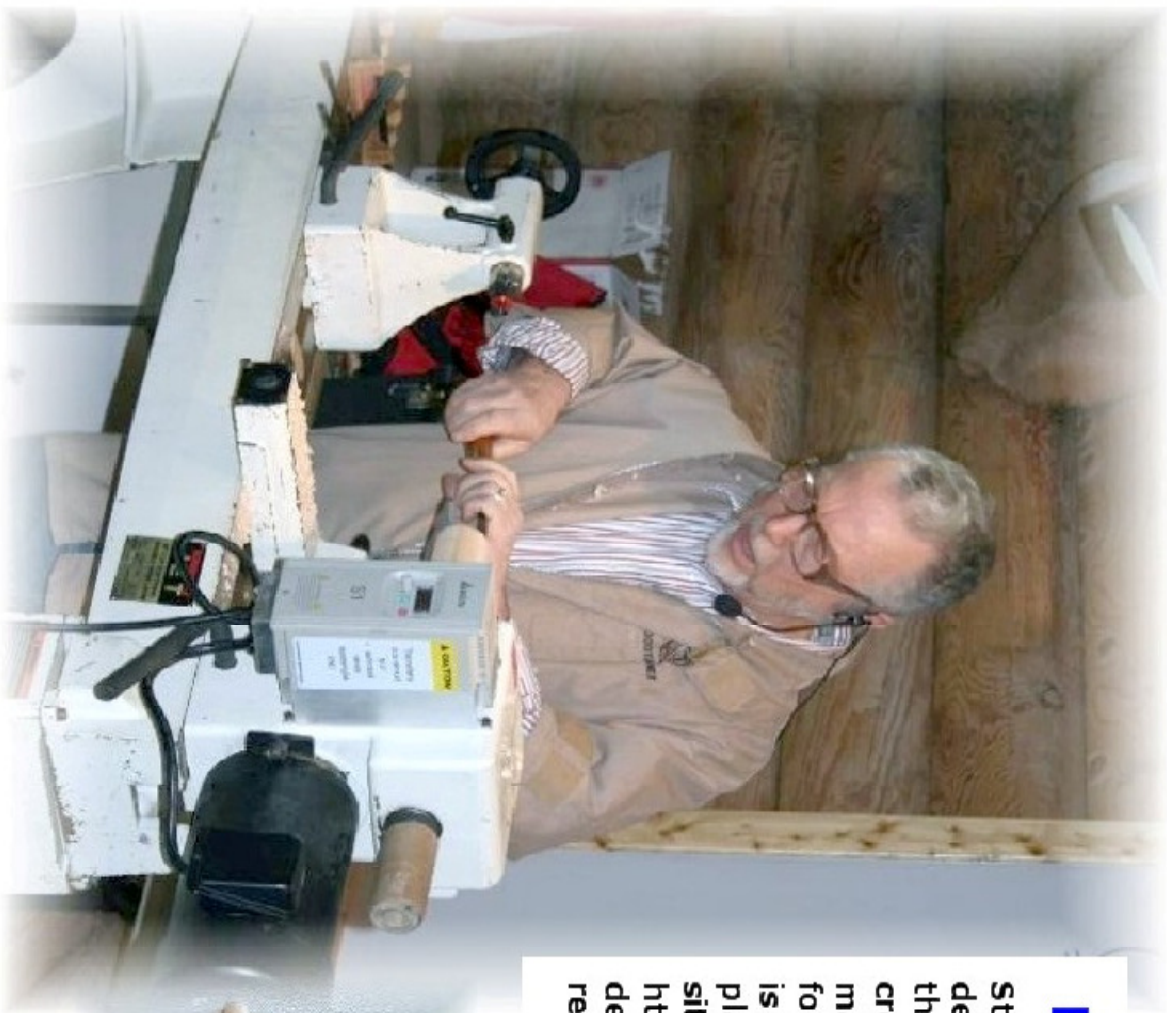
If you have difficulty getting the perfect fit, you can dampen the wood on either the chuck, or the turning to expand the fibers. Another alternative is giving up a small amount of wood from you project for waste. You can combine the benefits of the jamb with glue for a really secure hold.

Additionally, jamb-chucks are excellent when you have (for example) an irregular box top surface. This is overcome with a deeper recess turned abnormally deep to accept the protrusion at the top.

When turning your piece, take care to ensure the interfaces between the project are straight and parallel to the axis of the lathe. If you have difficulty getting a solid jamb chuck fit – interface angle may be the problem.

In short, the next time you puzzle over how to secure your project, please give some thought to a Jamb chuck.

Chet Bisno



## Here's the Scoopi!

Steve Wilson did a great job on his demo of turning a coffee scoop at the October DAW meeting. He also created a PDF of the process of making the scoop AND the fixture for turning it. The detailed process is too large to show here, so we've placed it permanently on the DAW site in the resources area.  
<http://www.detroitareawoodturners.org/resources.asp>



Left, Steve is turning the fixture to make the scoop. Above, the finished product.



# November

## 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Mike Foydel demo @ BAW	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 DAW meeting	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

It was just before Thanksgiving in Walmart and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one. In desperation she called over a shop assistant and said, 'Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?' 'No, madam,' he replied, 'they're all dead.'

Detroit Area Woodturners meet at the  
Shelby River Bends Park,  
Shadbush Nature Center, Shelby  
Township, MI,  
from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.  
The Park is located on Ryan Road  
between 21 and  
22 Mile Roads opposite the Hamlin  
Road junction.



## *A Trip to Visit David Ellsworth*

In February and March I read the new book by David Ellsworth, twice. He runs a teaching workshop out of his turning studio and I decided to go to it. I called in March but every slot was taken until June. I booked Fathers-day weekend.



I flew into Lehigh Valley International Airport Pennsylvania and rented a car to drive down to Quakertown. I got a room at the Best Western Motor Inn. It is the closest to David's house and the least expensive, especially if you have an AAA card or mention that you're attending David's workshop. There is also a Bed and Breakfast very close to David's home, but it is also a bit more expensive and because breakfast is at David's any way, I chose the motor inn.

David gave a good map to get to his home, but even so the roads twist and turn in that area of Pennsylvania and I had to ask for help.

From the moment when I reached the beginning of the driveway I felt I was entering an enchanted place. The drive is about a quarter of a mile long and winds through dense forest with large stone outcrops and artistically placed piles of stones and wooden artifacts. Almost to the house the road splits and off to the right I could see Wendy's bead studio and David's turning studio. The house and several out buildings are set in a small clearing. Gardens with bird feeders and stone statuary surround the house. The house is a lodge with a loft. The great room/ kitchen/ dining room is large and art is on every shelf, nook and cranny. Mostly of it is wooden and made by artists from all over the world. Just to be immersed in all this creativity was almost worth the cost of admission.

The class consisted of five guys: one from Alaska, one from Ottawa, one from up state New York, one from Pennsylvania (near by), and myself.

The studio has six lathes: two Robusts, one Sweet 16 Robust, a short-bed Woodfast, a large Poolwood and David's monster lathe. It's a custom made lathe but I don't remember the name. There is also a finishing room/photographic studio attached to one side of the main room. There are plenty of tools, faceplates and sharpening areas to go around. I didn't see or use a chuck all weekend.

The first project was a bowl with a finished rim. We used wet Poplar which is quite stringy. The second project was in wet Ash. The other four guys did natural edge bowls. I chose a hollow form. I was able to complete it by late Sunday. That is except for the sanding and finish. The other guys rushed through the bowls and started on hollow forms. Only one other came close to finishing.

Each day started with breakfast around David's big slab of a dining table. He still has the eighteen inch Sonotube legs under the book-matched slabs until he decides on the finial design for the real legs. It's been eighteen years. The table talk could go just about anywhere.

After breakfast we adjourn to the studio where David will talk a bit about what we will do today. Then it's on to the lathes. We traded till we all got a shot at the larger lathes. **David Ellsworth**

As we progressed through our projects, David instructed individually as needed.

At noon we break for lunch. David does most of the cooking. Wendy does the baking.

Above the turning studio David has his gallery. The collection includes some large pieces, a few medium sized pieces and quite a few of his spirit pieces. Also there are many of Wendy's more elaborate bead art pieces. These need to be seen up close to be appreciated. Photography just does not do them justice.

The gallery is where I thought I would see all the art, but art is everywhere here. The mark of the wood guy is on every small cupboard with wooden hinges and a quirky handle; each door latch and each shelf support. Not only that, but, in the studio in every nook and crevice are bits of turned work that was good but not good enough to get to the finish room.

At five pm we stop for diner. With our group the talk and the food lasted till after seven pm. Then I was off to the motel. On the way thru Quakerstown I stopped at Irma's for a Mango Ice, mmm.

On the whole I think the trip to PA was a good one. The emersion in turned work by really goods turners from around the world; the critiquing and design analysis of these works and works from our group; the camaraderie of our particular group; the food and the total atmosphere of turning in a deep woods all came together to leave a lasting good impression.

I will say that I probably went to this workshop overly prepared so that I was trying to get more out of the instruction than was intended. I had read David's new book twice and had been turning nearly every day for over two months before the trip. I had also come pretty far on the path to understand and use David's tool use style.

I think more might have been gained to go more as a beginner or intermediate turner. An epiphany is an elusive thing and I didn't find one here, but I did have fun looking for it.

By:  
Steve Wilson



## Ohio Valley Wood-turners Guild's Turning 2009.

Many DAW members never have the opportunity to attend the AAW Annual Meeting because of cost or time. The closest you can get to the AAW meeting is the Ohio Valley Wood turner's Guild (OVWG) Biennial Symposium. The symposium offers a taste of a major wood turning activity at lower cost and close enough, in West Harrison Indiana (just west of Cincinnati), that you can drive. This year I attended with Greg Smith and Dennis Montville. We arrived the evening of the Oct. 15 for the first meal and a slow night that encouraged retiring early. The first rotation (or presentation) was presented the following morning (Oct. 16).

Turning 2009, 16-18 October, included a number of big names such as John Jordan, Bonnie Klein, David Ellsworth, Alan Lacer, J-F Escoulan and Stuart Mortimer. The forum is organized into one short (74 minutes) and one (135 minutes) long rotation for each half of eight half days. There are always six concurrent rotations ongoing from which you can select your preference. The well known demonstrators were presented for the longer rotations.

Compared to the AAW meeting, Turning 2009, was less crowded with the equivalent quality. All presentations are in a single large room, so there's some noise distraction from among the concurrent presentations. There was plenty of seating in each rotation, something I remember was not available at the AAW meeting I attended a few years ago. Of course, the first move at any break is to find your next presentation area and stake out your seat. All presentations had excellent audio-visual support.



This year I was particularly interested in "embellishment" Thus I attended presentations by Jennifer Shirley, Molly Winton, and Andi Wolfe that covered pyrography, carving and other decoration. I also enjoyed "hollow forms" presentations by John Jordan and Stuart Mortimer. Stuart Mortimer started with a raw log, turned it into a sphere and hollowed it down to a translucent wall of 1/8" to 3/16". He did all of this in the hour he had left after his pedestal bowl featured presentation.

Another feature of Turning 2009 was the book, about 1/2" thick with highlights from most featured presenters. The book contained highlights to which presenters made reference to reduce the need for some note-taking.

This was my second visit to an OVTG symposium and well worth the time and cost. I recommend it to anyone that can free up the time (four days with travel) and cost (about \$350 with sleeping in the dorms (four to ten persons to a room – but there's the hazard of a snorer). Individual rooms are available at greater cost, but you have to enroll early to get one.

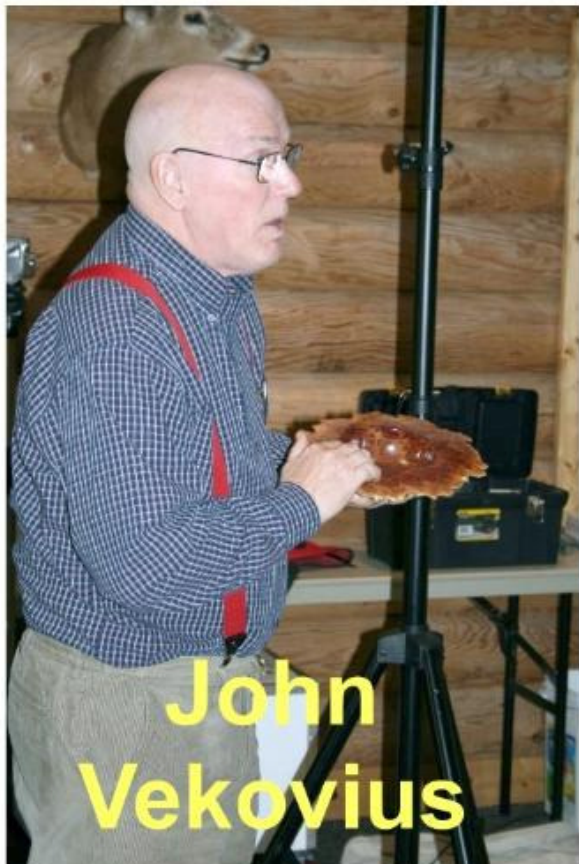
Give thought to attending "Turning 2011." It's a great way to expand your wood turning understanding and meet a lot of woodturners.

Chet Bisno

# members turnings



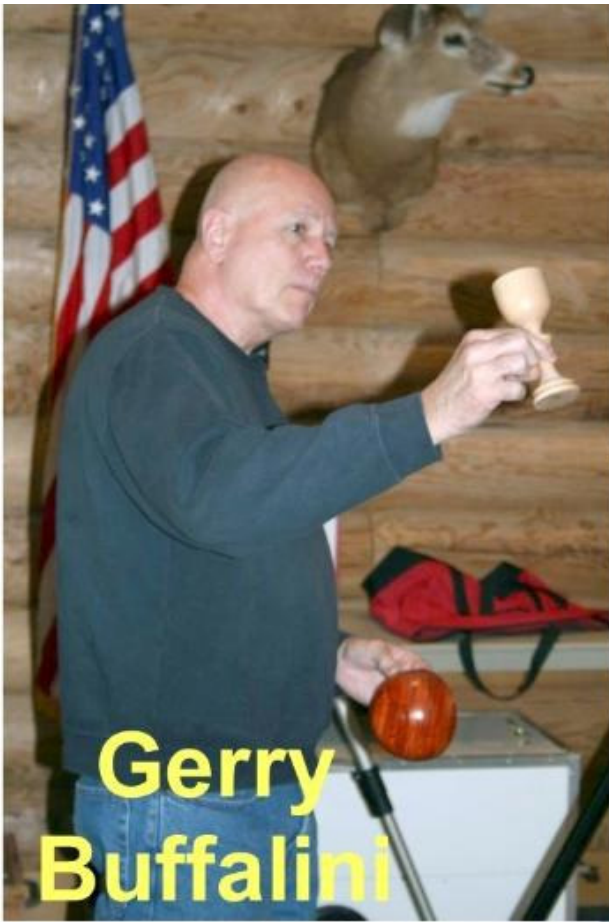
**Gary Smith**



**John  
Vekovius**



Photography by: Dean Griffin



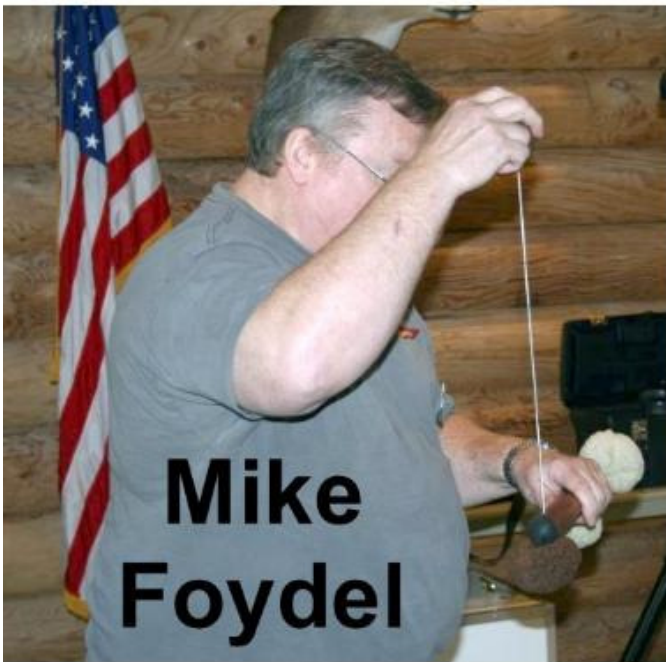
**Matt Harbor**



**Photography by: Dean Griffin**



**Joel Gertner**



**Mike  
Foydel**



Photography by: Dean Griffin

*more turnings*

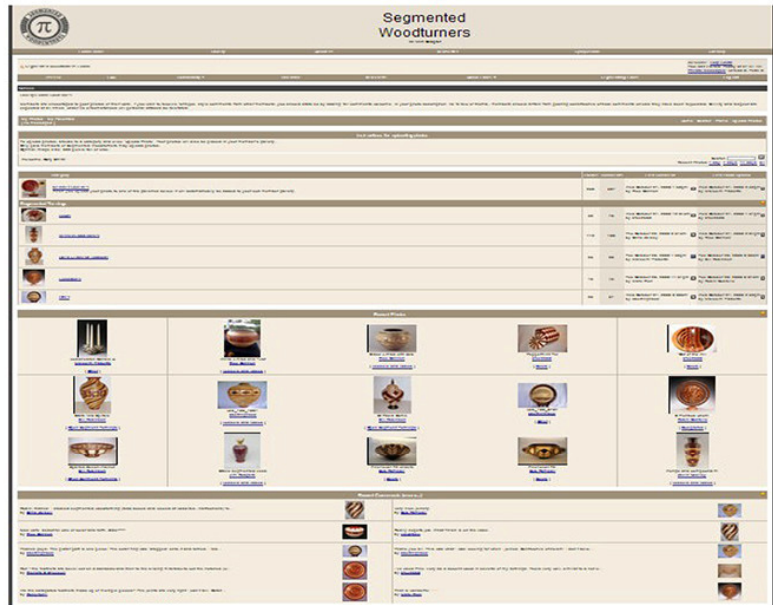


Photography by:  
Dean Griffin

# SEGMENTERS WEB SITE

<http://www.segmentedwoodturners.org/>

A new chapter has been created within the AAW for segmented turners. With the increase in interest in segmented construction it was suggested that a chapter be formed. A web site was created to help in facilitating this endeavor. In the following I touch on some of the highlights of this site.



First is the forum. There are several categories in this section.

- ◆ Announcements and items of interest.  
Any interesting items you wish to share.
- ◆ General Segment Forum.  
This section is for questions and answers
- ◆ Open Segment forum.  
Discussion of open segmentation construction.
- ◆ Articles, Reprints and tutorials.  
Articles and information you wish to share.
- ◆ Jigs, Fixtures, Tips and Techniques.  
Place to share your inventions and ideas.
- ◆ Classifieds.  
A place to list items you wish to sell or buy.



- ◆ Membership Issues.  
This Forum is members only.
- ◆ Newsletter discussion.  
Club's newsletter suggestions and discussion.

The form page also shows who is on line and the newest member. As of the writing of this article there are 371 active members.



The Gallery section consists of 5 categories. Bowls, Vessels and Vases, Open Segment turnings, Sculptures and also a Members Galleries. The Thumb Nail pictures in this article are from the gallery.

There are several sections which make up the complete Web site. About us who we are and what we do. A newsletter section, for the posting the newsletter, Symposium, to post information on the planned biannual meeting. Mark your calendar for November 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 for the first Symposium. It will be held at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, TN. There is a calendar for posting events. Links for segmenters and much more, even private messaging.



This is a well constructed site, it seems to be bug free and uses the latest web technology. There is a lot of sections to this site. I suggest that you log on and browse.



This vase by Robin Costelle, from Fern Creek, Kentucky is the most viewed as of this date. It was viewed 528 times and had 16 comments.

This bowl is by Al Miotke, from Mount Prospect, Illinois. It was view 371 times and had 6 comments.



Review By  
Gary R. Smith

# News You Can Use!

DAW membership renewal notices will be sent out in November and should be returned with the card that will be enclosed.

The Michigan chapter of the International Association of Pen Turners will hold its fall meeting on Sunday, November 8th. from 1pm until 4pm at the Sterling Heights Woodcraft on VanDyke. All are welcome to see pen turners from around the state share their penmaking skills.

Don't forget to renew your AAW membership. It is due and payable now. If you are not already a member, now would be a great time to join. You can go to [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) to see all there is to this great organization and also join. The *American Woodturner Journal* will become 6 issues per year starting in February, 2010. It alone is worth the price of admission.

Dennis Montville will be doing a demo on surface enhancement at the Bluewater Area Woodturners meeting on December 13th.