



# Shavings



Providing an environment that fosters the art and craft of woodturning

October 2012

## Events Calendar

Next Month Meeting:  
**November 18, 2012**  
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Scheduled Demo:  
**Holiday Ornaments with Gary Clay**

2013  
**John Jordon Demo**  
**Saturday, April 27, 2013**  
Details to Follow

The "**Detroit Area Woodturners**" (DAW) is a local chapter of the **American Association of Woodturners** (AAW). The AAW is an international, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the woodturning craft. Our mission is to provide information, education, a meeting place, and an effective organization for all who are interested in turning wood.

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



A Publication of;

DETROIT AREA



WOODTURNERS

<http://www.detroitarea-woodturners.org/>

## Board Members

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President:  
2nd Vice:  
President:  
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Secretary: Roger LaRose

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Librarian: Gary Clay  
Member Chair: Greg Smith  
Mentor Program: Ray Frase  
Newsletter: Roger Meeker  
Photo: Jack Parmenter  
Video:  
Audio: Sam Failla  
Resale chair: Ron Black  
Web Site: Matt Harber

## In The News

### The Club Needs You!

Your help is needed for the club, we need to fill the following position;

- **Camera/Video Operator**

See any officer if interested and/or if you have any questions regarding the requirements and duties of the position.

Please take a moment and give consideration to this position, the amount of time required is very little with respect to the benefits gained.

**Thank you for your consideration!**

### Membership Renewal

You will be receiving your membership renewal form in the mail during the month of November. Please return a check along with the membership form, this will allow for updates of member records. Thank you!

### December Meeting

Our December meeting, scheduled for December 16, 2012 will consist of our "**Annual Gift Exchange**" along with the DAW contest "**2012 Turning Challenge**".

DAW Chapter Elections will also be held during this meeting, please make every effort to attend.

## 2012 Turning Challenge

The 2012 DAW Turning Challenge will kick off at the October meeting.

The ground-rules are as follows.

1. Buy a 3" by 6" by 6" blank for \$5, 30 will be available.
2. Turn categories, Bowl/Platter, Vessel, Lidded Box, Craft items that use a kit or external parts like pepper mills, letter openers, duck calls etc.
3. \$10 gift certificate for all entries.
4. Vote for the best in each category. \$20 Gift Certificate based on
  - a. First impressions – visual impact
  - b. Innovation, ingenuity, originality
  - c. Design, proportion, balance and use of material
  - d. Turning techniques and skill level
  - e. Suitability and quality of finish
5. Vote for best overall, \$40 Gift Cert.
6. Bring to the December judging meeting. (December 16, 2012)

### Rules:

- A. Can only use wood from the blank
- B. Can use veneer if segmenting ore staved work
- C. Embellishing by burning, carving, gilding, painting, surface treatment, inlaid or crushed stone.

## Fall Festival Shadbush Nature Center

"**Thank You**" to the DAW Members for their assistance at the Shadbush nature center Fall Festival, on September 15th and 16th.

Ross Holmes

## Around Town

Longtime DAW member, Greg Smith is donating his time to **i3 Detroit**, in Ferndale, MI. A collaborative environment for like minded people to explore the balance between technology, art and culture. Their goal is to stay a community resource through continuous hosting of various classes and events. They have created an environment that promotes learning in a fun non-traditional format.



Greg is coordinating efforts to acquire a woodturning lathe to round out their collection of woodworking tools. He is also involved in teaching the participants the proper use of the woodworking equipment.

Hats off to Greg for trying to make a difference.

Visit **i3 Detroit** at <http://www.i3detroit.com>.

## More Around Town

One of our DAW members took 1st place in the "**2012 Holiday Ornament Contest**" held by the AAW. The ornaments will be featured in the December issue of the *American Woodturner*. Congratulations' to Roger Meeker!



## DAW Meeting, October 2012



### Sunday, October 29, 2012

Russ Holmes opens the meeting with a welcome to everyone and an introduction to a guest from

Windsor, Canada.



### 2012 DAW Turning Challenge (cont'd)

Steve's presentation was to present ideas on what might be feasible. He spoke of; and inside out bowl, lidded bowl with tray, multiple bowls within one block, double height goblets, hollow form inside of finished block, and much, much more. He's offering a two-page handout reflecting some of these ideas.

The overall message from Steve and Russ was to turn something, have fun. The multiple ideas were intended for those who did not want to be confined to a bowl.

### 2012 DAW Turning Challenge

Russ and Steve Wilson discuss ideas regarding the upcoming contest. Ross refers to Steve as "thinking out of the block". Giving people ideas of what they may want to turn, it doesn't always have to be in the shape of a basic bowl.



### October Raffle

A great number of prizes were donated by DAW members. A great deal of wood books and odds and ends helped drive a successful raffle.



## DAW Members "Faces in the Crowd"



## Members "Show & Tell"



Jack Parmenter



Alfred Schembri



Philip Stevens



Roger Meeker



Victor Lewandowski



Chuck Lobaito



John Alexander

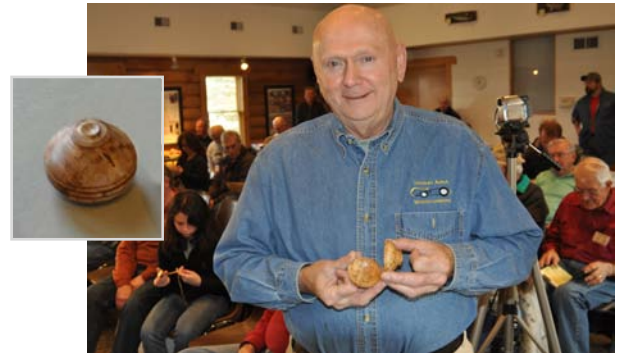


Steve Wilson

## Members "Show & Tell" (cont'd)



Larry Westphal



Ray Frase

## Platter Decoration Demonstration



Roger Meeker led the October demonstration with information he had gained while at Arrowmont School for Arts and Crafts.



Once the number of segment is determined, putting a mark adjacent to the segment line is all that is required



The demo began with a description of different simple tools and how they were used in layout work for a decorated platters and bowls. A simple circle template divided into 36 segments on one side and 48 segments on the other.



Another simple homemade device, a tool rest for your pencil. This allows consistent continuation of the segment line. The only trick here is that the pencil point must be lined up exactly dead center to the lathe spindle.

## Platter Decoration Demonstration (cont'd)



Roger demonstrates how the continuation of the line assists in the upcoming carving



A plastic template is used to mark lines on a painted surface in a geometric manner.



With some simple rotary carving within defined lines along with a black milk paint burnished off, creates the illusion of a fluted bowl.



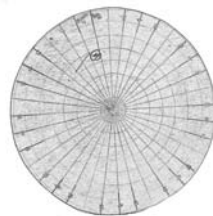
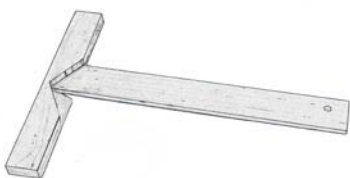
The same template is used by shifting positions and representing the pattern as disappearing, after which the platter is carved



Here a homemade T-square is modified to function properly with circles, allowing you to correspond a radial line directly from the center of the turned platter.



Another plastic template is used as a spatial relationship for the hand of carving. Having registration lines allows the carving to stay consistent.



Homemade Layout Tools

## Platter Decoration Demonstration (cont'd)



This template works off the tangent of the center



Again utilizing pencil rest for radial lines



Once carved paint is added for effect



Pencil marks as reference to carving



Another example of tangent reference lines



Actual carving following reference circle lines



An example of multiple two-tone milk paints



Actual carving following reference radial lines

## Platter Decoration Demonstration (cont'd)



Adding black milk paint over carved area



Beaded back platter



Removing excess paint/burnished paint off



More platter backside covers



An example of Al's basket weave technique



Alfred carves dots into an open area



One of several backside turnings and decorating



Alfred shows results of carving



## Platter Decoration Demonstration (cont'd)



Another example of carved dots



An example of staining cherry with lye



Another example of carved dots



Sample platters



Carved dots prior to decorating/painting



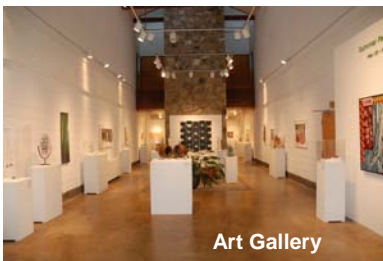
Sample platters



The class I had chosen was Al Stirt's *"Turning Open Bowls & Platters: Form, Grain, Color & Texture"* at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg Tennessee. I started my week by arriving in the Smoky Mountains on a warm June Sunday, and checked in at Arrowmont. I had 2 or 3 hours to look around the campus. After finding my room in Hughes Hall, I proceeded down to the Main building which housed the other arts and crafts studios including; jewelry/metal studio,



drawing/painting studio, clay studio, textile/fiber studio, papermaking studio, a library, an auditorium, a bookstore/supply outfitter, and an art gallery featuring



works completed by past students.

That evening, I joined the other students for dinner and orientation. Bill May, the executive director of the center, greeted us all and spoke about the classes, which included woodworking, ceramics, jewelry making, painting, and papermaking. He introduced the instructors and showed off some of their work. After which we proceeded to the woodworking studio. This work area was home to about 16 lathes, all top of the line machines. Including; Oneway, Powermatic, Stubby, Vicmarc, and Robust.



Al Stirt gave us a brief outline of how the week would layout. He also informed us of Arrowmont's safety procedures and then introduced us to his assistant for the week, Michael Gibson. Michael is also a professional wood turner and recently has been focusing most of his attention toward teapots.



Al Stirt

First thing Monday morning Al began his hands-on demonstration. He began with his basics for bowl turning. This included tool use and tool sharpening. His method for grain balancing while mounting the wood to the lathe, always keeping the bark perpendicular to the lathe bed (not being as

concerned with the location of the pith). Al then proceeded to turn a couple bowls for the

demonstration. At this point in time, I was feeling a little anxious, ready to put a bowl gouge in my own hands and begin turning and at the same time unsure of my skills compared to my classmates. After a couple minutes of turning, Al explains a few tool techniques and is finished with the foot and the



outside of the bowl, ready to flip the bowl and complete the inside. He definitely plows through the bulk of the wood and finishes with a gouge and takes

one or two passes and then a final pass with a scraper. Al maintained a more relaxed attitude and an open workshop, allowing you to position yourself anywhere you needed to take a photograph. At one point, one of the students kept moving his camera closer and closer to the workpiece on the lathe until he actually moved the camera in front of Al's face resulting in stopping the work on the lathe.



It was somewhere around noon when Al thought it would be a good time to break for lunch. My classmates and I headed for the dining room. This

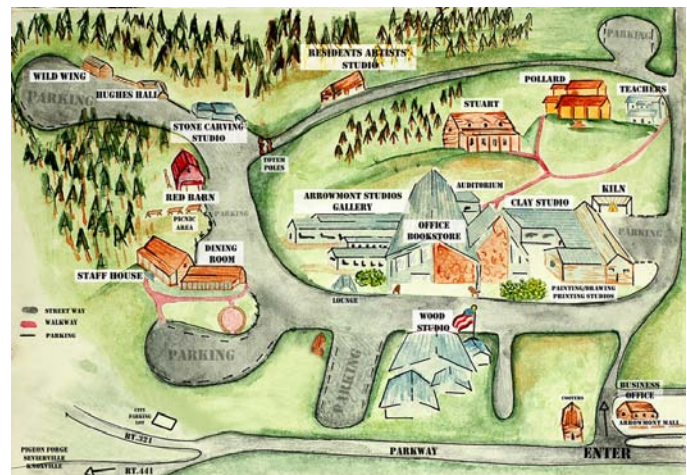


Dining Hall

was only our 3rd meal at Arrowmont and we're beginning to see the benefits of arriving for our meals 5 minutes early and as one

large group of dusty woodturners. By the end of the week, the rest of the campus would refer to us as those "wood people", of which we took great pride.

Immediately following the lunch we were given both poplar and maple and told to rough turn several bowls prior to quitting. I turned 3 poplar and 1 maple bowl, and then was told to finish out the maple bowl. The purpose of turning bowls was an exercise in mounting rough bowl blanks and also in tool control. Al was very good in offering suggestions, both in techniques and sharpening, but not forcing anything you weren't comfortable in doing. Somewhere around 5:30 or 6:00 we stopped working and went directly to dinner.



The woodworking center was located very close to the dining hall, this worked in our favor. It was now Monday evening somewhere around 7:30 PM and thank goodness for Southern hospitality, a couple of the boys from Nashville had brought cold beer. We sat on the screened in porch of Hughes Hall and exchanged stories for at least a couple hours.

Most of us would meet around 7:00 AM for coffee and breakfast. Even though the class didn't begin officially until 9:00 AM, we were all in the shop by 8:00 AM. This Tuesday morning Al began his lecture and demonstration regarding platters and further declaration. He demonstrated turning techniques and the simplicity of his layout template. The template makes an easy job of indexing any piece of work



into the segmented sections wanted. You would determine how many segments and make a corresponding mark on the edge of the workpiece. Al had an interesting method of extending that mark to the inside of the platter. He had created a T-square that worked on circles, always centering to the very center of the platter or bowl. Once the platter was marked and a decorative pattern was developed, work could begin. The next few images reflect how everything comes together.



This student started the week wondering if his wood turning skills would be adequate and not embarrassing, by the end of the week he used the phrase to describe what he

enjoyed most of all in Al's class was; "I'm really having fun exploring shapes and color". That seemed like a pretty big deal to me!



The same morning Al demonstrated his square bowls and platters. After learning all the steps and techniques required for turning a larger square platter, Al would replace the standard tool rest with his homemade tool



rest for a pencil. Initially, this seemed a little crazy but it works like a dream. Once it is set to the exact center of your turning, both circular lines and radial lines becomes simple. Even if you're carving/decoration does not follow the lines exactly. It does allow for the angle to be put onto your platter in the correct position. Al demonstrated his technique for creating a basket



weave on the surface of the platter. He explained the tool that he uses, where to purchase the tool and that we should feel free to use his design

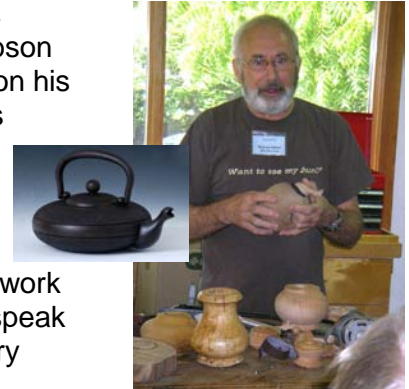


on our own work. Our group had several very creative individuals and every other woodturner was encouraged by their creativity, including Al. We were working with multiple colors in our decorating, trying some new techniques, and exploring possibilities. All of this creativity was encouraged and supported by Al Stirt. This made for very open and friendly educational process.

As the week wore on, the length of the days were being extended by each and every one of us. We got up earlier, we stayed later, and we recapped on the porch later and later.

On Thursday Al gave a short presentation of other woodturners, whose work he had admired. He had asked each one of the turners to comment on their motivation as it relates to their creativity. Again he took the time to allow us to ask more about the personality in the work they were creating, very interesting.

I don't recall if it was late morning or early afternoon on Thursday, but Al's assistant Michael Gibson gave a presentation on his woodturning. He has focused much of his attention toward the creation of teapots in every possible form. Looking at his work and listening to him speak it's obvious he's a very skilled artist.



In summing up my experience, I feel that staying on campus and participating in the few additional activities recommended by Arrowmont aided greatly in providing a positive experience.

Even the fact that, within the front door of the woodworking center was a mini museum of many different woodturners pieces. It all added to the feeling that you were part of something bigger.

*By the end of the week I realized that each and every one of us felt the same; at the start of the week we were all insecure relative to our ability and by the end of the week we all felt like my friend from Nashville stated "I'm really having fun exploring shapes and color". If you ever have the opportunity or can make the opportunity occur go to Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.*

## Links - Suppliers



### Hartville Tool

<http://www.hartvilletool.com>  
800-345-2396  
Woodturning Supplies

### Craft Supply

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com>  
800-551-8876  
Woodturning Supplies

### Packard

<http://www.packardwoodworks.com>  
800-683-8876  
Woodturning Supplies



### Klingspor

<http://www.woodworkingshop.com>  
800-228-0000  
Abrasives and woodturning supplies

### 2Sand.com

<http://www.2Sand.com>  
877-644-7445  
Sanding Supplies



When ordering be sure to inform the store of your Detroit Area Woodturners membership (**Discounts may apply - usually 10%**)



### Landfill Lumber

[www.landfilllumber.com](http://www.landfilllumber.com)  
586-563-0441  
Victor Lewandowski - Wood, Turning Stock

### Richard Lauwers

810-724-2263  
Kiln dried oak and maple



### Rockler

<http://www.rockler.com>  
800-279-4441  
Woodworking and Hardware

### Woodcraft

<http://www.woodcraft.com>  
800-225-1153  
Woodworking and Hardware

### The Sanding Glove

<http://www.thesandingglove.com>  
800-995-9328  
Sanding Supplies

## Links - Woodturning Information

### AAW - National Organization

[American Association of Woodturners](http://www.americanassociationofwoodturners.org)

### Detroit Area Woodturners (Shelby Twp, MI)

Web Site: <http://www.Detroitareawoodturners.org>

### Grand River Woodturners Guild (Grand Rapids, MI)

Web Site: <http://www.grandriverwoodturners.org>

### Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts

Web Site: <http://www.arrowmont.org/>

### John C. Campbell Folk School

Web Site: <http://www.folkschool.org>

### Al Stirt: Woodturner, Artist and Teacher

Web Site: <http://www.alstirt.com>

### Michigan Association of Woodturners (Holly, MI)

Web Site: <http://www.michiganwoodturner.org>

### Blue Water Area Woodturners (Richmond, MI)

Web Site: <http://www.bluewaterareawoodturner.org>

### Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild (Cincinnati, OH)

Web Site: <http://www.ovwg.org>

### Marc Adams School of Woodworking

Web Site: <http://www.marcadams.com/>

### Woodcraft of Sterling Heights

(586) 268-1919 <http://www.woodcraft.com>

## Need Your Help

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### **From the Editor**

Articles are due at the monthly meeting, for example submit at or before the October meeting for the October Newsletter and should be submitted to Roger Meeker at rmeeker26@gmail.com.

### **Member Projects**

If you have a woodturning project that you would like to showcase to our club members, you can send me detailed information about your project with pictures.

### **Articles on New Woodturning Techniques and Tools**

If you come across an article or wish to write an article on a new wood turning technique or if you care to write a review or forward on review of a new wood turning tool. Any photos would be helpful.

### **Shop Talk**

Everyone has a different way of doing things in their shop and everyone's shop is different in many ways; whether it's size, location, or physical layout you are probably doing something that would be helpful for others to see.

### **Members Questions & Answers**

Members are asked to submit woodturning, finishing and tool questions to our resident experts to answer. There are no dumb questions, someone else in the club may have had the same questions.

### **Classified Ads**

Ads for woodturning and woodworking related items are free to members. Send detailed information with pictures.

### **Wood to Turn**

Do you have wood, need wood or know about wood that is available for turning? Let me know and I'll pass it along

### **From the Editor, Again**

Let's make this newsletter something interesting, if you send it, we'll publish it.

### **Footnote**

If possible, please send a digital file (I don't type very well). Thank you!