



GOLD COAST WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER February 2008

NEXT MEETING: Thursday February 21st, 2008 at 7 pm

We hope you will plan to attend.

Bring your projects for the Instant Gallery

The meeting will be held at Woodcraft located at 1157 S. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach

<http://www.goldcoastwoodturners.org>

Next Demonstration:

The February demonstration will feature another "most wanted" demo as evidenced by your December selections. This time the club will feature Lee Sky demonstrating his keep hollowing techniques utilizing an economical "y" bar system as well as another "d" handle system. Both of his systems will be shown with a laser attachment to assist in managing wall thickness and preventing a possible "blow out" or cutting through the side wall of a vessel.

Lee brings his 9 years of turning experience to this demo including how to "listen" to the wood to determine remaining wall thickness as well as other possible wood defects. The February meeting demo is a must see on your schedule.

Minutes for Gold Coast Woodturners meeting –January 17, 2008

Ed McDonnell our new president, presided over the meeting with lots of new ideas, and very well prepared. He again reminded all of the benefits of membership in the AAW.

Ed introduced our guest Tim Muller, and Don Hilsten who gave short introductions of how they had become interested in lathe work.

An excellent demo in grinding and sharpening was given. Warren Howie showed a slow grinding system that utilized the Wolverine jigs with some homemade gauges for quickly setting some of the grinding parameters. He also showed a simple and clever tip to get the same profile each time. He puts a piece of tape on the neck of each tool with his favorite formula as to distance and angle. Warren hones a bit between sharpenings. He says wheels can be white, pink or blue and recommended j or K hardness. Both Warren and Ed stressed the importance of wearing a mask to avoid the dust created by sharpening and grinding on a dry grinder.

Ed McDonnell followed Warren by demonstrating his favorite system, the Tormek that he explained was not a grinder, but a sharpener. This system uses a water bath and 220 grit wheel. The system comes with several jigs. His tip was to place a rare earth magnet near the bottom of the water vessel which will attract all of the metal dust. .

There was great interaction between the membership and the demonstrators.

This demo was an introduction to a workshop that will be held at Ron Pursell's shop where you can try each system and get other turning advice. The workshop will be held on February 2. Directions and other

details will be emailed to the membership and posted on our website. Don't forget to sign up with Bob Przybylski if you are going so we can make sure we are adequately prepared.

Ed brought back our former money raiser the 50-50 raffle which raised \$20 more dollars for the club and made one happy member a little bit richer.

We also had our Bring Back raffle which is always a lot of fun. . . especially for the winner. David Kerzel was the winner this month and he will bring back the prize to be awarded at the February meeting.

After a short break to shop and share some camaraderie we had a wonderful INSTANT GALLERY. The variety was again astounding. . . bottle stoppers, pens, off center or multi axis turnings, boxes, vases, all sorts of wood. . . some really very interesting and beautiful pieces. Ron Purcell created two really interesting footed NIP pieces, and Gary Koenig showed his finished bird's nest mechanism, tilt-top reproduction of an antique table. Another of Ed's new ideas for the club was to select a turner-of-the month from the exhibited pieces. This month George Wells was chosen for his wonderful crotch bowl and will be featured on our web site.

Our treasurer's report was given by Ron Purcell who informed us that we had \$1700.00 in the treasury, but had a entry fee of \$300 for the Pembroke Pine show to be held on March 8th and 9th. This leaves us \$1400.00 with a few membership dues still outstanding.

It was announced that a seminar and workshop will be held by the Palm Beach County Woodturners featuring demonstrator J. Paul Fennell at the Okeeheelee nature center. He is noted for very thin walled, pierced vessels. The dates are February 23 and 24. Information about the program will be emailed to the membership.

Ken Rizza answered the call for volunteers and agreed to become the new Membership Chairman. Ken will continue to provide the greatly appreciated video support.

Elliot visited us from his temporary northern home. His new club in Montgomery City. thanked us for the videos we gave them. They would like to trade southern woods with us for some of the northern variety.

Let's make 2008 the best year yet.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Klein

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I go through the various steps required to turn a chunk of tree into a (hopefully) awe inspiring piece of turned art, I sometimes encounter problems along the way. Many times I assume I just know what the problem is and let the excitement and my natural sense of urgency drive me to apply "solutions" to my problem without "wasting" any time thinking about the problem first. Sometimes "wasting" a little time thinking about a problem before acting on it can end up saving you a whole lot of time. A case in point:

Last week I was cutting up some logs to make some turning blanks with my chainsaw. I hadn't finished and it was time to quit and head to Woodcraft for our club meeting. I am pretty fanatical about cleaning my chainsaw after every use and I never put it away dirty. Until last Thursday. I was really tight on time and I was going to be using the saw again on Friday morning. I convinced myself that it would be no problem to just put the saw in the shop and clean it when I finished with it the next day. I felt guilty as I closed the shop door on the dirty saw, but I soon had other things to think about and forgot about the saw.

On Friday I got the saw out of the shop (feeling guilty about the dirty condition of the saw) and got ready to finish cutting wood. As I'm checking the saw before starting I notice that I couldn't move the chain by hand. I started feeling pangs of guilt for not cleaning the saw yesterday and I just knew that my failure to clean the saw was the problem. No need to think about things, I just needed to solve the dirt problem. Looking for the easy way out, I convinced myself that whatever is stuck would break loose as soon as I fired it up. Saw started right up, but

the chain was frozen. Now I'm feeling major guilt (tinged with a little bit of joy because I want a bigger chainsaw but I don't want to spend the money until the current saw dies).

I quickly removed the bar and chain and gave everything a thorough cleaning. The drive sprocket was still really really stiff and took a lot of torque with a wrench to get it to turn. There didn't appear to be anything jamming it up. I decide to try running the saw one more time before breaking out the tools to disassemble the clutch. Started it up and gave it full power. Sprocket wouldn't turn at all and I shut down when the clutch started to smoke. I've now spent about 20 minutes "solving" my problem and I've resigned myself to having to spend the rest of the morning disassembling the clutch and attempting to repair it. Just as I'm about to put tools to saw and start the clutch disassembly it suddenly dawns on me to check the chain brake. Yep. It had somehow gotten engaged.

If only I had taken a moment when I first noticed the problem to think about it. Checking the chain brake would have been an obvious thing to do, but I "knew" the problem was the dirt in the saw. No need to check something when you already know what the problem is.

The point I'm trying to make isn't about chainsaws. It's about taking the time to think things through before acting when you encounter a problem. If you take a little time to really think about things without any preconceived notion of what the problem is you just might end up saving yourself a whole lot of time. Whether it's not having to spend a lot of time rebuilding a chainsaw, sanding tear out or having to recreate a piece that blew up when you got that catch. Problems have solutions, but the solutions are not always immediately obvious. With a little time and careful thought you can find the perfect solution for most problems. For the problems you can't solve, well, that's what the club is for. Ask away about whatever problems are troubling you.

In the newsletter this month we have a couple new features. We featured George Wells as the Gold Coast Woodturners "Turner of the Month". Make sure you bring your pieces for next month's instant gallery and maybe YOU will be Turner of the Month for February.

The other new feature you'll notice in the newsletter this month is a column called "Woodshavings". This is intended to be a forum for members to share whatever is on their minds (club / turning related) with the rest of the club members. Diane Klein kicks off the feature with an article that should resonate with all turners. Anyone interested in writing something for future Woodshavings columns should contact me (or just email me what you write).

Don't forget that we have a workshop scheduled for Saturday February 2 (9:00am – whenever) at Ron Pursell's shop. The workshop will start out focused on sharpening, but we will progress to whatever aspect of turning is interesting to the attendees after we've had our fill of sharpening. We are going to start out watching a short sharpening video. If you want a chair while watching the video I suggest you bring a comfortable folding chair if you have one. I'll bring an extra chair or two. First come first served. As an added bonus, the club will be buying lunch for workshop attendees. Don't miss it. Watch your email for directions and additional information. Contact me, Bob Przybylski or Ron Pursell with any questions.

You can check Bob's article elsewhere in the newsletter for a description of next month's demo. I know I got all tingly when I read it and I can't wait to see the demo. See you at the February meeting and have some fun making shavings until then.

Ed McDonnell

Next Board Meeting Tuesday February 26, 7:00pm

Turner of the Month - January 2008

George Wells, Mahogany Bowl



About the Artist:

I started woodworking by making things for my wife Pat, who is a decorative / folk art painter. I bought a scroll saw and created many different wooden items for her to use as a canvas for her paintings. Eventually I added a bandsaw, then a table saw and finally a lathe to my workshop. Working on craft items with Pat was fun, but over time my interests shifted from making flat craft items to creating turned works of art. I've owned a lathe for 8 years, but I've only really been turning for the last 3 years. I joined GCWT about 2 1/2 years ago. I've learned a lot from my participation in the club and my turning has improved with practice. Pat bought me a beautiful jet lathe as a present on our 50th wedding anniversary and I spend as much time as possible working with it.

My favorite turned items are those that turn out the way they are supposed to, but I particularly like doing hollow forms. I didn't think I would ever enjoy hollowing after my first few experiences with free-hand hollowing tools. The torque and the wear on the body was just too much. I borrowed a tape from the GCWT library of Carl Schneider's demo on hollowing with the Jamieson captured bar system. After watching the tape, I decided to give it a try. I liked the system a lot and now really enjoy hollowing.

Pat and I are full time Florida residents and we've lived here since 1967. We have 3 daughters, a son and 6 grand daughters. My favorite hobby is spending time with my grandkids.

Wood shavings

Ed is bringing a more intimate feeling to the group. Editorial comments or feedback are welcome here in the news in the Woodshavings section from any member.

"Jack of all trades, Master of none", "Much Ado About Nothing" and Pinocchio's Nose. How's that for a title?

Yes it's true that I have some degree of skill at interior design, writing, doing computer graphics, using a camera, weaving, knitting, doing needlepoint, making miniature furniture, being a wife and mom. I am involved in charitable activities and the secretary of the best woodturning club in the USA. So how come I'm not a master of anything? I really try, take classes, read books and articles about lots of subjects, and buy all of the right tools. I also join clubs to further my knowledge in those areas that peak my interest. Maybe that's the problem. But because I'm not a master, especially of woodturning, all I can write about is, as Shakespeare said, . . . "much ado about nothing!"

The reason I added Pinocchio's nose into the mix is this. I'm sure that his nose was turned by a very skilled Woodturner. . . did he use a steady rest for this project? It is said, that his nose kept growing as he continued to tell lies. Now I'm not accusing any of you of lying to me a few years ago when I became interested in turning. . . but when I asked "What tools do I need to turn?" everyone told me- just an inexpensive lathe, a few gouges, a skew, and a parting tool. You can use a tiny credit card size sharpening tool, and that will be it. Am I dreaming that there are a few more tools that most of you have in your studios, garages or workshops? I remember a very recent club demonstration involving grinders and sharpening systems that were more expensive than my mini Carba-tec lathe.

At each meeting I hear of new wonderful tools, that enable a turner to become more skilled. Little inexpensive things like boring bars, dust extractors, air filtration systems, safety masks, lasers, sharpening systems with all sorts of jigs, lots of finishing supplies, all kinds of chucks, lots of sanding products, carving and pyrography tools, spiraling and chatter tools, revolving center, faceplates, various tool rests, pen making mandrels, and all sorts of kits, blanks, etc. Must I go on? You don't want average quality tools or supplies. So why not start with some of the very best things? Sorby, One Way, Nova, Vicmarc. I'm sure you could add all sorts of other tools that you couldn't live without.

And then you need to air condition your work space because you might die from the heat and humidity in South Florida except for about 2 or 3 days a year when the temperature might be less than 80 degrees. And what about classes, symposiums and workshops that involve air line tickets, hotel stays and registration fees. Are all of you millionaires?

Well I'm not and buying so many tools will assure me of going to the poor house in the very near future.

By the way, is your nose getting any longer? Have you ever told a new turner that they only need a few things to do amazing work? Now, think about Pinocchio. I think his arms, legs and body might also have been turned.

I think the title of this little article was just about right and I won't ever have a very long nose, because if anyone ever asks me what tools that I need to turn, I'll print them a very long list. . . and when anyone ever complains to you about the price you have on your turning, you can show them this article. . . much ado about something. . . it's woodturning 101 after all.

P.S. I challenge you to write an addendum to this list.

Diane Klein

Grind Stone. The demo at the last meeting about sharpening shows a lot about wood turning. Some people like the traditional high speed grinder, many like the low speed 1750 RPM systems, and still others prefer the wet systems. It is just like the different grinds turners use on their favorite gouge or their approach to a project. There were things said I was not sure were 95% true.

We all agree to some degree that because a technique works for us it may not be the only way to do it, and it may not work for everyone. Grinding is the same way. Some people can finesse an excellent grind from a high speed grinder. Others will invest in wet systems that cover all bases. My father could take a damaged drill bit to the grinder and in a few seconds it was perfect, I buy drills in packs of 12.

I seriously doubt that any tools purchased in the last 30 years are carbon steel. I have a few carbon chisels from my grandfather but I have never purchased one. Everything new is tool steel. Every turning tool I own is high speed steel. Only carbon steel has temper issues at the temperatures where it first discolors slightly on the grinding wheel. If it is tool steel its color change is warning softening is soon coming but does NOT damage the tool. I personally use water to keep things cool when reshaping. I always start with a wet tool, as the water evaporates I know it is time to dunk and I seldom darken even a fine edge.

“Speed Kills” is not a grinding issue. Yes the heat generated a given cutting force goes up by nearly 4 when the speed is doubled. But an experienced grinder uses very light pressure. High speed with a medium speed wheel that is too fine is more likely to overheat the tool than a good grit high speed wheel. 80 grit for fine cuts and 50 grit for rough sharpening will give the great finish we want, cut at reasonable rates, and not overheat the tool. A 120 grit wheel at 1800 RPM generates lots of little hot cuts and will burn your tool, those sparks are metal chips cut from the tool and are hot enough to burn as they fly off the wheel.

The low speed wet grinder is a little slower but its speed is 1/30 of a low speed grinder but the cut rate is only slightly less. The slow wet wheel takes long smooth cuts into the metal. It is like the bowl gouge in the beginning of a project removing lots of material and later shaving the surface to a smooth finish.

Recently I moved to an 8 inch 2 speed grinder. It works great at 1750 RPM but shakes at 3500 RPM so I just used it at low speed. It turns out the wheels are not perpendicular to the motor shaft axis. At higher speeds this is an imbalance and causes problems. I wonder if these problems also occur at lower speeds. I am looking into the OneWay wheel balancer system and some new blue wheels. I will let you know next month how it works out.

One point that was missed in the demo is NEVER grind anything, even a burr on the side of a grinding wheel unless it was designed for side grinding. This is one of the best ways to get the wheel to shatter, when a wood piece explodes on the lathe it is exciting. Think about the rock hard grinding wheel doing the something.

David Kerzel

Demonstration

January Demonstration:

2 different styles of sharpening systems, first, the Tormek system will be demonstrated featuring a wet, slow speed grinding wheel and the various jigs necessary to sharpen turning tools. this will be followed by a conventional bench grinder fitted with a Wolverine sharpening system to assist in completing the usual grinds on turning tools



Instant Gallery





















Our Library



The cub has a library of tapes, DVD's and books that can be checked out for a month by members. A \$5 deposit is required.

A full list of titles is on the [web page](#).

Web Site

A new page has been added for membership which has a membership form and a link to the AAW membership page.

The web site has space available for events or ideas relating to woodturning and things the members might be interested in such as items for sale. If you have any items to add write.

We have a Blog (web log) area that is short articles or news. At present, you send items in and I post them. We can actually make this an interactive Blog where you can post messages if you want. It would use passwords and be limited to members only.

Don't forget the **member's gallery** where you can post photos of your work. Send the photos with a short description of each work, wood, finish and any other details. There is no limit on how many you can post, I may need time if you have a lot of additions. IF you would like to have another photo session for gallery photos, let Jerry know. If you have pictures presently in the gallery, they are all numbered so you can send descriptions for each one. I think a short personal biography about your woodturning or a link to a personal turning site would also be good additions. If you want pictures removed, I can do that too.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Gold Coast Woodturners, a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners, was formed in 1992 to promote an awareness of the craft and art of modern-day turning. Each meeting is designed and organized to present woodturning-related programs and projects to the members. Demonstrations are also presented that may be performed by a GCWT member or a world-recognized guest turner. No matter what is scheduled for the next meeting, the results will be the same. Woodturners will gather to share their experiences as well as learn from the experiences of others. All benefit, novices and "old-timers" alike. Beginners learn techniques and styles while the experts reaffirm their skills by demonstrating and teaching.

Gold Coast Woodturners membership benefits include:

- Participation in all GCWT-sponsored activities and demonstrations.
- Weekend workshops to learn new techniques.
- Wood source opportunities through raffles and auctions.

- Tool and supply discounts available from local and national retailers.
- Videotape library.
- Tools and accessories available for loan.
- We encourage our membership to join the AAW. You will receive the American Woodturner Magazine and get some basic insurance needed at many club events.

MENTORS

The club has several members who have volunteered to be mentors to other members. Members may contact one of the experienced mentors and set up a meeting where specific skills or tool usage can be worked on together.

North Broward	Carl Spinnler	954.370.6318
West Broward	Ray Reiland	954.475.1167
Southwest Broward	Jerry Remillard	954.434.5289
Ft Lauderdale	Lee Sky	954.971.6314
	Ron Pursell	(954) 434-6163
Hollywood area	Paul Heede	954.981.5695

OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS

If you have any questions about the Gold Coast Woodturners, please contact any of these officers, board members or committee chairpersons:

Ed McDonnell, President	(954) 796-7189	emcdonnell@comcast.net
Robert Przybylski, Vice President	(954) 435-8312	
Diane Klein, Secretary	(954) 455-8922	
Ron Pursell, Treasurer	(954) 434-6163	
Lee Sky, Tool Collection		
Ray Reiland, Board Member	(954) 475-1167	
Warren Howie, Board Member	(954) 382-9393	
Jerry Remillard, Board Member	(305) 525-9207	
Carl Spinnler, Board Member	(954) 946-1302	
Jim Kal, Librarian		
Ken Rizza, Membership and Video		
David Kerzel, Newsletter	(954) 785-2184	david@floridaame.org
David Kerzel, Website	(954) 785-2184	david@floridaame.org



Gold Coast Woodturners Membership Form

The membership year for the Gold Coast Woodturners Club runs from January 1 to December 31. Annual dues are \$30.00.

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____

E-Mail _____

_____ Please check if you do not want your name published in the newsletter

PLEASE NOTE, we are a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. All members are expected to be members of the AAW and covered by their insurance. The AAW dues are \$40.00 per year and you receive a quarterly magazine and a directory of all AAW members throughout the world.

_____ Are you an AAW member?

Yearly dues of \$30.00 are made payable to:

Gold Coast Woodturners,
c/o Ron Pursell
GCWT Treasurer
5500 S.W. 160th Avenue
Southwest Ranches, FL 33331
(954) 434-6163

<http://www.goldcoastwoodturners.org>