



GOLD COAST WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER January 2008

NEXT MEETING: Thursday January 17th, 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 January meeting we will demonstrate 2 different styles of sharpening systems. First, the Tormik 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

The demonstration will be followed up by a hands on sharpening workshop in early February. More on this at the meeting.

Minutes for Gold Coast Woodturners meeting -December 20, 2007

Ed McDonnell our new president appeared with a gavel in hand ready to take over this important role. He introduced himself and then told everyone that tonight's meeting was all about holiday and festivities so the meeting would be very brief. He asked our new vice president, **Bob Przybylski**, to pass out a list of suggested demos that we can think about.

Lee Sky passed out tickets for those of us that brought in turned items or other things related to turning as a gift exchange.

We had a small **INSTANT GALLERY** before partaking in the wonderful food that we all brought in to share.

We had a guest, **Andy Wall**, who is a woodworker, but hasn't tried his hand at turning. I hope he will come back when we have demos, etc.

We all ate like it was going to be our last meal. . . YUM

Our gift exchange was held and I saw some very nice gifts and smiles as they were opened. We missed our members that did not attend and hope you will come to party with us next holiday season.

Ed McDonnell is our new president

Bob Przybylski is the new vice president

Lee Sky is responsible for the club's large range of tools. You can borrow them to try before purchasing your own. Call Lee to arrange to borrow them at his studio.

Jim Kal is our club's librarian and can check out DVD's and books to our members.

David Kerzel is our web master and newsletter chairman.

Diane Klein is the secretary

Ron Purcell is treasurer

Ken Rizzo is our videographer

Let's make 2008 the best year yet.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Klein

Festival of Trees at Galleria.

Our members have really worked so generously making ornaments for our club's entry at the auction for the Fort Lauderdale Art Museum. Ornaments of all kinds adorn the tree including a fabulous tree topper by our new president and fine planning's made by Gus of Woodcraft. I hope many of you were able to go view the tree before it goes to the lucky bidder.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!!! With the coming of the New Year it is common to take a moment to reflect on life and ponder what's working and what's not working. The truly brave (or foolish, depending on your point of view) will even make resolutions to try and address whatever needs improving. As turners, it would be easy for most of us to identify areas where we would like to improve our turning skills and abilities. Most of us would even follow through on turning related resolutions because they are fun. Sometimes though, the things that need the most improvement are less fun and often overlooked. Safe shop practices may be one of those things for more than one of us.

Now would be a good time to really sit down and think about safety and what you can do to insure your ability to continue to participate in woodturning over the long run. The AAW has a good list of Lathe Safety Guidelines which David Kerzel has posted on the Gold Coast Woodturners website. The AAW guidelines are a good start, but there's a lot more to think about when it comes to safely turning trees into works of artistic genius.

Handling large pieces of wood can be dangerous to your health. If you aren't sure how to do it safely without injuring yourself, ask for suggestions at a club meeting.

Chainsaws represent an easily recognizable hazard. If your saw makes you nervous or you aren't completely sure you are using it correctly in all circumstances, then ask at a meeting. A poorly maintained saw is much more dangerous than a well maintained saw. When's the last time you tuned up the saw and chain? Don't put it off. Don't forget all the other tools we use: band saws, grinders, carving tools, whatever. Regular maintenance will improve the safety of your tools in addition to increasing their longevity.

We should all be fully aware of the dangers of breathing wood dust (not aware? just ask). Have you ever thought about the fire hazard represented by the collection of one (or more) years worth of wood dust in various places in the shop (don't forget the electrical outlets)? How about all the chips that pile up where the broom doesn't easily reach? Take a day or two and do a thorough shop cleaning. It won't be as much fun as turning a bowl, but it may be the best thing you do for safety this year.

What about solvents and finishes? Most of us understand the flammable nature of these things and take adequate precautions to prevent fires (if you're not sure, ask at a meeting). Have you ever thought about the long term health effects of exposure? Do you own and use adequate safety gear? Gloves? Masks? Adequate ventilation? Dust masks are great for dust, but they do nothing to protect you from chemical fumes. Not worried? You should be. It's not a question of whether you'll have a physical reaction to long term exposure to common shop chemicals, it's a question of when. If you aren't protecting yourself then "when" may be a lot sooner than you want.

I could go on and on, but I'm sure you get the idea. Think safety and act safely. Let's try and finish 2008 with every member as healthy or healthier than they started the year.

On to other matters. If you haven't gotten your membership dues in to Ron, don't delay. If you will be paying your dues at the January meeting, a check instead of cash will be greatly appreciated (and greatly increase the odds of your dues actually being recorded as "paid"). At the January meeting, make sure you get your new membership card for 2008. You will need it to get your 10% discount at woodcraft. No dues. No card. No discount. No exceptions.

We are currently working on establishing a calendar of activities for the club. Assuming fair winds and clear skies, it should be shortly available on the website. You will be able to look ahead and see what demonstrations, workshops, shows, and whatever else has been planned. I hope this will become a useful tool for the club members.

The gallery feature of our website is a greatly underutilized benefit of club membership. I know that I have not taken advantage of it in the past and that's something I'm going to correct in the very near future. If YOU haven't sent any pictures in because you think you don't have any good pictures of your work then talk to me at a meeting. Between David Kerzel and myself, we should be able to get you some very nice pictures to add to the web site. And don't forget the artist bio's. Let's make an effort to really update the website gallery for 2008. Email any items for the gallery to David Kerzel at david@floridaame.org.

I've been a member of Gold Coast Woodturners since 2005. I often wish I knew each and every one of the members personally, but there never seem to be enough opportunities and time to really get to know everyone. We've gotten a lot of new members in the last 2 years and I thought it might be interesting and useful to have the club members formally share a little information about themselves with the other club members. The club officers have volunteered to lead the way and with any luck we can get the rest of the board members to share a little about themselves in the next newsletter. After that we'll have to see if anyone else is willing to step up and share. See the Membership column elsewhere in the newsletter.

The January meeting promises to be an educational and entertainment extravaganza. Don't miss it. I hope to see you all there.

Ed McDonnell

Getting to Know the Members

Diane Klein:

I was raised in Phila. and lived there until my move to Florida in 1971. I always had a strong interest in art and took many types of art lessons while in high school. I attended Moore College of Art in Phila. and got my degree in advertising design. I became a mom in my senior year and never did go into the advertising field.

I guess like a rose is a rose by any name. . . design is design by any name and I became an interior designer and had my own firm for more than 30 years. One of my favorite parts was always choosing accessories and I bought an Ed Moulthrop bowl when it wasn't very expensive. In the late 70's I discovered weaving and really got seriously interested taking classes and buying every type of loom, weaving tool and all types of yarn. These took over two rooms in my house and then I moved into a smaller house and had no room for looms. So weaving wall hangings, pillows and rugs was replaced with my next hobby. . . showing dogs. . . and I had 3 champion Soft Coated Wheaten's and bought every kind of grooming supply and dog showing paraphernalia and travelled the country on the dog show circuit. . . When my dogs became too old to show, I didn't want to add new dogs to the family and so that hobby too became another thing of my past.

Another love of mine was attending high quality juried craft shows and buying the things that I admired. I wish I had more room in my home to buy more things, but we're out of space which may have led me to miniatures. I can hold 200 miniature vases and bowls in an antique type tray.

One day my husband and I were driving past a re-sale shop and I saw a dollhouse in the window. . . I asked Paul to stop the car and let me go into the shop. I think that he thought I had lost my mind when I bought it. . . then I proceeded to strip it to the bare wood. . . but I had no idea of how to then refurbish it and furnish it. . . OH YES, I was an interior designer. . . but I couldn't wave a magic wand to instantly shrink everything that I loved to 1/12" of life size. . . so I bought a book on dollshouses and then a magazine which led me to a miniature show that was coming to Ft. Lauderdale the next month. . . and Boy, Did that open my eyes to the world of miniatures. . . and the prices! Wow! Fine miniatures are the same price as their full size counterparts. I could buy a few pieces, but I would have to learn how to make most of the things I wanted. So, I knew how to knit and do needlepoint and I just had to try to do it 1/12" the size of real life. . . and that isn't easy. . . very thin needles, very thin threads and lots of magnification. And so I made some lovely rugs, blankets, mini sweaters, etc.

I had designed furniture for 30 years for my clients, but my cabinetmaker made the pieces. I had never used any power tools. . . Now I have 3 miniature power saws, a scroll saw, a disc and belt sander, a miniature drill press, several Dremels, a Fordham hand piece, etc. etc. and every file, cutter, and scale lumber. . . Nothing ever changes. With each hobby came lots of tools. I had to learn to build scale miniature furniture with mortises and tenons, dovetails for drawers, etc. etc. This has become the most difficult of all of the hobbies thus far. . . and then I wanted to make some turned legs, so I bought a Carba-Tec lathe and an old Unimat. Most of the miniaturists that specialize in furniture use a duplicator so I bought one of those too, and I found it to be a real bore. . . It was like making a key at a hardware store. . . no art. . . just following a brass template. . . so I decided to try to use a lathe with a regular tool rest and lots of cutting tools. . . After making one leg and then a bowl. . . I was hooked. . . So I found Woodcraft, Constantine's, lots of books, magazines etc. and discovered the GoldCoast Woodturner's. . . and now you know the "Rest of the Story"

P.S. It's fun being one of the only women in a group of handsome men!

Ed McDonnell:

My first woodworking tool (not counting the hammer) was a scroll saw that I bought 15 years ago. I added tools over the years and completed mostly craft type projects, with some utility and furniture projects thrown into the mix.

My wife, Dorothy, bought me a weekend turning class with Lee Sky as a birthday present in October 2005. I had such a great time that I bought a lathe that weekend. Unfortunately, Hurricane Wilma hit the following week and I didn't get a chance to turn until 3 months later. At least I didn't have any trouble getting wood to turn at that time.

I joined GCWT in 2006. I don't really have a favorite type of turning. It's all still pretty new to me so I enjoy anything I do on the lathe. I guess my favorite thing is trying something new. I find time to turn at least a couple hours every day. I very reluctantly take on non-turning related woodworking projects these days. Over the years I accumulated a list of woodworking projects I had promised to make for Dorothy, none of which involved a lathe. I've almost got the list completed. Nothing new goes on the list these days, unless it's turned.

Other things I enjoy doing are scuba diving and photography (both above and under water).

Dorothy and I are full time residents of Florida. My family moved to Florida when I was 7. After college I left to pursue a career in the oilfields of Texas, but the oil boom went bust in the mid 80's. I was approached by AT&T Bell Labs with a job offer and I spent the rest of my career in telecommunications. I spent most of the 90s travelling the world expanding AT&T's global network. I retired in 1999 and we moved back to South Florida.

The GCWT has been a tremendous resource and inspiration for me. The ability to see, touch and examine the works of art that are displayed in the instant gallery each month is priceless. All the members have been extremely generous with their help and advice, whether in a club demo or in mentoring. We are all incredibly lucky to be part of this great organization.

Ron Pursell:

I took a woodworking class in college 45 years ago. I turned my first bowl then and really enjoyed it. After college my focus was on family and career and I didn't really have time to do much turning. About 10 years ago, as I was facing retirement, I got access to an old lathe and started going to GCWT meetings. I continue to enjoy turning and I've expanded my shop and my abilities over the years.

I enjoy all aspects of woodworking. Turning is fun, but it's just one of the things I enjoy. Embellishing my turnings with carving, coloring and burning gives me great pleasure. I also enjoy making boxes (not turned), picture frames and furniture. I made lots of the furniture for the chalet I own in Gatlinburg Tennessee. I'm a member of the South Florida Woodworkers Guild in addition to GCWT.

Other hobbies I enjoy are gardening, playing the Dulcimer and Sultry (stringed musical instruments) and spending time with my 9.5 (one on the way) wonderful grandkids.

My family moved to Florida from Ohio in 1954. My wife Donna and I are full time Florida residents.

I was a teacher for 35 years. I taught all aspects of ornamental horticulture. Did my love of gardening lead me to specialize in that subject or did my years of teaching give me a greater appreciation of gardening? Probably a little of both.

I'm lucky enough to have a sizeable piece of land and I've got a lot of turning wood stored at my place. If you ever want some wood for turning, give me a call and I'll set you up.

Bob Przybylski:

I got my first lathe 20 – 30 years ago. It wasn't the best lathe but it did what I needed, which was primarily furniture legs and the occasional candle stick. I first realized that there was more to turning than furniture legs when I attended the Miami Lakes Art Show and saw Jerry Remillard's booth. I was blown away by the pieces he had created and displayed. Especially the Norfolk Island Pine pieces. They were so different from the typical dull northern woods.

A couple years went by and about 4 years ago I bought a great new lathe and joined GCWT. I enjoy all aspects of turning. I think solid wood turning is more fun than segmented turning, but I seem to spend a lot more time on the segmented turning.

I've done quite a bit of other woodworking over the years. I even made most of the furniture in my house. It seems I don't do much woodworking other than turning these days, but I still apply all the skills I learned over the years to create my finished turnings.

In addition to turning, I enjoy Choral singing. My wife Charlene and I are full time Florida residents. I moved to Florida from Milwaukee 10 years ago. I grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin and I worked in the food business my whole career. I started out working for Borden's in Wisconsin. I took a job with Farm Stores in Florida and I subsequently went to work for the Florida State Department of Agriculture until I retired.

I have 3 daughters (all living outside Florida) and 3 grandsons. My grandsons are showing real promise as turners and they look forward to grandpa's turning challenges. So far we've made weedpots, candlesticks and most recently pens.

I really love being a part of GCWT. The variety of designs and great ideas presented at each meeting are a continual inspiration.

The AAW Lathe Safety Guidelines

1. Safe, effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge of procedures for using this tool. Read and thoroughly understand the label warnings on the lathe and in the owner's/operators manual.
2. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors and a full face shield when needed. Wood dust can be harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask or helmet and proper ventilation (dust collection system) in dusty work conditions. Wear hearing protection during extended periods of operation.
3. Tie back long hair, do not wear gloves, loose clothing, jewelry or any dangling objects that may catch in rotating parts or accessories.
4. Check the owner/operator's manual for proper speed recommendations. Use slower speeds for larger diameter or rough pieces and increased speed for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the workpiece vibrates, always stop the machine to check the reason.
5. Make certain that the belt guard or cover is in place. Check that all clamping devices (locks), such as on the tailstock and toolrest are tight.
6. Rotate your workpiece by hand to make sure it clears the toolrest and bed before turning the lathe "on". Be sure that the workpiece turns freely and is firmly mounted. It is always safest to turn the lathe "off" before adjusting the tool rest.
7. Exercise caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark, knots, irregular shapes or protuberances.
8. Hold turning tools securely on the toolrest and hold the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always use a slower speed when starting until the workpiece is balanced. This helps avoid the possibility of an unbalanced piece jumping out of the lathe and striking the operator.
9. When running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened on the lathe spindle.
10. Know your capabilities and limits. An experienced woodturner may be capable of techniques and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.
11. When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted. When turning between centers, be certain the workpiece is secure.
12. Always remove the toolrest before sanding or polishing operations.
13. Don't overreach, keep proper footing and balance at all times.
14. Keep lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts and other conditions that may affect its operation.
15. Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose not intended. Keep tools out of reach of children.
16. Consider your work environment. Don't use lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of flammable liquids or gases. Keep work area well lit.
17. Stay alert. Watch what you are doing, use common sense. Don't operate tool when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
18. Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.
19. Remove chuck keys and adjusting wrenches. Form a habit of checking for these before switching on the lathe.
20. Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don't leave the lathe until it comes to a complete stop.

Wooden ornaments for our " Festival of Trees" tree that our club and Woodcraft are decorating for the Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art fund raiser





Our tree decorated with wood turned, carved, planed, scrollsawed, ornaments for The Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art "Festival of Trees" was one of the first the be sold. It went during the presale for the large \$ donating benefactors for the Museum. \$1,500.00 again, same as last year!! Just think how many ornaments we can have for next years tree if we all make one each month!?! Maybe we will get the 10' tall tree. Thanks to all who participated with your ornaments and helping decorate the tree.

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](#).

Lyle Jamieson

Lyle Jamieson will be teaching for clubs in our area in mid January, 2008. He is available for one-on-one instruction in your shop, with your tools, and at your skill level, to kick it up a notch. Please call Lyle directly for rates and availability. 231-947-2348, www.lylejameson.com He has a special rate structure for the one-on-one students..

Web Site

Ed McDonnell has started a project "Getting to Know the Members". Not a real catchy title but I couldn't think of anything I liked better. Several members have submitted longer detailed biographies. They are being added to the member's galley pages. If you wish a photo can be added.

Diane Klein, Ed McDonnell, Ron Pursell, and Bob Przybylski have updated there pages. If you wish to send more data please sent it to david@floridaame.org

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 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	
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	
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>