

## TRI-STATE WOODTURNERS



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**Meeting Location:**  
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# Cuts and Scrapes

WWW.TRISTATEWOODTURNERS.COM

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER



Tri-State Woodturners an  
official chapter of AAW

## Scarlette Rouse May Demonstrator

I have always enjoyed working with wood, starting with refinishing furniture in my early teens. I took a woodworking class in 2005 and started building rocking toys and anything else my eight grandchildren wanted. In 2007 I was fascinated by someone on television making pens so I decided I would give that a try. I ordered a midi lathe that came with a set of tools, pen kits and DVD's. It took me three hours to turn a pen one day because I didn't know how to tighten the tailstock, plus I didn't have sharp tools. I took two classes from a woodworking store in 2009 and I joined my first woodturning club. Turning got put on the back burner because I was busy making toys for sale

for neighborhood people. I longed to turn so I stopped doing flatwork and joined a bigger club in December 2013 and took many workshops through that club. I've tried to absorb all I can from any woodturner I'm around. I love to pass along what I've learned as other turners have to me. I love to see the expressions of people while they are learning something new. I consider myself truly blessed to be able to be a woodturner and I hope to encourage others along this wonderful journey.

I plan to take a piece of rounded wood, drill a hole in one end (making it a box), turn the shape, cut it and manipulate it and glue it back together. I will

then show how to mark, carve and paint it. I will show how to do a base (different from this one) and a top. The whole purpose in this is to get folks to think about how they can incorporate themselves into their work. A thought process along with some hopefully new techniques.



# April Meeting with Mark Silay



Mark showed how to finish and dye a turned hollow form



## President's Corner



Remember the May meetings presidents' challenge is a Magnifying Glass.

Again this month instead of the Show and Tell, I'd like to have an instant gallery and turners can group their turnings together and discuss them before the meeting and at the break. Please let me know if you do not like this format. Anyone who brings things for the instant gallery will be entered into a \$15 Woodcraft gift certificate drawing.

The AAW's half price membership is still on until June 30th. This is a bargain, you get full access to ALL of the AAW website plus

a copy of the American Woodturner magazine every other month for a year. The AAW provides videos, magazines, tips and access to many other resources to get you turning fast and keep you challenged. I'd really like to see the majority TSW members be a part of AAW.

Finally shop safety: Summer is upon us and sometimes we get hot in our shops, but are too focused on our creations to stop and drink some water. Staying hydrated is an important part of staying healthy.

# The Web

<http://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/woodturners-create-unique-massive-platter-for-canadas-150th-birthday>



Ten members from the group have teamed up to create a 1.6-metre-diameter commemorative platter they hope will help usher in Canada's 150th birthday. The unusually large piece is made of strips of poplar, laminated together to make a plank that was about 1.8 metres in diameter before the team cut it down with a band saw.

After some extensive lathing and smoothing, the team turned half-circle shaped "beads" into the wood, forming 150 rings around the circumference of the platter.

"Our objective in this whole thing was to create a unique piece of art to honour and commemorate Canada's 150th," Bill Nestor, chapter president of the Edmonton Woodturner's Guild, said recently.

## Sawdust Session April 29



CUTS AND SCRAPES

# Club Challenge for June - Nov.

**June**      **Napkin Rings**

**July**      **Trivet**

**August**    **Vase**

**September** **Something  
embellished**

**October**   **Hat**

**November** **Ornament**

If you try to make the monthly challenge it will help you become a better turner. The projects are fairly broad so you can make it simple or as elaborate as you wish. If you cannot make the project every month plan for one for a future month. I've never heard anyone be critical of a turner's work so don't you think your work is not good enough. It would be really encouraging to see some work submitted from members who have not shown anything yet or for a long time.

If you have questions or are unsure how to make one of the challenges there are lots of people in the club willing to help you or you could search the internet and find videos on making the item.

## President's Special Safety Notice

If you are thinking of trying fractal etching-don't! Recently a woodturner in Walla Walla, Washington was killed when he attempted this process. He is the fourth person killed while attempting this process and several more have been injured. Fractal etching involves using a neon light transformer or microwave magneto to run an electrical current through damp wood. The AAW will soon be notifying all chapters that they do not recommend this process. As your President, I believe that the TAW should also adopt this policy. Please, do not attempt to do fractal etching-it is very dangerous!



## Next meeting is this Sat. at 1:00

## Don't forget to bring

## finished pens for the troops

# Club Challenge for April



Top Art Parry, Bev deYampert,  
Ed Langham, below John Dekle,  
R. top Charles Jennings and  
R. bottom Les Isbell



# Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Charles Helton  
2 knitting  
← bowls  
Below R. Ed Langham  
↓



↑ →

Platter and Table top—Joe Price



# Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Mallet—Ken Bagdon

Pen—David Perry

Bottom four turned by  
Charles Jennings



# Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Created by Les Isbell

3 Bowls, 2 Soap dispensers & 4 Pens



4 Door stops & 2 Necklaces made by John Dekle



# Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Screw driver & reamer, weed pots, Box, 8 Pens and the Hollow form and the bowl turned by John Dekle



**Announcement**  
If you have completed pen kits for the troops bring them to the meeting this Saturday May 20th @ 1 pm

## On Finding and Donating Wood

by Bob Heltman

Some months ago, I wrote an article about how to find wood. This was to help folks new to woodturning. Often, they get a lathe, tools, etc. and then wonder “where do I get wood?” I’ll review that, but herein want to mostly address the more experienced woodturner who wakes up buried in more wood than he can turn in the future, even if he lives on into eternity. I’ve been both without and with too much wood, so I can comment in expert fashion.

The newbie to woodturning can get wood by a number of methods. Go to a local store selling hardwoods, a craft store, lumber yard, etc. This, however, costs money. Better, look around your area for fallen trees, damaged trees about to fall, etc. Talk to the owner. Talk to a tree service company. Look for a “stump dump” where tree surgeons take parts of trees. Keep your eye on the weather --remember, a hurricane, tornado, or other high wind is the woodturner’s friend. However, be considerate and don’t visit a damaged area when the EMS squad or ambulance is there...I mean for goodness sake, curb yourself a bit. Have a chainsaw handy at all times though. Helping a neighbor remove a tree is a service rendered...and you get the wood! In some places, talk to your US Forest Service and get their advice. Look in the paper. As you drive around, look for fallen trees, an old apple orchard being uprooted, etc. Opportunity favors the prepared mind. And, of course, join your nearest woodturning club and let your need be known.

As you get into the woodturning game you will hear of burls and strange sounding woods. Subscribe to *More Woodturning Magazine*, the AAW Journal, etc. and look in the ads section. If all else fails, wear torn and shoddy clothes, stand on a high traffic street corner, put a sad and downcast look on your face, and wear a cardboard sign around your neck that says, “Have Lathe, Need wood.” You’ll get all the attention you need.

Now, let’s move forward in time 1 to 3 years. What happens is that word gets around that you turn wood and you’ll get calls from friends, neighbors, even strangers, asking if you are interested in taking down or cutting up a tree they have. From time to time you’ll connect and acquire a large supply of maple, cherry, ash, oak, dogwood, sourwood, hickory, pecan, boxelder, and so on. And you’ll have a very large pile of wood, or several such piles. At first this is high-status and you’ll feel elegant and proud. “Yes, yes” you’ll humbly say, “I’m kinda pretty much devoted to woodturning some.” If you turn a good bit, you’ll stay familiar with what type of wood is in what part of the pile or has its own pile. And, you’ll develop expertise in looking at a piece of a tree and correctly identifying it. Smugness will set in...as will bugs and rot if you leave the woodpile outside, on the ground, uncovered.

As the untouched wood ages, it can lose bark, gather fungus, and you get a little uncertain as to what kind of wood it is. You’ll say things like, “I should have painted the cut ends to avoid cracking.” And, “Well, if I cut off two inches from the cracked ends I’ll still have enough left for a good bowl.” If this also happened a few years earlier, you will subconsciously remember, on your next fallen tree wood gathering trip, to cut pieces a little longer just in case you don’t get to paint the ends right away. This leads to an even larger woodpile.

Some woods decay faster than others...poplar and apple come to mind along with sapwood of oak, I have to confess. Several years ago, I just had to get rid of a lot of decayed apple I had laboriously gathered a couple years earlier. Guilt ridden, I had trouble sleeping for a night or two, although some guilt can be suppressed with a sufficient absorbing of adult beverages, I’m told. Actually, I had to get rid of a whole bottom row of cut wood that was stored on the ground. Being a part-time turner, I go for extended periods of time between my woodturning sessions.

Recently I had gotten myself into another situation where I just had to admit I had far more wood than I was likely to turn, and noticed some of it was starting to get too split, decayed, or bug ridden. What to do...You could run an ad and sell the surplus to other woodturners. Or add to your firewood pile (just the bad pieces of course). Or donate it to your woodturning club's annual fund raising auction (but this may mean hauling a lot of wood to one or more club meetings). Being in the world's finest and largest woodturning club (allow a bit of pride, OK?), the Carolina Mountain Woodturners, where we have email and a website, our Internet expert broadcast the following email from me: "I have accumulated more wood blanks than I can turn. New Spalted Maple logs 12" diameter, sassafras ditto, butternut, odd pieces of walnut, chunks of various others. I'd like a CMW member, probably in the Hendersonville area, to come by and take some. A donation to CMW would be a nice gesture on the recipient's part and save me hauling pieces to the September auction. Glad to get a few chunks of osage orange in trade. Call first (my phone #) and will provide detailed directions." Within a day or two I received seven calls/emails, leading to visits and the removal of all the wood I wanted to have moved out. Each visit was very pleasant and allowed club members to see my shop and get their wood. We also greatly enjoyed each other's company and had nice chats. One interesting couple lives six months in Florida and six here in Hendersonville, NC. They needed wood while HERE! Makes sense. Each grand person promised to give money to our club, and this approach saved my aging body from having to load, transport at high gas cost expense, and unload a LOT of wood for our annual club's money raising auction.

There is still a bit of butternut to be retrieved by an out of town member, but the outside storage area is in great shape once again. I can either load in more wood or not. And, the decayed bark under one of the piles made great mulch for the flower garden. It is good to have a happy wife.

What remains is my inside wood on the floor of my basement shop studio. Now, yes, I allowed some of it to escape too, but at this point I can get to my smaller and second table top lathe which got blocked off for months by the inside wood blanks. The current condition allows me to throw out some rugs on which some wood sat and left its fungus marks. The floor can be seen once again. There were a lot of wood chips to vacuum up, dust, and even a few dead bugs. Such is woodturning. I have to go now, the phone is ringing...oh, it was my neighbor Dan, with the portable sawmill. He is slabbing a maple tree trunk and wondered if I wanted a piece near the root area as it is somewhat spalted and has real curly grain. I'd better go take a look.

This information is provided by  
*More Woodturning Magazine.*

Please visit their web site:

[www.morewoodturningmagazine.com](http://www.morewoodturningmagazine.com)

**TSW Meeting**  
**This Sat May 20**  
**At 1:00 p.m.**