



**Volume 29  
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## The Monthly Newsletter of the Windy City Woodturners

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Our November meeting will have Paul Pyrcik demonstrating some creative ways to turn a Christmas ornament just in time for the holidays.



## October Demo



Our demo for our October meeting was given by Bob Leonard. Bob demonstrated the capabilities of his Frugal Vacuum System. In general, the primary use for vacuum chucking is to finish turn the bottom of an almost finished piece. The vacuum system is used to hold the piece firmly towards the headstock while you turn away the remnants of the foot.

A vacuum system can also be used to turn platters top and bottom. The Frugal System is an economical alternative to more expensive solutions.

It should be noted that Bob was kind enough to provide the club with a Frugal Vacuum System at a significantly reduced cost. This system will be in our library for members to check out for a limited time. This will give you the opportunity to determine your interest in acquiring a system for yourself. See Rich Hall-Reppen for details on checking this system out.

## Using our hobby to help others

As the holiday season approaches we often times find ourselves looking for ways to help others enjoy the times. Whether through your church or through other charitable organizations many of us give of our time and money to help others. It would be interesting to hear how turning has played a roll in this charitable activity of yours.

This is a solicitation for stories about this for our December newsletter.



# President's Message

Like most woodturners I have a significant amount of wood in my shop (and in a pile in the garage, and on shelves in the basement, and probably in the trunk of my car. Not to mention the dozens, and possibly even hundreds, of bowl roughouts dry or drying. I have wood I picked up last week, I have wood I've had for at least a decade which included a cross-country move.

Sometimes I get wood for a specific purpose. Maybe I have a commission or a project in mind that calls for a specific shape in a specific wood. More often though I get wood when it's available and wait for a project that calls for that specific size or shape or species.

About a year ago a close friend and fellow woodturner lost her husband who was also a woodturner. I volunteered to make an urn for his remains. It took a few days for my friend to accept my offer but she finally agreed to let me do that for her. Immediately I started to go through the mental inventory of wood that I have that I thought might work for this new project with a short timeline. Using green wood was out of the question, I don't do segmenting, and I wanted a nice piece of wood. He was a fairly large man so the piece of wood needed would be rather substantial.



**President's Message (cont)** Those criteria definitely cut down the list of possibilities and I almost immediately remembered a piece of wood I'd had sitting on my shelf for a number of years, probably 7 or 8 years. I'd cut it from a larger blank 5 or 6 years ago intending to make one of my Torus forms but I'd cut it too large. I had put it on my lathe and rounded it out and it was a full 12" diameter and 6" thick, big leaf maple burl. I knew it was dry, I knew it was big enough, and I knew that it was going to be gorgeous.

So I booked my airline tickets to attend his memorial service and immediately set to work making only the 2<sup>nd</sup> full sized urn I'd ever made. I take this work very seriously. It's an honor to be able to do this for a friend and obviously you don't want to disappoint. I normally listen to music or a podcast while I'm in my shop but I took this opportunity to think about my friend, to think about her husband, and to remember our shared experiences.

When we moved to Illinois I took a moving truck and made the 1800 mile drive from Phoenix to Chicago. My wife and kids stayed with this friend in her home before flying out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day so that we would all arrive in Chicago together. The word friend doesn't even come close to describing the relationship. They were surrogate parents to me and surrogate grandparents to my kids.

I now believe that when I cut that piece of wood too large all those years ago that that piece of wood was always intended for this purpose. That is and always was Ken's urn, it's just that he and I didn't know it at the time. It was only when I finally found the absolute need for a piece of wood for this specific purpose that I realized why I'd had that piece of wood sitting on my shelf for the better part of a decade. RIP Ken.



**Club meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 pm

**Location:** Lisle Park District  
1925 Ohio St., Lisle, IL

Attendance at meetings is free. Guests and visitors are always welcome

Our November meeting will be November 20, 2018

## Club News

Our club sponsored an ornament turning event at Woodcraft in Woodridge on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10AM to 3PM. We had a great turnout from our club. Don Johnston, Rich Nye, Rich Rohrback, Roy Lindley, Paul Pyrcik, and Bruce Kamp were there to demonstrate various ornament designs. It was appreciated by those that stopped by. We believe that we were actually able give them some useful ideas.



## Club Logo Wear

With winter not far away you may want to consider ordering a long sleeve club logo shirt. Go to:

<https://business.landsend.com/store/wcwt/>

## **Club Officers**

At Your Service

### **President**

Jason Clark

[jclark58@gmail.com](mailto:jclark58@gmail.com)

### **Vice-President**

Dawn Herndon-Charles

[dcharlesster@gmail.com](mailto:dcharlesster@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Nick Page

[nicklpage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nicklpage@sbcglobal.net)

### **Secretary / Editor**

Bruce Kamp

[bruce.kamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bruce.kamp@sbcglobal.net)

Current Membership 79

Additionally, the following people

Serve in these important roles:

### Promotions

Rich Nye

### Videography

Bob Bergstrom

Tom Waicecuskas

### Photography

Dave Burk

### Librarian

Rich Hall-Reppen

# Club News

## Member Picture Directory

If you have not had your mugshot taken yet please do so at our November meeting



We have completed our Member Picture Directory and have distributed a copy to every member. It can be used as your reference in identifying and contacting fellow members. We are still missing a few members' photos.

Please Note: It is the intent of the album and information to ONLY be distributed our members.

## Bringback Challenge

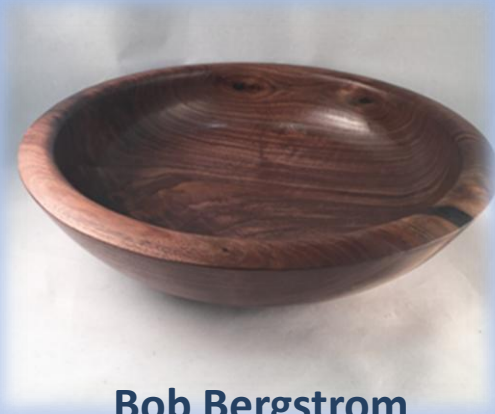


October's Bringback Challenge was won by Jason Clark. He was lucky enough to take home this wonderful creation by Bill Aitchison.

We are all familiar of the great work that Jason produces. Who will be the lucky winner in November?



# October Gallery



**Bob Bergstrom**



**Dom Costabile**



**Rich Nye**



**Rich Hall-Reppen**



# October Gallery



Jason Clark



Mark McCleary



Nathan Wick



Rich Nye



Rich Rohrback



Tony Leto



# October Gallery



Roy Lindley



# Rich Hall-Reppen & Don Johnston's Happy Adventure

## Cruising while Turning in Norway

### By Rich Hall-Reppen

Sue and Don Johnston and Deb and Rich Hall-Reppen went on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Norwegian Woodturning Cruise this past August. Created and coordinated by Odd Erik Thjomoe and his staff and family from Verktoy AS, a Stavanger, Norway based woodworking supply store, the Woodturning Cruise has been held about every three or four years since 1998. Departing the southern Norway town of Stavanger on August 20, 2018, the small cruise ship, MS Gann, stopped at six towns along the west coast of Norway on its way to the North Cape (northern most spot in continental Europe) where the boat turned around and stopped at six more towns on the west coast of Norway before arriving back in Stavanger on September 1, 2018. There were a little over 200 passengers from more than twenty countries on the ship, MS Gann, with a number of passengers from Australia, Canada, US, and Europe. The Woodturning Cruise included ten internationally and locally famous Woodturners including Richard Raffan, Nick Agar, Benoit Averly, Jimmy Clewes, Glenn Lucas, Michael Hosaluk, Mark Sfirri and locally known Woodturners Ulf Jansson and Asmund Vignes. At each town, the big door on the ship opened and all of the local woodworkers came on board to purchase that turning tool, lathe, bandsaw, Tormek, carving tools and routers that were missing from their shop. We saw a number of lathes, bandsaws, Tormek sharpening systems and a large number of Crown and Sorby turning tools depart the ship to find a new home



Each port stop included an optional sightseeing trip (both the Johnstons and the Hall-Reppen's highly recommend the North Cape and Geiranger / Trollstigen excursions), create your own sightseeing tour or the passengers could sign up for lathe time on the Sun Deck or inside. Don and Rich took advantage of the Sun Deck turning on more than one occasion using the locally cut birch trees creating some nice natural edge vases and some Christmas tree ornaments. After the ship left the port, the passengers could sign up for private or small group classes with one of the featured demonstrators. Don made a lovely box under the watchful eye of Richard Raffan and Rich made a bat with a really big dent in the side where the ball might have hit it with some help from Mark Sfirri. Deb scheduled some lathe time inside and made her first pens with a little assistance from Don. Deb Hall-Reppen and Sue Johnston took advantage of the knitting, felting and quilting classes offered onboard.

The Cruise finished with a charity auction where seventy lots of newly created pieces, demo pieces and passenger donated pieces were sold. A number of passengers donated their Instant Gallery pieces to either the Silent or Live Auction. The charity auction raised about \$10,000 for the Norwegian Cancer Society. Sue and Don Johnston were able to purchase a Nick Agar Viking Sunset Bowl and Deb and Rich Hall-Reppen bought a number of items including a collaboration from most of the demonstrators organized by Michael Hosaluk titled: "Ship of Fools" and a baseball signed by all of the demonstrators made by Michael Hosaluk and Mark Sfirri. Past demonstrators on the Woodturning Cruise included our club's own Dick Sing. Binh Pho was supposed to be a demonstrator on the 2018 Cruise, but his untimely passing did not allow the passengers to benefit from his wisdom.



We did not hear when the next Woodturning Cruise will be held, but if you have the time and treasure for a once in a lifetime adventure that combines sightseeing the lovely fjords of Norway with our favorite profession or hobby, the Woodturning Cruise should be on the top of your list. See [woodturningcruise.com](http://woodturningcruise.com) for more information about the 2018 and previous cruises or talk to Don, Dick or Rich to get their personal experiences in more depth.



**Mark Sfirri helps out Rich**



**Turning on the deck**



**Richard Raffan gives Don  
a pointer**



# Getting To Know Us

## Dick Sing's Venture into Woodturning

My venture into woodturning Newspaper ad which led to Dunlap lathe (it was the \$10.00 investment, even in Considerable expenses were to come and by the way, my lathe.



started with a the purchase of a predecessor of Craftsman). The 1965 was still a bargain. added to this hobby in the years nephew still owns my original



I worked for GM as a die maker and applied my knowledge of the metal lathe to the wood lathe which was a big mistake, as this produced nothing but scraping. I had no knowledge of any woodturning books, magazines or DVD's back then to help me learn, there weren't any.... I muddled through the learning process and became reasonably proficient at scraping.

In 1987 I attended the Utah Woodturning symposium in Provo, Utah and also the AAW Symposium in Lexington, Kentucky. This was the first time I had been around other woodturner's or anyone else's turned work. What a lesson in humility..... I knew I had to learn how to turn properly.

In 1988 I took a course from Dale Nish at Craft Supplies USA in Provo, Utah which changed my approach to the lathe and where I learned to cut cleanly. The following year I took a course from Richard Raffan, again at Craft Supplies USA in Provo, Utah where he helped to further improve my turning skills and understanding of woodturning.

Getting To Know Us(cont) Upon retiring from GM in 1991, I worked Art Shows to supplement my income. This helped me in speed, design and the work ethics needed to produce sellable work. Later I was asked to demonstrate for a woodturning and carving store in Wisconsin. This led to more demos which led to books (of which I have 9), which led to magazine articles and also to the DVD magazine Woodworking at Home, with me doing the turning segments.

I have taught many years at John C. Campbell School of Folk Art in North Carolina and at many symposiums and venues across the US. I have traveled to England, Ireland, and numerous times to Australia and Norway to demonstrate and have also demoed on the Norwegian Woodturning Cruise.

I did not set out to be a woodturning demonstrator, it just happened. Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

Over the years I have tried various approaches, such as adding carving, color and other such embellishments to my work. It seems I always return to my roots of pure turning. With my background in die making and quality control, I tend to delve into clean, precise cuts and intricate projects.

Bowls, platters, miniature birdhouses, off-set inlays and hollow ornaments are among the things that intrigue me the most. I love the simple uncluttered forms. I also believe it is difficult to make something simple pretty. The palette of natural colors of the many woods available always amazes me as does their various natural grain patterns and figures.

I live in Joliet, Illinois with my wife Cindy, on a part of the original farm on which I was born.

# Club Events

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Lisle Once Upon a Christmas- December 1, 3pm to 8pm and December 2, noon to 5pm.
- Club Christmas Party- December 18 at Bohemian Crystal

# Area Events

- December 19
  - IAP (Chicagoland International Association of Penturners)
  - Bi-Monthly Meeting at Rockler Bolingbrook 10:00am-1:00 pm







## Segmented Woodturning Symposium

[www.segmentedwoodturning.org](http://www.segmentedwoodturning.org)



The 6<sup>th</sup> Segmenting history books. It was held downtown St Louis at the center from October 11-14. Based on comments at the event and the survey responses, most attendees felt that this was an excellent symposium. The 10 demonstrators who put on 47 rotations were all well prepared. The tradeshow was the largest we have ever had with 2000 sq ft of space and the 12 vendors were very helpful. The Instant Gallery had some phenomenal work. The talent in St. Louis was impressive. Spouses thought the tour of the city sites was excellent, and finally Lloyd Johnson and his two brothers put on a show that those in attendance will not forget anytime soon. They wrote woodturning lyrics to Billy Joel music. If you could not make it, watch the video on YouTube. It's titled "Johnson Brothers play Billy Joel". Congratulations to Bill Smith who popularized open segmenting for receiving the Lifetime achievement award as well as Eli Polite and Steve Bonny who received the Excellence in Segmenting awards during the banquet. Attendance was the highest of the 6 symposiums so far with over 250 attendees, spouses, demonstrators, and vendors.

# AAW Information



Below you will find some information about the AAW grants that are available to members. This could be a potentially rewarding opportunity. Mark Hubl of our club has recently taken advantage of this opportunity and will tell you it is well worth the effort.

If you think you might be interested in applying please follow this link:

<https://www.woodturner.org/page/2018EOGApply>

- **AAW's Grants offers funding or equipment to selected applicants for woodturning education.**
- **The purpose of the Program is to:**
  - Provide educational opportunities that expand and enrich the entire woodturning community.
  - Provide ways that woodturning skills may be shared with local chapters, the community, schools, and others.
  - Create opportunities for woodturners who would otherwise not be financially able.
  - Provide outreach to underrepresented populations (women, disabled, minority, etc.) to introduce and encourage them in their pursuit of woodturning.
  - Provide opportunities for woodturning professionals to enrich and encourage creative growth, research, or inspiration for new directions in turned wood art.
- **Applications will be accepted through December 31 annually. Late applications will not be considered. Only one application per member, individual, chapter, or other organization will be accepted per year. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications well in advance of the deadline.**

# AAW Information



## AAW Membership Trial

AAW's newest membership promotion is currently available and is a perfect opportunity for you to give it a try, especially for those who have been on the fence about joining. This new introductory membership enables chapter members who have never been AAW members to test the waters of a full AAW membership for **THREE MONTHS FOR JUST \$20**. If they wish to continue their AAW membership, introductory members will be automatically renewed one time for an additional **NINE MONTHS FOR JUST \$40**. Individuals who have never been AAW members may sign up for a three-month introductory AAW membership using a credit card at <http://www.woodturner.org/?page=ITM2040>.

AAW offers numerous benefits. Take a second and use the following link to explore what AAW has to offer.

<http://www.woodturner.org/?page=MemberBenefits>

As an example of what is offered check out:

<http://www.woodturner.org/?page=FUNDamentals>

**Visit**  
**[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)**