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The Monthly Newsletter of the Windy City Woodturners

In This Issue:



- President's Message • Pg. 2
- November Demo • Pg. 4
- Helping Others • Pg. 5
- Club News • Pg. 9
- Library Review • Pg. 12
- November Gallery • Pg. 13
- Club Calendar Of Events • Pg. 16
- Area Events • Pg. 17
- AAW Grant Information • Pg. 18
- AAW Information • Pg. 19

President's Message

What would you turn if you could only turn one more time?
If you knew something was going to happen that would
prevent you from ever turning again what would you make?
A bowl, a pen, a box, a hollow form?

This is essentially the premise of my favorite book. “The Last Lecture” by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow. Carnegie Mellon professor Randy Pausch was invited to participate in a lecture series where professors were asked to give a lecture as if it were their last. If you could give one last lecture on the topic of your choosing what would it be? In Randy’s case however the premise wasn’t far fetched at all; he had recently been given a terminal diagnosis – pancreatic cancer and was given mere months to live.

Rather than sulk and look to be pitied he set a plan into motion and began to prepare his last lecture. His lecture was entitled “Really achieving your childhood dreams” and was presented on September 18, 2007. Randy’s childhood dreams included being in zero gravity, playing in the NFL, authoring an article in the World Book Encyclopedia, being Captain Kirk, winning the big stuffed animals at amusement parks and becoming a Disney Imagineer and over the course of 75 minutes he presented his lecture to an overflowing lecture hall.



President's Message (Cont)

It was the perfect combination of touching, funny, inspiring and poignant with plenty of lessons learned and a few noteworthy twists thrown in. The response to his lecture was overwhelming, a video of the lecture on Youtube has amassed nearly 19 million views and the book “The Last Lecture” was written as a follow-up to the lecture with additional detail, more stories, and even more lessons. I’ve given copies of the book as gifts on numerous occasions and I keep an audio version of the lecture on my phone to listen to every couple of months. My family and I regularly listen to an audio book version of “The Last Lecture” on road trips and I’m not ashamed to admit that it makes me tear up nearly every time I listen to it.

If I had one last chance to turn I don’t really know what I’d make. My first instinct would be to make the best hollow form I could possibly make, possibly one of my Torus forms or one of my signature Saturn bowls. Thinking about it some more I think I’d prefer to borrow a page out of Randy’s book and instead spend that one last time turning with my kids. Whatever they want to turn, it’s completely up to them as long as we do it together.



November Demo



At our November meeting Paul Pyrcik demonstrated his techniques for making great looking clocks as a gift idea for Christmas. He performed his demo on his appropriate seasonally decorated mini-lathe. Paul had some good ideas on the use of a forstner bit for setting the cavity at the right depth to hold the clock and instructions. The final product would make a great Christmas gift.



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. Following are some examples of what members have done for the season



Bert LeLoup sent his daughter 40 lbs of bread boards , bowls, bottle stoppers, bangles and pens for her schools Christmas sale. All sales go to the school. The school is in Portland Oregon...



Dick Sing offers up a couple of great Christmas gift ideas along with a story for each one: The big question is “What do I do this Christmas” or to make any occasion special? Over the years, I have given bowls, bottle stoppers, pens, and a variety of other turnings as gifts to family and friends. It’s again time to come up with something new and novel! This has been a problem that I have experienced for years.



While shooting some pictures to send to a symposium, I had the perfect answer right in front



of me. I had a collage of inlays, which both Cindy, my wife, and I thought were not only different from an object standpoint, but were just plain outstanding to look at. Almost at once, the both of us made the comment, “wouldn’t that make a unique, challenging, great looking puzzle?” So our quest for a source began. We found that there are numerous online sources that will put your picture onto puzzles, calendars, mouse pads, or about anything that crosses the mind. There are many choices as to the size and the amount of pieces for the puzzle. Prices vary with the size, puzzle backing, and the amount of pieces.

Now that the seed has been planted, what do you use to make into a puzzle? A collection of small items, such as bottle stoppers, pens, bowls, and large or small items in a grouping, work out great. Or how about you, in your shop, in action at the lathe. If you want to be a little diabolical, choose something that is intricate, with similar colors and patterns, and with very little change in the background. This will make it more of a challenge putting it together. With a little thought, you could make a customized puzzle of yourself, made with larger pieces for those special grandchildren. Think of Santa or an elf, in costume, working in your shop making toys, and then receiving one! A turned top makes a great stocking stuffer.

The subject matter for the puzzle is endless. We used six different pictures of my work, had them made into puzzles then gifted them to friends and family for Christmas 2011.



Using our hobby to help others (cont)

Paul Pycik tells us about how he used his turning skills in a giving way for the holiday season:

This year I got into the true spirit of Christmas with fellow Chicago Woodturners friends. We turned and donated wood bowls as part of the Empty Bowls initiative and helped raise money for local food pantries. Next, I teamed up with DuPage Woodworkers friends at Woodcraft in Woodridge to turn and donate large spinning tops for the club's year-long toy project designed to brighten the holidays for 2,300 local boys and girls in need. Finally, I participated with other Windy City Woodturners in Once Upon A Christmas celebration activities at Lisle's historical museum campus. We publicly demonstrated our joy of turning small holiday items and passed along a few completed items to the kids in attendance. It doesn't get much better than that!



Examples of Turned Christmas Gifts



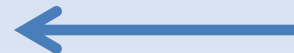
Rich Rohrback produced some great looking ornaments. These make excellent gifts for friends and family.



Paul Pycik made these bowls for the Empty Bowls charity effort



Some ornaments on display at our Once Upon A Christmas event



Club meetings: 3rd 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 December meeting will be our Christmas Party. Our January meeting will be January 15, 2019

Club Officers

At Your Service

President

Jason Clark

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Vice-President

Dawn Herndon-Charles

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Treasurer

Nick Page

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Secretary / Editor

Bruce Kamp

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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

Once Upon a Christmas by Rich Hall-Reppen

Nine Windy City Turners, coordinated by Don Johnston, demonstrated woodturning on the various lathes at the Museums at Lisle Station during Lisle Park District's Once Upon A Christmas event. Ranging from a Spring Pole lathe (based on a design from the 1600's constructed and donated by club member Mark McCleary), Treadle lathe from the 1700's, Sheldon electric lathe from the 1900's to a Jet mini lathe, Windy City Turners spent about six hours on Saturday December 1 and Sunday December 2, making shavings resulting in tops, spindles shapes and some unfinished banisters on the Spring Pole and Treadle lathes. The Spring Pole and Treadle lathes are foot powered which may explain why we weren't able to produce any finished products from the two foot powered lathes.



Once Upon A Christmas (cont)

Maybe next time, we will have some young energetic turners who want to prove that they can make some finished products from the foot powered lathes!

Windy City club members that demonstrated over the weekend were: Don Johnston, Bruce Kamp, Paul Shotola, Paul Pyrcik, Rich Nye, Peter D'Attomo, Ed Kosteck, Jason Clark and Rich Hall-Reppen. Once Upon A Christmas also included the blacksmiths at the Forge, Reindeer petting, ice carving, hot chocolate, popcorn, model train demonstration as well as some really nice items made by the blacksmiths and woodturners available for sale in the gift shop, but no snow.



Club News

Member Picture Directory

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



November's Bringback Challenge was won by Paul Pyrcik. However, last month's winner, Jason Clark, forgot to bring in a piece for Paul to take home. Paul looks forward to seeing what Jason brings to the January meeting to make up for that.

It is a good bet that Paul will bring something wonderful as his Bringback contribution.

Library Review by Rich Hall-Reppen

The Windy City Turners has a number of books and DVD's if you haven't finished your Christmas ornaments or gifts. We have three books by Club Member, Dick Sing describing his methods for turning birdhouses, ornaments and projects for the mini lathe. If you have any questions about projects in these books, I'm sure that Dick can give you insight so you can get those ornaments and other Christmas gifts done in time for the Holidays. We also have a book titled "Woodturning Traditional Folk Toys" for those of you who want to branch out from just woodturning. And, don't forget to make a pen or two for your favorite relative and friends. We have a couple of books on making pens as well as a DVDs. Platters, bowls, boxes, we have books and videos to help you get those Christmas gifts made and finished in time for gift giving if you want to make sure you get those items made now for the next year's Holiday party. See me at the back during the January meeting to check out one of our books or DVD's.



Club Logo Wear

With winter here you may want to consider ordering a long sleeve club logo shirt. Go to:

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



November Gallery



Bob Bergstrom



Jason Clark



Nathan Wick

November Gallery



Bill Aitchison



Don Johnston



Rich Nye



Mark McCleary

November Gallery



Club Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

•Club Christmas Party- December 18 at Bohemian Crystal



Area Events

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



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