

**Volume 30  
Issue 6  
June  
2019**

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

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**June's Demonstration  
will be Clint Stevens  
demonstrating offset  
turning. See Page 6  
for more information**





I recently helped-out at a bowl turning event. There were a dozen or so woodturners with varying skill levels present. There were people turning their bowl #2 and people turning their bowl #500.

Towards the end of the day I was helping-out a turner that I think only has a couple years' experience. I noticed he was cutting on the outside of a bowl but he wasn't getting a good finish off the tool. This was partially due to tool control but mostly due to technique and not clearly understanding the process of turning a bowl.

Most of us that start woodturning start with spindles, possibly even pens. You don't need a chuck, you don't need a big lathe with lots of horsepower and you don't need a lot of specialty tools. Beads and coves are the basics of all spindle turning but what most turners don't realize is that beads and coves are also the basics of turning a bowl.

If I asked you what the primary difference between a bowl and a spindle is what would be your answer? My answer is simple. 90 degrees. Side-grain bowls like most bowls that we turn are simply a spindle turned on it's side.

The outside of a bowl is nothing more than a bead. The inside of a bowl is nothing more than a cove. The basics of how the tools are held and the basic process and technique of turning a bead and a cove on the spindle are nearly identical for turning the in outside and the inside of a bowl. The primary difference is the spindle has been shifted 90 degrees so that the grain is now running perpendicular to the bed of the lathe rather than parallel to it.

(President's Message continued on Page 16)

**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 June meeting will be June 18, 2019

## Club News



**Presentation of a donation check to Wendy Nadeau of Lisle Park District by Paul Pyrcik of Windy City Woodturners in support of the art program for seniors**

## **Club Officers**

At Your Service

### **President**

Jason Clark

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

### **Vice-President**

Peter D'Attomo

[zorro4122@yahoo.com](mailto:zorro4122@yahoo.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 88

Additionally, the following people

Serve in these important roles:

#### Promotions

Rich Nye

#### Videography

Bob Bergstrom

Tom Waicecuskas

#### Photography

Dave Burk

#### Librarian

Rich Hall-Reppen



# Andy Kuby's inside out demonstration. May 21st

Andy told the members that he'd only started doing inside out recently. If that's the case, then Andy's is a really fast learner, as the demo he showed did not indicate that. I sure learned some tips.

He walked us through the steps from gluing the boards to reassembling the piece and finishing the design.

Andy started by showing the gluing process with brown paper joints and secured it further using duct tape on each end of the piece. He turned coves and beads which as you look at the piece is the opposite when you reassemble it. So it is important to understand when to stop cutting. He indicated that there is a difference in look between a tapered inside and a flat. He also stated that you can color the inside, but if you do, this is the time to do it.

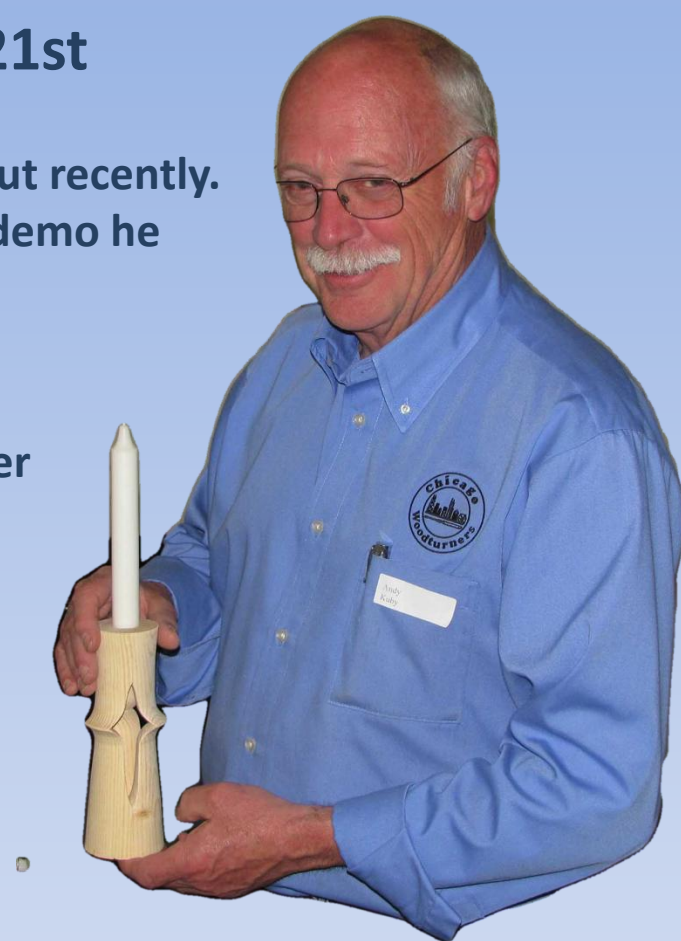
I was surprised to understand that this is not limited to a four sided piece. Andy had samples of 3, 5, 6 sided pieces all equaling 360 degrees, what a difference experimenting can make.

The tools used was minimal with a roughing gouge the most used, parting tool, spindle gouge

Well I have to go now and try my hand at this inspiring work and hope to accomplish a turning.

Happy Curls

Pete D'Attomo



## Club News (cont)

### Lisle Heritage Society Club Event



Production of this year's Lisle Heritage Society ornament is under way. The first batch of completed turnings were handed over to the society in April to start the decorating. Kits of 5 blanks, a sample and instructions will continue to be available at meetings for the next several months. We will also be collecting completed pieces monthly. Please sign out kits and sign in completed pieces so we have a clue of WIP. You can watch a "How To" demo on our website at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aJ7PULxcVk&feature=youtu.be>

SHHHH -- THE HERITAGE SOCIETY HAS A TRADITION OF KEEPING SECRET THE SUBJECT OF THE ANNUAL ORNAMENT UNTIL THEIR FIRST SALES AT DEPOT DAYS IN SEPTEMBER. WE ALL NEED TO HELP THEM FOLLOW THIS TRADITION. SO WHETHER YOU TURN OR NOT, DON'T TELL.

Our 2019 Christmas Party will be held at  
Glen Ellyn Village Links Golf Club Reserve 22  
More information to come.



# This Month's Demonstration

## Clint Stevens

Born and raised in Wyoming, Clint Stevens has degrees in Natural Resources and Hydrology. As a registered engineer he spent a career in water resources including work on water projects and environmental studies in several western states and Asia. Clint established the Broadway Wood Studio in Edgewater in 1998 and has designed and crafted one of a kind furniture and unique woodturnings since.

Clint is a member of the American Association of Woodturners and the Chicago Woodturners.

### Craftsman's Philosophy

Knowledge of woods strengths, weaknesses, and innate beauty background is almost instinctive in all of us. For me, crafting a wood heirloom is a process of appreciating beautiful wood and not getting in the way of showcasing its beauty. Unfortunately for the tree, burrs, figured wood, spaltings and most other lovely effects are born from stress or disease. Working with wood means working with a material prone to cracks, splits and an array of imperfections. Instead of hiding these flaws, highlighting and celebrating them can reward with spectacular results. I use the background that has been given us by generations of craft and art wisdom, but am not nervous about playful experimentation.



# Club News (cont)

## Future 2019 Demonstrations

Peter D'Attomo has been working hard to secure some quality demonstrations for the rest of our 2019 schedule. Here is a list of what is scheduled. We will elaborate on each as we approach so that you will have background information on each.

•June-	Clint Stevens	Offset
•July-	Greg Bonier	Casting Pen Blanks
•August-	Keith Lackner	Infused Turning
•September-	Club Garage Sale	
•October-	Frank Pagura	Flowers
•November-	Paul Pyrcik	Rose Engine
•December-	Christmas Party	

## Useful Information

David Ellsworth is a full-time studio woodturner and teacher living in Buck's County, PA

He has written a nice article on Avoiding Cracks in Bowls and Hollow Forms. It can be found in this newsletter starting on Page 20





# May Gallery Review



Jason Clark



Bert Leloup



Rich Nye/Andy Kuby



Mark Jundanian



Ronald Moravec



May Gallery Review (cont)  
May Gallery Review (cont)



Dawn Herndon-Charles



Andy Kuby



## May Gallery Review (cont)



Tony Leto



Paul Pyrcik



Dick Sing



Bill Aitchison



Bob Barbieri



## May Gallery Review (cont)



Marie Anderson



Rich Rohrbach

# Area Events



## DuPage Woodworkers Auction July 20, 2019

Come and see what choice items you can acquire for your shop. There is usually a good collection of hand, power tools as well as items that fall into the turning and supplies category.

Registration will begin at 8:00 am and the auction will start promptly at 9:00 am. You can bring items related to woodworking (used tools you no longer want, a piece of maple that didn't fit into your last project, etc.) or you can just come to bid. It is suggested that small items be bundled as one lot. This year we will sell six items for each seller and then move to the next seller. This allows all sellers a chance to have six of their items offered for sale before interest starts to wane and money starts to dwindle. Sellers will be able to prioritize the order of sale. There will be one or two more rounds following the first one so you can bring more than six items to sell. The event will be held at St. James the Apostle Church, 480 S Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL.



## Area Events (cont)

### •Chicago Woodturners 2019 Professional Demonstration Schedule

CWT has assembled an outstanding group of guest demonstrators for the remaining sessions are:

- Max Brosi, July 20-23, 2019
- Jacques Vesery, September 7-10, 2019

▪The Saturday demonstrations are 9 to 5, open to all and reasonably priced. The hands-on classes fill up quickly. Additional information is available at or by contacting Chicago Woodturners.

▪<http://www.chicagowoodturners.com/professional-demonstrations/>

### Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild

Oct 18-20, 2019

West Harrison, IN (Just outside of Cincinnati)

Stuart Batty, Trent Bosch, Chris Ramsey, Al Stirt, Mark Sfirri, Kimberly Winkle



Our club has received a single three day admission pass for this event, a \$230 value. If you are interested in going and have not been before please submit your name to Jason Clark at [jclark58@gmail.com](mailto:jclark58@gmail.com). We will draw a winner and inform you via email.

### Turn-On Chicago 2020

July 24-26, 2020

Pheasant Run in St Charles

David Ellsworth, Cynthia Gibson, Michael Hosulak, Eric Lofstrom, Chris Ramsey, Avalino Samuel

The American Association of Woodturners  
33rd Annual International Symposium  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
July 11-14, 2019



**Raleigh 2019**

**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS



For a nice video summary of the event navigate to this link:  
<https://www.woodturner.org/page/2019RaleighMain>

# 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)**



(cont)



Beads are formed by cutting from the top of the bead arching over the side and down to the bottom of the bead. We can think of the foot of the bowl as the top of the bead and the rim of the bowl as the bottom of the bead and it should be cut the same way. The cuts should be made cutting from the foot up to the rim.

Similarly, coves are formed by starting at the top of the cove and cutting deeper and wider with each pass finishing each cut in the bottom center of the cove. The inside of a bowl is nothing but a large cove. The rim of the bowl is the top of the cove and each cut cuts the inside of the bowl wider and deeper. Each cut starts near the top rim of the bowl and ends at the bottom-center.

The advantage we have is that unlike a bead or a cove we only need to form one side of the shape, because of the direction of rotation the mirror image of the shape of the bowl is formed automatically. The disadvantage is that we have to deal with end-grain and the tear-out that can sometimes come along with it but understanding grain direction and the correct direction to make your cuts can give you a head-start on the rest of the turning process.



# WCWT 2019 Committee Descriptions

We now have committees setup to direct club activities. A number of people have stepped forward and volunteered to provide committee leadership. Below we describe the various committees and their respective chairmen.

If you want to help with your club activities please contact the chairman. We all enjoy the advantages of club membership and we would like to see more members involved.

## Photography- Dave Burke

Photograph club activities and events and make those photos available for the monthly presentation, club newsletter, email, website, and other forms of communication. Help maintain the club photo roster.



## Webmaster -TBD

Develop/maintain/update WCWT website and domain. Demonstrator schedule, photos, newsletter and other updates as required. If you have interest in this position please let us know.



## Events- Don Johnston

Help coordinate and organize club events and activities including but not limited to Depot days, Once upon a Christmas, Rockler/Woodcraft events, ornament turning. Seek out opportunities for the club to further our mission to promote and educate the public about WCWT and woodturning in general.



# WCWT 2019 Committee Descriptions (cont)

## Raffle- Rich Nye

Source wood, tools, and woodturning related accessories from various sources including donations, discounts, and purchases to be used for the monthly raffle. Raffle tickets are sold at the beginning of each meeting and items are raffled off at the middle of the meeting. Proceeds from the raffle go back to the club to offset club expenses and to fund the raffle itself. Certain item(s) may require multiple months of selling tickets in order to cover the costs of the item(s) and provide adequate profit to the club. Receipts for items that have been purchased are expected to be provide to the treasurer whenever possible so that the purchases can be balanced against the raffle line item in the budget.



## A/V – Bob Bergstrom/Mark Jundanian

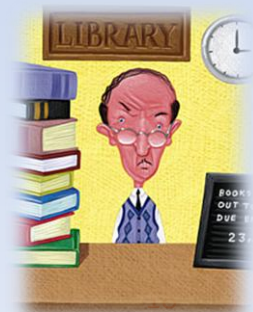
Research and make recommendations on audio/video decisions and purchases based on the club needs, bearing in mind possible future uses including remote video purchases and the ability to record demonstrations.



Setup and run audio and video equipment at club meetings and presentations. Projector, screen, cameras, audio, and software. Recommendations should account for capabilities now and in the future, budget, and storage limitations.

## Library- Rich Hall-Reppen

Organize and maintain the club's stock of books, magazines, DVDs, and other materials. Maintain records of items that have been borrowed by club members. Source additional/replacement materials for the library within the budget assigned. Provide relavent article about available library material for monthly newsletter.



# WCWT 2019 Committee Descriptions (cont)

## Christmas Party– Peter D’Attomo

Make arrangements for the club’s holiday party including location, reservations, menu, invitation/head count, etc. Work with Treasurer to determine appropriate budget, and portion of the expense to be paid for by club members.



## Garage Sale – Peter D’Attomo

Organize and facilitate the club’s annual garage sale event, including soliciting participation, organizing setup, and other evening activities to help supplement the event and encourage attendance.



## Picnic - Rich Rohrback

Organize and facilitate the club’s annual summer picnic. Assure reservation for facility. Send invite and reminders about the event to track member interest and attendance. Organize club supplied entrees ,as well as assign groups of club members to provide side dishes, desserts, etc. Establish event’s program including individual activity leaders.





I have always been fascinated by how intently woodworkers, woodturners, and the general public fear the word “cracks” when it comes to wood. We woodies are so meticulous when it comes to considering moisture content, grain direction, clamping devices, drying schedules, species characteristics, miracle glues, impregnable finishes, and, of course, design considerations—all in an effort to control cracks. The fact remains that with all our technology, both scientific and applied, the universal law of all woodworking remains: Wood moves. And it continues to move... forever.

### The dynamics of drying wood

We know that wood has moisture, and as that moisture evaporates, the wood shrinks. But we often overlook the fact that wood also has tension and mass. Tension is inherent in the growth process of any fibrous material. And the mass? Well, just look at the difference between a log and a sheet of veneer cut from that log. Dry them out and the log cracks, while the veneer simply crinkles. Unlike the log, there is just not enough mass in the veneer to get in the way of the tension being released during the drying process.

### Wall thickness and drying time

When turning a bowl from green, or wet wood to a finished shape, we have learned there are two basic options. One is to rough-turn the bowl and leave it fairly thick, let it dry for a few months and change shape to a slight oval as it dries, then re-turn the thick-walled form into a thinner-walled, round bowl. The other option is to turn the bowl straight through to a finished shape and thickness, then let it dry and warp into an oval shape in the hopes that it looks good and doesn't crack.

In both of these cases, the common denominator in controlling cracking is controlling wall thickness and drying

## Out of round but not cracked



This large maple bowl went out of round and distorted significantly during drying on top of the author's woodstove but did not crack due to its consistent wall thickness.

time. We dry the thicker, rough-turned bowl slowly in order to control its change in shape. But if there is a thinner area either in the rim or the base, that area will dry faster than the thicker areas of the bowl. The result is that the fibers in the thin area become brittle and can't move with the rest of the bowl when the thicker area eventually dries and tries to change shape. The same is true in the second example. If, for instance, the rim is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) thick and the bottom is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19mm) thick, the rim will become rigid and unable to move while the base is still drying and moving. A crack would be almost inevitable.

I regularly turn demonstration bowls of around  $\frac{3}{16}$ " (5mm) wall thickness and place them on my woodstove in the shop, much to the horror of my students. Three to six hours later, they are bone dry and distorted by as much as 2" (51mm) out of round—but no cracks! Why? The wall thickness is consistent and there is relatively little mass in the way that would impede movement as the wood dries (*Photo 1*). Choosing a log section that does not include the pith also reduces the chances of a crack during drying.

On occasion, I'll have a wood like hickory burl that is freshly cut and full of moisture and tension. If I turn small hollow forms  $\frac{1}{16}$ " to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (1.5mm to 3mm) thick, I can hang them up above my wood stove and force-dry them in order to gain a nicely crinkled surface (*Photo 2*). But the walls must be consistently thin in order to prevent cracking.

### Other causes of cracking

Recognize that the beginner-level turner is at a natural disadvantage when it comes to controlling cracks. This is because it may take him or her numerous hours to complete an open bowl, while a more experienced turner will be able to cut that time way down. Both turners are throwing moisture off the bowl through the endgrain fibers. But the novice is taking so much more time to make the bowl that the entire surface is actually drying out faster than can be controlled. That uncontrolled drying, combined with the potential for an uneven wall thickness, is an invitation for cracks.

Sanding is another process that induces cracking, especially in dry wood. Why? Heat. High-speed



sanding is death to wood; a sanding speed of only 100 to 200 rpm is ideal. Slow-speed sanding—what I call “cool sanding”—not only cuts the heat way down, but it also speeds up the sanding process by allowing the aggregate of the sanding medium to work more efficiently. High-speed sanding basically causes this same aggregate to burnish the wood. Sanding a bowl that was turned from green wood and became oval from drying can easily be done in one’s lap or by using a jam chuck or vacuum chuck if sufficient vacuum can be achieved.

As with open forms such as bowls, hollow forms can be made from green or dry wood. But because of the excessive heat produced when cutting the interior of a hollow form, it is important to cool the interior by making small and more efficient cuts and by cleaning out the shavings frequently with a shot of compressed air. Similar to open bowls, cracking in hollow forms is basically a matter of preventing moisture from leaving the surface, while at the same time controlling wall thickness. One easy solution is to wrap the outside of the form with plastic wrap (*Photo 3*). This prevents moisture from leaving the surface and virtually eliminates the problem of cracking. The sheath can be removed when the piece is completed, and then

the normal drying process begins, either by slow-drying thicker-walled forms or by hanging thinner-walled forms for quick evaporation. Almost any species with a wall thickness of  $\frac{1}{16}$ " to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (1.5mm to 6mm) will dry in about four days in optimum humidity and temperature conditions.

### Addressing cracks

If you do get a crack and want to salvage the piece, there are lots of ways to deal with it: inlays, butterflys, bridges, fillers, lacing, stitching, wire... I haven’t seen chain used yet, but I’m sure it is coming. The one thing in common with most of these methods is that they require glue to fasten them. Woodturners often use cyanoacrylate (CA) glue, but this is not the best choice for fixing cracks in wood. CA glue is rigid and brittle when cured, and wood is constantly on the move. That is, when the climate or seasons change, humidity fluctuates and wood moves as it absorbs or loses moisture. Sometimes this wood movement is obvious and dramatic. Unfortunately, CA glue does not move with changes in humidity, and the result is that all those inlays and dust-filled glue plugs will eventually loosen and may even pop out. Epoxy is flexible, so it

eventually bulges out of cracks. The best choice for gluing wooden inlays of any kind to a turned vessel or bowl is regular wood glue, or carpenter’s glue, which tends to remain stable in this kind of application. It is not a quick fix like CA glue, but it works and it lasts.

So the basic ways to prevent cracking are as follows:

- Try for consistency in wall thickness to prevent uneven drying.
- Stand at the lathe to hone your skills and cut down on the time it takes to make what you like.
- Reduce sanding speed to prevent heat.
- Contain moisture in the walls of hollow forms whenever possible and clean out shavings frequently to prevent internal heat buildup.

It should also be said that for all our best efforts, Mother Nature often has a mind of her own. So when we occasionally hear about cracks and other imperfections being “design opportunities,” believe it! ■

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*David Ellsworth is a full-time studio woodturner and teacher living in Buck’s County, Pennsylvania.*



The author’s *Spirit Forms* drying above his woodstove. Consistent wall thickness is the key to preventing cracks in the wood.



Plastic wrap traps in the wood’s moisture during hollowing, postponing evaporation until the vessel’s wall thickness is made consistent.