

# The CNEW SKEW

## Woodturning: Art or Craft? - Part 2

### Special points of interest:

- Woodturning: Art or Craft?
- Contact Points for New Officers
- Reports & Coming Events
- New Club Decisions
- Show & Tell Pictures

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Last month we concluded that elevating the results of woodturning with the goal of achieving the level of art was a task not easily accomplished. Nevertheless, we need only look at the works of Prestini (just one example of a somewhat limited number) to realize that this can be achieved. If you will, he remains first among a small number of exceptions.

We also raised a question concerning the time that a "work of art" spends on the lathe. Can an object be called a woodturning when it spends so much time in after-work that the lathework is all but recognizable? A reader in tune with this sent the following email to the editor of the magazine, *Woodturning* (which we quote with permission of the author).

*"...From a ten year US turner's perspective, I believe Mr. (Ray) Key's 'people in America are doing about 80% of their work off the lathe' is an understatement when considering those US turners who pursue the exalted collectors' circuit. The difficulty is that these 'top turners' likely represent less than 1% of those here that are trying to learn and upgrade their turning craftsmanship....Moreover, the influence of this small cadre of 'collectors' turners' in the public eye has greatly displaced the interest of the core of US turners within the last decade....In the ten years that I have been a reader (of American Woodturner, Ed.), the content has shifted from a focus on promo-*

*tion of member capability development to well over 50% on 'gallery level' creations....we are now seeing accepted 'masters' in whose products it is often difficult to see when any turning was involved. Perhaps it is time for these artists - and this they truly are in many cases - to sever their turning connection and enter the world of sculpture where they truly belong...."* (Will Hunt, 9/03)

The point is that this is the subordination of turners of limited achievement away from the immediate goal of truly learning their craft to the siren call of becoming an "artist". Obviously a goal inconsistent with their current level of expertise. This is where the gravest danger lies. The turner following this path is often so disappointed with his or her inability to accomplish this end, that real frustration sets in and a potentially excellent turner suffers a serious setback, which may never be overcome.

For most of us, woodturning remains a hobby of varying levels of seriousness. Clearly this is no reason for any one of us to be reluctant to aspire to greatness. It simply says that we are all well advised to pay our apprentice's dues before we advertise our journeyman's license.

Accordingly, no one should be discouraged from achieving all that he/

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Club Officers and Contact Info for 2004

President, Reid Gilmore	508-856-5894	<i>reid.gilmore@umassmed.edu</i>
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VP, External, Charles Turnage	508-770-8072	
Secretary, Bob Iuliano	401-725-7284	<i>bobio@cox.net</i>
Treasurer, Richard DiPerna	508-358-2471	<i>richard@diperna.com</i>
Newsletter, Norm Mancuso	508-653-4195	<i>nrmancuso@comcast.net</i>
Video Librarian, Al Faul	978-534-3683	<i>alfaul@gis.net</i>
Book Librarian, Glenn Randall	508-836-3814	<i>ageminus@charter.net</i>
Webmaster, Dennis Daudelin	978-456-8005	<i>dennis@daudelin.net</i>

*(Continued from page 1)*

she is capable of; misled either by someone falsely praising an amateurish woodturning or by denigrating the same accomplishment. Best we should all remember the faltering steps we have taken before any of us learned to stride confidently toward success. Genetics and environment may have treated each of us differently but we are all capable of leading our fellows to higher levels of undertaking and achievement. Even the humblest and least well-known of Buonarrotti's many mentors was no doubt able to lead his first faltering steps toward greatness; perhaps even supplying the *sine qua non* responsible for compelling Michelangelo's rise to the heights of artistic achievement.

So, one need not be an artist to inspire and lead another toward that summit. Indeed, often it is only necessary to be a good craftsman. Now, help us all. Please, put in your two-cents' worth. Comments and feedback make the best copy. We all learn best when the light is not under a bushel!

### A Different Look?

Most of you will have noted that this newsletter looks somewhat different than the past few. The reason is that in an effort to control costs, the decision was made to curtail the use of photo offset printing in favor of straightforward photocopying. This will be most noticeable in the photographs and artwork used. While this is still the image of our club that is presented to the world at large, in conjunction with valiantly reducing the number of free copies distributed, this approach will reduce our costs by over \$125 per month.

### AAW Survey and Awards

A new survey has been posted on the AAW web site, [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org). The AAW encourages response to the survey so it can continue to improve the journal content. The short survey also includes a couple of questions about the revamped AAW web site. The survey will be available until April 15.

Within a week, rules will be posted on the AAW web site for two new AAW awards: *Best Chapter Newsletter* and *Best Chapter Web Site*. The AAW board will recognize the top three newsletters and web sites at the Orlando symposium.

Carl Voss

### The President's Message

Many CNEW members who attended the March meeting may have wondered if we were ever going to finish with the business and move onto the *Show and Tell*, *Demo*, and *Wood Swap*. So far, it looks like the business section of the next meeting will be short and sweet. Now that CNEW has picked a new idea for the *Chapter Collaborative*, I imagine that Bob Iuliano is making a list of all the woodturned items that could fit into the dinner table theme. So far, the list includes plates (set of 4), goblets, napkin rings, salt and pepper shakers, salad bowl set (large bowl, tongs and smaller bowls for each place setting). I'm not sure how Bob is going to match the item to the turner, so let's see what he comes up with.

A highlight of the March meeting was the demo by

Peter Teubel on the Ellsworth gouge. Those of us who don't have a bowl gouge with the Ellsworth grind now have a much better appreciation of what a skilled turner can do with this versatile tool. As you can see from the photo section of this month's newsletter, we have switched back to a photocopied Newsletter. But don't be discouraged, you can still see Emilio's high quality photographs of the *Show and Tell* items by visiting the CNEW website ([www.cnew.org](http://www.cnew.org)). Hats off to Emilio and Vicki Iannuccillo for making sure that every *Show and Tell* item has been photographed and the turned identified. Let's keep them busy next month by bringing in woodturnings, but make their job easier by signing the bottoms. If you've read the rest of the newsletter you already know that Charles Turnage will be doing a demo on miniature turnings this month. For those of us who don't have a *Oneway* parked in the shop, it will be great to see a demo on items that can be turned on a small lathe.

## Book & Video Reviews

*Decorating Turned Wood - The Maker's Eye*  
by Liz and Michael O'Donnell  
Copyright 2002, ISBN 1 86108 204 5

As the title suggests, this book is about various methods of coloring, altering and otherwise enhancing turned pieces. There are only a few descriptions of how to turn the pieces themselves. The first, short chapter is on how to find, record and develop design ideas. I did not find this terribly useful as the authors have a more disciplined and focused approach to design than I do.

The bulk of the book is divided into four chapters, titled *Form, Colour, Pattern* and *Texture*. To a large extent these are arbitrary divisions: the real breakdown is in the sections, each describing a different way of treating a turned piece. Some of the techniques are given only a page or two of explanation - enough to get you started and not much more. Others are explored in more detail, such as the sequence which begins by cutting away parts of the rim in a last-ditch attempt to salvage bowls which have split. This is then de-

## Next meeting Thurs. April 1, 2004!

At our next meeting, Charles Turnage will present "*Small Turnings: Bottle Caps, etc.*"

As usual, *Show & Tell* and the perennial wood swap will be featured. Bring your work and some wood

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### Book & Video Reviews - Continued

veloped by adding color and developing the cutouts into bird forms, leading to deliberate decisions about cutting the blanks so the grain patterns add to the final form. This provides useful insight into how a concept that began almost by accident can be developed into something much more planned.

This is primarily an ideas book: much more space is devoted to photographs, both of the O'Donnells' work and of things that have inspired them, than is given over to text. While some of the techniques are not given a lot of space, there is enough explanation of each that anyone should feel comfortable trying them out after reading the book. There are also enough examples of pieces produced using each technique that you can easily decide whether you want to try a technique - do the results look attractive and can they be achieved in what you consider a reasonable amount of time, without an excessive investment in equipment or materials.

There are no really dangerous techniques in the book - no chainsaw-style carving, in fact little more powerful than an electric carver and a rotary tool is used. I counted only two techniques that I would not consider trying - *marbling*, which looks like a messy way of achieving an effect I don't particularly like, and *painting pictures on turnings* - I can't paint a decent picture on a flat sheet of paper never mind a piece of wood. There are also no "extreme" techniques which would leave one wondering whether the finished piece had ever been turned at all. What starts out as a woodturning ends as an embellished woodturning, not as something completely different. Overall, a lot of ideas and things to try packed into about 140 pages.

Reviewed by Graeme Young

## Minutes of the Mar. 6 Business Meeting:

President Reid Gilmore called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Reid told the members of a meeting of Officers of the Club held at the home of Richard DiPerna. Officers present were Richard DiPerna, Al Faul, Dennis Daudlin, Reid Gilmore, George Whippen and Norman Mancuso. The purpose of the meeting was to address the finances of CNEW. We are a non-profit organization. This does not mean we do not make a profit, it means we do not have shareholders investing to make a profit.

At the beginning of the year, we had \$2,683.00 in our treasury which consisted of \$1,100 in dues from 55 paid members, \$550.00 from AAW for our work at the symposium held in Providence and the balance from the wood swap, mostly from wood donated by Ken Dubay.

This year we can expect approximately the same dues and something from wood swap, however, we will not be sharing in AAW proceeds as this year's symposium will be in Florida. The Craft Center Spring and Fall shows, when held, do not generate income as the members who sell turnings reimburse the club for the money expended resulting in a zero gain/loss. Last year between donations, equipment purchases, and demonstrators, we operated at a loss of \$530.00. Our current newsletter costs \$1.02 per copy or \$208.00 per issue. We send it out 145 copies; 50 to paying members, 30 copies to other clubs and stores and the remainder to former or nonpaying members. In the future, persons not paying dues may get the newsletter by viewing it or by downloading it from our website, [www.cnew.org](http://www.cnew.org). The last 12 issues of the newsletters are always on the website.

The decision was made at the Officers' meeting to continue to mail the newsletter subject to the following conditions. Photo-offset printing (better quality) will not be used since ordinary photocopying is cheaper. Only paid-up members

will receive the newsletter. These decisions will reduce the newsletter cost to \$55.00 per issue, a savings of over \$150.00 per month.

The members voted to limit donations to no more than \$500.00 this year. We typically donate to such non-profit organizations as *The Woodturning Center*, the *Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)*, and the *Worcester Center for Crafts*. CERF had helped Wendy Wilson as did our members when her shop contents were lost to fire.

The members also voted to have members pay \$2.00 per month for each book or video rented. In addition, each month the video rented is not returned, an additional \$2.00 will be assessed. We currently have four boxes of books in our club library. The club librarian brings one box each month. At the present time the video and book libraries are kept in the homes of the librarians as we have no storage for them at the craft center.

The club voted to establish the office of *Membership Officer*. This was undertaken because there were some posts on the AAW Forum accusing our club of being "*cliquey*" and failing to mingle and welcome new members and visitors. Therefore the responsibilities of the *Membership Officer* are, *inter alia*, to greet and make visitors and new members feel welcome, to answer questions they may have, and to set up a mentoring program. No one volunteered for this position and it remains open. The *Membership Officer* could also take charge of name tags, culling out the no longer used ones, and seeing that new ones are made for new members.

The club also discussed raising dues to increase the treasury; having a portion of craft show sales go to the club; and to increase the wood swap donation to \$2.00. None of these measures passed as the conclusion was reached that these actions would be counter productive.

The decision was also made to have the current year's officers serve as the nominating committee for the following year's election of officers. This would allow an entire year to obtain a slate of candidates

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rather than having to scramble at the last minute.

Richard DiPerna did an excellent job of contacting Bill Frost and others to reconstruct the CNEW officers for the past ten or so years so that we may comply with filing requirements of our annual obligatory non-profit statements. We will file listing the President, Vice President and Secretary as corporate officers. It was decided that since Rhode Island and Maine (and possibly New Hampshire) were once part of the Commonwealth, we would keep to that belief when filing so that all officers will be considered to reside in the Commonwealth, a legal requirement.

The Club also voted that all expenditures greater than \$25.00 would have to be approved at a meeting or announced in the newsletter prior to a meeting before committing the club to those expenditures. In emergency situations, a club officer would be empowered to authorize such petty cash expenditures. We voted to continue to have a newsletter and to participate in the craft shows. Unfortunately, there will be no spring craft show this year. The organization contacted by WCC to manage the show feels, that since it was just retained, there is not sufficient time to properly organize it for May 2004.

The AAW Symposium *Chapter Challenge* rules have been changed yet again! Size is now limited to anything that UPS will ship. We decided on a table setting. Bob Iuliano is in charge of organizing that so contact him with what you wish to make. (Ed. Note: See the report in Col. 2)

The Club voted to make a \$100.00 donation to CERF and to spend \$100 to \$250 on some wood-turning gear for the craft center in lieu of rent, in addition to renting a booth at the WCC fairs.

Other items mentioned during the course of the meeting are as follows. *East Indian Rosewood* blanks approximately 1 1/3 inches in diameter and 18 long are available at \$9.50 each. The 14th annual Saratoga Showcase will be held 3/27 and 3/28 at Saratoga City Center. Approx. 13,000 sq. feet of exhibits and the same area for

vendors. There is a \$5.00 admission fee.

Internal Vice President George Whippen reported that Charles Turnage will demonstrate small turnings at the April meeting and Angelo Iafrate, AAW Board member, will demonstrate pen turning in May.

*Show and Tell:* (Ed. Note: Bob Had an extensive list of the various offerings. Since all eight pages of the newsletter are full please see the photos and associated legends on pages 6 & 7.)

Bob Iuliano

## AAW Chapter Challenge Report

Please contact Bob Iuliano so we do not get too much of one thing and not enough of another. Hopefully we can put together two or four place settings. This will be ca. 25-50 pieces, so it is a large endeavor as I do not think we have ever had this many participants in the chapter challenge.

We now have commitments to make; beer mug (D Drnt), sugar bowl (BI), napkin rings (CAT) and a pepper mill (GW?). We are looking for 2-4 complete place settings (i.e.. dinner plate, soup plate, salad bowl, dessert plate, coffee cup, saucer, wine goblet, water glass, napkin ring, 2 large serving dishes, 1 small serving dish, salt shaker or mill, pepper shaker or mill, sugar basin, milk pitcher, candle holder, flower vase, center piece)

Bob Iuliano

## Brand New Tools for Sale

*Oneway Termite* tools for \$75.00;

*Glaser A-11* steel tools

3/8 inch bowl gouge w/16 in. handle \$105;

1/2 inch bowl gouge w/16 in. handle \$117.00.

Buy one of these tools and I will donate \$5.00 to the club in your name. I have four of each tool.

Contact Bob Iuliano

## New Library Rules! Books and Videos

From now on, all books and videos will be subject to a \$2.00 rental fee per month. If a book or video is not returned at the next meeting, an additional month's rental fee will be applied for each month the return is postponed. This is consistent with what other clubs are imposing since each month that a volume is not present to rent, the club loses the associated revenue for that month. To avoid the extra charge, please return your books and videos on time.

# Ocean Turners Demo

A number of CNEW members attended the 2/21 demo at the *Ocean State Turners*. The demo featured Richard Angus. "Coffee and" on arrival was followed by a five hour demo interrupted for lunch kindly provided by the hosts. Likening the gouges in his kit to the golf clubs in a golfers bag, Richard demonstrated how the choice of "irons" is determined by the "lay of the land". We all learned something, including the demonstrator. As he was making an interrupted cut, Andy Osborne pointed out that he was in fact using the well-known Roman Catholic cut, also known as "*Cuttus Interruptus*"!



Above: Richard Angus explains a point while demonstrating for the Ocean Woodturners.

## Legend for the March Show & Tell Pieces

1. Bracelets by Bobbi Tornheim
2. An Apple Platter also by Bobbi Tornheim.
3. Natural edged bowl by Graeme Young
4. Birch Plate by Wayne Moore.
5. Curved Handrails by Mike Green.
6. Spalted Maple Bowl by Wayne Moore.
7. Natural edged Bowl by Rick Gonzales.
8. Sonoran Desert Ironwood Bowls by Richard DiPerna
9. Dogwood Bowl by Richard DiPerna
10. Saguaro Cactus Form by Ken Lindgren.
11. Cedar Hollow Form by Frank White
12. Collaborative Chamber Pot by Phil Bowman et al. from the DiPerna Open House
13. Laminated and Tilted Cutting Board by Joe Harbey
14. Maple Burl Hollow Form by Reid Gilmore
15. Bowl by Rick Gonzales
16. Ambrosia Maple Bowl by Ray Boutotte
17. Natural Edged Birch Bowl by Beth Weiner and Reid Gilmore.
18. Cherry Burl Hollow Form by Ray Hayden
19. Walnut & Maple Hollow Form by Frank White
20. Black Cherry Bowl by Ray Boutotte
21. Lacewood bowl turned on two Axes by Graeme Young

## Show & Tell Pictures by Emilio Iannuccillo



17. Natural Edged Birch Bowl by Beth Weiner and Reid Gilmore.
18. Cherry Burl Hollow Form by Ray Hayden
19. Walnut & Maple Hollow Form by Frank White
20. Black Cherry Bowl by Ray Boutotte
21. Lacewood bowl turned on two Axes by Graeme Young

## Looking for Articles, Book & Video Reviews, etc.

Send via mail or email to the Newsletter Editor. See page 2 for the addresses.

The deadline for ALL inclusions to the monthly newsletter is the 15th of the month.

## Coming Events

**Thursday, April 9, 6-9pm** Peter Teubel will be teaching "The Art of Pen Turning" at the Woodcraft store in Woburn, MA. In addition to making one pen in class, all students will take home 2 complete additional pen kits, a set of pen bushings, and a complete set of pen turning tools. Cost is \$80.

**Sunday, March 28, 10am-4pm** Peter Teubel will be teaching a special "Vacuum Chucking" class in his shop in Milford, MA. In this class, students will make their own vacuum chucking system. Contact info: [pteubel@comcast.net](mailto:pteubel@comcast.net) or (508) 632-4932. Cost is \$130 (all materials included).

**Saturday, March 27, 9am-5pm** Beth Ireland is back to teach *Chucks, Chucks, and Chucks* at the Woodcraft store in Woburn, MA. She will be covering chucks of all kinds to solve virtually any problem you may be having. Students will also make their own chuck in class. Cost is \$100.

**Thurs., May 6, 2004 Monthly CNEW Meeting.** 6:30 PM at the Worcester Center for Crafts.

If you know of an event significant to woodturners, or of general interest to the members, please bring it to the attention of the newsletter editor (see p. 2).

## Legend for Show & Tell Pieces

- 22 Thin Spindle Tops on Various Turnings by Tim Elliot
- 23 Cherry Bowl by Ken Brannock
- 24 Segmented Turned Bowl by Al Faul
- 25 Pen Assortment by Dennis Daudelin
- 26 Cherry Walking Cane by Glen Randall
- 27 Collaborative Bowl by Angelo Iafrate/ Lenny Langevin
- 28 Small Hollow Form & Bowl by Reid Gilmore
- 29 Segmented Bottle Stoppers by Al Faul
- 30 Various Small Yew Turnings by Joe Harbey

## Next meeting Thurs. Apr. 1, 2004!

See page 3 for details of the meeting program.

## Newsletter Cancellations!

Commencing with this issue, anyone whose dues remain unpaid will not receive the printed newsletter. If you happen to know anyone who was once a paid up member, you can help the club by reminding them of the things they are missing. **Not just the newsletter, but the informative meetings and certainly the camaraderie of fellow members. Rejoining is painless, just ask them to come to a meeting and bring the dues then. We'd welcome any or all with open arms!**

## You're Older Than You Think!!

Sharp-eyed readers will have noted the change in the Volume number from 9 to 17! Thanks to the helpfulness of co-founder Bill Frost, we have been able to determine just how old the club is. Founded in 1988, we are far from spring chickens. Bill has also loaned me his folder of past newsletters which we will visit from time to time. Also in this folder was the first issue of the AAW journal (28 pages including the covers) dated September 1986, just two years older than we are.



The CNEW SKEW

**CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND WOODTURNERS**

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*Central New England Woodturners*

*A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*



***We're on the Web!***  
***www.cnew.org***

Fold line

## More Pictures from the March Meeting

