



# Slightly *Skewed*

Volume 11, Number 3

March, 2003

## ***Next Meeting:***

March 9th, 2003

Sunday, 2:00 PM. Sharp at Crescenta Valley Regional Park Recreation Center.

## ***Presentation:***

“What you need to know about sandpaper”

## ***Challenge:***

Hollow Vessels (anticipating GWG’s upcoming Exhibition at the Brand Library.)

## ***Workshop:***

Bob De Voe — Tool Sharpening Workshop  
Saturday, March 15th 2003 9:00 AM. Sharp at Bob De Voe’s home workshop. Maps to be provided at the March meeting.



*Tex Isham's Mahogany Sculpture*

## **Special Announcement**

### **10<sup>th</sup> GWG Anniversary Celebration**

We will be celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Glendale Woodturners Guild at our regular meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>. All GWG members are invited to attend. We will serve cake and perhaps some of the Charter Members will give us a short talk about the history and evolution of the Guild. There will be no Presentation but our other normal meeting activities will be conducted as usual.

Be sure to reserve this date. This will be a fun time for all.

## ***President's Column***

*By Don Comer*

I had a lot of positive feedback that we had an interesting and even exciting meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank Mick Sears and Dan Hogan for making it so. Mick gave us a fascinating presentation on wood characteristics. And, of course, it's Dan's planning and initiative that makes all the activities happen.

I passed out a couple of schedule overviews (summaries) of upcoming club activities. One was a schedule of major GWG events leading up to and encompassing the AAW Symposium. The other was a partial overview of what usually happens at a Symposium. It is intended to give first time attendees a preview of what to expect. I remember my first Symposium and how confusing, though exciting, I thought it was. Maybe this overview will help you first timers. You've gotta go to the Symposium. It's the best opportunity for us to see world-class turners in action. Bill Noble has posted the schedule overviews on our Website for those of you who missed the meeting. I hope they will be useful as a quick reference.

## President's Column

(Continued)

There was an omission in the registration rules for pro demos in the last newsletter. The rules should have stated, "Preregistration shall be at the regular meeting or prior to the Friday before the demo. Registration after that time shall be considered as walk-ins." The food for the lunch is ordered or bought early on Friday and changes are difficult.

We got considerably more entries in the Challenge this time than we have been getting. I'm not sure if the new rules were responsible for that or what, but it was good to see more people participating. The winner in the Novice category was Howard Ford with his carved pedestal bowl. It must be a mixed pleasure to win the Novice award; it's nice to win but now you have to compete against the Intermediate turners the next time. Amos

Thompson won the Intermediate category with an eighteen-inch myrtle bowl. I think he sort of over did the three-inch minimum diameter rule. Dan Hogan won the Advanced award with a very pleasing but difficult hollow maple vessel.

Earleen Ahrens reported on the GWG's upcoming show at the Brand Library. She called once again for entries and laid out the procedure we will go through to get our turnings on display. Earleen is doing an excellent job of leading this effort and she certainly deserves our best support.

Bill Haskell and Dan spoke about the Project Hollywood Chapter Challenge for the AAW Symposium. Things appear to be going along as

well as can be expected but we still have a long way to go, of course.

Bill Nelson is taking orders for new tee and polo shirts and caps with the GWG logo on them. The new color will be bright blue with red and gold logos. Some of our old tee shirts were looking kind of tired. Besides I think it would be kind of a nice touch if all of our GWG members showed up at the AAW Symposium wearing their new shirts and caps. Everybody agree?

Joe Larson's Presentation on carving has been postponed until June 1<sup>st</sup> to allow time for our Celebration on April 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the Celebration all other normal meeting activities will proceed as usual. We will have an Activity review, the Best Quality Tool Finish Challenge, Show and Tell and the Raffle. It'll be a great meeting, let's make it a big crowd.

## The V.P. Says ..

By Dan Hogan

**Presentation:** "Everything You Need To Know About Sanding" presented by Bill Nelson. For those who want to look a little further into this topic, a chart comparing the commonly used grading scales for sanding abrasives is available on GWG's website on the Tech Tips page.

**Challenge to be judged at the March meeting:** Hollow vessels. This is in anticipation of GWG's upcoming exhibition at the Brand Library. We want every member to have at least one piece to put into this show.

**Heads up:** The Challenge to be judged at the April meeting: Best quality tool finish on a turned

piece. No sanding. No buffing. No finish. We want to see your best quality work straight off the tool. The wood must be a domes-



Al Sils Pick-up Sticks

tically grown species (no tropical exotics).



Alan Lacer shows how to anneal a cutting tool

# GWG PRODUCT ORDER FORM

PLEASE INDICATE NUMBER OF ITEMS WANTED IN THE BOXES BELOW

**BASEBALL CAP** NUMBER OF CAPS WANTED  X \$10 = \$   
(EMBROIDERED)

**T-SHIRT** SM  MED  LRG  XLRG  2XLRG  TOTAL X \$10 = \$   
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**POLO SHIRT** SM  MED  LRG  XLRG  2XLRG  TOTAL X \$25 = \$   
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NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED ON POLO SHIRT (PLEASE PRINT)

PAYMENT REQUIRED WITH ORDER CHECKS PAYABLE TO **WILLIAM NELSON** TOTAL \$

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## *Alan Lacer Demonstration*

Alan Lacer gave an extremely instructive demonstration in GWG's well-ventilated (read pretty darn chilly) work shop last Saturday. It was very well attended. Alan began with a demonstration of how to get turning tools, specifically skewers, razor sharp and he showed us how to do it without advocating that we buy any expensive special wheels, jigs or other folderol. If you want to know how sharp his skewers are, look at the very thin handles on the spinning tops in the photo of his products. They make a toothpick look like a log by comparison.

He then showed us the seven basic cuts for which the skewer is the ideal tool and explained why a cup center is best for turning even relatively large spindle pieces. He finished the morn-

ing session by showing us how to make his miniature tops and discussing the marbling process that produces the interesting color you see on the tops in the photo.

After a nutritious lunch of pizza and salad we began the afternoon session. The highlight of demo was an instruction in how to make a hook hollowing tool from plain old O1 round cross section steel that was fitted into a handle. Basically, the procedure is to shape the raw steel into a sort two-dimensional profile version of the tool by grinding, then heat the steel until it's pliable and shape it with a needle-nose pliers (an old, disposable pliers is preferred). Alan provided us with typed instruction sheets so we could follow along with what he

was doing. Once the hook (cutting area) of the tool was properly shaped, it is reheated, and quenched in oil to produce the desired hardness. Alan showed us how to test for hardness with a file. At this point the steel will be too brittle to use so it must be annealed, reheated to a lower temperature and quenched slowly in oil or allowed to cool down slowly in an oven. Once the tool was cooled, it, had to be sharpened and tested. Alan tested it by making one of his exquisite boxes which are tool finished. No sandpaper. Awesome! If you missed Alan's demo, you can catch him at the next woodworker's show in Pomona.

See Photo Page 2.



# Show and Tell

Jack Stumpf showed a very nice bowl of black walnut finished with Watco oil. Bob Barnes showed a walnut bowl finished in CA and lacquer. Ray Ford was busy this month. He had three entries, a nicely done oak plate with a burned-in surface design finished in lacquer, a mahogany composite finished in lacquer, and an avocado bowl that was stained, sealed and waxed. Ed Hotchkin showed a buckeye burl hollow form. Dick Lukes showed a 22" high geometric sculpture built of maple and finished in



white liming wax and paint. The sculpture was realized as a tube form holding white gray and black balls on a rectangular base. Dick also submitted a 17" high abstract geometric sculpture, an off center cylinder with a red ball (above), mounted on a rectangular base constructed from bleached maple finished in matte acrylic spray. Bill Pound submitted a natural edge bowl finished in tung oil. Floyd Pederson submitted two very handsome segmented vases of curly maple finished in tung oil.



Tex Isham submitted a mahogany off-center turned wood sculpture finished in red dye, oil and wax. (See photo on Page One.) Cal Elshoff (right) showed one of the eighteen elegant awards that he made for Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanities, a wonderful organization that helps deserving people build their own homes at very low cost. Carl Stude showed a lacquer finished bowl constructed of - what else? - Stude walnut. Mickey Razy submitted an American classic pen finished in wax and made from Bolivian Rosewood. Steve Jacobs submitted a black acacia nut cracker finished in waterlox. Mel Foncannon submitted a natural edge bowl turned from Olive and finished in CA. Michael Kane was another busy beaver this month, submitting five square edge bowls from silver maple, coco bolo, lignum vitae, red gum eucalyptus, padauk. In his spare time he did a couple hollow vessels from carob and buckeye maple. All were finely finished using the Beall system. Al Sils had a very creative entry, a set of pickup sticks made from woods of various colors contained in box decorated with beads that concealed the separation of the top. (See photo Page 2). Bob Coleberd submitted a segmented bowl of African mahogany, holly, walnut and bloodwood. It was finished using Skidmore wood finish. Amos Thompson submitted a very fine looking desk lamp with a carob shade, Brazilian pepper stand, and a mahogany base finished in deft. Amos also submitted a myrtle bowl 18" in diameter and 5" deep finished in Deft. Jim O'Connor built a very clever and attractive nut, bolt and



washer set from coco bolo that is also a box with a concealed lid. He finished it in walnut oil. (See photo below).



Cheryl Schneiders showed a rebuilt, restored, and refinished 14" segmented salad bowl that was entered in the finish challenge competition. Alas, it did not win.



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## *Brigantines Report*

By Bill Kelly

Oh, happy day! After three years of construction, *Irving Johnston* began her first builder's sea trial at the end of January. She look beautiful under full sail. There is, of course, another month or so of finish carpentry as her mess tables and sea chests are installed in the compartments.

*Irving* will be commissioned in late March, we hope. Her maiden voyage will take her to San Francisco with many port visits up and down the coast. She's due back May 1<sup>st</sup>, and will begin sailing in our regular program with our kids shortly thereafter.

Woodturners first day sails are scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>. Sign up sheets will be available at our April meeting.

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## *GWG Brand Library Exhibit*

- **April 13, Sunday** - Submittal Forms available.
- **May 4th, Sunday** - Bring your turnings that will be for the exhibit. All work should be packed in a box with a form for each turning (name identified on the bottom of your piece). Each will have a submittal form.  
The box on the outside should be marked "GWG, Name of artist and the number of pieces in the box."
- **June 3-13** - Installation in the Brand Library
- **June 14** - Exhibit opens
- **June 26** - Reception with the AAW Show
- **June 27** - Library open in evening to also view the turnings
- **July 8** - Earleen will take down show and pack your pieces
- **July 13** - Will bring your pieces to the monthly meeting

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## *Contacts*

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Treasurer: Bob Devoe: (818)507-9331

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## *From the Editor's Desk*

By C.V.S.

I've been asked how I choose the photos for the Show & Tell and how I decide what to say. Here are my guidelines:

The best item I see at the meeting goes on the front page.

I take pictures of the items on the table but half the time I don't know who made what. If I can figure it out by the time I do the newsletter the item might make it in, but I never publish "mystery" pieces. I have three nice pictures of fellows holding up interesting pieces, but they don't have visible nametags, and I didn't recognize them, so they had no chance.

My first choices for pictures are those with something interesting or unusual about them. Jim O'Connor's Nut and Bolt Box and Cal's Habitat for Humanity awards fell into that category.

Next I look for a photo of a beginner or a person who has never had a photo in the newsletter before. In this issue, I fell into that category.

As to what I say about objects, I will almost always write about something unusual that I notice or think is important. I thought Cal's efforts on behalf of Habitat were worthwhile and in past issues, I've written about Bill Kelly's projects for the Brigantines for the same reason. If you want your product featured, tell me a story about it.

If I don't have a story, I rely on the slips that you fill out. One member told me his submission was a "bowl" the material was "walnut" and the finish was "Watco." Wonderful. That could probably fit 1,000 bowls in Glendale. This fellow must have had some reason for taking the time to turn that Walnut bowl. Did his wife need a bowl? Was there a pretty figure in the wood? Did he hope to sell it? Had it started life as a hollow vessel and suffered a decapitation? Did he lose an election bet? Of course maybe he was hoping I wouldn't notice it, so he told me as little as possible.

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## *GWG Mentors List*

### Goblet Rings & Spiral Work:

Bill Kelly - (310) 541-1144

### Hollow Vessels:

Bill Haskell, Placentia - (714) 528-4783

### Kaleidoscopes:

Bob Coleberd - (818) 368-3525

### Lidded Boxes: Al Sobel - (818) 360-5437

### Pens: Wes Hall, Palmdale - (661) 947-9326

### Segmented Work:

Don Comer, Downey - (562) 928-4560

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Don Comer, Downey - (562) 928-4560

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