



Slightly *Skewed*

Volume 11, Number 11

November 2003

Next Meeting: November 9th, 2003 Sunday,
2:00 PM. Sharp at Crescenta Valley Regional Park
Recreation Center.

Presentation: Meeting Presentation; Ray Leier,
Principles of Good Design.

Challenge: Christmas Ornaments.

Workshop: None scheduled this month

Brigantine Sails: None scheduled at this
time.

President's Column: By Don Comer

We had two professional demos between the last two regular meetings. Lyle Jamieson demonstrated his deep hollowing techniques as well as bowl turning and gouge sharpening. Even if you don't do very deep hollowing his ideas can be helpful. Mike Lee concentrated mostly on showing us how he carves his turnings. I really enjoyed his slide show and demo but, darn it, now I'm lusting after some more expensive tools. (Christmas is coming but I think I've already exhausted Santa Claus's budget for me.) I keep saying that, at \$20, our professional demos (including lunch) are the best bargains on the planet. No matter how many I go see I always learn something new and useful.

Our November 9 meeting will be very interesting I'm sure. We get to see our Club member's latest and best work and Ray Leier will give us a constructive critique of as many of them as time will allow. We've done this in the past and Ray has a gentle way of telling us how we might improve the design of our work. You may not agree with what he says but at least you'll get some good points to think about. You can then decide for yourself if

President's Column: Continued

you agree. I'm sure I'm repeating some of what Dan will be saying elsewhere in this newsletter, but bring in one or two of your best pieces (three if you can't decide and they are of different designs). We will spread them all out on several tables and Ray will go through and critique as many of them as he can. I think last time he did this he gave a quick review to every piece there. I personally always get my feelings hurt because he doesn't just fall in love with my turnings but that's the way life goes sometimes.

Our Construction Lumber Challenge produced a lot of surprises for me but I wasn't as surprised as Earleen Ahrens. If I'm not mistaken, this was her first time to enter the Challenge and she won both the first and the second place awards in the Novice class. We had a little trouble convincing her she was entitled to a second place award too. Bill Noble won first place in the Intermediate class with his multi-center candlestick. I'm not sure an off-centered candlestick is an added safety feature but we weren't judging for that. There was no second place entry. Pete Carta won first place in the Advanced class again. You other advanced turners are going to have to start entering more turnings. Pete's going to be able to pay off his mortgage with Craft Supplies gift certificates pretty soon if you don't. Bill Nelson won second place in Advanced and he wanted us to know that by sharpening and honing his tools he avoided creating any of that dreaded "swarf" in his garage. For those of us less educated turners; that means his turned surface was so smooth and he didn't need to use any sandpaper. We all wish we could do that.

Our search for new GWG Board officers for next year is still not completely successful. We have all the positions filled and confirmed by the membership except for president and vice-president. We've had several volunteers for assistant to the president and the vice-president

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so none of the jobs ought to be too time consuming, but so far no one wants to take the lead positions. I hope we can have this resolved by the November 9 meeting.

Remember; for our December 14 meeting we will have a Christmas party and auction. Bring in some finger food to share during the social hour and surplus items for the auction. We're looking for anything lying around the house or shop that you no longer need but that might be valuable to someone else. At the last meeting, Ed Hotchkin reminded us that some of our members have donated one or two of their own turnings. Those donations have been a significant portion of the auction in-

come. We also auction off demonstration items given us by our pro demonstrators. And, as Carl always reminds us, bring money. The auction, along with the monthly raffle, is a major source of income to the Club and helps us avoid charging monthly dues. Bill Kelly has graciously agreed to be the auctioneer again this year. He always makes it lively and amusing. The social hour, the auction and the repartee before, during and after are a lot of fun so we want you all to come whether you have anything to donate or not. Just bring your happy face and help us all get better acquainted.

Upcoming Events and Planning

By Dan Hogan

November 9: Meeting Presentation; Ray Leier, Principles of Good Design.

Challenge: Christmas Ornaments.

December 14: Christmas Party and Auction; Bring in your donations and be prepared to have a great time and take home a few treasures and surprises.

October 11 - April 4 at the Long Beach Museum of Art. Thirty six artists working in a wide range of mediums including several top-notch woodturners including Rudy Osolnik, Bob Stockdale, Binh Pho and James Prestini are featured. More information at: www.lbma.org. Highly recommended by Don Comer.

For the upcoming November 9th meeting we ask each member to bring in up to two of your recent, best quality work. Mr. Ray Leier, the owner of Del Mano Gallery will visit that meeting to take a look at what we've brought in. He plans to wander through the pieces, and comment to the group on those that catch his attention. His perspective will be, "How would this piece do in a gallery?" Ray has a critical eye, and it shows in the pieces at Del Mano. Only the best of the best make it there. So anticipate that he may not fall in love with your pieces to the same extent you have. Whether you'll agree with his comments or not, listen to him nevertheless and you'll learn one or two ways to make a better piece. Ray is a busy guy, so getting him to one of our meetings is an opportunity. For Ray's part, he comes with the hope that he'll find one or two "diamonds in the rough" that might work in his gallery. There are at least two of our mem-

bers who currently show at Del Mano as a result of Ray's visits in past years

These are the current dates for meetings in 2004

January 11, 2004
February 8, 2004
March 14, 2004
April 11, 2004
May 2, 2004
June 6, 2004
July 11, 2004
August 8 2004
Septem 12, 2004
October 10, 2004
November 14, 2004
December 12, 2004

A couple of you have pointed out that 1April 11th happens to be Easter, so won't do for our regular meeting. My oversight. Sorry. We are also aware that moving meeting dates ahead one week sets up a conflict with the El Camino Group. So options that I see are:

- 1 Leave the meeting date for 11Apr.
- 2 Move the date one week left to 4Apr and accept the conflict with El Camino
- 3 Move the date one week right to April 18th.
- 4 Have no meeting in the month of April.

All are imperfect solutions. My vote is for option 2. Your input is requested.

This month's Show and Tell (as well as the rest of the issue) is without pictures because I had two camera failures at one time. My Nikon failed, so I borrowed a camera, and used my own media, which also failed.

The challenge this month was to turn something out of construction lumber and quite a few tried their hands at this interesting challenge.

Ralph Otte turned a good looking bowl from a pine 2 x 4 he purchased from the Builder's Emporium about 1980. He also exhibited some thimbles that he had turned from deer antler, and a toothpick holder the he turned from Catalina Ironwood. He finished all his pieces with Wood Sheen.

Michael Kane submitted a vessel of spalted Silver Maple finished in lacquer. Mike also submitted two open vessels, one turned from Walnut burl and finished in lacquer and the other unfinished and turned from Ash.

Pete Carta offered a rocking hollow form in the Mike Lee style carved and turned from Maple with no finish. He also offered a rocking box ornament carved and turned from Ash and Maple. For the challenge Pete submitted a hollow form turned from fir with a walnut accent.

Bob Barnes submitted some thimbles turned from Walnut and finished in lacquer.

Bill Noble offered a Candle holder turned from a piece of 4 x 4 Redwood and finished in lacquer.

Earleen Ahrens submitted two small turned bowls, one painted, one finished in was turned from pine.

Some shy artist who didn't put his or her name on the slip turned a bowl from 6 x 12 Douglas fir beam. His work was tool finished.

Chris Waggoner, who supplied his name, but didn't say what it was that he turned, made his nameless piece from silver maple and finished it in oil.

From the Editor's Desk

Continued

A couple weeks ago I attended the Board of Directors meeting for GWG. I was told that, as the newsletter editor, I was automatically a member of the Board of Directors. I'm not sure this is a great idea. Whether you're talking about politicians at the national level or officers at a small club level, the press should never be too cozy with the administration. In any society, great or small, the press is the ultimate watchdog and gadfly.

Whatever you might feel about that, the fact was that I was there as a director and I am now at my computer as reporter and gadfly. There were three significant issues before the Directors.

1. How to get more people involved in the work of running the club so that those foolish enough to volunteer don't get burned out in three months.

The consensus seemed to be that our current officers could manage if enough people volunteered to help with the chores and drudgework. Yes, Alice, I hate to say it, but there is quite a bit of drudgework that needs to be done on a regular basis to keep the club functioning.

- Soda and other drinks have to be schlepped to the meetings.

- Food has to be prepared and bought to the meetings and demonstrations.

- A lathe and other equipment has to be moved to and from every demonstration and lathes, as most of you know, are very heavy.

- People have to clean up after the demonstrations and presentations.

- People have to run the monthly raffles and the yearly auction, and people have to get and account for the items to be awarded or auctioned off.

- Someone has to copy tapes and maintain the library and occasionally dun people like me who borrow materials and forget to return them promptly.

And the list goes on. There are at least a dozen more. There is no glory or money attached to any of these jobs, and I'd be willing to bet that many of the readers don't even know who currently does most of them. But they all need to be done if the club is to be kept functional.

I have two suggestions. Currently, when a job becomes overwhelming, we ask for a volunteer to help. Sometimes

it works, but often it doesn't. This seems to me to be bassackwards. We don't charge members dues to belong to the club, and most functions don't make enough to cover expenses. My feeling is that if someone wants to belong to this prestigious club, he or she should be informed without apologies at their 2nd or 3rd meeting that everyone is expected to contribute to the functioning of the club. The new member (and all current members) should be handed a list of jobs to be done, and asked to select those with which he or she would be willing to help and feels qualified. The member should then check off his or her qualifications, desires, and availability on the sheet, supply a phone number and email address, and submit that as a membership application.

Next, I think a small committee of one or two should be in charge of conveying the club's appreciation for work done well. At each meeting this committee could award something tangible to several members, possibly a great piece of wood or a dinner at some nice restaurant or... It's sort of carrot and stick approach: If you won't carry part of the load, you aren't welcome, but if you do your share, the club will show its gratitude with both tangible awards and recognition. I've already instituted this policy on a small scale. Those of you who are regular readers of this newsletter have probably noticed that the people who make the club work see their names and pictures of their art in print far more often than those don't.

Jim O'Conner, our new president elect, is going to need a lot of help and I hope he gets it.

I'll let the other officers make their own cases for what they need in the way of help and why. My need is obvious. I need someone to function as a photographer at the meetings and workshops. I only have one camera and I am only one person. If something goes wrong with either the camera or the person there are no pictures in the newsletter (as in this issue). The require-

ments for this function are minimal but not trivial or even quadrial as Joyce once said. The person must be at every function requiring photographs, with a functioning camera and the ability to shoot publishable pictures. The person must have the ability to send the pictures to me by email. When I get the pictures and put together the newsletter, I will pick the best pix in terms of interest, format and technical quality from all that I have. This will have several beneficial effects apart from the security function. The most important is variety. The things I think are most interesting and picture-worthy will not be the same as those my partner will choose to photograph. If we have anyone with writing talent, it would be very nice to have someone draft the Show and Tell copy.

One of our members, Bob Barnes, sent me an email regarding the editing of the newsletter, and recalled that he had edited a newsletter for some 25 years. He notes, "I was fired at times, which happens to editors, but then I was later rehired." My response is that you can only be fired from a job for which you are being paid. If you aren't being paid, its called 'parole' and 'revocation of parole,' and in Bob's case it seems he was serving a virtual life sentence. Thanks, Bob (To be Continued)

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

Basic Turning Techniques:

Don Comer, Downey - (562) 928-4560

Contacts

GWG mailing address: Glendale Woodturners Guild,
11001 Canby Avenue, Northridge, CA 91326
GWG Web site: <http://www.woodturners.org>
Pres. Don Comer (562) 928-4560; doncom2@aol.com
V.P. Dan Hogan: (805)495-1280; hoganjill@aol.com
Treasurer Bob Devoe: (818)507-9331

Secretary Al Sobel: (818)360-5437
alsobel@earthlink.net
Editor Cheryl Schneiders: (323) 225-4595
cvss@mindspring.com
Librarian Bill Nelson (310) 326-2163
wnnelson@worldnet.att.net