



# Slightly *Skewed*

Volume 10, Number 12 -- December 2002

Next Meeting:

**December 8, 2002**

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

Presentation:

There will be no presentation  
at the December meeting.

Challenge:

There will be no Challenge at  
the December meeting.



*Don Comer's magnificent spiral  
vase in Coco Bolo*

## Activities Report

Our big activity for December is our annual Christmas Party and Auction. We will have no demonstrations because of all the other family oriented functions going on this month.

The party is a potluck dinner starting at our usual time of 2:00 PM on Sunday December 8. The Club will furnish the soft drinks, punch and coffee. Individual members will donate everything else. So bring your favorite party food to share. Be sure to bring serving utensils, if required.

The votes on the ballots distributed at the November meeting were preponderantly in favor of the educational activities: Demos, workshops and presentations. I was concerned that there might be something we are doing that no one was interested in, but 53 percent of you voted to keep everything we are presently doing. Twenty-two percent did say it was all right for us to forget participation in trade shows. There seems to be a lot of interest in watching the Challenges, even if you don't actually participate. We did get a few suggestions that it might be good to reduce the number of Challenges to as little as six during the year. We got 15 suggestions about new things we might do. We'll have to see if we can work those in, depending on the available time and talent.

By Dan Hogan & Staff

We've been working hard on getting demonstrators and presenters lined up for next year. We've been talking to nationally known turners such as; Lyle Jamieson, Mike Lee and Alan Lacer, but nothing has been finalized as yet.

We're also trying to line up presenters and but since we don't have one lined up for January, and since Finishing Methods ranked high in our survey, we prevailed upon Don Comer to talk on that subject on January 12. Don assured us that it won't be just about lacquer. And that he does have some experience with other finishes along with a lot of reference material. He'll be surveying the whole spectrum, from wax to catalyzed finishes.

There will be no Challenge in January; we didn't get our planning done in time to give you enough advanced notice.

Cheryl says that since there won't be any show & tell or demos for the January newsletter, she going to do a Show and Tell article on the dishes brought to the potluck and the women who contribute so much to the meetings but never make it into the newsletter. Wear your name tags and smile for the camera, ladies.

We're always open to suggestions about what we should be doing so don't be afraid to talk to either Don or me.

## *The AAW Symposium*

For those of you who couldn't make it to the November meeting, here is a summary of the coordination meeting the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) held in the Pasadena Sheraton hotel on October 26. It was essentially a coordination meeting to get plans rolling for the June 27, 28 and 29, 2003 Symposium. This is going to be the best and easiest chance we Southern California woodturners will get to attend a national symposium for the next 7 to 10 years. They rotate their symposiums around the country and the last one in California was in Davis, CA in 1995.

For those of you that have never been to an AAW Symposium, they will have around 14 demonstrations going on at once. Each demonstration lasts an hour and 25 minutes, which is called a rotation. There are 11 rotations during the three days. The demonstrators are world renowned as well as newer turners who have shown a special talent. So we will have a wonderful chance to see and learn the variety of woodturning being done all over the world today.

The registration fee will be \$225 for a member and \$260 for non-members. Membership in the AAW costs \$35, so you can go to the Symposium and get the American Woodturner magazine and other benefits for the same price as a non-member pays. So if you plan to go to the Symposium, it only makes sense to join.

To make the Symposium work, they need a lot of volunteers and one of the choice jobs is assistant to those

14 demonstrations through 11 rotations. The demonstrator assistants meet and talk to the demonstrators. They will also be given instructions on how to use the video camera for the monitors and will have the best view in the house. Obviously, not everyone will get to assist the most popular demonstrators so they will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. That is why I put out a sign-up sheet in the last meeting. I'll get that list submitted as soon as possible and we'll hope for the best. All of their demonstrators are very talented so I think none of us will be very disappointed.

## *The Hollywood Camera*

Dan Hogan and Bill Haskell gave us a progress report on the Project Hollywood camera the club is building for the Symposium Chapter Challenge. We want to get as many of the members as possible involved in turning (and building) the various pieces, so if you'd like to help by turning something, get in touch with Bill. I think there are a few pieces that have not found a maker yet. I've got dibs on the handle and the eyepiece.

## *Brand Library Exhibit*

Earleen Ahrens needs more promises (and commitments) of turnings for the Brand Library Show that GWG is going to produce in conjunction with the AAW Symposium. The Library manager gave us a tremendous space and, if I heard correctly, Earleen said she could use 400 turnings of all skill levels to fill it. Get in there Guys and Gals!

Mark Fitzsimmons gave us an excellent presentation on the prob-

lems he faces and how he goes about solving those problems, when he mounts a rough cut piece of wood on his lathe. I don't think many of us will ever tackle such large pieces as Mark does, but his ideas will be helpful even on smaller pieces that most of us do use.

## *The Toy Challenge*

Carey Caires and Dan Hogan tied for the most toys in the Toy Challenge this month. Floyd Patterson took the prize for the best toy. Jackie tells me I forgot to mention that the prizes this month were \$25 gift certificates to the Rockler store.

## *Rockler Discount*

Rockler promised GWG members a 10% discount for purchases at their Pasadena store. They seem to have lost the membership list I gave them but don't take "NO" for an answer if you want to buy something from them. Let me know if there is any real trouble over this.

## *Christmas Potluck*

Don't forget our Christmas Potluck Dinner Party and Auction. The Party is always fun (and delicious) and with our auctioneer par excellence, Bill Kelly, calling the action, the auction is fun and gets pretty exciting too. Bring your spouse and your family; they might like to meet the odd characters you hang around with. Also bring a dish to share and some item(s) to donate to the auction. The donations do not have to be woodturning related, although those go pretty fast. They can be any useful item you no longer need. Some of the members bring baked goods;

# Show and Tell

Bill Haskell showed an enclosed hollow form vessel made from black oak that he brought back from a recent trip to Yosemite. The piece has a CA base coat finish with several coats of lacquer that were rubbed out and polished. On the road up to Yosemite, Bill noticed bushes and trees along the side of the road that had already lost their leaves by the end of October, and these had a pear-like California Buckeyes hanging from the bare branches. He picked a few of the



## President's Column continued

home made candies etc. A few of our turners even lay their ego on the line and donate a turning they've made. Talk about "Coals to Newcastle"! If you don't have anything to donate and are a complete klutz in the kitchen, come anyway. We'd love to have you. Of course, if you happen to bring money and leave some of it at the auction, that would be OK too. This auction is a major contributor to the club's budget through the year and one of the reasons we don't have to charge annual dues to meet our expenses.

buckeyes and brought them home. Buckeyes are a poisonous member of the horse chestnut family and are related to the Ohio buckeye. California Indians capitalized on the buckeye's lethal properties by using it to catch fish. They ground up the buckeyes, poured them into a pool in the stream, and then picked up the stupefied fish which floated to the surface. The Indians also used the ground nuts for food which made a nutritious meal — after the nuts were leached with water until the toxicity was eliminated.



Carl Stude showed an exquisite jewelry box he had constructed from walnut and finished in Lacquer.



Carey Caires was one of the winners of the Toy Challenge with her

set of Barbie Doll table accessories which included a tiny ebony goblet, a coco bolo plate and bowl set, and a spoon constructed of mystery wood. (For any newcomers, mystery wood grows in great abundance in woodworker's garages. It comes in many shades and degrees of hardness and toxicity. It is a very exciting wood to work with as it is full of surprises.)



Michael Kane showed a handsome Olive goblet and a natural edge maple burl bowl. Both were finished in lacquer.



Jack Stump showed a very clever combination salt shaker and pepper mill that he made from Madrone wood and finished in Urethane.

Tex Isham showed a sculpture in mahogany finished in white stain and arbor wax.

---

# Brigantines Report

By Bill Kelly

The Brigantine Boatworks has put all hands on a 50 hour workweek to accelerate progress in finishing the ships.

*Exy Johnson* was fitted out with spars and yards the week of November 12<sup>th</sup>. Sails, buntlines, clew lines, leech lines and sheet lines were all attached to the yards prior to being hoisted into place. This technique was learned the hard way on the *Irving Johnson* where everything was installed after the yards were placed.

Amos Thompson and I have completed another 50 bulls eyes and parrel beads. The bulls eyes when hung horizontally are lizoids and when hung on shrouds are fairleads. (See photo below.)



*Bill Kelly's Show and Tell entries included Parrel beads (light colored Batsi wood strung on white line) bulls eyes (darker colored Tatabu wood) and Candlesticks (made from Batsi and an Ash "Louisville Slugger.") Marine items are finished in fish oil*

Finish carpenters are working feverishly on both ships' interiors as bunks, heads, and showers take shape. Still, much work is yet to be done. Pin rails on both ships are being raised. Exterior painting on the hulls is almost complete.

I have reserved some day sail dates for us on both ships for next spring and summer. More on that later.

---

## 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](mailto:doncom2@aol.com)  
V.P. Dan Hogan: (805)495-1280; [hoganjill@aol.com](mailto:hoganjill@aol.com)  
Treasurer: Bob Devoe: (818)507-9311

---

# 2003 Calendar

The full calendar for 2003 will be filled in as the planning is completed. For now the dates for the regular monthly meetings are reported below. Demonstrations normally fall on the following Saturday. The actual dates will depend on the availability of demonstrators.

Note: the June and May meetings will be held a week earlier than normal to avoid conflicts with Mother's day and the Sleepy Hollow Carver's Annual Show.

### Sunday Meetings

January 12  
February 9  
March 9  
April 13  
May 4  
June 1

July 13  
August 10  
September 14  
October 12  
November 8  
December 14

---

## Thank You!

By Jackie Comer

I want to say a special thank you to each of you for the beautiful Dick Sing Christmas ornament. You really didn't have to do such a sweet thing, but I appreciate it and I'll treasure the gift and the thought.

*Sincerely, Jackie*

