



A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

AS THE WOOD TURNS

June 2023

Issue 301



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The women of WIT hosted a fabulous pen turning gathering in May. See Molly's article on page 2.

Meeting May 23, 2023—Notes by Jeff Keller

- Guests: Bruce Nash from Weymouth, MA and Brian Kela from Plymouth, MA

- **Joe Centorino** began by telling us that club member David Burns had passed away this month. His name has been added to the Remembrance plaque.

- Through an anonymous donor, outside lights that come on automatically have been installed on the barn outside so that members can make it to their vehicles after a meeting without falling down in the dark.

- **Sonny Tice** told us the club had made a change in refreshments. **Fred Johnson** has offered to supply meetings with baked goods for club breaks on a continuing basis. His assortment of home baked chocolate chip and macadamia nut cookies were outstanding. Thank you Fred!

- **Charlie McCarthy** announced that the club has a scholarship fund amounting to \$2,821.00 and separately the club has \$1,936.00 on account.

- **Horace Lukens** told us he had recently begun putting the minutes from each club meeting into a binder in the library for members' reference. All members have access to them.

- **Lenny Mandeville** said the library is status quo. Nothing new to report.

- **Molly Johnson** said the WIT

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NEXT MEETING

Tues, June 27

7pm at the "Dust Bowl"
409 Washington St.
Abington, MA 02351

Refreshments by:

Fred Johnson

Demo by:

Lenny Mandeville
Bracelets & Bangles Redux

NEXT HANDS ON

Saturday June 10 & July 15
9am—12pm

Need a Hands On mentor?

Contact Glenn Siegmann
siegs@gmail.com)

Savings: from the president



June events include the West Bridgewater River walk, which was rescheduled for Sunday June 11th, and the Cohasset South Shore Art Festival, Friday June 16th through Sunday June 18th. For details on these and our other events consult the events page on the Club website: <https://msswt.org/125-2/events/>

We had another large member turnout at this month's meeting along with 2 guests, Bruce Nash and Brian Kekula, Following the meeting Bruce filled out a membership form bringing our enrollment to 88.

June will be busy with the events above—both good opportunities to participate, display and sell your turned items while interacting with the public who are fascinated with the craft of woodturning.

As always,
Safe turning!



(Continued from page 1)

members last week got together at **Melissa Fantasia's** shop and turned pens. She added, "So now we have pens for you Ernie to supply to the Scituate Council on Aging."

- **Glenn Siegmann** announced that the next Hands On taking place on Saturday, June 10th will be hosted by **Bill Cyr** (so that Glenn can attend his daughter's wedding). The next Hands on afterwards will be on Saturday, July 15th.

- Joe reminded us the club posts to its website meeting-demos — see: <https://msswt.org/recordings/>

- **Ron Reynolds** told us that unfortunately, Michael Fullerton will be stepping down from assisting him with the club store so he is looking for someone else to help and eventually take it over. He added that the club has abrasives on hand but that adhesive supplies are enroute.

Also sandpaper grits of 100 and 150 have been discontinued. He added, "I have a pair of 8 inch grindstones to donate to the club if anyone is interested."

- **Ed O'Riordan** told us he may host a chainsaw party in June. He said, "This past Monday there was a wood pickup at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain. Our group has 13 members show up plus members from two other clubs. The wood is mostly branch wood."

- Joe added, "Sonny has wood up here on the table from the Arboretum and we will have a wood swap for it."

- **Steve Wiseman** announced the AAW has a virtual IRD Symposium soon. The club has scholarship money for this if members are interested.

- Joe told us the club is starting to receive more requests for presentations. However

the club needs to pause and come up with a viable plan going forward to plan and decide about participation in these. He added, "There is a sign up sheet for the West Bridgewater Riverwalk. Email Tim Rix if you are interested."

- **Ernie Leep** said "For the Scituate Council on Aging, we have 115 pens out of 120 requested so we're almost there." To which Molly replied, "Ernie, I turned an extra ten pens so we are there." Ernie added "There is a possibility the club may be asked to turn some spindles."

- Joe told us the club has purchased a 30 foot by 10 foot tent for \$561.24. "The club had an anonymous donor for part of this and the club kicked in the rest."

- Joe added, "The club picnic will be held Saturday, August 5th at the Hanover YMCA. It will be an indoor / outdoor event, rain or shine."

WIT

Women in Turning

The Scituate Senior Center needed pens and the women of WIT stepped up to help.

Recently, five members of the MSSWT Women In Turning (WIT) group and one prospective member gathered at **Melissa Fantasia's** shop with the intentions of: learning/teaching the craft of pen turning, enjoy-



Karen Popp's pens

ing a female-centric day in the shop, and turning 20 of the 100 pens requested by the Scituate

to track where each pen and its components were in the operation.



Melissa (center) explains the finer points of drilling pen blanks to Karen Popp (L) and Ava Rothwell (R).

Senior Center, a project spearheaded by Ernie Leep.

We began with workstations and equipment arranged for each step of the process and a wall of sticky notes, each listing one of the many steps required to complete a pen. This helped

Melissa, who has turned many pens, gave us a quick and dirty one on each step so that we could all move more easily between the stations. Away we went! During the day, each turner worked at each station.

(continued on p.4)



David Linskey of Milton passed away Tuesday, June 6, 2023 from complications of colon cancer. David joined MSSW around March, 2018, prior to COVID. He had developed an interest in woodturning utilizing his shop in his basement. He was proficient with a computer, in addition to his other interests in cooking and sports. He computer skills came in handy a year later in March of 2019 when he took over the graphics and page layout assisting Jeff Keller in the club's monthly newsletter, *As The Wood Turns*. In fact his first edition featured the obituary of the club's former editor and graphic artist, Bernie Feinerman.

David was a nice guy who passed away too early. He was efficient and responsible, someone who always came through in the clutch. We'll miss him.

- Jeff Keller

Demo: Hollowing



With Steve Wiseman

(*Editor's note:* Sonny Tice introduced the hollowing topic by citing the size of the crowd that had gathered when Steve was doing a "Hands On" mentoring session for hollowing. So, Steve agreed to demo for the whole club.)



Steve started with hollowing a small ornament. He had a two inch square block of wood which he mounted between



centers on the lathe held by a chuck. He drilled a half inch hole and shaped the outside into a sphere using a spindle



gouge. Next he turned the lathe speed up to 1350 rpm and began hollowing.



For this he had a carbide gouge starting with the inner top third inside. He said to blow (or suck) out the shavings as you go. He finished using a small



wire bent in a circle (pictured) as a gauge for wall thickness.

His second hollowing demo involved using a larger shape of around 5-7 inches in height and width. Again Steve began hollowing the top third inside. For this procedure, he used a much

Reported by Jeff Keller

larger hollowing tool.

The third hollowing involved using wet wood shaped in a cylinder. He mounted it using the tailstock for extra support. He then drilled using a Forstner bit. Next he installed an elaborate hollowing jig setup which he purchased from Lyle Jamison. It had the added feature of an included laser, mounted above the cutting tool, to indicate where he was cutting inside. The laser was effective. He invited members from the audience to come up and try the Jamison hollowing

jig with its long cutting bar and Melissa Fantasia volunteered. She demonstrated how easy and effective the laser guided hollowing was. Steve cautioned that the equipment he used would cost over a thousand dollars today—laser guided hollowing isn't cheap!

Pens

Here are examples of the pens turned by the club members who helped Ernie Leep with the project for the Council on Aging (COA) of Scituate.



Slimline pens in gift boxes



WIT pens showed originality! The COA leaders loved the unique shapes and also found them very comfortable in the hand!

See the June issue of American Woodturner, page 11 for an article submitted by Peter Soltz detailing the Club's contribution to the "Acorn to Arabella Project."

Pens for Scituate Senior Volunteers

by Ernie Leep

The Senior Center in Scituate has a yearly event where they thank their volunteers and present them with a gift. Ernie Leep was approached by their Activity Director, Jessica Souke, asking if the club could turn 120 pens for them for this year's gift. Ernie brought the idea up to the membership as it was a large number of pens.

Members stepped up to help, which spread the work out. We set a price of \$10 per pen so the club could make a profit. Ernie purchased kits and presentation boxes from Craft Supplies USA; the club and members provided blanks. Big thanks to Wayne Miller for providing many blanks.

With help from the members listed, all pens were completed

(from WIT—p. 2)

By day's end we had completed just a few of the pens we needed for the project. These little rascals are time consuming!

Luckily, **Ava Rothwell** had brought her pen turning equipment along. **Karen Popp** took it home and, leaning on the experience from our day together, completed 15 pens.

Melissa turned the balance of the pens needed and delivered them to Ernie at the club meeting on May 23rd.

The day was filled with learning, laughter, cooperation, good food and a few occasions for problem-solving our way into Plan B, all crucial elements in woodturning and WIT.



Linda Kelley, COA Director, accepts pen from Ernie Leep



Linda Kelley & Jesse Souke were pleased with the pens.

by June 1st and presented to the Scituate Senior Center.

The cost of materials (pen kits, presentation cases) was \$461.19. Club members donated the wood blanks, turned and finished 120 pens. The Scituate COA paid \$1,200, for a gross profit of \$738.81. After taxes we had a net profit of \$692.63.

Thanks to these members:

Joe Centorino
Kevin Coughlin

Melissa Fantasia (WIT)
Fred Johnson
Molly Johnson (WIT)
Lenny Mandeville
Charlie McCarthy
Wayne Miller
Karen Popp (WIT)
Ron Reynolds
Ava Rothwell (WIT)
Peter Soltz



Molly and prospective turner, Marie Sullivan take it outside.



Ava and Carolyn sort pen kit components

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this day: Karen Popp, Carolyn Gray, Ava Rothwell, Marie Sullivan the prospective turner, Melissa Fantasia, Molly Johnson.

Karen and Marie examine their trimming work.



BRING BACK

At monthly meetings, members receive a raffle ticket. Three winners get a turning created by the previous *Bring Back* winner. Each new winner then has to **Bring Back** one of their own turnings for the next meeting.



John Gear won Ken Whiting's segmented lidded box.



Horace Lukens won Ernie Leep's walnut bowl.

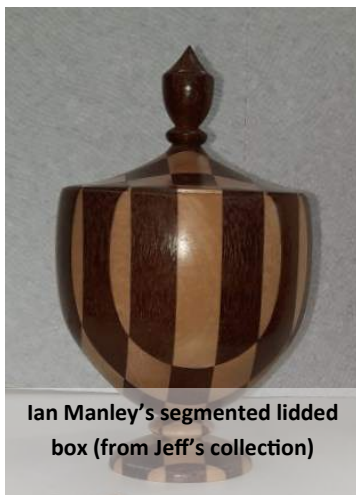
We Need Tops!



Bring 'em to the next meeting!

Anatomy of a Bring Back

by Jeff Keller



Ian Manley's segmented lidded box (from Jeff's collection)

At our May meeting, **Ken Whiting** presented his first ever turned lidded box to a lucky Bring Back winner. Initially, Ken knew he wanted to have something different than a bowl to bring to the meeting. After considering several possibilities, he decided to emulate a lidded box that Jeff had acquired many years ago at MSSW's annual Christmas party, turned by

Ian Manley. Ken cut several strips of maple and cherry one half inches square by 8 inches in length which he glued together with Titebond III. After squaring the ends he mounted it in a chuck and turned a cylinder. He needed the eight inch length to allow room for a tenon for each end—the base and the lid.

Next he determined where to part the top for the lid and set it aside. Ken then shaped most of the outside leaving the base for later to avoid putting too much



Ken cut a tapered step in the box for the lid to fit into

stress on the as yet unturned stem and base. He hollowed the inside and then shaped the stem at the bottom. He cut a step in the top to seat the lid, leaving a slight taper inwards to facilitate a nice fit. He then finished turning the lid. He gave it a raised center in which he drilled a quarter inch hole to accept a finial. He turned the finial from a piece of cherry burl using a skew.

Ken sanded up to 400 grit and finished with Ian's finish, a 1:1:1 mix of boiled linseed oil, clear shellac and denatured alcohol.



Recently David built a brake for the Alden House, an historic homestead site in Duxbury, MA. He handcrafted it from maple and finished with linseed oil and turpentine. They were thrilled with the gift.

David is featured in a short video showing the process of creating the tool:



<https://youtu.be/Bzu8q30LLjM>

Long-time club member, David Rice, practices many crafts. Besides his work at the lathe, he makes hand-tied brooms, Shaker boxes, stools, tables, puzzles and more.



To learn about the history and use of this important device, read this informative article—[Flax to Linen: Breaking and Scutching.](#)

Show & Tell

Compiled by Joe Centorino and Jeff Keller



Glenn Siegmann



Ambrosia maple bowl

Steve Wiseman



Steve has a large bowl turned from holly acquired from the Gateway Turners club.

Melissa Fantasia



Melissa's off center small bowl, "Spiral Down".

Fred Johnson



Fred showed us two large bowls of spalted maple. He used a mineral oil finish on both.



Medium size bowl turned from red or white oak to which she added a white resin.

Molly Johnson



Molly holds an embellished red oak calabash style bowl. She incised two grooves for leather piping and tinted with India ink. Then she carved between the lines for an embellished texture. She finished it with Renaissance wax.

Charlie McCarthy



Charlie showed us a piece he referred to as "Barely There" (everything seems to be named for some reason) which is an off axis turning. He left the bark on.

Andy Osborne



Andy holds three bowls cored and turned from the same piece of cherry burl using the McNaughton Coring System. He gave them a six month drying time. They have a urethane oil finish.

Wayne Miller



Wayne entitled this segmented piece, "All Things Android". It is from a green SpectraPly panel which he glued up.



Wayne holds a segmented hollow form with black dots which he told us were from plastic rods. He used a clear plastic disc in the bottom.

Show & Tell

Bob Courchesne



Silver Birch bowls finished with Tried & True

Ken Lindgren



"Used Wood"

Joe Centorino



(top) Chinese Elm arched bowl
(bottom) Donald Wyman Apple & Resin vase

Michael Fullerton

