

Special Message from the President

May 28, 2012

There have been a number of rumors and whispers over the past month or so that we have been unable to address. Those rumors reached a fevered pitch a couple weeks ago at the Utah Woodturning Symposium and were discussed in some detail at the AWA May meeting yesterday. I can now confirm that those rumors are true. The Phoenix Convention Center has been selected to host the 2014 AAW National Woodturning Symposium. This has been in the works for quite some time and only now that it has been finalized can we make the official announcement.

I was approached several months ago by AAW board member Kurt Hertzog to assess the willingness of our club (and the other clubs in the state) to support and help facilitate a national symposium in 2014 or 2016. I spoke to the rest of our board members as well as club officers in Tucson, Prescott, and Flagstaff and everyone agreed that this is an opportunity that we cannot pass up and that between the membership of the four clubs we could supply the required volunteers and staff the required committees.

There's no doubt that this will be a major undertaking, the national symposium is approximately five times the size of the Desert Woodturning Roundup. Much of the work is handled at the national level by the American Association of Woodturners but there is still a very significant amount of work to be done at the local level; before, during, and after the symposium.

Some of you may be concerned about the impact to the Desert Woodturning Roundup. We're still fully committed to DWR 2013 but with the efforts needed for the 2014 national symposium I don't believe we could be ready for another DWR in 2015. What I believe is likely to happen is that the next DWR will be delayed until 2016 and then the DWR can resume an every other year schedule in the even numbered years.

I believe that while this event will be a ton of work for us it will be a great opportunity for us to promote the club and woodturning in general to the greater Phoenix area. It will also allow us to promote future Desert Woodturning Roundups to the attendees and will bring exposure to our club to potential future demonstrators at the national and international level. This also presents us with an opportunity to extend an olive branch and increase cooperation with the other Arizona based woodturning clubs.

Based on the 2014 symposium date it is my desire to remain President of the AWA through 2014. It has been traditional for the AWA President to serve 2 terms but I believe that transitioning officers just 6 months prior to the planned June 2014 national symposium is an unnecessary distraction and one that is easily avoided.

I hope that you're as excited as I am, It's been hard keeping this secret the past couple months. Together I'm sure we can make this a symposium to remember.

Jason