

Presidents Message -- September 2015

I am very excited to see our own Rich Fairbourn demonstrate this month. I always enjoy seeing the quality pieces he brings to the Instant Gallery. Rich has been scraping since grade school (old Craftsman lathe powered by a dryer motor) with a long layoff until he discovered Dale Nish and bowl gouges in the early 00's. Rich's demo will entail turning a dense hardwood from start to finish. He will concentrate on negative-edge scraping and sanding to a finish that requires no finish.

I can tell you that I personally don't use scrapers enough. I never really used them until the Club brought in Richard Raffan a few years ago. I took the class and was very impressed with what a scraper can do. However, with all the other tool offerings, I have not kept it up. I believe Rich will once again encourage me to start using scrapers. I am impressed by the quality of his finished pieces and look forward to learning some new techniques.

The Presidents Challenge this month is "turning a pen." In October, we have our own world renowned J. Paul Fennell demonstrating for the Club. This promises to be a fantastic presentation as well.

The rain has been a blessing, but I am ready to say goodbye to the heat and humidity. It is near time for summer to come to an end in Phoenix. The weather has made it challenging for me to be very motivated to turn. We are headed into the days we all live here for. I hope to do a short trip to the mountains and catch the golden aspens that will soon have turned color. On my bucket list is to bring home some of that aspen and turn a very thin-walled lamp shade.

We had club member John Schneider cut down a large mesquite tree and fellow club member Ken Northern was kind enough to pick it up for us and will bring it to the Club meeting.

Upcoming events:

The Arizona State Fair is coming up and our Club officers discussed and believe we should demonstrate Sat and Sun, Oct 24 -25th and Oct 31-Nov 1st. We will demonstrate from 10-6 all 4 days with the exception of Halloween (Oct 31st) when we will end at 4pm so folks can get home before dark. Please speak to me or call or text, about times you can volunteer those two weekends. We will try and have two turners scheduled at once, so someone can turn and the other talk.

Starting in September we are going to have a sign in sheet for members and visitors. This is a requirement of the City of Tempe and our insurance. There will be a couple door prizes drawn for those who sign in.

Please sign up on-line for the 2016 DWR from the Club website. Also see the list of great demonstrators the DWR Committee has worked hard to bring in for your enjoyment. This group has done an outstanding job in planning.

To take the Glenn Lucas small day classes (6 students to the teacher) you must have registered for the DWR. These classes are filling up, so sign up soon.

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Lastly, our November 14th Saturday all day demo in Sun City, will be by Alan Lacer, Master of the Skew. If you want to learn how to use the skew chisel, a hands on class “Skew Chisel: Wicked Tool, Wicked Good!” is open for sign up (all day class \$185). I have taken this class in the past with Alan and he is a fantastic teacher and gentleman. I even learned to make tools from his all day demo and video’s.

See you this Saturday, Sept 19th at the Pyle Center in Tempe at noon.

Chip Hidinger -- President, Arizona Woodturners Association