

Arizona Woodturners Association -- President's Message -- February, 2016

Hello and Happy Valenturnings!

By all reports, the Woodcraft Day was a huge success. Thank you to all who participated! Due to an unforeseen family issue, I was unable to attend. It is a good thing I'm merely a cog in the wheel, as I have received numerous reports, and every one of them were positive.

On the horizon, the Desert Woodcarvers are holding their annual show on Valentines Day weekend. Again, we will have a booth and be doing demonstrations. If you haven't done this before, please consider coming down for a few hours. Even if you are not comfortable turning front of an audience, people there in the booth talking with people about turning and about the club are a fantastic asset to the weekend.

Speaking of Volunteers: We need them. As officers, our job is to guide the club, handle some legal and accounting issues, and move the club forward. We can't do it alone. It is your club, and we need your help. Repeatedly, the same people volunteer over and over, and sometimes it just isn't enough, not to mention it quickly becomes burdensome on a few. We ask for volunteers to help spread out the load, and get no response. We need your help to continue to operate the club and help move it forward and provide the education and social atmosphere you have come to expect. Not all of our requests involve physical labor. In fact, few of them do. For those that do involve physical labor, more bodies make for less exertion and a safer environment. I will ask again to please offer an hour or two a month ... that is all ... of your time and expertise.

Desert Woodturning Roundup: Just a reminder that the 2016 DWR is almost here! There is a vast array of demonstrators at this year's event from Pens to Bowls and platters/production work, sculpture, bangles, multi-axis turning, segmented turning, Teapots, Therming (If you don't know what it is, visit the DWR and find out!!!), and the list goes on. Not to mention the vendor area, instant gallery, auctions, and all the Friday night activities. If you haven't registered, get a spot now. The committee puts in hundreds of hours to make it a success all for you. Again, volunteers are needed!! Most positions actually benefit you by giving you a guaranteed front row seat to the action to come to see anyway. This only works with your help. Please contact Kelly Fowke to reserve your spot now!!!

Last but certainly not least! There has been a lot of debate on the direction of the American Woodturners Association and whether they cater to the new turner or the turner who wants to concentrate on bowls and such, or whether they support the artistic turner. I can tell you through many long conversations with Association administrators and board members, they strive to do both, and it is not always an easy scale to balance.

One of the benefits of Association membership is the subscription to the American Woodturner magazine. It, like the its parent organization, strives to find something to please the entire membership. To that end, they have released one of the articles in the February edition of the magazine that specifically goes back to the basics. How to get clean cuts. They have asked chapter presidents to forward it to their entire membership, regardless of membership in the national organization. Thus, I have [attached a copy](#) for everyone's reading pleasure. The upcoming issue promises to have several others specifically aimed at the turner who desires to improve his or her skills in the fundamentals.

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Again, thank you for your continued support of our organization, and for your support in the future.

Safe Turning!

Dale Gillaspay
Arizona Woodturners Association President