

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

Happy Spring everyone, although this greeting may be a little late judging by the temperature.

For those of us just coming off of a packed weekend at the Desert Woodturning Roundup, all I can say is WOW. By all accounts, it was a great symposium. The Internet forums are full of positive reviews from both the demonstrators and the attendees. There was a wide variety of turning demonstrations available, ranging from bowls and platters, to carving and coloring, to segmenting and jigs, and the list goes on. There was truly something for everyone. The only consistent criticism I am receiving is the quality of the bread pudding for dessert at Sunday's lunch. If that is the worst we are getting, I'll take it.

For those of you that didn't attend, make plans to attend in 2018. Although that committee will have big shoes to fill, I have no doubt it is upward and onward, and that one will surpass this one.

I wish there was time to thank everyone individually, because the host committee has been working diligently for almost 2 years, and as the time got closer, dozens of volunteers put in countless hours to make this all work. I will just leave it as, "Thank you, all!"

Jetting back on schedule, The next regular Club meeting will be held on March 19. Cal Vanderkooi will be talking about turning tools. He will discuss what tools are best suited to what purpose, what tools to not use in different circumstances for safety reasons, and how to sort out what all those different grind angles mean. It is a great demo for beginning and intermediate turners, and a great refresher for seasoned turners.

Our President's Challenge for March is Vases: Hold me This can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Turn something vase or vessel that can hold flowers, dried or live, and be creative. Maybe you could incorporate something you discovered at the symposium, or maybe you could take off on the method I demonstrated in January. Maybe you have a method completely of your own. Surprise us!!

Looking ahead, April's President's Challenge will be Plates and Platters, and in May, the challenge is Sports ... that's it ... sports. Let your imagination go with it.

In other news around the woodturning community, some demonstrators have been experimenting with live video streaming of demonstrations. This allows the demonstrator to be in their own workshop, and the audience to either log in online or sit in a large room with big screen HDTVs and watch the demonstration. Right away, I know some of the feedback is that it takes away from the live interaction and up close feeling of the demonstration. The plus side is that with ever increasing travel expenses and the amount of tools and equipment it takes to go to a demo, this allows people who would never get the chance to see a demo like this participate with the help of technology. It is a perfect solution? No; everything has it's pros and cons, but look for more technology to work its way into the demonstration field in the future.

As part of our Club charter, we are an organization dedicated to furthering woodturning education. To that end, I would like to recognize a few individuals who have been taking woodturning education into the community.

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Carl Smith started a new activity at Arizona Community Church, will go at least three sessions; and with a new group of Boy Scouts, three sessions.

He starts Monday at an RV park that expressed interest in woodturning demonstrations. They are anticipating about 20 people with experience levels from none to 15 years, should be interesting. Doing demo and hands on, and it may become an ongoing thing.

Chuck LaRue and he are still doing Free Arts weekly.

Chuck and Cal Vanderkooi are doing Seeds for Autism weekly.

Mike Luccino is working with some local schools and their industrial education programs.

If I have missed anyone, I am sorry. If you are doing something education wise, please let us know. We would love to share it with the rest of our group. If you would like to assist in any of the above mentioned activities, please contact the members directly. I'm sure they would welcome the help.

We still have a need for an equipment manger. This person's basic responsibility is to coordinate getting the equipment to and from the storage unit to the meetings and back; and to our special events. That doesn't mean they have to lift, or even own a truck. It means that they would make phone calls and ask for people's help. Right now, one or two people are doing all the lifting and moving for all the events, and it would be really great to spread the work around a little.

Thanks again for all your support to our Club. It is your Club and can only succeed with your help.

Happy turning!!!

Dale Gillaspay
Arizona Woodturners Association President