



The CAW Newsletter is the official publication of the Capital Area Woodturners, Inc., a chapter of the AAW, and is published for the information of its members.

CAW Newsletter

<http://www.capwoodturners.org>

JANUARY 2008

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 2008 Dues
- Eagle Head Cane Project
- Wood burning - Background

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Monthly Details	2
Oneway Sale	3
CAW Symposium	3
President's Message	4
Group Buy	4
About Our Members	7
Woodturner's Ball Photos	10

Hands on Bowl Turning

This month's session will not be a demonstration but rather it will be a hands-on session. This session is geared to those who don't have the opportunity to attend Skill Enhancement Workshops due to scheduling conflicts—you know, like work. Even though this month's meeting has in mind the person who doesn't attend Skill Enhancement Workshops, it is open to everyone and everyone is encouraged to participate. There should be plenty of lathes available throughout the day. During the session you can turn a bowl of your choosing. We don't expect you to produce finished work, the goal is to make shavings and give everyone a chance to turn if they wish.

One of the benefits of this type of hands-on session is that several of our experienced turners will be there for you to ask questions, overcome issues as you turn, and help in refining your technique and skills. Another advantage is that when you are not turning, you will be able to observe other turners and see how they overcome the impediments they encounter. You will be able to discuss their techniques and understand how you can improve your turning. All you need to bring is tools, some wood (we will have a few blanks, some green, some dry) but if you want to insure you have what you want, bring what you need. Also, bring your enthusiasm for being a better turner or observer. The shop at Bryant has turning tools, but bring your own if you wish.

(continued on page 4)

Meeting Information

Meeting Announcement:
Date: Saturday, January 12th, 2008
Time: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Place: Bryant Adult Education Ctr. 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, VA

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:

From Virginia or Maryland, take I-495/I-95 towards the Wilson Bridge over the Potomac River.

Take Exit 177A (Rt. 1 South) on the Virginia side. Approximately 1.9 miles south of the Beltway, you will pass the Beacon Mall complex with Lowes Home Improvement Warehouse on your right. Drive past the main entrance to Beacon Mall, go 4 more stop lights – about ½ mile.

The 4th stop light will be Popkins Lane. Turn Left onto Popkins Lane and go 2 blocks. Bryant Learning Center entry will be on your right. Drive to the East side of the building. Plenty of parking on the side or in the rear of the building.

The entrances to the woodworking shop and meeting rooms are off the back corner of the east side of the Bryant Center.

CHECK CLOSINGS DUE TO WEATHER, AT 703-658-1203

Eagle Head Cane Project Update by CA Savoy

Eagle Head canes for our wounded heroes---

CAW joined forces with the Northern Virginia Carvers earlier this year to make canes for our wounded heroes at Walter Reed Hospital. The carvers are carving the Eagle Heads and CAW members are turning the cane shafts. To date we have jointly produced and presented over 60 canes to our heroes. This is an ongoing project and we are in need of continued participation by CAW members.

Please join this effort and turn cane shafts for this worthy project. I will have cane shaft blanks at the January meeting for you to take and turn at home. Please get some from me and turn,turn,turn!!!! I will provide you with a drawing giving the measurements. The cane shafts blanks are 37" long. If you do not have a lathe capable of handling this capacity, and you want to turn a shaft, please advise me and I will make arrangements to make a lathe available for you. We will be turning cane shafts at all Skill Enhancement workshops in the future. That would be a good time for some of you to come and turn a cane shaft.

Happy and Safe Turning!!

With the New Year here, 2008 dues are now due. During the meeting, please see Phil Mannino and pay your 2008 dues. Remember the dues are now \$25 for those who get the newsletter electronically and \$40 for those who get it through the US Mail.

Monthly Program Details for January 12th

8:30 AM	Help set up for the demonstration. Look over the For Sale items in the equipment room. Help get the coffee bar going or have a cup of coffee and a donut with your fellow turners. Discuss the items in the Show & Tell table. Rent a video. Talk tips and techniques with others.
9:00 AM	Show and Tell
9:30 AM	A business meeting will be held. A raffle will be offered. Photos of member items will be taken for the next CAW Newsletter. The tape library will be open. A silent auction table will be available for donated wood and items. Bring something to donate!!!
10:00 -3:30	During this month's meeting, there will be a hands-on bowl turning session. Several lathes will be available for anyone who wishes to turn a bowl or other object. Experienced turners will be available as a resource to answer you questions and help resolve issues.
3:30 PM	Clean-up. Arrange meeting room and shop back to school standards. <u>Everyone's help is needed and requested.</u>

SKILL ENHANCEMENT WORKSHOP

**At Bryant School
WED. 01/09/2008
9:00AM - 3:00PM
TUESDAY 01/29/2008
9:00AM - 3:00PM**

Special requests contact:
CA Savoy at
cadjsavoy@cox.net
Or: Don Johnson at
dripapaw@aol.com
Or: Al Melanson at
almelanson@msn.com

PLEASE NOTE::: There is a shop charge of \$5.00. If you use any tool, i.e., band saw, lathe, drill press etc. the charge will apply. If you come to visit and just watch, then - no charge.

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS IF YOU WANT TO USE ANY OF THE TOOLS
SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO BAD WEATHER,
CHECK AT 703-658-1203

CAW 2008 Officer Roster**President, Frank Stepanski**

228 Aquia Bay Ave
Stafford, VA 22554-5327
540-720-4202
woodturner@purespeed.com

Vice-President,**Gerry Headley**

3017 Sanford Place
Owings, MD 20836 (H) 410-286-5958
gerryh3333@aol.com

Treasurer, Phillip Mannino

9905 Marguand Drive
Burke, VA 22015-3808 (H) 703-250-2876
phileman@cox.net

Secretary, Al Melanson

5561 Ann Peake Drive
Fairfax, VA 22032 (H) 703-250-6781
almelanson@msn.com

Program Director,**Mark Wollschlager**

5914 Otley Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310 (H) 703-329-6305
markwoll@his.com

Operations Director,**C. A. Savoy**

1309 Gatewood Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308 (H) 703-765-7268
cadjsavoy@cox.net

Newsletter Editor,**Richard Sherwood**

11908 Bracken Court
Bowie, MD 20820 (H) 301-805-1020
richard@sherwoodswab.com

Club Support Volunteers**Don Kelley**

- Show and Tell Photos

Bill Bearden

- Video Library

Aaron Grebeldinger

- Education Outreach

George Salinas

- Bryant Display Window

Jonathan Hess

- Raffles/Auctions

Ed Parelhoff

- CAW Clothes

Annie Simpson

- Mentor Program

Priscilla Glasow

- Group Buy

Tom Boley

- Newsletter Proofreader

If your address, phone, or email changes, **notify Phil Mannino**. This is essential to insure you receive the newsletter and other items that come to members.

ONEWAY ORDER

CA places orders throughout the month. Check your catalog or call up the ONEWAY website at www.oneway.on.ca to see what's available and email your order to CA at cadjsavoy@cox.net.

If you need something any time during the month, send him an email and he will order and have it to you within a week. Also check the ONEWAY website for the new turning tools .

Items can be picked up at Bryant School on the 2nd Wednesday or last Tuesday during the Skill Enhancement workshops, at the

monthly meetings, by special arrangements, or orders can be shipped to you. You pay when you receive your order.

CAW--ONEWAY SALE OF THE MONTH—JANUARY

20% OFF!!! MOST PRODUCTS EXCEPT LATHES!!!!!!!

PLUS SHIPPING!!!

Will provide quote upon request.

Happy and Safe Turning!!!

CA SAVOY

CAW Symposium - Will You Participate ?

During the April 12th 2008 meeting, we will conduct our fourth annual CAW Mini-symposium. We have turners with various experience and skill in the club. Everyone can benefit from your experiences and insight if you share them.

Demonstrators are needed for the symposium if it is going to be interesting and a success as it has been in prior years. This year's symposium is an ideal opportunity for you to share your skills, to gain additional experience from being the demonstrator and to show your fellow turners what you have done before and what you have overcome.

Demonstration slots will be 90 minutes in duration. If you are interested, or if someone can talk you into making the plunge, please contact Mark Wollschlager, our new Program Director, or any board member to express your interest and your demonstration topic.

2008 Schedule

Feb	Dean Swagert	March	TBA
April	CAW Symposium	May	Nick Cook
June	CAW Picnic	July	Stewart Batty
August	Judy Ditmer		

The President's Message - Frank Stepanski

I want to express my esteemed appreciation to Patrick O'Brien and Bob Pezold for their service on the CAW board. The treasurer is an important role. Maintaining track of all our gozinta's and gozoutta's is a vital task. Arranging our monthly demonstrations and workshops is no small feat either. It's quite obvious both of these gentlemen have performed admirably as we have money in the bank and we have been exposed to a broad array of new and exciting demonstrators and skills. Please take the time to thank Patrick and Bob for their dedicated service to our club.

According to our official un-official census committee (Judi Boley and C.A. Savoy) we had 50 folks attend our CAW ball. Those in attendance received a most delightful treat - the Washington Women's Chorus who regaled us with twenty delightful minutes of vocal holiday cheer.

As we move into the cooler season please note the number to call to validate the Bryant Learning Center will be available and not closed due to bad weather. This number is shown on the first and second page of the newsletter.

Remember—the AAW Symposium is on for Friday, June 20th, to Sunday, June 22nd in Richmond, VA. If you don't have the time to attend the entire symposium, the instant Gallery and Trade show are free and more than worth the trip to Richmond.

Happy turning

Hands on Bowl Turning (continued)

Your favorite bowl gouge shouldn't spend the day home alone. If you have a bowl blank, or a roughed out bowl waiting to be re-turned, bring them. All we ask is that regardless of what you bring, it is no more than 7" to 9". We will be able to help process some raw wood to blanks but due to time constraints we would rather everyone be turning.

One piece of business: Since we need to continue to make sure everyone stays safe without any liability issues, you need to be an AAW member to do any turning or use the band saw or any other tools. Look forward to seeing you there in front of one of the lathes. If you would like to volunteer as an instructor/helper please contact me, Mark, at markwoll@his.com or call me at 703-329-6305.

Group Buy by Priscilla Glasow

I would like to hear from those of you interested in buying sea shells that can be used to make Christmas ornaments. Although the holidays will be past when we receive these, you can get started for next year! Send me a note at pglasow@mitre.org and let me know if you would be interested in buying sea shells at a future date. Pricing will be determined if sufficient interest is indicated - for now we just want to get a sense of the level of interest. You can see what is available by going to the web site www.seashellworld.com.

Wood burning, Background, Techniques and Other Issues

This is the first of a three-part series on wood burning. In this first section, we will cover how wood burners work and some of the concerns when purchasing a unit. In the second part we will discuss using the burner, some techniques and safety concerns. In the final segment we will talk about some of the variables to consider. This article is not intended to endorse any product or company. It is reprinted with the permission of and thanks to Steve Colaguori and the Colwood company <http://www.woodburning.com/>

How wood burning Units Work

Virtually all of the modern wood burning units are constructed in the same manner. A transformer provides the power and is controlled by a device not unlike a light dimmer that passes the power to a hand piece cord where a burning pen and tip are attached. The transformer's purpose is to step down the voltage to a usable level that is regulated by the controller that passes the power through the cord to the hand piece and tip.

There has been a lot of misleading information concerning wattage on wood burning units. Many manufacturers make high wattage claims that are false. We have tested many of these units and have found that they all consume less than 45 watts of power, including the units claiming to deliver 130 watts max.

Simply put, wattage is power; and generally speaking, more is better than less. The logical question to ask is how much wattage does one need. To answer this, we conducted an experiment in our shop using a wattmeter, a Detailer with 18 gauge cord, and a "K" tip (small point). Several feather barbs were burned on a piece of basswood with the Detailer's control knob set to 3. We were able to burn a nice, crisp "toast" colored barb. The wattmeter registered 10 watts! Next, we set the Detailer to full power. The "K" tip glowed a bright orange, the basswood burned a burnt black, and the feather barbs looked horrible. The wattmeter registered 27 watts. With respect to wood burning, we feel that wattage rating is severely overrated. You should choose a wood burner that has the features that you require, and a price tag that fits your budget. Colwood's wide selection of control units, and hand

piece cords make it easy for you to accomplish this while satisfying all your artistic needs.

Wood burning Units Details and Traits

Function:

As children, many of us had the opportunity to use the "soldering iron" type of wood burning tool. Mine first came as a Christmas gift from my Grandparents – the kit included six or eight pre-printed plaques, paints, and the burner. Sadly, I never saw it again after I burned (destroyed) all the plaques and decided to launch a career by doing some redesign on the side panel of a hutch.

These were fine for rough detail, but as the need for finer detail arose, new machines were built with sharpened wire tips that could burn much finer lines with far more control than the old-time units.

One of the first units used a light bulb to vary the temperature output. Just screw in a higher wattage bulb for more power!

Next came units controlled by a rheostat. These units used a simple rheostat power controller to vary the voltage to a transformer, and thus vary the heat to the burning pen.

Today, most (if not all) of the newer generation wood burning systems use an electronic circuit to more evenly regulate power output. The circuitry is similar in operation to a lamp dimmer, except that a transformer (primary side) takes the place of the light bulb. The control circuit varies the level of AC voltage to the transformer. The sec-

ondary of the transformer is connected to the output jack of the burner, which is where the burning pen is plugged in. The burner transformer is unique in that most units only generate around 2 volts AC to the burning pen. But even though the voltage is low, the current to the pen can be as high as 20 or more Amperes! This high current is needed to heat the resistance alloy (most use Nickel-Chromium wire) of the burning tip.

Considerations:

Although most of today's wood burners function basically the same, there are many differences between units. Units can vary in price from \$45 to over \$200, depending on features and power output. It is important to choose a burner that fits the way you burn. If you burn hot or put a lot of pressure on the tip, you will need a heavier duty style of burning pen that can handle this kind of use. Conversely, if you are creating a World Class miniature piece, you would want to use finer, more delicate tips that will allow the degree of detail that competition at this level requires – conceivably up to 125 or more lines (strokes) per inch!

There are also burning pens I call "medium duty" that can cover a wide range of uses. These pens have tips that are not TOO big or TOO small, and in the right hands, can accomplish a wide range of burning techniques.

Another consideration is whether to buy a fixed tip (tip permanently soldered into pen) or a replaceable tip (tips unplug from pen) style of burning pen. A replaceable tip pen can be a less expensive initial investment if you want many different tip styles, but can possibly cause problems in the future as the connections get loose or corroded. If you buy a fixed tip style, look for a high quality silver soldered "tip to pen" joint, for the best possible electrical connection. Should this be your choice, you may want to check to insure that the manufacturer offers a tip replacement service so you don't have to replace the whole pen when you wear out a tip.

When you buy a new wood burner, don't waste a

lot of money buying 20 different styles of burning pens! Your salesman should steer you to 2 or 3 pens that fit the style of burning you wish to do. Beware of the salesperson that tells you that you "need" a great many different styles or shapes of pens – you know whose benefit that sales pitch is for! You will soon find that you are using two or three tips constantly, and any others are just special use tips that are used once or twice a year. This illustrious advice coming from one who has to have two or three full sets – of everything! There are many different ways to use a burning tool. I know of one artist who creates beautiful flatwork (pyrography) pieces using only 2 different tip styles. Trees, grass, fur, plants, shading, etc., all done with two tips! She might use one upside down and backwards to achieve a certain effect of technique, so don't be afraid to try something new!

A major consideration to any unit is the cord that runs between the control box and the burning pens. Some units have stiff, clunky wires that can impede a smooth workflow. Other units have very thin, flexible cords. The quality and size of wire used in these connecting cords varies greatly from manufacturer to manufacturer. Before you purchase a unit, try as many as you can so you get a better idea of what will best work for you.

If at all possible, test several different brands to find the unit that "works for you" in all categories – quality, economy, function, and feature.

[Continued next month]

About Our Members by Phil Brown

A wall case exhibit during January at the Davis Public Library in Bethesda, organized by MCW, displays work by seven CAW members, including **Phil Brown, Eliot Feldman, Stuart Glickman, Gary Guenther, David Jacobowitz, Doug Pearson, and Clif Poody.**

Phil Brown and **David Jacobowitz** each have two pieces in the Senior Artists Alliance exhibit at the Columbia Arts Center, January 3 to February 5, 2008. The Center is at 6100 Foreland Garth in Columbia, MD, 410-730-0075.

Mike DeWan had turnings on display in the juried show "Art for Giving" at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) Nov 20 to Dec 22, 2007. The exhibit included work for sale from over 20 artists. GRACE is located at 12001 Market St, Reston Va. 20190. Their programs are sponsored by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

Rebirth: New life for a table pedestal, by **Neil Kagan** appears on pages 62-63 of the Winter 2007 *American Woodturner*. My apology to Neil for failing to previously point out that his "The Secret Rose" appeared on page 1 of the Summer 2007 issue of the *American Woodturner*.

Several turned wood pieces by **George Van Dyke** were in a small works mixed media exhibition, "Elements of Mystery", which opened at Gallery Indigo on November 17th and ran through December. Gallery Indigo, at 1607 King Street in Alexandria, is open 10 AM - 6 PM weekdays and 10 AM - 9 PM on Thursdays, or by appointment. Their telephone is 703-838-8098. George's turnings were juried into the all members December exhibition at the Suffolk Museum in Suffolk VA.

Bob Stern and **Aaron Grebeldinger** teach an introductory lathe class for turning pens on the third Saturday of every month at the Wood Shop on Gunston road at Fort Belvoir. You must register in advance at the shop.

Aaron Grebeldinger will teach Bowl Turning on January 10th, February 7th, and March 6th from 6 - 9:30PM, at WOODCRAFT in Springfield, VA. Introduction To Hollow Turning with **John Noffsinger** is on Wednesdays March 5th and 12th from 6:30pm - 9:30pm. Call the store at 703-912-6727 to register, or see www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=327&nav=classes

Tom Boley will be teaching Bowl Turning, Saturday January 5th and March 5th, and Turning A Three-Legged Stool February 2nd. All classes are from 10pm - 5pm at the Leesburg WOODCRAFT store. To register, call 703-737-7880 or email them at: Leesburg@Woodcraft.com. See the class schedule at: <http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=575&nav=classes>.

Aaron Grebeldinger and **Drew Mitchum** have four bowl and pen classes coming up this winter and spring in the Bryant Center wood shop. For descriptions and registration see: www.aceclasses.org/

Don't be shy! Promote yourself. Tell us about your woodturning activities in the CAW Newsletter. Best to send your information by the second weekend of the previous month (since newsletter deadline may be early in the month) to **Phil Brown**, phillbrown@comcast.net, or call 301-767-9863.

About Our Members (continued)

Symposium Conflict Eliminated

Kip Christensen announced that the 2008 Utah Symposium will be held at the Utah Valley State College on May 22 - 24, 2008, rather than at Brigham Young University in June. This change in dates is important to the entire woodturning community because the May date no longer conflicts with the AAW Richmond Symposium on June 20 - 22, 2008. Attendees and demonstrators are now free to attend both Symposia instead of having to choose between one and the other.

November 2007 AAW Board Letter

Dear AAW Members,

SOFA

The November Board of Directors meeting was held in Chicago at the site of SOFA (Sculpture Objects and Functional Art), the world's leading exposition devoted to contemporary decorative art and design. A record 34,000 attendees at the three-day show browsed the aisles populated by 100 galleries and dealers from 20 countries.

There were also 7 special exhibits including Israeli and Palestinian art on the theme of reconciliation, Australian contemporary ceramics, the contemporary furniture of John Makepeace, and Contemporary Furniture at Crabb Tree Farm.

Del Mano exhibited an extraordinary collection of wood art featuring many world-class woodturners from the U.S. and abroad. If the displays themselves were not enough to keep one busy, there were also 29 lecture presentations, several of them on wood art. It was a truly overwhelming event, one I would urge all who can to experience for themselves. There was much to admire and plenty to inspire!

The AAW once again had a presence at SOFA with a booth hosting the "Basic Black" exhibit which included pieces by Sharon Doughtie, Gorst duPlessis, Liam Flynn, Mark Gardner, Matthew Hill, Todd Hoyer, John Jordan, Mary McKinney, Betty Scarpino, David Sengel, Hayley Smith, Al Stirt, Jacques Vesery, and Molly Winton. There was a gallery talk on the basic black theme presented by Irish turner Liam Flynn and Alan Lacer.

The AAW also sponsored one of the 29 lectures. Charlotte Brown, Director of the Gregg Museum of Art & Design from North Carolina State University in Raleigh gave a very personal and amusing critique of 27 pieces of contemporary woodturning.

On-Line Survey

We are running an on-line survey seeking comments and suggestions regarding American Woodturner. Please take a moment (well actually, about 10 minutes) to complete the survey and express your preferences for material that has been published and suggestions for what we can do better. This is your chance to make yourself heard on all the things you have wanted to say. What do you love about the journal? What do you hate? Do you have a terrific idea for an article? Let us hear about it! Send your ideas or written pieces to Carl Voss, the editor, at carlvoss@mac.com, or any

About Our Members (continued)

board member.

Membership Drive

I'd like to remind everyone of the membership drive that we are running until the end of the year allowing an individual or a chapter to win a free registration to the 2008 symposium in Richmond. Sign up 5 new members by the end of the year and win one free registration. The new members names can be submitted by an individual or by a chapter. A chapter can use the registration as they wish; to raffle it off as a fund raiser, to give it to a deserving member, to have a drawing, or whatever works for the chapter. Details can be found by clicking [here](#). Remember, there would be no local chapters without the AAW! [Editor] Remember Frank Stepanski's comment in last month's newsletter—*We would like to use this offer to our advantage by providing a single CAW point of contact for all new AAW members. If you joined AAW in November or plan to join in December please contact me. All passes to the AAW symposium received will be placed in our monthly raffle pool.*

2008 Symposium in Richmond

We are expecting the 2008 symposium to be the best to date with expanded SIN (Special Interest Night) activities, more rotations than ever, and increased participation by our POP (Professional Outreach Program) members. The Resident Artists Program will also be a fascinating addition to the mix of activities. Attendees will be able to watch the creation of a complex piece from start-to-finish over several days.

Due to size limitations of the banquet facilities, attendance will be limited. Banquet tickets must be purchased separately from the registration, so if you wish to attend the banquet, sign up early.

Please feel free to address any concerns, questions or comments to any board member at any time. Our contacts information can be found [here](#). Or to post them on the AAW's Forum. We want and need to hear what you think about your organization and publication!

Jean LeGwin

AAW Board Member

(Note: See Message from the Board (11/30/07) on the AAW web site for links to more information about topics discussed in this letter.)

Woodturner's Ball



Washington Women's Chorus



Woodturner's Ball (continued)



Counting the votes



Richard Sherwood, Newsletter Editor
Capital Area Woodturners (CAW)
11908 Bracken Court
Bowie, MD 20820-4480

New CAW Members for December

Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to contribute your talents to our club. We look forward to the contributions you will make and the pieces you will bring in to Show-&-Tell. Your participation will add to our mutual love of woodturning and to our collective knowledge and skill. Membership in the CAW Chapter is open to anyone interested in the art and craft of woodturning.



First Name	Last Name	City	State
Joe	Evans	McLean	VA
Michael	Hartmann	Roanoke	VA
Anthony	Fleres	Alexandria	VA