

January 2005



A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Next Meeting: January 27

Regular Meeting: 7:00 – 9:15pm

R.D. Evans Recreational Center

3200 Lackland Road, Fort Worth

Meeting will feature: John Williams

**** Bring something to the Instant Gallery ****

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT KICKOFF MEETING

TIME: 6:30 PM prior to the January meeting. A high interest was shown at the November meeting to have a Collaborative Project for the 2005 AAW symposium. The project this year will be a coffee bean grinder. Fred Denke is the project leader and has a set of plans to consider. If you are interested in participating in the project please attend the meeting.

Demonstrator: John Williams

John Williams, owner of Trinity Ceramic Supply, Inc. in Dallas, will be presenting a program on the Empty Bowls Project. John is very active in this project that raises funds to feed the hungry. Each year, local artists make bowls of ceramics and wood that are sold at the fund raising luncheon. The luncheon patrons pay \$25 for a bowl of soup provided by several of the well known local restaurants and they get to take home one of the bowls that have been donated by the artists.

John will provide us more information about the Empty Bowl Project and will also speak on how to design a bowl, no matter what the material.

John grew up in Oak Cliff and became interested in pottery while in elementary school because of a pottery factory in the neighborhood. John studied ceramics while attending SMU and also at Florida State University. John also taught Ceramics at the University of Dallas for 5 years.

John and his wife, Darlene, have two daughters, Angela and Catherine. Angela is a successful clay worker in Dallas. Catherine has just moved to Austin after five years as a conservator at the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, in Washington, DC. John and Darlene started "Clay Suppliers", selling clay and supplies to potters, schools, and colleges. In 1980, he went to work for for Trinity Ceramic Supply, and today they own the company.

Making Good Shavings

I trust that you have had a happy holiday season and New Year. The holidays got off to a great start with our banquet. Thanks to all who helped make it a success, especially the cooks.

I would like to follow up on an idea that I mentioned at our November meeting last year – moving our monthly meeting to Saturday. I feel that I should give you a better explanation of my thinking. First, let me assure you that I do not suggest this solely for the sake of change. The only reason I make this proposal is because I think that it is best for the long-term health of the club.

My reasons for proposing the move to Saturday are as follows:

More time for meetings and primarily more time for the demonstration. Our meetings are rushed. If you don't think so, then I invite you to get involved with helping produce them and see. We currently start at 7:00 PM and we need to be out of the Community Center by 9:30 PM including clean up, which takes at least 15 minutes. This leaves an hour and 15 minutes for the demonstration. This is enough time to cover key points, but for most projects it is not enough to really get into the details. A thorough demonstration requires 2 to 2½ hours.

I believe that Saturday will prove to be a more convenient day for most members. I expect a significant difference of opinion on this point primarily because of habit. Habit by definition is something that becomes easy to do by doing it repeatedly. Members who regularly come to our meetings are in the habit of coming on Thursday evening and it would require some effort to change this habit. But, Saturday offers (A) no rush hour traffic, (B) daylight driving, (C) no conflict with the workweek and (D) no conflict with schoolwork.

I believe that a Saturday meeting will help us grow our membership. Why do we need to build membership? Because of two facts. First, we need more people actively involved in the production of club activities! Every person with an opinion on the matter has told me that in volunteer organizations about 10% of the members do 90% of the work. My experience certainly confirms this. Therefore, we need a larger membership in order to increase the number of active participants. The alternative is to start cutting club activities.

We also need to build membership because every organization is in a constant state of change. Our membership will naturally diminish if we don't make an effort to grow. Time marches forward on all of us. As we get older we are not able to be as active. For instance, the club has in recent years done workshops at various elementary schools art fairs. It takes at least 6 people to do one of these and we have drawn from a pool of about 10 people who were willing to participate in this activity. There are several members who would like to do this but for various reasons are no longer able to do so. Therefore, we do not plan to do any of these programs this year.

It seems logical to me that a Saturday meeting would be easier to attend for those who work full time and who attend school. I realize that people also have busy weekends but we are talking about one Saturday a month.

More meeting time would allow us to incorporate additional activities. Among the potential activities that we could accommodate with more time are (A) a tool swap meet, (B) sales of tools and supplies (by members or invited vendors, (C) "mini demos" where a specific technique is demonstrated and (D) hands on workshops. Obviously we would not try to do all of these every month, but we could mix in such activities to enrich the meeting activities.

Some of these activities could be added to our Thursday evening meetings. In the past we have tried hands on workshops prior to the start of the meeting. However, most people who work or attend school would have a difficult time attending these activities.

Here are two final points to consider for what they are worth. First, the majority of AAW Chapters meet on Saturday. Secondly, the East Texas Woodturners (Tyler) changed last year from meeting on a weekday evening to Saturday. They lost some members initially but within a few months their membership had doubled.

I realize that there are counter arguments to every point that I have made. I could make these myself. However, the question to be answered is, "What is best for the long-term health of the chapter?"

At the November meeting there was support for meeting on Saturday for a trial period. After further thought, I think that a trial would be too disruptive. I fully expect a move to Saturday will have a negative impact on attendance for several months. Therefore, a short trial period (say 3 months) will probably fail and then we would move back to Thursday evening. In the event of this likely outcome, the idea of a trial period loses its appeal.

It would take a majority vote in order to change the meeting day. At this time, I do not believe that there is sufficient support for this change. Further, I think that we should only move to Saturday if there is a substantial majority of voters who support it (say 70%). I ask that you consider the above points and we can discuss the matter further in the coming months. I welcome any comments that you care to make.

Regards, Paul Tiefel

DUES ARE DUE

It is the new year and that means time to pay your 2005 chapter dues. Dues are \$24 for the year. Please either mail your dues payment to James Haynes, 202 Jefferson Ave., DeSoto, TX 75115 or bring them to the January meeting.

Hands-On Workshop

There will be an open workshop on Saturday, January 29th (the Saturday following our January meeting) from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Larry Roberts shop located at 6409 Calender Road, Arlington Texas. This will be a free form workshop so it is an opportunity for you to come and get help with your woodturning questions, whatever they may be. Bring your tools and we will turn your problems into wood chips.

Directions: From the intersection of Sublett Road and Calender Road, go South on Calender about ½ mile and turn left into the first driveway past the flashing yellow caution light.

Are you a sign painter? We need to have the chapter name and website painted on both sides of the trailer that we purchased last year. If you have the skills and are willing to do this please contact Paul Tiefel.

Arlington Visual Arts Association (AVAA) 29th Annual Art Exhibition

The AVAA is preparing for its 29th annual art exhibition that will be held at the Bob Duncan Community Center in Arlington. This is an opportunity to show your work and to compete for the prizes awarded to the best in class works. Wood art is placed in the 3-Dimensional category and last year Ken Diehl won the "Best in Class" with his mahogany platter. Works are selected for display in the exhibition by a juror (or jury) chosen by AVAA. Works must be submitted at the Bob Duncan CC on Monday, February 7th. If you are interested, please email Paul Tiefel and he will send you an entry form.

Dallas-Fort Worth Woodworking Show

This event was a big hit again this year. It was held at the Arlington Convention Center and area AAW Chapters had three booths where we demonstrated turning and displayed turned items. We had 21 people sign up to receive our newsletter. Thanks to all of you who participated in making this event a success. Shows like this are a great way for us to promote woodturning and our club.

Empty Bowls 2005

For the past few years our chapter has participated in this charitable event produced by the DFW Area Food Banks. This event is a major fund raiser for the food banks and one that we hope you will support. The luncheon event will be held on Friday, February 25th. Each person attending the luncheon pays for a ticket and gets a great lunch and their choice of a bowl. The bowls are donated by area artists who work in ceramics, pottery or wood. The luncheon is provided by area restaurants and food vendors. Lunch is all you can eat of a variety of soups, breads and desserts. The event is held in the Bass Hall complex. Make some bowls to donate and plan on attending this event this year. We need to have our bowls delivered by Monday, February 14th.

Thank You

Just wanted to drop everybody a quick Thank You for the signed bowl I received over the Holidays. It was a bright spot in a rather draining holiday season. As some of you may have heard, I found out in September that I have had Hepatitis C for just over 28 years. Because of a blood transfusion during surgery in 1976, I was infected. Because I was too ignorant to go to the doctor for regular checkups and blood tests, a lot of damage is already done to my liver. Later in January I will start 48 weeks of an intensive drug regimen designed to eradicate the virus. If successful, I should be back to normal by 2006. In the meantime, I would recommend that EVERYONE should go to the local blood bank and donate blood. If you have a serious issue, they will tell you. If you don't, and I hope you don't, someone will get some blood that might save their life. Win, win, either way. Had so many years passed between the time I was infected and I discovered it, the damage would have been much more manageable! Thanks for all you have done, and thanks for listening.

-- **Mike Wallace**

Mesquite Challenge

Attention all members who signed up for the mesquite challenge in November, don't forget to bring your project to the January meeting. The object of the challenge is to challenge your skills by using your piece of mesquite to turn something that you have not tried before.

Trent Bosch Will Be Our Special Demonstrator in April

Trent Bosch is best known for his hollow turnings but is equally skilled in all forms of turning. He will be here in April to teach a limited number of classes and an all day demo. We will be announcing more details in the near future but make plans to attend one of Trent's classes if you can.

Trent Bosch's philosophy is to "work in harmony with the environment", using only recycled and "easily sustainable" woods in creating his work. His projects express his feelings about work, family, and natural processes. If you have the Fall 2001 issue of **American Woodturner** (Vol. 16, No. 3), there is an article by Ken Keoughan that features Trent Bosch.

He is most well known for his "vessel within a vessel" sculptural concept that brought him into the spotlight at the 1997 AAW symposium in San Antonio.

Bring Back / Raffle Winners from November

Dean Marshall - 2 items won! Steven Smith Randy Johnson Ken Cardin

Lathe for Sale

12" swing with 34" bed. 600 to 2400 RPM, mechanical variable speed. Head rotates outboard for larger diameter work. ¾ hp motor with added ½ hp motor for total 1 ¼ hp. Cabinet built into stand. Low speed add-on motor for use in power sanding (60 to 240 rpm). Casters added for maneuverability. Vacuum coupling for use with vacuum chuck. \$250.00 **John Herber: 817-280-0081**

Calendar of Events

Jan 27 Regular Monthly meeting
R.D. Evans Rec. Center
7:00pm
John Williams will present a program on the Empty Bowl Project and provide information on designing a bowl regardless of the medium.

Feb 24 Regular Monthly meeting
R.D. Evans Rec. Center 7:00pm
Demonstrator: Clay Foster
Mar 31 Regular Monthly meeting
R.D. Evans Rec. Center 7:00pm
Demonstrator: Larry Hancock

Board of Directors

President – Paul Tiefel
Home phone 817-379-9533
Vice President – Mike Jones
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Home Phone 972-223-3171
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Activities – John Horn
Home Phone 817-485-7397
Newsletter – Bill Boehme
Home Phone 817-275-7473
Secretary – Linda Gryfon
Home Phone 817-295-9764
WNT WEB SITE:
www.woodturnersofnorthtexas.org

Membership Application and/or Renewal For year 2005

I hereby apply for membership in the Woodturners of North Texas (WNT). I understand the cost is \$24.00 per year and is prorated after January at \$2.00 per month for the months remaining in that calendar year.

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Are you a member of AAW ? **Yes** **No** (circle appropriate answer)

Address: _____

City : State: ZIP: _____

Telephone: Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: _____

Your Occupation: _____ (even if retired)

Full Time Part Time Retired (circle appropriate answer)

E-Mail Address (print clearly): _____

Newsletter preference: (circle one)

Hard Copy via US Mail

Electronic Copy via e-mail

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Make checks payable to "Woodturners of North Texas"
Mail to: Woodturners of North Texas
% James Haynes
202 Jefferson Ave.
Desoto, Texas 76115-4521

(For office use)

Amount

Method

Date

Entered