



# Atlanta Woodturners Guild

October 2015

Chapter 274 of the American  
Association of Woodturners



## Atlanta Woodturners Guild Newsletter

### President's Message

Well it's already October and Thanksgiving/Christmas is just around the corner. It's time we also need to look at next year's slate of officers for the club. We will be having our election for the 2016 officer's at the November meeting. Currently, we have a need to fill the secretary position currently held by Ken Rizza. For more information on this position please see Ken at our next meeting. All positions are important and must be filled to continue running the club. We are a small club therefore we desperately need someone to step up and volunteer for this position. Jesse Johnson will be leading the nominating committee this year. Please contact Jesse if you are interested in this or any other position in the club. We need your help for the club to continue to operate as smoothly as we have been in the past.

I believe 2015 has been a great year for the club. As a club, we have had two hands on classes this year, which were led by two great instructors. Nick Cook and Frank Bowers did a great job instructing our members the basics of bowl turning and spindle turning. We have our third and last hands on session for the year, which is scheduled for two Thursday evenings at Woodcraft (October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>). The topic for this session will be Sanding and Finishing and will be led by our own Harvey Meyer. The session will start by turning a bowl the first evening. The following week, everyone will bring their bowl back and Harvey will discuss sanding and finishing the bowls. Sanding and finishing may seem like a boring topic but Harvey will be teaching everyone the skills needed to set your work apart from others. There is more to sanding/finishing than just putting some sandpaper to your wood and then slapping on a finish. For anyone who participated in the bowl turning class, I think this would be a great opportunity to enforce what you already learned. This would also provide a great opportunity to get more practice with assistance available to answer any questions that you may have. I will be sending out reminders periodically reminding everyone of this great opportunity with the hopes that those who are interested will not let it slip by. See my previous emails for details about this class.

Last month we were fortunate to have Frank Bowers fill in for Jimmy Clewes, who was overcoming an illness. Frank demonstrated how to turn a three-cornered box and lid from a 5" cube.

Don't forget about our new show and tell incentive. Those who participate are eligible at a chance to win a gift card. Remember, one of our monthly gift cards is set aside for only show and tell participants. Lastly, don't forget to support our local woodworking stores. Try to buy your supplies locally before ordering online.

Reminder, we will be having our annual Christmas party at our December meeting where we all exchange gifts. It is preferred that you bring a turned item so please start slinging some shavings if you have not already started.

I look forward to seeing everyone and their recently turned items at our October meeting. I hope each month finds you at some point, knee deep..... in a pile of shavings!

Kevin Wood

## Next Meeting – October 21, 2015

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlanta Woodturners Guild will be on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Our guest demonstrator will be Steve Pritchard from Georgia.

Steve's demo will be on urchin and acorn birdhouse Christmas ornaments.

Guests are always welcome. The meeting location is:

Woodcraft  
8560 Holcomb Bridge Rd  
Suite 115  
Alpharetta GA, 30022  
(770) 587-3372  
[www.woodcraftatl.com](http://www.woodcraftatl.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/atlantawtg/>

## Previous Meeting – September 2015

The September meeting featured demonstrator was Frank Bowers demonstrating three-cornered bowls and boxes.



## July 2015 Instant Gallery Photos

Arnold Abelman



Betty Fugate



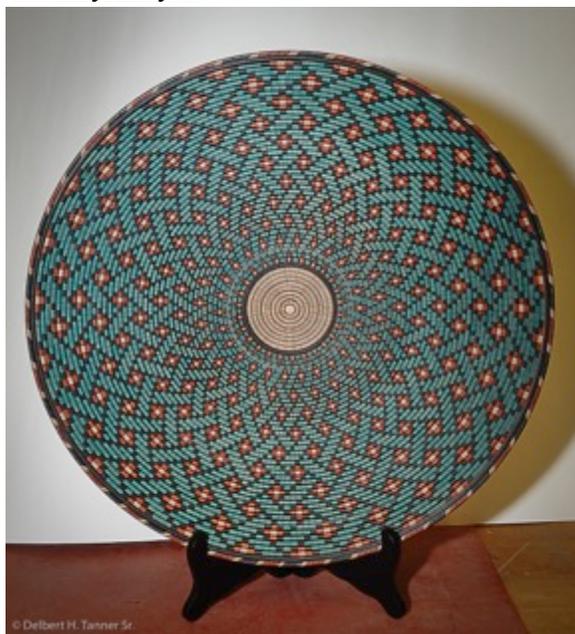
Brian Morgan



Charles Mays



Harvey Meyer



Jeff Barnes



John Kemner



Ken Rizza



Kevin Wood



Pat Walker



I was born in a very small town in South Dakota in the late 40's and grew up on my parents' farm there. In 1970, I received a BS from South Dakota State University and moved to Texas to enter the Air Force pilot training program. After graduation, I became a T-38 pilot instructor (If you're interested in a picture of that aircraft click [here](#) ) and then an instructor at the instructor pilot training school in San Antonio, Texas. It was like flying a Ferrari! Since leaving the Air Force, I've held jobs in sales and teaching and in 1995 I moved to the Atlanta area to become the IT manager for the US District Court in Atlanta from which I retired in 2007.



I developed an interest in working with wood while working on the family farm. My father was one of those people that can look at a few examples, talk to a few people and then build it. I helped him build pole barns, cattle sheds and even a grain elevator. My grandparents gave my father a Shopsmith in the late 40's and it was a primary factor in a lot of the buildings on our farm.

One use, which I don't think my father knew about at the time, was as a lathe. My brother and I managed to make pine 2x2's into rough cylinders using one of my father's wood chisels. It was great fun! Miraculously, we survived the experience and it stuck with me for over forty years. The Shopsmith has also survived. My brother still has it after fifty years!

In the military, I was a frequent visitor to the base woodworking shop. I made "going away" plaques for the squadron and several "multiple award" plaques for 24 and 48 names. I sometimes wonder if they're still hanging in the squadron at Randolph AFB. Probably not.

For some reason, I never played with the lathe they had. Maybe it was the gouge sticking in the sheetrock on the opposite side of the shop. It was apparently left there after having been wrenched from the hands of someone at the lathe, bounced off the wall in front of the lathe and traveled about twenty feet to stick into the wall about ten feet from the floor. True or not, it was a great object lesson regarding high speed and poor tool control. It could easily have been just another story since there were plenty of pilots frequenting the shop and none of us were above creating such a scenario - on the other hand none of us were above lightly holding onto a tool and approaching a very rapidly spinning piece of wood either!

In 2000 I purchased an inexpensive Craftsman lathe and addiction soon set in. After making my share of bowls, boxes and weed pots, my primary interest has focused in the exploration of three areas; hollow forms, piercing and coloring. While I have yet to combine all three, that can't be far in the future.

I started out with my Craftsman in the basement of our home, but now have my shop in about half of our new four car garage. I've graduated to a Powermatic 3520 too after wearing out the Craftsman. No more sawdust, lacquer odors etc.to contend with in the house!

I am president and webmaster for the Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW) and a member of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW).

Part of living in Georgia and visiting family back in South Dakota is traveling through Minneapolis, just across the river from Saint Paul, the site of the AAW's offices. If you are ever in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area, you should make time to stop by their offices. They are housed in what was once the Minnesota Federal Courthouse. This building has to be one of the more elegant examples of architecture in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Area. Either would be worth visiting in their own right, but you get two for one in this case.



## Benoit Averly Hands-On Boxes with a French Accent By Kevin Wood

In this class Benoit showed us how he creates his boxes mostly with a curved end skew. The boxes are hollowed with a spindle gouge using the back hollowing technique. The inside is then finished with both a square end and round nose scrapers. Benoit's wide use of the skew and back hollowing techniques are due to his experience working with Richard Raffan back in 2004 where he learned a lot about design and production.

In this class, we created two boxes. The first box was a very small box with the intention to introduce us to the skew and the back hollowing techniques. This also allowed us to get familiar with using the skew to produce a curved surface with a clean cut.

The class started with rounding a square blank such as cherry, ash or maple. Benoit demonstrated rounding the blank with a skew utilizing both planing and peeling cuts. Once the blank was round, we used the skew to clean up the surface by holding the handle down with the edge held horizontal to the wood. A skew with a curved radius edge with its edge held in a horizontal



**Benoit Demonstrating Using a Skew**

with the wood allows a small cut producing a fine surface. Benoit noted that a skew with a straight edge could not be used in this manner because it would try to take off too much wood.

After rounding the 2.5 x 2.5 x 6 inch end grain blank, we then created a tenon and chucked it up. Now all chucked up, we first created the lid for our small box using only the skew. Once we were satisfied with the shape, we parted it off and proceed to work on the bottom. We used peeling cuts to remove bulk material. We then proceeded to shape the outside of the box with a skew. Next we proceeded to hollow

out the box with a back hollowing cut. I first seen this cut performed by Richard Raffan on a video and later watched Ray Key perform the same task on his DVD. Richard made the cut look easy but I was always afraid to try though I have thought about it many times.

Benoit did a great job explaining to us how to make the cut. If you have seen the cut before, you know it's kind of a rocking motion with the tool handle going up and down. The big key is to keep the bottom edge of the tool shaft always in contact with the wood as the bevel of the spindle gouge rides up and down while peeling away wood. By keeping the tool shaft always in contact with the wood, it acts as a fulcrum. Another key is once you start the cut, keep the cut going and keep the bevel always in contact with the wood.



**First Box in Class**



**Benoit using a Skew**

We finished our first little box by lunchtime. After lunch we started our second box which would be a good bit larger. This box started with a square blank that was 3 x 3 x 8 inches. We started this box again with planing/peeling cuts to round the blank out. After putting tenons on both sides, we parted off one third which would be the bottom of the box. We started the bottom of our box by cleaning up the face with a slicing cut from the skew. We then hollowed out the inside with the back hollowing cut. With bulk removed, we used both the long point of the skew (toe of the skew ....I think it's called) and a square end scraper to remove and shape the inside to produce a flat bottom with clean crisp corners. When finished

we removed the bottom and chucked up the top of our box. Note it is preferable to have another chuck available so you could leave the bottom still chucked up because you will finish the box the bottom piece of the box will be in the chuck.

The top of the box was started the same as the bottom. We cleaned the face up with the skew by performing a slicing cut. Next we had to determine the size of our tenon. We cut 1/16" of an inch off the end to size up our tenon to match the opening of the bottom piece of our box. Once we had the size determined, we proceeded to hollow out the top with what else...the back hollowing cut. After roughing out the inside to the depth we wanted, we used round nose scraper to smooth and shape the inside. With the inside finished, we proceed to cut the rest of our tenon. Benoit normally has big tenon's on his boxes so ours ended up being about a half inch in length.



**Different Ways to Texture**

Once the inside was finished for the top, we removed it from the chuck. The bottom of the box was then put back in the chuck. Once secured, we attached the top on the box to the bottom and brought up the tail stock to hold it in place. Now it was time to shape the outside of the box with what else.... the skew! Since the inside of the top of the box was around halfway of the top's length, we used peeling cuts to quickly remove waste from the top to get it down to the size we would use to shape our finial. With waste removed we proceed to use the skew to shape the outside into appropriate shape. Once our outside was shaped, we worked on shaping the finial.

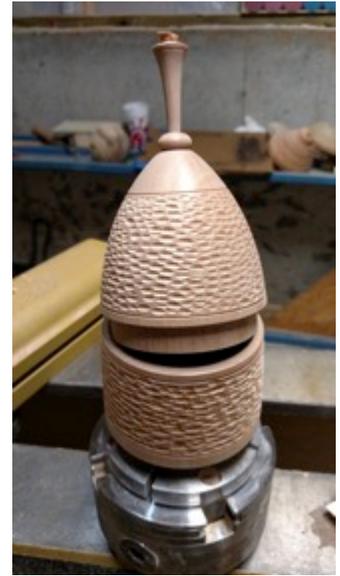
With the finial shaped, it was time to finish the outside with some carving. Prior to any carving, Benoit put a line along the seam of the box. He stopped to remove pressure from the tail stock a few times to make sure the cut along the seam was correct on both pieces of the box. He then added a line above and below the seam. Benoit then demonstrated the different texturing tools he uses to embellish his boxes. A couple of tools Benoit likes to use to embellish his boxes with a dremel type tool with a rotary cutter and a reciprocating carver with a V-Cut chisel attached. I wanted to provide a link to the cutter but I was unable to locate them online. I believe I ordered mine a couple years ago after watching a video off of Treeline USA's website where Brian Nish was demonstrating the cutter for texturing/carving. I found my order and I believe they called it a "Medium Rounded Rotary Chisel" but when I checked their website I



**V-Cut Chisel and Rotary Carbide Cutter**

was unable to locate it.

This was a very good class and Benoit's techniques and style provides a unique way to creating boxes. I overheard several people comment how well they liked the class. Besides this class teaching us new skills in using the skew and back hollowing technique, I believe it gave us all more confidence to not ignore the skew and treat it like the black sheep of the family. Back hollowing with a spindle gouge is something I have wanted to try out for some time. Benoit made learning this technique easy. Now that I have become better acquainted with the skew and learn a cool trick with my spindle gouge, I hope to put them both to use very soon. Hopefully in the near future I will bring in some cool boxes to our club meeting for Show and Tell.



## Swap Shop/For Sale

Two Tree Boyz Wood sells locally harvested wood in end grain-sealed blank and log form. We sell from our Buford location by appointment, at local turning clubs, and online through our website. Visit us for best price, best selection, and custom cutting. We have the potential to get new wood daily from my husband's tree service, so let me know if you are looking for something special.

Elisabeth Ross --- 678.887.0896 --- [twotreeboyz@yahoo.com](mailto:twotreeboyz@yahoo.com) --- [www.2treeboyz.com](http://www.2treeboyz.com)

## Upcoming Events:

### AWG Sanding and Finishing Class

When: October 29<sup>th</sup> & November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Where: Woodcraft Atlanta

### Tennessee Association of Woodturners 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium

When: January 29-30, 2016

Where: Marriott Hotel in Franklin, TN

[www.tnwoodturners.org](http://www.tnwoodturners.org)

### Woodtoberfest



## AWG Meeting Schedule

*January 21, 2015 – Mark Sillay (GA)*

*February 18, 2015 – Mark Waninger (IN)*

*March 18, 2015 – Richard Morris (KY)*

*April 15, 2015 – Derek Weidman (PA)*

*May 20, 2015 – Robert Lyons (SC)*

*June 17, 2015 – Jim Creel (LA)*

*July 15, 2015 – Sharon Doughtie (HI)*

*August 19, 2015 – John Jordan (TN)*

*September 16, 2015 – ~~Jimmy Clewes (NV)~~ Frank Bowers (GA)*

**October 21, 2015 – Steve Pritchard**

November 18, 2015 – Tania Radda (AZ)

December 16, 2015 – Holiday social

## About the Guild

The Atlanta Woodturners Guild (AWG) was formed to provide support, ideas, and camaraderie to fellow woodturners in the metro Atlanta area. The Guild meets once a month and members are invited to display examples of their work at the instant gallery. New and established turners have the opportunity to ask questions and solve problems with other members.

At each monthly meeting a demonstration is conducted by professional turners from all over the world. It is a great opportunity to see a professional in action, ask questions and learn techniques. The AWG has a comprehensive library stocked with woodturning DVD's, and books. These items are available to the membership for a small rental fee. Members are kept informed about upcoming events and activities through this, their web site.

All interested in learning about woodturning are welcome to attend the month meetings.

## AWG Contacts

### Officers

President	Kevin Wood	co-president@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Vice President	Del Tanner	vp@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Secretary	Ken Rizza	secretary@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Treasurer	Wayne Johnson	treasurer@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Past President	Arnie Moore	past-president@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Director	Harvey Meyer	director@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Director	Jim Hardy	director@atlantawoodturnersguild.org

### Committees

Librarian	Jim Hardy	librarian@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Newsletter	Jeff Barnes	newsletter@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Programs	Harvey Meyer	programs@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Photographer	Del Tanner	photographer@atlantawoodturnersguild.org
Webmaster	Jonathan Tanner	webmaster@atlantawoodturnersguild.org

## Closing

This newsletter is published monthly by the Atlanta Woodturners Guild, (AWG). All opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Officers, or the AWG. Your AWG questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. You may contact any officer through the contact information in this newsletter, or our website's contact webpage: [www.atlantawoodturnersguild.org](http://www.atlantawoodturnersguild.org).