

## GAW March 2007 Newsletter

From: Jim Hutchinson, President

### Chris Ramsey-Hat Turning

We've seen a lot of demos, but I can't recall that any of our guest turners have shown us how to turn a hat since I've been a member. Come to this month's meeting and learn how to turn a hat. Can't recall seeing any in our instant gallery, so this will offer a challenge to our for certain.

If you are not familiar with Chris Ramsey, let me give you a little information about him. Chris was born in New York City, but now lives in Somerset, Kentucky. An award-winning wood turner, he has taken first place in a number of competitions. Of his 'Best of the Show' Fine Arts Division award at the 2000 Kentucky State Fair, Courier Journal columnist Byron Crawford wrote, "The must-see item is the cowboy hat that Somerset wood turner Chris Ramsey fashioned from a large burled white oak stump..." ([Louisville Courier Journal](#), August 18, 2000) His rapid rise to the top level of turners is easily seen in his work. Never one to remain content with what he has accomplished, Ramsey constantly seeks ways to improve his technique and efficiency as a turner. He is in demand as a clinician and frequently presents demonstrations of the fine art of wood turning. A member of the [American Association of Woodturners](#), [Southern Highland Craft Guild](#), [Kentucky Guild of Artists & Craftsmen](#), [Kentucky Art and Craft Foundation](#), [Kentucky Craft Marketing Program](#) (a program of the Kentucky Arts Council) and [Sheltowee Artisans](#), he has exhibited throughout the United States, Japan and Italy.

Additionally there will be two all day hands-on workshops on Friday, 3/16, and Saturday, 3/17 at Redmond's. Chris will teach his techniques for hat turning and students will turn a mini hat. Currently, both sessions are full, but anyone wishing to be placed on the stand-by list, should contact Harvey Meyer at [him1951@bellsouth.net](mailto:him1951@bellsouth.net).

### Jim Sibley, Program Chairman

### Presidential Chips March 2007

Our program committee has already provided us with 3 top flight demonstrators in the first quarter of this year. This month Chris Ramsey shows us how to turn a hat following demos by Pat Johnson and John Jordan. Also two hands on opportunities, so that you too may learn to turn a hat. This committee has really stepped up the pace getting first rate turners to help us advance our turning skill levels. Great work by all on the committee!

Our new web master, Steve Pritchard, has been working night and day on our web site. Check it out. There's lots of information there that you can use as a reference source and it will be growing as we move forward. Do give us any thoughts you may have for supplying any additional needs.

I encourage you to take advantage of our scholarship program. Scholarship chair, Harry Saunders, gave a stirring report at the last meeting on scholarship availability. Remember these can be used locally for instruction as well as the more intense weeks and weekends at

the more distant locations. Our meeting host, Highland Woodworking offers short courses as do Rockler/Redmond and the Dogwood Institute. We have also supplemented a portion of the hands on sessions that we frequently offer.

We have had good participation in our monthly instant gallery, however, I encourage more of you to become involved and share what you are doing. It's not a contest, so no need to be shy about what you have produced. Consider donating something to the instant gallery also. While wood is always good, it can be other turning items that you have an over supply of or no longer need.

Do be marking your calendar for the September 14-16 GAW annual woodturning event at Unicoi State Park. Harvey Meyer has added a number of new wrinkles this year and it should be better than ever. We believe we have found a way to expand the areas for holding this event and thus allow more folks the opportunity to enjoy this turning spectacular. However, there are only so many "rooms at the inn," so I know you'll want to make your reservation early to be certain of being at the Lodge itself and not off campus.

Steve Sandler has further improved organization of our ever growing DVD/tape library and is instituting a couple of changes to expedite the transactions that have to take place within a limited time period. However, Steve wants to enjoy the meeting and demo also, so please make your selections and returns only when he has the library open.

Our active member list will be finalized this month. Don't be left out. The annual membership dues of \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family is truly a bargain. And remember to invite others who have or may develop an interest in woodturning. See you on the 15th.

### **Jim**

#### **News from the AAW**

The annual Chapter Newsletter and Website contest has just been announced and all pertinent information can be found at the following link:

[http://www.woodturner.org/community/chapters/chapter\\_contests\\_2007.htm](http://www.woodturner.org/community/chapters/chapter_contests_2007.htm)

All who have participated in the past have had a lot of fun showing off their clubs talent and desire to be a part of the American Association of Woodturners. Winning chapters will be recognized at the 2007 Symposium in Portland.

Speaking of Portland, have you registered for the 2007 Symposium? There is still time and a great time is guaranteed! The following link will answer all your registration questions:

<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/>

The list of Chapters that are 100% AAW membership continues to grow and we hope your chapter will consider being a part of this growth. The many benefits of being an AAW member can be found at this link: <http://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/> and we ask if you could please pass this link on to your members or better yet, post this link on your chapter's website. The AAW now has 267 local chapters and is growing faster than ever before.

For those who may not be aware of it, the AAW has a web page with AAW products for sale: <http://www.woodturner.org/products/> and the order form for AAW products and the Limited Edition AAW 20th Anniversary Glaser gouge can be found here: <https://www.woodturner.org/org/orderform.cfm> .

Have your members visit the AAW web site at [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) to check out the "Forum", Chapters Best Practices for articles covering all aspects of running a chapter [bestpractices@woodturner.org](mailto:bestpractices@woodturner.org) and for a list of demonstrators see [http://www.woodturner.org/community/members/members\\_pro.pl](http://www.woodturner.org/community/members/members_pro.pl)

Please look for a mailing in the next 2 or 3 weeks from the AAW National office. Enclosed are 2, 3, or 4 copies (depending on the chapter size) of the American Woodturner journal for you to give out to prospective members. Our membership application is available to print out on the website at [www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/member\\_app.pdf](http://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/member_app.pdf) and the symposium forms are at [www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/2007SymRegistration.pdf](http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/2007SymRegistration.pdf)

As chair of the AAW Chapters and Membership committee, I will always be available to answer any questions you may have in regards to membership and your local chapter. Updates for the Local Chapter contacts, addresses, emails, Etc. should be sent to me or at [inquiries@woodturner.org](mailto:inquiries@woodturner.org). My contact information as well as that of the AAW board can be found here: [http://www.woodturner.org/org/staff\\_dirs.cfm](http://www.woodturner.org/org/staff_dirs.cfm).

Thank you,  
Sean Troy: AAW Chapters and Membership

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Your GAW Questions, Comments & Suggestions are Welcome

You may contact any officer through our website's contact us area  
<http://www.gawoodturner.org/contact.shtml>

GAW Mentor Program- Harvey Meyer

If you would like to volunteer to be a mentor, or if you are a novice turner and would like to find a mentor, please contact Harvey Meyer via email at [him1951@bellsouth.net](mailto:him1951@bellsouth.net) or by phone at 770 671-1080.

### **'Eight 10-Penny Nails'**

This 19" tall Grecian urn-shaped vessel was lathe-turned from Red Maple with beautiful streaks of brown and gray caused by the Ambrosia Beetle. The beetles attack and ultimately kill many of our soft maple trees in the South. But they bring with them fungi that cause the colorful streaks of color in the wood and create absolutely beautiful figure. Less than 10% of the maple

trees that we find in Georgia have this ambrosia streaking and this particular tree had the most extensive and evenly dispersed patterns that I have ever seen. The entire trunk of the tree was filled with the Ambrosia streaks.

I put this log section on the lathe and turned the outside shape without any inkling of what I would find inside. As I turned the neck of the vase I hit a steel nail. After some digging with chisels and pliers, I pulled out the 3 inch nail. Then I hit another nail near the rim of the piece. Again I was able to dig it out and continue. It was only when I began to hollow the piece that I realized that I was really in trouble. I hit another nail down inside and now it was very difficult to get it out. But, I worked at it and was finally successful. And then I hit another one. Each nail was taking me 2-4 hours to dig out using one hand, working blind, deep inside the vessel. Seventy-five years ago when this was a young tree, someone had pounded nails into it and over the years the tree had grown over them, completely hiding their existence. Perhaps the injury from the nails is what encouraged the beetle attack in the first place.

I had now devoted 4 days to this piece and because of the spectacular grain, I was not going to give up. (See photo below) And then the cutting tip of my boring bar wedged under the head of another nail. When a 300 pound piece of wood spinning at 700 rpm comes to an abrupt crashing stop, something has to give. In this case, my 1 ¼" diameter steel boring bar bent and my steel toolrest shattered with a huge "bang". Needless to say, this was quite a setback. But with the help of friends, in a couple of days I had repaired the damage and was back at work. Oh no! ...more nails. I was getting closer to the bottom of the vase and it was getting more difficult and more arduous to dig each new nail out. The final count was eight 10-penny nails and hence the name of this piece.

If I had known what I was going to encounter deep inside this vessel and that it would take me over a week and a half to hollow it, I would have never attempted it. But now it is done and I can look at this experience more philosophically. This piece to me is a metaphor of life with all its unexpected trials and tribulations. But if we persevere, we can work through anything and the result may indeed be spectacular.

Wes Jones  
Lawrenceville, GA

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**\*\*\*\*\*Upcoming Woodturning Events \*\*\*\***

**Southern States Symposium**

April 27-29, 2007- Georgia Mountains Center, Gainesville, GA  
Featuring- Bruce Bell, Soren Berger, Mike Mahoney, and Dale Nish  
Information- Marsha Barnes – [pineshingle@brmemc.net](mailto:pineshingle@brmemc.net)  
Accommodations –Hampton Inn 770-503-0300  
Additional lodging & camping [www.southernstates.org](http://www.southernstates.org)

**Georgia Association of Woodturners  
Turning Southern Style XIII**

September 14-16, 2007 at the Unicoi State Park Lodge in the mountains of North Georgia near Helen. Featured demonstrators are Stuart Mortimer, Michael Mocho, and Michael

Hosaluk.

Information: [www.gawoodturner.org](http://www.gawoodturner.org) or Harvey Meyer at 770-671-1080 or [him1951@bellsouth.net](mailto:him1951@bellsouth.net).

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### **DVD/Video Tape Library Information**

The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW) has the following instructional videos available for rental before each GAW meeting. Rentals are \$2.00 per month. Only members may rent tapes and DVDs. Rentals are limited to 2 tapes or DVDs per month, and the items must be returned the following month. Late fees of \$2.00 per month will be assessed for those not returned.

### **Woodturning Schools**

The following schools in the Southeast offer classes in woodturning, as well as other arts and crafts. Check out their websites to see the scheduled course offerings.

John C. Campbell Folk School [www.folkschool.org/](http://www.folkschool.org/)

Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts [www.arrowmont.org/](http://www.arrowmont.org/)

Highland Woodworking [www.highlandhardware.com/](http://www.highlandhardware.com/)

Appalachian Center for Crafts <http://craftcenter.tntech.edu/>

Redmond's Classes contact Tracy Pseekos [tracy@redmondmachinery.com](mailto:tracy@redmondmachinery.com)

### **And if you want instruction in Texas-**

Good day to you. As a fellow woodturner I understand the desire to have access to woodturning instructors that can sharpen our skills and take us to the next level of turning. There are limited opportunities in the U.S. for such training. There are a few places that offer great instructors and facilities, but for the cost and the number of students, it makes the decision difficult to spend the money not knowing how much individual attention you will receive. Now there is a place to receive very good instruction with a small number of students in the class.

At Canyon Studios ([www.canyonstudios.org](http://www.canyonstudios.org)) in North Texas, there is a limit of 5 students in the class and each person gets individual attention. The instructors are well known turners and artists that have established a reputation for their skills and their ability to teach. The Woodturning Administrator for [Canyon Studios](http://www.canyonstudios.org) is Jimmy Clewes from the UK, a very informative and entertaining instructor. New classes are being scheduled on a weekly basis. Please look at our website to see scheduled classes and registration form...

Thank you,  
Gene Colley  
[www.canyonstudios.org](http://www.canyonstudios.org)

### **Woodturning Instructors**

The following GAW club members give private woodturning instruction in their own shops. Contact them for more information.

Frank Bowers  
[fcbowrs@aol.com](mailto:fcbowrs@aol.com)  
404 292-1107

Phil Colson  
[pcolson@mindspring.com](mailto:pcolson@mindspring.com)  
404 518-4925

Nick Cook  
nickcook@earthlink.net  
[www.nickcookwoodturner.com](http://www.nickcookwoodturner.com)  
770 421-1212

Wes Jones  
[wjones@comcast.net](mailto:wjones@comcast.net)  
770 972-6803

Hal Simmons  
[simmonsh@mindspring.com](mailto:simmonsh@mindspring.com)  
770 381-6764

Jim Talley  
4talley@south.net  
706\_353\_7675

Jack Morse  
jack@artistic-turnings.com  
770-962-7260