

## GAW Newsletter — January 2010

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### Points of Interest

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### President's Message

As the new president of GAW, I'd like to thank Danny McCravy, the board, committees and GAW members for their efforts over the last two years.

Danny listed many of the achievements in his last president's message and I won't repeat them here except to say that much was accomplished during those two years. We have much to look forward to in the future as well.

As you can see, we have a new and improved newsletter format starting this month. First and foremost, I think it is a more readable format. In addition, the new format will allow us to include photos and other graphics to more clearly convey information. So, if you have something you can contribute, we would greatly appreciate your help. It doesn't have to be long and you don't have to be a writer to make a difference. If you need help, our editor, Doug McCulloch or I will be glad to work with you. If you find a DVD/tape from the library that helped you or you purchased a new tool that you think is great, write a review. Have something you find helpful? Write a paragraph about it. Don't do computer stuff? Put it on paper and we'll get it into the newsletter. New members and old all have knowledge and information that will help someone else in the club, so there is no excuse not to pitch in and help!

Also new with this newsletter is a section called "Meet Your Board". I've asked each of our board members and committee chairs to provide informa-

tion as to their background, when they started turning, what their interests are, etc. Most of our long time members know these people and their backgrounds, but newer members don't. I hope that this section will help our new members get to know our members more quickly.

Alan Lacer is our demonstrator this month. Alan has been involved in the turning field for over 34 years as a turner, teacher, writer, exhibition coordinator, demonstrator and past president of the American Association of Woodturners. His work has appeared in a number of regional and national exhibitions. Alan has been a regular instructor and demonstrator of the craft--having worked in all 50 states as well as 4 foreign countries. He has published over 110 articles, columns and tips, covering technical aspects of woodturning, many specific projects, stories. He has also produced five videos on his own, with three of them winning a total of five national awards.

Any suggestions to improve the club will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to discuss them with me or any board member. Your suggestions really do matter. A good example is the "Meet Your Board" section in this newsletter. It grew out of a suggestion made to me at the December meeting.

See you at the meeting,

Steve Pritchard

## Reminders, Items of Interest

### *2010 Club Dues are Due*

Remember dues for 2010 are due and are past due after February 15th. Dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family membership. Give or mail your checks to Jane McCravy.

### *2010 Atlanta Woodworking Show*

Coming up Friday, January 29th through Sunday, January 31st. See the 'Demonstrations, Events' section below for more details.

### *Thank you from Hought Wahl*

At a recent GAW meeting one of our members, Hought Wahl, spoke of a project in which he is involved. Hought, Ernie Newman of Australia and Penehuro (Ben) Papalii of the Beautiful Expressions of Nature Fine Arts Academy in Samoa are accepting the donation of tools, equipment and money for a planned trip to Samoa to train a number of Samoans to produce turned items for income to help in their recovery from tsunami devastation.

During the November meeting, a motion that the club donate \$500 to this cause was made from the floor and passed by a majority vote of those members present. On December 29th we received a letter from Hought thanking the club for their donation. The letter read as follows:

*Ben, Ernie and I thank you for your generous donation to help the Samoan people recover from the tsunami. It means a lot to us that you have chosen to give to this effort.*

*Your donation will help provide the tools and supplies needed for the training of and initial production by our students. Your help made our job easier!*

*People and donations are coming from all over the planet to help in time of need. Perhaps a small effort on the global scale, but one that will make a difference and help bind people together!*

*Thank you very much!*

*Hought*

In response to the tsunami of September 30, 2009, woodturners are contributing to train young Samoan people in production turning techniques, enabling them to sell items to tourists and export and thus a means of support. Ernie Newman and Hought Wahl are paying their own expenses - woodturning equipment, supplies and shipping are being donated by generous people and companies around the world.

Companies in the US that have donated to date: Jet (Walter Meier), Klingspor's Woodworking Shop, The Beall Tool Co., Hut Products, Wooturningz, Inc., Packard Woodworks, Woodcraft, Craft Supplies USA, TMI Products (Stickfast).

*If you would like to donate to this cause, contact Hought at 770-565-9115 or by email at: [houghtwahl@yahoo.com](mailto:houghtwahl@yahoo.com).*

### *Newsletter input request*

Any newsletter to be published is only as good as input received. Therefore, I solicit members input (Articles, News items, suggestions, etc.) to make this newsletter serve GAW members as a form of communication. I want woodturning articles, tips, product reviews and any other building blocks of content that you may have to share. Contact the editor at the following address: [editor@gawoodturner.org](mailto:editor@gawoodturner.org)

## Tips and Hints

### *Tip—Sandpaper Identification, Steve Pritchard*

When sanding small objects, I think most of us probably use the technique of cutting/tearing a sheet of sandpaper into quarters and then folding those sheets into thirds. I use Norton 3X sandpaper and, before I started using this technique, once the sheets were quartered and folded into thirds I often had difficulty identifying the grits since above 150 they're all on the same color paper. In addition, the grit is only printed in one or two places on each full sheet, so it's often not on the back of a quarter sheet.

The way I get around this is to color code the various grits. 150 is red, so it's not a problem. For 220, 320 and 400 I use red, blue and green respectively to identify them. My method is pretty simple. When I remove the sheets from the box, I use a sharpie of the appropriate color and make two lines down the length of the paper and in



## Tips and Hints – Cont.

what will be about the middle of the quarter sheets. It's not important that the lines are neat, but it is important that they run from edge to edge. That way when the quarter sheets are folded into thirds the line appears on each third.



It doesn't take much pressure to make the lines so don't press too hard. Use light pressure and the sharpie will last a long time. Press too hard and it's quickly ruined.

The lines remain vivid throughout the life of the paper and I've never had the colors transfer to a piece I'm sanding. No more hunting for the grit on the back of the paper. No more rubbing the paper and trying to decide if it's old 320 or relatively new 400.

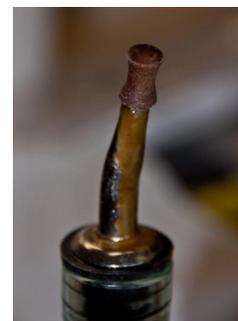


### Tip—Friction Polish, Steve Pritchard



I use a friction polish for finishing many small projects. After spilling the finish a number of times because I'm was too lazy to put the top on it after each use, I started to look for an alternative. While walking through a kitchen supply store recently, I found a small bottle intended for dispensing oils etc. It seems to work very well for friction polish too.

Since it is intended for thicker liquids, there is a tendency to dispense a little too much liquid, but with a little care it works great. There's not a way to cap the end, so I turned a small plug to seal the end when it's not in use.



## Demonstrations, Events

### 2010 Atlanta Woodworking Show

Remember the Atlanta Woodworking Show is coming up on Friday, January 29th through Sunday, January 31st at the North Atlanta Trade Center. [Click here for a map to the show.](#)

Admission is \$10.00. For more information on the vendors and the show itself, [click here.](#)

### 2013 AAW symposium

Atlanta will host the 2013 AAW symposium. Tentatively to be held at the Galleria.

### 2010 AAW Symposium

The 2010 AAW Symposium will be in Hartford, Connecticut June 18 - 20, 2010, and it will be just as much fun as Albuquerque, if not more! We will have a great slate of demonstrators and panelists again, including Hans Weissflog from Germany, Christian Delhon from France, Jimmy Clewes and Joey

Richardson from England, Glenn Lucas from Ireland, Graeme Priddle from New Zealand, Michael Fortune from Canada, and a host of demonstrators from the USA, including Trent Bosch, Cindy Drozda, Sharon Doughtie, Mark St. Leger, Peter Bloch, Peter Exton, Stephen Gleasner, John Jordan, Michael Kehs, and more. See you in Hartford!

The call for additional demonstrators is on the AAW web site. To apply to be a demonstrator, visit the AAW web site at [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) and submit an application. Hartford will be a wonderful venue, with exceptional facilities including the Connecticut Convention Center, many nearby hotels, and a host of points of interest including historic sites, cultural and scenic venues, shopping and restaurants. Don't miss it! It's going to be fun!

Tom Wirsing,  
Chairperson, Symposium Planning Committee . [tom@woodturner.org](mailto:tom@woodturner.org).

*"Where else can you meet and mingle with the greatest, friendliest, and most sharing group of woodturners in the world?"*

## DVD/Video Tape Library

The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW) has instructional videos available for rental before each GAW meeting. A full list of the videos is shown on our website. Only members may rent tapes and DVDs. Rentals are \$2.00 per month. Rentals are limited to 2

*Take advantage of this valuable and money saving resource.*

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 each item not returned on time. New titles are being added every month!

## 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.highlandwoodworking.com](http://www.highlandwoodworking.com)

Appalachian Center for Crafts [www.tntech.edu/craftcenter](http://www.tntech.edu/craftcenter)

Dogwood Institute School of Fine Woodworking [www.dogwoodwoodworking.com](http://www.dogwoodwoodworking.com)

## 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  
404 292-1107

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

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

*Take your skills to the next level. Have more fun.*

Jack Morse  
[johnmorse@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnmorse@bellsouth.net)  
770 316-7941

Peggy Schmid  
[schmidgodfrey@bellsouth.net](mailto:schmidgodfrey@bellsouth.net)  
678 947-4562

Mark Sillay  
[barmark@comcast.net](mailto:barmark@comcast.net)  
404 556-1736

## Meet the Board & Committee Chairs

### President—Steve Pritchard



Steve was born in a very small town in South Dakota in the late 40's and grew up on his parents' farm there. In 1970, he received a BS from South Dakota State University and moved to Texas to enter the Air Force pilot training program. After graduation, he became a T-38 pilot and then an instructor at the pilot training school in San Antonio, Texas.

Flying the T-38 was like flying a Ferrari! Since leaving the Air Force, he held jobs in sales and teaching and in 1995 he moved to the Atlanta area to become the IT manager for the US District Court in Atlanta from which he retired in December 2007.

He developed an interest in working with wood while working on the family farm. His father was one of those people that can look at a few examples, talk to a few people and then build it. He helped his father build pole barns, cattle sheds and even a grain elevator. His grandparents gave his 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 he doesn't think his father knew about at the time, was as a lathe. He and his brother managed to turn pine 2x2's into rough cylinders using the Shopsmith and one of his father's wood chisels. It was great fun! Miraculously, they survived the experience and it stuck with him for over forty years. The Shopsmith has also survived. Steve's brother still continues to use it after fifty years!

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

He has graduated from a basement shop to half of a four car garage. He has also graduated to a Powermatic 3520 after wearing out the Craftsman. Favorite woods include Bradford Pear, Maple and Boxelder to name a few. Those woodturners that have most influenced his work include John Jordan, Al Stirt and Stuart Mortimer.

Steve has found woodturning to be a medium for expression. Like everything in nature, each piece of wood has its own character. Each piece is much like every other piece of that species, but each also has its own personality and appeal. He finds few things in life more enjoyable and satisfying than seeing that personality emerge from a large wet chunk of wood and doing his best to bring out its beauty and character. The process of exposing that inner beauty is in many ways, the most enjoyable part of the process. Listening to the hiss of a sharp gouge as it peels away wet shavings and watching them fly in a long arc to finally land in a huge pile is a singular experience. He says sometimes it's difficult to remember that the original purpose was to make something useful and beautiful and not to just make shavings. However, in the end, Steve says we need to remember that the tree spent a lifetime developing its unique qualities and we should try to preserve rather than destroy the fruits of that effort. For more information see [www.stevepritchardwoodturning.com](http://www.stevepritchardwoodturning.com).

### Vice President—Jimmy Lee



Born in Atlanta in 1960, Jimmy Lee first studied photography and worked in the family photo studio. His documentary photo work garnered awards and has been exhibited in several Atlanta galleries.

Lee has always enjoyed working with his hands, and while working as a photographer, Lee acquired skills in home building and working with wood.

In 2007, Jimmy encountered the woodturning art of master craftsman Mark Sillay. He was inspired by the extraordinary varieties of wood color and texture, and soon acquired a lathe of his own. He discovered deep satisfaction and creative expression as he quickly progressed in this discipline and began creating his own wood forms and vessels.

In his third year, Lee had work represented in four Atlanta galleries and was accepted into four juried arts festivals including the Dogwood, Atlanta's oldest and largest arts festival. His woodturning was showcased by Fox News at the 2009 Virginia Highland Summerfest.

## *Meet the Board & Committee Chairs — cont.*

Also in 2009, Lee was awarded a scholarship by the Georgia Association of Woodturners to mentor under master woodturner Mark Sillay. For more info click [www.jimmylee.biz](http://www.jimmylee.biz).

### **Newsletter Editor—Doug McCulloch**

Doug grew up in Tampa, Florida and after high school enlisted in the Navy as a Seabee where he learned plumbing and refrigeration. After leaving the Navy he moved to Atlanta and got a BBA degree from Georgia State University.

He has been turning for about 2 years now and has been a member of the GAW for all of that time. He has been working with wood off and on for many years, but was looking for a more creative activity than basic furniture making. Woodturning provides a challenge and allows him to explore his creative nature while making items of value and beauty (hopefully).



So far Doug only has a Jet 1220 Mini-lathe due to space constraints in his home shop, but he aspires to a Powermatic 3520 someday when he has a place to put it. Some of his favorite woods to work with are Ambrosia Maple,

Pecan, Elm, Mesquite, and any burl, crotch, or spalted hardwood. He has been focusing on improving his technique, making hollow vessels and recently wood burning.

Doug is an IT professional by day. He lives in Marietta (West Cobb). He has been married for 25 wonderful years to his wife Anne and he has 2 children, Natalie who just graduated from UGA, and Brad who is a junior at UT.

If you want to know more about Doug, corner him at any GAW meeting or , check out [www.dougmcculloch.com](http://www.dougmcculloch.com).

*More to come in the next issue....*

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

Highland Woodworking  
1045 North Highland Avenue NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306  
Phone: (404) 872-4466  
E-mail: [Customer Service](mailto:Customer Service)

*The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW) is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), dedicated to providing education, information and organization to those interested in woodturning.*

*The GAW services those in the metro-Atlanta area. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at [Highland Woodworking](#) in Virginia Highlands. Meetings are open to all.*

*Enter through the loading dock at the rear of the building and go upstairs. Highland Woodworking closes at 6:00 P.M. on Thursdays, so come early and shop.*

<b>Name, Position</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email address</b>
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Jimmy Lee, Vice President	404-456-5258	<a href="mailto:vp@gawoodturner.org">vp@gawoodturner.org</a>
Jane McCravy, Treasurer	770-949-6372	<a href="mailto:treasurer@gawoodturner.org">treasurer@gawoodturner.org</a>
Linda Britt, Secretary	770-947-3457	<a href="mailto:secretary@gawoodturner.org">secretary@gawoodturner.org</a>
Jim Hardy, Member at Large	770-992-4195	<a href="mailto:board1@gawoodturner.org">board1@gawoodturner.org</a>
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Danny McCravy, Member at Large	770-949-6372	<a href="mailto:board3@gawoodturner.org">board3@gawoodturner.org</a>
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## Closing

This newsletter is published monthly by the Georgia Association of Woodturners, (GAW). All opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Officers, or the GAW.

Woodturning Schools and Instructors listed in this Newsletter are not recommended or endorsed by the GAW, but are made available to the GAW members and others as a convenience only.

Your GAW questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. You may contact any officer through our website's contact webpage:

[www.gawoodturner.org/contact.shtml](http://www.gawoodturner.org/contact.shtml)