Greetings!

TURNING OF THE WEEK

Cynthia Carden Gibson
and Laurent Niclot

Tea in Bloom

5.5"

Holly, pyrography, acrylic, ink, gold leaf

WEEKLY PICKS:
CONTEMPLATE COLLABORATION

Woodturning doesn't have to be a solitary process. Collaborating with others can be
an energizing and inspiring experience. It can open your eyes and push you in new, unexplored directions. When combining multiple artistic voices, the result can often be more than the sum of its parts. This week’s picks are intended to encourage you to blend vision and voices by collaborating with others.

Ray Key Collaboration

One outstanding example of a collaborative project is the Ray Key Collaboration. After Ray Key passed away, his wife, Liz, with the help of others, found countless partly turned items in his workshop. After discussion with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB), it was agreed that these pieces would be sent to internationally renowned turners to finish in their own style. The resulting 124 pieces were exhibited and are being sold at auction. The proceeds from the sale will be divided between Liz Key and the AWGB. All the finished pieces have been photographed and are in the process of being auctioned off. The auction closes October 13th 19:00 BST. Browse the auction collection.

Articles of the Week

In his article, "A Bridge in Time: Reflections on Creative Evolution," from the June 2017 issue of American Woodturner, Steve Loar explains that the adrenaline rush of creative problem-solving, exploration, and risk is at the core of why he makes things. He further describes collaborations that helped to feed his exploration and evolution as an artist.

Click here for a direct link to the article.

Jim Christiansen and Gerrit Van Ness have collaborated to present the article, "Aiming for Quality in Design," from the Summer 2004 issue of American Woodturner. The article offers a list of...
design concepts or principles that the turner can embrace to assess the quality of a particular design. It's their hope that by looking critically at a piece of work while considering each item on the list, you will produce better work.

Click here for a direct link to the article.

Video of the Week

Al Stirt demonstrates his techniques for creating square and carved platters at a meeting of the Woodturners Guild of North Carolina.

Al Stirt Carved Square Platters (TRT 1:30:19)

Quotes of the Week

"Collaborations should never be forced and not all ventures in the process are necessarily going to succeed. Experimentation without inhibition can lead to a fruitful experience. But more importantly, the finished work needs to have the voice of
"When you create something, you're likely to regard it as precious. Handing a work over to someone else involves release and trust. You have to let go not only of the piece but what you might do with the piece. You have to allow for the possibility that another craftsperson might do something at least as valuable as you might, or maybe not. If what your collaborator does is no different from what you would do, there would be no point in collaborating. Your collaborator must have a vision different from yours. The work should not only reflect both of you (or all - however many there are) but should be more than the sum of its parts. The best work will come from compatible spirits and common commitment to quality; it will be a unique blend of all who do the making."
- Mark Sfirri, American Woodturner, December 1993

SEE YOUR STORY IN KEEP TURNING
Has your chapter done something extraordinary to promote woodturning in your community? Have you participated in an awesome woodturning event? Do you have fantastic woodturning photos as well? Sent your short story and photos to AAW at memberservices@woodturner.org.

ERNIE SHAFFER, 98, WW II VETERAN, KEEPS TURNING
Ernie Shaffer has been around wood his entire life... In Oro Valley, Arizona, Ernie is known as the guy in his 90s, sprinkled with sawdust, who creates beautiful things in his woodworking shop, formerly a one-car garage... He is largely self-taught as a woodturner, but he shares his knowledge with friends and family... Ernie's son, Ron, who lives in California, has a lathe identical to Ernie's, and he also is now an accomplished turner. Ernie has made a variety of things: Bowls, chip and dip sets, platters, cracker trays, salt and pepper sets, pendants, and bangle bracelets. He is generous with his work, making pens for servicemen overseas and bowls for Beads of Courage, a program for seriously ill children. He has donated pieces for several charity auctions. He doesn't sell his work; he gives it all away to family and friends. At the age of 98, Ernie is still producing beautiful wood pieces. He belongs to the Desert Woodcrafters and to the Southern Arizona Woodturners Association. He spends less time in his shop than he used to; he gets tired. He's earned a little rest.

Read the full article, "Ernie Shaffer, 98 Years Old and a World War II Veteran," by Teree Bergman and photos by Kayla Funk, from the July 2019 issue of The Heart of Oro Valley.
PENS FOR PURPLE HEART PATIENTS

The Southern Arizona Woodturners Association, Inc., and the Desert Woodcrafters chapters have delivered 180 pens to the VA Hospital in Tucson in only the last nine months. The hospital distributes the pens to Purple Heart Recipients who are patients.

Pictured above from left to right are, Mandy Martell, MHA CAVS Chief, Voluntary Services; Paul Swane; Nicole Thurston, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Visual Information Specialist; and Ken Tower, representing both clubs.

WWW TURNS TEN

The Worland Wyoming Woodturners (WWW) chapter is celebrating its 10th year in existence and has marked the occasion by turning boxes for the Beads of Courage program. One member, Jodi Bennett, notes, "Over the past several years, the colorful characters that make up the Worland Wyoming Woodturners have earned top status in my heart as dear friends, mentors, and teachers. Our meetings are an amazing break to do something I love with people that share the same passion. My life has been so blessed by the Worland Wyoming Woodturners. I can honestly call my club family!"

Pictured above right are members of the Worland Wyoming Woodturners, with their Beads of Courage boxes. From left: Canton Green, Dave Morgan, Doug Hepp, Jodi Bennett, Sam Angelo, Don Day, Mike Patrick, and Ryan Green.
A LIFE'S WORK: THE PHILOSOPHY OF A CRAFTSMAN (TRT 17:03)
This video is a documentary short by British Filmmaker Ben Spilling. Released in 2018, the film's primary subject, Peter Korn, founder and Executive Director of the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship (CFC), discusses the challenges and rewards of craft. The film includes commentary from CFC instructors Tom Caspar, Aaron Fedarko, Beth Ireland, Tim Rousseau, and Craig Satterlee, as well as gallerist Bebe Johnson and manufacturer Thomas Moser. Click here to watch video.

2019 EOG RECIPIENT: GIRL SCOUTS
"The Girl Scouts mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place." Woodturning provides a wonderful opportunity for all three - courage to try something new, confidence that they can do it, and the character that comes with trying, failing and trying again.

Two years ago, Girl Scouts had no organized opportunities for girls to learn proper use of power tools. With the help of AAW and the local Minnesota Woodturners Association (MWA), an AAW chapter http://www.mnwoodturners.com/, Girl Scouts now has an avenue to explore the lathe through woodturning. In 2018, with the help of the MWA, Girl Scout adult volunteers and high school age Girl Scouts experienced turning. The adult volunteers enjoyed turning as much as the girls. We realized that if
we had equipment for the adults to practice on, we could get more women involved and these women could help with chapter Girl Scout woodturning classes. An AAW EOG grant provided woodturning equipment for training and practice of registered adult Girl Scout volunteers in the Minneapolis Lakes Service Unit, Woodbury Service Unit, and Pine Tree Ridge Service Unit. The goal of the equipment continues to be to teach basic lathe safety, operation, and basic spindle turning to adult volunteers. In turn, these adults will then assist experienced woodturners during local AAW chapter classes for high school Girl Scouts. As the adult volunteers progress in their skill, they can become teachers and active members of local AAW chapters." Natalie Broshar, Minneapolis Lakes Girl Scouts

AAW Grants are available to individuals, chapters, schools, and non-profit organizations. Regular AAW Grants are awarded on an annual basis. To be eligible, applications must be received by December 31 for grants given in the following year. However, Women in Turning (WIT) grants and others for under-represented populations, events, and exhibitions are awarded quarterly. Learn more about AAW's grant opportunities.

The August 2019 issue of Woodturning FUNdamentals is available online. The issue includes tips on how to cut wood precisely with a skew chisel, finding and fixing lathe vibration, and sizing gauges for scroll chucks. You’ll learn about the domestic hardwood, walnut, and eight great surface finishes. Click here to view the current issue.

The October 2019 issue of American Woodturner includes the following features: Firewood Table Lamp, Epoxy Clay Adds Texture and Flair, A Closer Look at Ornament Finials, Low Back Pain and the Woodturner, and Jerry Bennett: Sculpture that Resonates, to name a few. Click here to view the current issue.
Save the Date! June 4-7, 2020

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

SAVE THE DATE: STEP UP, ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO HAVE A BALL AT

AAW’S 34TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
Louisville, Kentucky • June 4-7, 2020

STEP UP!

Step up, accept the challenge to up your game. You’ll find experts from around the globe who will share their techniques and insights to help you bring your woodturning abilities to the next level. For a complete listing of Symposium demonstrators, visit tiny.cc/Louisville2020.

You’ll find demonstrations targeted to your skill level and areas of interest.

Over three-and-a-half days, you’ll have 100+ compelling presentations to choose from to help you enrich your woodturning experience, including:

• Bowls & Platters
• Embellishment, Finishing, Carving, Design
• Segmented Work
• Tool Making & Tool Handling
• Pens
• Hollow Forms & Boxes
• Inspiration, Creativity, Narratives
• Small Treasures
• Spindles, Finials, Multiaxis Work
• Useful Panel Topics

SYMPOSIUM FACILITY
Kentucky Expo Center
937 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209

Louisville, Kentucky’s largest city, sits on the Ohio River along the Indiana border. Baseball is celebrated at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, where Major League bats are produced and a giant baseball “slugger” marks the entrance. Save the date and make this trip a highlight for 2020!

Mark Sfirri, Rejected from the Bat Factory

Watch for updated information at tiny.cc/Louisville2020. Or scan the QR code.
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
LOOK CLASSY YET CASUAL.
THE AAW DENIM SHIRT.

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