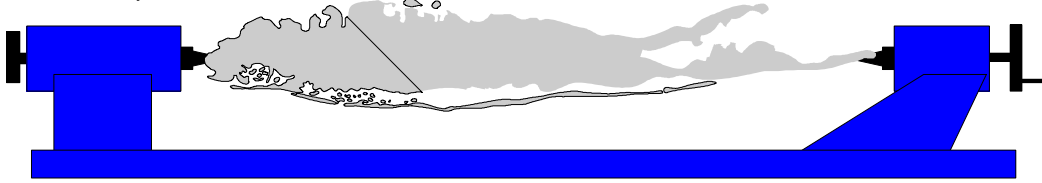


Long Island Woodturner's Association



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Long Island Woodturner's Association

LIWA is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Our purpose is to foster a wider interest and appreciation of woodturning on Long Island and in the metropolitan area. We meet the third Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM to Noon at BOCES, Wilson Tech Campus in Dix Hills. See the calendar for scheduled meetings for 2005 in our current club newsletter.

Directions

Take the LIE to Exit 51 (Deer Park Ave). Go east on the Service Road 1 block and turn right onto Westminister Ave. Turn left into BOCES Wilson Tech Campus and go to Building "D".

2005 Club Officers

President	Ken Deaner	(516) 239-7257
Vice President	Steve Fulgoni	(631) 421-8664
Secretary/Newsletter	John Kowalchuk	(631) 234-1999
Treasurer	Joe DeMaio	(516) 766-5189
Program Chairman	Joel Rackower	(631) 462-1186
Librarian	Doug Ruggiero	(631) 981-6775

The Club offers a wide range of opportunities for its members to improve their turning techniques and enjoy the company of other turners. There are demonstrations at our Club meetings. Renowned guest turners do 6-hour workshops several times during the year at a nominal expense to club members. A free video and text library is available for their use. Members are invited to participate in our monthly wood raffle. All members are encouraged to bring samples of recent work to our 'SHOW & TELL' and become active participants. The Club participates in the American Association of Woodturners and encourages its members to join our parent organization. Many members attend their yearly symposium.

Visit our Club's website and meet our members at **www.liwoodturners.org**. Our site is maintained by **Marty Mandelbaum** who you can e-mail at **marty@mhmoandp.com**.

CLUB CALENDAR

February 19, 2005 - **Steve Fulgoni**

March 19, 2005 - **John Kowalchuk**

April 16, 2005 - **Your Turn to Turn** - Hands on turning---Bring your tools, mini-lathes, and questions about turning

Mid-Monthly Meetings Begin

On January 4, 2005, the Club held its first mid-month meeting at Bob Brady's house in Dix Hills and was attended by twelve members. The meetings are open to all club members. This type of informal gathering is intended to promote and generate ideas for future monthly meetings. It will also provide a forum for members to discuss issues related to woodturning including the use of various woodturning tools, methods of approaching a woodturning project plus an opportunity for members to pose any questions or problems encountered in woodturning regardless of the member's experience level.

If you would like to attend, please bring your turning tools, perhaps a work in progress and a chair for your comfort. **The next mid-month meeting is Feb. 1, 9:00 a.m. at Bob Brady's house, 427 Wolf Hill Rd., Dix Hills.**

December Demonstration

With Alan Russo suffering with a winter cold and unable to do our Club's December demonstration, Joel Rakower persuaded, cajoled, strongly encouraged, politely asked (or one of the above) Bob Brady to fill in for the ailing Alan.

Bob, in his inimitable style, led an informative and entertaining demonstration. Before deciding to turn a natural edge bowl, Bob asked 4 members in attendance to offer their ideas on how the wood blank could be developed. Each of the four had different thoughts. After some discussion of the pros and cons of the particular wood blank, a natural edge bowl was chosen. Bob, along with the contribution of several members, demonstrated several methods of mounting a blank, shaping the outside and

forming a tenon for the chuck to hold the bowl while the inside was being hollowed.

Bob encouraged us to take some time to study the blank and look at the possibilities of what could be done before jumping in and grabbing the chisels. Each piece of wood offers unique possibilities and with some thought, may come a pleasing and efficient use of the wood.



Bob and Gordon shaping a bowl

During the turning process, Bob invited many members to come to the lathe and turn for a minute or two. He did a wonderful job of encouraging and guiding members on various techniques including tool position at the lathe. Thanks for filling in admirably and providing the group with a worthwhile learning experience.



Safety note: Use tailstock for added support

Thoughts By Bob Brady

Ken Deaner has hit the ground with both feet running. The first of his mid-monthly meetings was held on January 4, and it was a smash hit. I'm sure that John will write it up in greater detail elsewhere in this issue. To get the ball rolling at our first mid-month meeting, Ken asked the 12 attendees to go around the room and talk about their occupations, background, and how they were introduced to woodturning. This was a great

start, and members who seldom speak at the regular meetings became quite eloquent and offered good suggestions as to what activities this group should pursue.

I found this experience quite reminiscent of the very first meeting of the club 14 years ago. Living in a society, which appears to be intent on depersonalizing the individual, it was heart-warming to be in the midst of a group of people who care about each other and actually want to share their thoughts. I sat there wondering what else we might do to foster this kind of a relationship and strike a blow against depersonalization. It then dawned on me that we might start a column in the newsletter offering short biographies of the members. A few days later I spoke to Ken about it, and he gave this idea his blessing. I then spoke to John, and he agreed to include such a column in the newsletter. We also agreed that it would probably be a periodic column, not necessarily appearing every month. For the moment we also agreed that I would start writing up the biographies from the charter member end and John would start from the other end with newest members. We will then meet in the middle in about six years. By the way, if the spirit moves you, let John know if you want to get in on the writing, even if it's your own biography you wish to compose.

Obviously, a column like this had to have a name, so I called it "Bioturnings" a word I coined for the occasion. To begin, the very first Bioturning will feature the founder of our Club, **Al Gruntwagin**.

BIOTURNINGS

As it turns out, **Al Gruntwagin** was born in that all-American city, Brooklyn, NY-sometime back. He attended Erasmus Hall High School and after graduation, entered the Coast Guard in July of 1945. The war ended in August of 1945, and the Coast Guard released him after 10 months of service. Al then applied for admission to Oswego State Teachers College and Brooklyn College. You must remember that at this time the colleges were all swamped with applications from veterans on the G.I. Bill of Rights. The older applicants were given preference, and Al was told that he would have to wait 18 months to begin his schooling.

Consequently, he went to work for his father in the produce business. That year the family went to Florida. As usual, Al was minding his own business when one day this beautiful young thing named Renee appeared on the scene. In due course, Al realized that he couldn't get through life unless he shared about 20,000 breakfasts with Renee, so they got married in 1949.

After a couple of years Al got drafted, since he didn't have enough service time and they had no children yet. He managed to reenlist in the Coast Guard, where he served another three years. After discharge in December 1954, Al started a tire recapping business in Mineola in February 1955. The business prospered for 30 years, and Al retired in 1985. Along the way he and Renee had one son and one daughter.

Al's love of wood started at a very young age. His father used to bring home produce in wooden crates. (How many of you remember those days?) Al would take the boxes apart and make different things from the wood. He did well in the grammar school shop course. Al then joined the Flatbush Boys Club. From time to time they would bring demonstrators and lecturers to introduce the boys to various activities. One time they brought in a sculptor. The boys were told to bring in a bar of Ivory Soap to carve. Al flunked out on this one. He couldn't draw a shape and couldn't carve it. (Sounds like somebody close to me.)

One day the demonstrator was a woodturner. After the demo, Al put a piece of wood on the lathe and turned a small bowl using a scraper. He still remembers the thrill of changing the shape of that first block of wood. He knew that one day he would become a woodturner. The pressure of business repressed this desire for 30 years. In 1985 Al finally bought a small Delta lathe and began to turn wood. Later, when he needed a bigger lathe, he sold the Delta to Joe DeMaio.

The next step was a formal three-day course with Russ Zimmerman in Putney, VT. (Russ probably introduced about 3,000 people to woodturning over the years.) This was followed by a course with David Ellsworth at Arrowmount. This all happened at the time when the AAW was formed and Al became a founding member. David Ellsworth became the first president. This is why Al knows everybody in the turning community. It is quite an experience to tag along with Al at an AAW convention. All of a sudden you are on a first-name basis with all of the big guys who write the feature articles in the AAW Journal.

Back in 1990, Al decided that he would like to start an AAW Chapter on Long Island. He tried to get a list of AAW members, but the records were in turmoil. He finally called Zimmerman and got a list of former students that Russ had from Long Island. The organizational meeting took place in Lou Howard's barn in Amityville. Al was the president for the first two years, until he moved to Florida in 1992. He then proceeded to form the Palm Beach County Woodturners Club, which now boasts about 100 members.

More than anyone else, Al set the tone for what this club would become. He is one of the most competent woodturners I have personally known. He is very knowledgeable and is always willing to share his knowledge. He is available to help with any problem at any time and is always willing to share his latest crop of wood. I can't imagine if this club would even exist, were it not for Al's initiative. Thank you Al!!

Bob Brady

Club Meeting- January 15, 2005

- A **Club dinner** for members and their spouses/significant others was discussed. It could be held at a local church where appropriate facilities could provide a tasty dinner and the atmosphere for a pleasurable evening. The cost was estimated to be around \$25. More info to follow.
- A **"friendly competition"** will be held at the February meeting. Members are asked to bring a completed candlestick, or matching pair. The size, shape/design is of the turner's choosing. Use your imagination and time to contribute this February's "Show & Tell".
- Treasurer **Joe DeMaio** reported that the Club's treasury balance is \$1,906.04
- New Club website is **liwoodturners.org** Please visit the site to get up to date info and Club happenings. Digital photos of your turnings can be displayed on the site. For more info, see site manager **Marty Mandelbaum**.
- A heartfelt **'Get Well'** to **Peter Schultheiss** who is recovering from recent hip replacement surgery. We all hope that Pete is back to turning and attending meetings soon.
- **Attendees** :Ken Deaner, Joe DeMaio, Gordon Thomsen, Bob Brady, Bob Fentress, John Kowalchuk, Bob Kaplan, Joel Rakower, Marty Mandelbaum, Pam Vogt, Martin Rost, Jim Feuerbach, Arnold Winters, Jim Diamond, Grahm Kelly, Scott Edwin, Jim Cleary, Carl Saenger, Charles Panzer, Bob Urso, Peter Stolz, Norm Abrams, Josh Barbanel, Sandee Larsen, Steve Fulgoni, Peter Richichi, John Wagner, Doug Ruggiero
- Demonstrator's are needed for the upcoming **Long Island Woodworker's Association** show **April 9-10** at Hofstra. Lathes are provided and a

demonstrator can work on a project of their choosing. Demos are one hour in length and are fun as the attending public is quite interested and curious in the process of woodturning.

Anyone interested should contact **Norm Abrams**.

Bob Urso, President of the Long Island Woodworker's Assoc. and a member of L.I.W.A., has graciously offered to raffle completed pieces by our Club members to the public attending. Profits from this raffle will go to our club. Please donate a piece or two if you can. See **Martin Rost** or **Norm Abrams** with your donations.

The Wilson Technical Center (B.O.C.E.S.) is the organization that allows our Club to use the facilities at no charge. In the past to show our appreciation for their generosity, our Club members have donated completed pieces for an auction held by B.O.C.E.S. for it's staff. This is a goodwill gesture by our Club. Please donate any piece that you can for this auction. The people at B.O.C.E.S. are thrilled with and appreciate any and all works that are donated. See **Norm Abrams** with you contribution.



Another piece by Joel R.



Textured, painted platter, bowl w/ foot and handle by Ken D.

Show & Tell

We encourage members to bring in their recent work to stimulate ideas and conversations amongst club members. These typically include beginner through advanced turnings.



Burned, textured & gold leafed piece by Joel R.



Large textured & painted hollow form by Pam V.



Very large burl bowl by John



Container with carved feet, textured & painted by Ken D.



Cherry burl natural edge wide lip bowls by Carl S.



Club members enjoying show & tell

Hosting A Guest Turner

Several times each year, our Club invites a renowned wood turner to give a full day workshop/demonstration. The expense for these guest turners is considerable. To help defray some of the cost, Club members have offered to "host" a turner for the weekend.

Members usually provide transportation to and from the airport, and provide accommodations at their house for the turner's stay.

I had the opportunity to host a turner a while back and found it to be a fun and informative weekend. The turner will usually have time to talk "woodturning" on a personal basis and you may get some "one on one" time with this expert turner on your lathe.

Joel Rakower is our Program Chairman and, for years, has done a tireless job of researching, selecting and arranging for our guest turner's. Joel often hosts guest turners when no other host is available. If you would like to be a host, contact **Joel** or **President Ken Deaner**.

Congratulations to **Ken Deaner** on leading an interesting first meeting as our Club President for 2005. Ken did an outstanding job serving as our Club Secretary for many years. His creative newsletter was timely and informative each month with Ken often offering his cogent thoughts on woodturning.

*Photos by Marty M.