



SLIGHTLY

SKEWED

Journal of the Glendale Woodturners Guild

Volume 32, Number 4 – April, 2024

NEXT MEETING

Second Sunday

April 14, 2024

HOW TO FIND US

SUNDAY MEETING

2:00 pm

We've started meetings again at our new site:

American Legion Hall
4011 La Crescenta Ave.,
La Crescenta 91214

Corner of La Crescenta Ave and Manhattan Ave.
Parking lot is small, so if you can, park on the street so people that are unable to walk far can use the lot. ***You can also park in the Church lot next door (downhill side)***

Meetings consist of announcements, a feature presentation, a Challenge, Show & Tell and a wood raffle (except for December). We're slowly getting back to many of the pre-Covid activities.

Challenge: Rolling Ball

**Presentation: Beads of Courage Boxes
by Bob Clark**

Bill Haskell Presentation

At the March meeting, **Bill Haskell** shared how he had entered two pieces into the "Common Roots" juried show for the American Association of Woodturners 2024 International Symposium. He shared one piece, "*Small Bang*," at our February meeting and the second piece, "*Leaf Symphony*," at the March meeting.



The AAW guidance for complying with the exhibit theme, “*Common Roots*,” is: “As always, artists are encouraged to interpret the theme for themselves, but here are a few jumping off points for getting the creative wheels spinning: “*Common Roots*” could refer to our shared connections through craft, culture, heritage, foods, our role in the ecosystem, human community, or roots as symbols of strength or an actual material.”

“*Small Bang*” is a turned and carved ironbark eucalyptus piece with pyrographed circular spiral designs, exterior black dyed and dry-brushed with blue iridescent acrylic paint. The narrative **Bill** developed for “*Small Bang*” is: “Our very being and worldly roots go back a long time, maybe as far back as our galaxy formation and the big bang from whence it all started. As a part of that early phenomenon, this is just a small bang.”

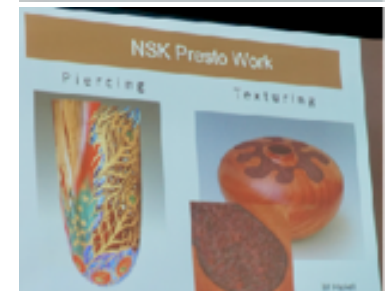
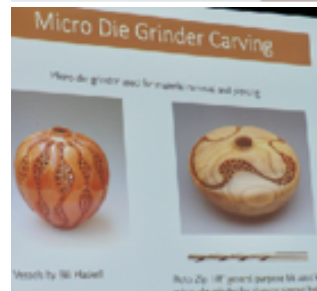
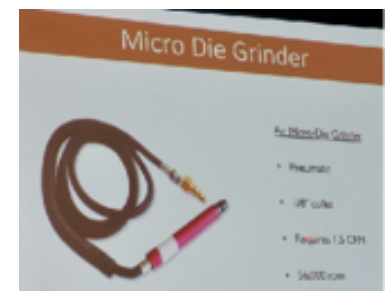
“*Leaf Symphony*” is a turned and carved ash hollow form with a pyrographed leaf pattern, dyed black, and dry-brushed with green and blue iridescent acrylic paint. The theme narrative for the piece is: “*We all acquire essential nourishment from our roots, whether water for botanical life, or values and knowledge for human life. In the case of trees and plants, the roots transport water through the stem, trunk, or limbs, to the leaves. In turn, the leaves produce oxygen which is released into the atmosphere that we breathe. What an essential and wonderful part roots and leaves play in our lives.*”

Bill also entered a piece last year in the 2023 AAW International Symposium juried exhibit, “*Out of the Woods*.” His piece was a turned, carved, and black-dyed hollow ash form. It was entitled “*Contours and Crevices*,” and he related it to the theme with the statement: “*Free-flowing contours emerge from jagged crevices in this piece as if they were majestic winding rivers coming ‘out of the woods’ from streams and their turbulent rapids.*” He was surprised when told the piece earned the top award of “*Master’s Choice*” and a very nice cash award.



Bill's presentation at the March meeting was in part a reprise of a presentation he did for us in 2012. He covered a number of the tools that he uses and also others available for carving, texturing and pyrography. He emphasized the importance of practicing on either flat boards or old pieces to get the techniques down, as well as determine what effects you like.

In addition to a Powerpoint presentation, he did a little "hands on" demo of carving and burning techniques. He also brought along a number of his decorated pieces to show



CHALLENGE

The Challenge for **March** was "*Carved Item*"

In the **Beginner** category, the winner was **Sarah Livingstone** with her Honey Pot, complete with bee. Cherry, turned, carved & printed, acrylic, Tried and True finish.



There was only one entrant in **Intermediate**, so it was bumped to **Advanced**, where **Scott Johnston** took top honors with his carved plate, feet included. Alder, blue dye, burnt umber glaze.



Mark Ashley had a rather large black walnut carving



Sarah Livingstone also had a "maple leaf sampler" of cherry; turned, carved, painted with acrylic dry brush color, Tried & True finish.



Tiprin Follett's basswood candle holder had acrylic paint and gilder's paste.



Carey Caires had a holly vase, paint & ink.



Mike Toth's carved ash bowl was finished with walnut oil.



Some tea light holders finished with walnut oil by **Mike Toth**



Peter O'Colmain had a vase of avocado, lacquer finish.



President **Thomas Cassidy** gave us a wet-turned eucalyptus carved bowl, Bill's hooch finish.



Judges were: **Bill Loitz, Jim Schopper.**

Challenges for 2024

Amy and **PJ** stepped up to give us a list of challenges for the upcoming year.

(I understand this involved casting several horoscopes, reading mystic runes, and probing the intestines of a goat.)

Apr- *Rolling Ball*

May- *Alternative Material*

Jun- *Beads of Courage*

Jul- *Spinning Top*

Aug- *Fix a Failure*

Sep- *Footed or Legged turning*

Oct- *Finial Box*

Nov- *Jewelry*

So now someone else has to step up and arrange presentations related to the challenges or unrelated like a generic sharpening demo. (Not every challenge needs a preceding presentation.)

Amy and PJ

Meeting Dates for 2024

Usually second Sunday of the Month, with a couple exceptions.

April 14

May 19 *(moved due to Mother's Day)*

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October 13

November 10

December 8 (Potluck and Auction)

SHOW AND TELL

Mark Fitzsimmons had a multi-center piece of walnut burl, and another one with carved fake termite holes. Water based poly finish.



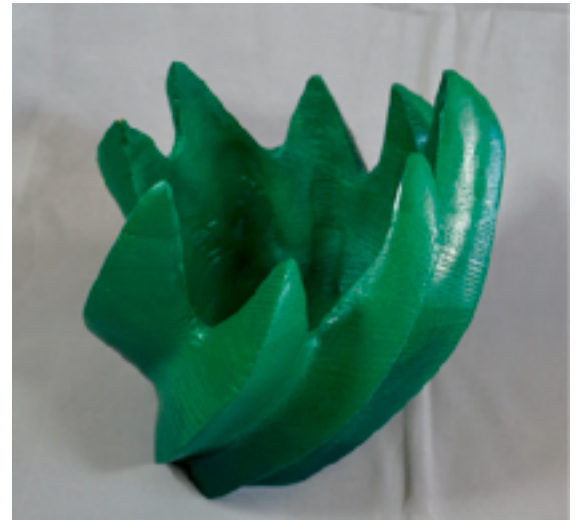
Mike Toth had a bowl finished with walnut oil.



James Hurst had a blue gum eucalyptus bowl with shellac finish, and a "Crown of Thorns" fashioned from oak & cherry planks with acrylic paint.



Thomas Cassidy's textured myrtle plater had a (maybe temporary) coat of sanding sealer.



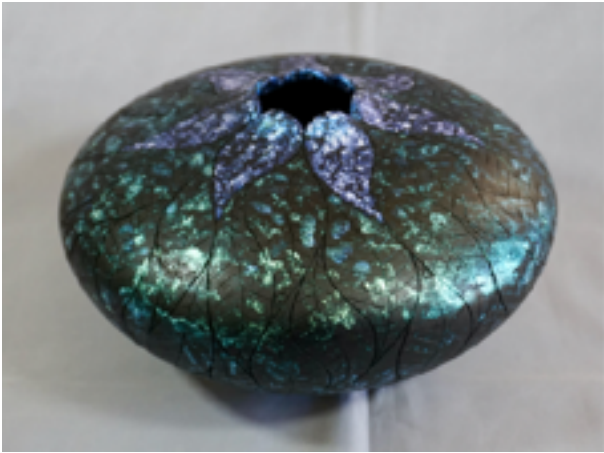
Carl Haney's Masur birch vase was finished with poly/oil.



Fred Dresben had a "too thin!" walnut bowl, oil finish. He brought a flashlight to show the almost pierced bottom.



Bill Haskell's "Leaf Symphony" is an ash hollow form, carved, pyrographed, and dyed with iridescent acrylic paint.



Surya's carob bowl has Tried & True finish.



Klaus Schmitt had a *Luxury Bird House*, main body of red cedar, mahogany base.



Bob Clark had turned a bunch of pens for Blue Star Mothers of America non-profit group.



Chris Dodson's hollow form was crafted from liquid amber & acrylic paint.



(This should have been listed among the carved items entries, but I didn't feel like re-doing all the formatting up to this point - editor)

Musical(?) Interlude

Newcomers **Alexander Kanish** and **Justin Yasgoor** found the club through **Mike Toth**. They are looking to have someone make mouth pieces for their digeridoos (Australian aborigine instrument). They had two of the instruments with them, and gave us a short concert. Very different sound from each.

One piece had been formed by termites eating out the center of the wood*, the other was of yucca, with the bottom of the bell laminated and turned.



**I keep insisting the best way to do hollowing is with a group of trained termites! - editor*

Other Items

Adam's Forge, which teaches blacksmithing and other metal arts, has found new, nicer digs in Simi Valley (they were east of downtown LA before) Adamsforge.org

Cathy Pearman urges everyone to participate in her pet project - donate blood!.

L.A. Grinding, who are actually in Burbank, will make band saw blades to size in addition to their various sharpening services. 305 N Victory Blvd, Burbank, CA 91502

Upcoming Challenges

April- Rolling Ball (judged on how far & straight it rolls, we have a billiard ball as a standard, and a ramp to launch the balls.)

Upcoming Events

the **AAW 2024** Symposium will be in Portland, OR, May 23-26. *Registration is now open!* There is a \$40 per person discount available if 5 or more people sign up from a chapter. There is a link on the registration page to set up this offer.

Sarah Livingstone is in charge of the Registration Desks at the upcoming AAW Symposium, and she is looking for volunteers to man them. You get a Symposium Tshirt if you volunteer. See the AAW website under Symposium info to volunteer (very easy sign-up). Other areas at the Symposium are also looking for volunteers.

We will have a demonstration by **Eli Avisera** on Sunday, June 2.

President's Message

Last Sunday, we had an **amazing attendance at our meeting, with 54 people!** Please invite your friends and family. Many were wearing name badges, so please continue to do so, as it helps everyone. If you need a name badge or have lost yours, there will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.



A huge Glendale Woodturner's welcome to **Justin Yasgoor** and **Alex Kanish**, who showed up at the meeting with their **didgeridoos** (seriously) wanting help to turn mouthpieces for their instruments. The

club was entertained with an incredible demonstration showing us how the instrument works!! Let's help them out and *welcome them back*. This may be the new way we kick off meetings. (OK, the board voted on it, it's official)

Sarah Livingstone asked the club to **consider volunteering at the AAW symposium** in May. This is a **great way to be of service** and help the organization that supports woodturners around the world. Please consider supporting Sarah and the AAW.

Recently, we've had excellent presentations and demonstrations. It's more like the "good ole' days." Several members have stepped up with presentations; the expertise in our club is impressive. **What would YOU like to learn? Who do you want to demo? PLEASE answer the questions!**

THANK YOU BILL HASKELL for an excellent presentation on Carving, Texturing, and Pyrography! We all learned a great deal, very well done, Bill!

Eli Avisera is back on June 2nd. He is an old friend of the club, an excellent teacher, and demonstrator. **Block that date** out now.

The long-standing topic of the Club webpage IS being addressed. The AAW has an annual contest for the Best chapter webpages. Here are the last 9 winners. **Please take a look, get our club on the right path, and get involved.** Our future depends on growth.

Best Chapter Websites

2023

- 1) [Cape Cod Woodturners, Marc Sitkin, webmaster](#)
- 2) [Peace River Woodturners, Dave Northcutt, webmaster](#)
- 3) [Nutmeg Woodturners League, David Heim, webmaster](#)

2022

- 1) [Silicon Valley Woodturners Inc., Ray Hari, webmaster](#)
- 2) [Nutmeg Woodturners League, David Heim, webmaster](#)
- 3) [Bay Area Woodturners Association, Steve Griswold, webmaster](#)

2021

- 1) [Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild, Steve Hansen, webmaster](#)
- 2) [Nutmeg Woodturners League, David Heim, webmaster](#)
- 3) [Capital Area Woodturners, Cyndi Reece, webmaster](#)

The Guild has acquired excellent AV equipment, generously donated by a non-profit company founded by **ClearTech in Altadena, CA**. ClearTech, a sponsor of one of the cycling clubs I ride with, PAA - Pasadena Athletic Association. **SAVe**, the first company of its kind, focuses on **Sustainability in AV**. Their volunteers donate their time to prevent recycled AV equipment from ending up in landfills or being burned in third-world countries for precious metals. <https://www.cleartechav.com/about/sustainability/> So far, we've obtained over \$15,000 worth of equipment, with another \$15,000 to come. This includes an electronic whiteboard and projector, invaluable for demos and presentations. Despite making sure **no** additional space was occupied, the American Legion expressed concerns about becoming a storage facility. I offered to donate some of the equipment to them, and/or allow them to utilize it. Our board will discuss our partnership with the Legion.

COMING UP! The Challenge for **April IS THE ROLLING BALL!** Bill Loitz, oddly, strangely pulled out his billiard ball at the last meeting.....seems he has been packing it around for years now! KUDOS, Bill.....I mean what the.....anyway, **PARTICIPATE!** It is a very fun event! **June is Beads of Courage**, make one - or 3. **This is a club tradition to put a smile on a child's face when dealing with serious health challenges.**

That's enough for now, get out in your shop, pull out your paper & get designing! You do NOT want **Scott Johnston** hunting you down!

Be safe, put a smile on your face, and make a difference in the world, amigos.

Thomas

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