



SLIGHTLY

SKEWED

Journal of the Glendale Woodturners Guild

Volume 33, Number 7 – July, 2025

NEXT MEETING

Second Sunday

July 13, 2025

HOW TO FIND US

SUNDAY MEETING

2:00 pm

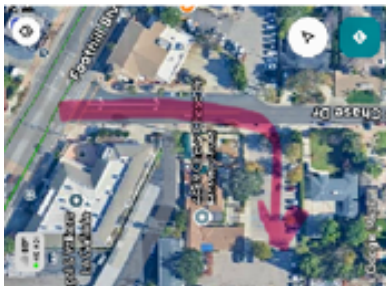
We've moved to a new site!

La Cañada Community Center

4469 Chevy Chase Dr

La Cañada Flintridge

near the intersection of the 210 fwy and Angeles
Crest Highway



Meetings consist of announcements, a feature presentation, a Challenge, Show & Tell and a wood raffle (except for December).

Challenge: **"Curves Ahead"**

Presentation: **???**

President's Message

June Meeting Recap –
Glendale Woodturners
Guild

We had a great turnout—despite it being a smaller crowd. A big welcome to new (and returning) faces: Paul (back after a decade), Pete (also returning), and Damian & Kylea-Rose Kevitt—who cycled from Silverlake after turning their first egg cup (the day before, with a little help from the now-not-MIA Steve Smith—thank you, Steve!).

Beginner Bravery

Damian & Kylea-Rose's egg cup was the *only* beginner entry—but the decision was made to leave their entry in beginners and not bump them to intermediate. *Let's make the Guild spirit encouraging to bring in whatever you have turned.* It is important that all our members feel it is OK to bring any/all work to the meetings. It is always a warm and welcoming group.

Challenge Results

- **Beginner: Damian & Kylea-Rose**
- **Intermediate: John Fisher**
- **Advanced: Carey Caress**, once again! Her precision miniature turning is next-level.



Someone needs to step up and challenge her, or she's going to start asking for a trophy cabinet. Also: she makes coffee, brings brownies, covers for Cathy, AND she ALWAYS makes the time to bring a piece for the monthly challenge. And no, she won't come to do your turning for you—sorry. Jus' sayin'.

neighbor, your barista, whoever! July 13 is our next meeting—* new location and lots of friends. See you soon—bring your curves!

Thomas

Tools Talk

We had a great discussion on woodturning tools, and this month's newsletter includes an expanded write-up. Ever wonder what your gouge is really made of? Now's your chance to dig in—without needing a metallurgy degree.

July Challenge: “Curves Ahead”

This month it's all about **flowing form**—OG, concave/convex. This does leave the challenge open to more interpretation. How about vases, ornaments, teardrops, a pendant, candlesticks, even a simple stick with beads & covers? Want bonus points? Whisper “Fibonacci” to the judges and watch their eyebrows twitch with delight. ($\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$)

An old Woodturner once found a gnarled, crack log by the side of the road. It was twisted, full knots, and looked like nothing more than firewood. He took it home, mounted it on his lathe, and started turning. The crack seemed to threaten the whole piece, but with patience and a sharp gouge he worked through the knots smoothing out the imperfections. What was once an ugly log became a stunning bowl! When later asked how he knew it would turn out so well, he simply smiled and said “Every piece of wood has something special inside – it just takes the right hands to bring it out”. YOU have those hands. The Guild has many great teachers and mentors to help your ability take off!

AAW Symposium

Some of our crew are off at the AAW Symposium in Minneapolis—please bring back plenty to share at the July 13th meeting. (Preferably involving wood and not TSA.)

Spread the Word

Websites and social media help—but real growth comes from sharing your passion. Invite a friend, a

Challenge

The June Challenge was "**Egg Cups**". We had a number of entries, several people also included an egg.

In the *Beginning* category, the winner was this maple piece finished with hard wax finish. Apparently a group effort by new turners **Steve Smith, Damian Kevitt** and **Kylea-Rose Kevitt**.



Intermediate honors were taken by **John Fisher**, for the little cup of rosewood with a blue (painted) egg. One of the other cups was also rosewood, the others were mystery wood.



The *Advanced* category was captured by **Carey Caires**, for her blackwood cup with holly egg. The other cup is from Buckeye burl, Aussie Oil finish.



Other entries:

Carl Christensen's piece had a real egg (hard boiled, I believe) Obviously some segmenting, no other info.



Dale Gertsch's Juniper cup finished with wax had a nice egg shaped detail in the wood.



Jim Schopper finished his oak cup with lacquer.



Mike Toth's piece was finished with walnut oil.



Thomas Cassidy did some texturing on his big leaf maple entry and finished it with Bill's Homemade Hooch



Richard Ashley submitted this entry, no other info.



Tiprin Follet had a piece she had turned some time ago, but didn't enter it in the competition.



Judges were: **Tiprin Follet**, **Bill Loitz**, **Paul Schmit**.

Show & Tell

Chris Dodson did some piercing on his silver maple piece with Walrus Oil finish.



James Hurst, who is having to turn in other locations since his house and shop were destroyed in the Eaton fire, brought this winged bowl of Columbian Walnut finished with Mylands.



Peter Tarbox's olive natural edge piece was finished with linseed oil & pine resin.



Mike Toth's big tops were fashioned from redwood burl and finished with walnut oil wax.



Craig Sobel brought in an old piece made by his father, **Al Sobel**, that was turned from Tuaga nut and other wood with captive rings.



Chris Dodson created several *Apples for the Teacher* from curly maple, die, copper & Maloof polish.



Paul Schmit fashioned his UFO bowl from ash & mahogany, finished with tung & BLO.



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

Welcome to newcomers:

PRESENTATION

President **Thomas Cassidy** had a two page document displayed on the screen briefly comparing some of the major tool brands available these days, highlighting some of their respective pros and cons. Some input from the audience helped fill out the presentation.

10 Top Woodturning Toolmakers / Systems (Pros & Cons)

NOTE: Some of this information came from ChatGPT, which can be an excellent tool. However, as discussed at the June meeting, we found some of the details were not accurate. I've since researched the materials used to make the tools - YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH. TRC, Prez

1. Ashley Harwood / D-Way Tools

- **Pros:** Signature bowl gouge designed for her clean, bevel-riding cuts. Great for beginners mastering smooth surfaces.
Cons: Narrow focus—designed mostly for green wood bowl turning; limited tool range.
- **ALL OF HER TOOLS SEEM TO BE 1 OF THESE 2:** It is made in the USA, from 10V tool steel that has been hardened down the entire length of the tool to 62-64 Rockwell. Every gouge I sell comes with the grinds that I use, and for this one, it's the 40/40 grind - a 40 degree sweep on the wings, and a 40 degree consistent bevel angle. It is made in the USA, from M2 tool steel that has been hardened down the entire length of the tool to 62-64 Rockwell.
- <https://www.ashleyharwood.com/shop/tools>

2. Stuart Batty / SB Tools

- **Pros:** Precision-engineered, well-balanced tools; excellent negative rake scrapers and 40/40 gouges; pro-level results.
Cons: Expensive; steep learning curve if not trained in his free-hand techniques. ALL OF HIS TOOLS APPEAR TO BE 10V
- <https://stuartbattytools.com/buy-woodturning-tools>

3. David Ellsworth / Crown Tools

- **Pros:** Classic fingernail grind gouge; versatile for both roughing and finishing. Still one of the most used and copied bowl gouges.
Cons: Tool shape can be tricky to sharpen correctly without a jig or experience.
- Very limited information

4. John Jordan / Hollowing Tools

- **Pros:** Great system for textured hollow forms; well-respected artist with tools built for control and finesse.
Cons: Limited to hollowing — not an all-around system. Requires experience and practice.
- **GOUGES: some are Robust, Thompson:** To make Turner's Edge gouges, we start with premium high-speed steel (M2). After machining, the tools are heat treated to 64 Rockwell C. The hardened tools then go through the Nitriding process, increasing cutting edge hardness to 1880 Vickers (75+ Rockwell C). Because the treatment is diffused into the metal itself, it will not flake, peel or chip.
- **GOUGES: some are Robust, Thompson:** These gouges are made in the USA from the best steel on the market, CPM 10V® (A-11) a powder metal manufactured by Crucible Materials Corporation with a 9.75% vanadium content to hold an edge longer and has a proven history in woodturning. The steel is hardened to 60-62 Rockwell, triple tempered with a cryogenic treatment between the first and second temper. The cryogenic treatment at this stage transforms the bulk of the retained austenite to martensite and form very fine "eta" carbides much finer than tempering alone, this increases the durability and toughness of the steel
- <https://www.johnjordanwoodturning.com/tools.html>

5. Mike Jackofsky / Hollow-Pro System

- **Pros:** Excellent carbide-tipped hollowing system, includes stabilizer arm. Good visibility and reach.

Cons: More expensive setup. Not ideal for beginners or small lathes.

- Made from high quality M4 powdered metal, they are sharpened with a 75 degree grind and have been heat treated to HRC 62-64. The scrapers may be resharpened with a diamond hone or light careful grinding. Since all Hollow-Pro™ Tools have a built in negative angle at the tip, when the M4 scrapers are inserted the result is a clean, less aggressive, final finish cut. Mike recommends using the scraper for your last few cuts, when you are close to your final wall thickness.
- <https://mikejackofsky.com/Tools.html>

6. Robert Sorby

- **Pros:** Widely available; full range of traditional tools. Good value for money and great for skews and multi-tip tools.
Cons: Inconsistent steel quality on some models; needs frequent sharpening.
- The website talks about the process/quality but did not see specifics regarding the material
- <https://robert-sorby.co.uk/product-category/woodturning-tools/>

7. D-Way Tools

Pros: CPM10V steel holds an edge incredibly well. Custom-designed gouges (like Ashley's), and great scrapers and skews.

Cons: No handles included—you must make or buy separately.

Our M42 HSS exhibits excellent wear resistance by virtue of an optimum heat-treated hardness. The cutting edges on our tools stay sharp in heavy-duty and high-production cutting applications

<https://d-waytools.com/spindle-gouges/>

8. Thompson Lathe Tools/Jimmy Clewes

- **Pros:** High-quality V10 steel, legendary edge retention. No branding gimmicks—just great tools.
Cons: No handles; can intimidate newer turners unfamiliar with custom tool setup.
- The tools are made from the best steel on the market, CPM10V (A-11) a powder metal manufactured by Crucible Materials Corporation with 10% vanadium content to hold an edge longer and has a proven

history in woodturning. The steel is hardened to 62-64 Rockwell, triple tempered with a cryogenic treatment between the first and second temper. The cryogenic treatment at this stage transforms the bulk of the retained austenite to martensite and form very fine “eta” carbides much finer than tempering alone, this increases the durability and toughness of the steel. Nothing else can be done to this steel!

- <https://thompsonlathetools.com/>

9. Carter and Son Toolworks

- **Pros:** Beautiful, American-made, M42 steel, comes pre-handled. Great for turners who want plug-and-play quality.
- **Cons:** Pricier than others; less variety in specialized tools (e.g., hollowing).
- <https://carterandsontoolworks.com/collections/premium-sets>

10. Hamlet Craft Tools (UK)

- **Pros:** Great traditional M2 HSS tools. Popular among classic turners like Jimmy Clewes.
- **Cons:** Doesn't hold edge as long as newer steels. More old-school in grind and profile.
- <https://henrytaylortools.co.uk/hamlet-gouges/>
- <https://henrytaylortools.co.uk/hamlet/>

11. ELI AVISERA

These are Ashley Iles tools, especially made for Eli. His tools used to be made by Hamlet. Eli's tools are excellent, especially unique is his finishing tool. Buy 1!

<https://www.ashleyilestoolstore.co.uk/woodturning-tools>

Challenges for 2025

July - "Curves Ahead" (make something with curves - beads, coves, etc.)

Other Ideas tossed out:

Collaborative project - 2 or more people working on a project;

Bring your own "Best of the Best"

Fixing a disaster, with narrative: "why my piece is in pieces, and how I corrected it."

Lidded Boxes

Finials

Combination of materials

Thimbles, tops, egg shapes

Beads of Courage boxes

Tool Handles

Part of furniture or architecture

Duplicates

Bowl under 3 1/2 in

Audio/Visual person needed

Chris Dodson has been handling our Audio/Visual equipment for some time now, he needs someone to replace him. Duties involve storing the equipment and bringing it to meetings. Most meetings will at least need the microphone and speakers set up, camera and projector for certain events. Contact him and/or President **Thomas Cassidy**.

Meeting Dates for 2025

Usually second Sunday of the Month, with a few exceptions:

July 13

August 10

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14 (Potluck and Auction)

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