

Catoctin Area Turners



Next meeting: APR 8, 2010, 6:30 pm
Location: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,
Leesburg, VA



Volume 2 Issue 4 April 2010

CAT is Awarded AAW Grant!!

Our President, Tom Boley, submitted our club's Educational Grant Application to the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) for \$898.30 on 7 January, 2010. The application submission deadline was 15 January. Tom has reported that the AAW has granted us \$500 toward our request. Congratulations Tom! Maybe we

should run you for Congress or something. Know anything about health care or job creations, Tom? No experience necessary. LOL

In all seriousness, here is how we responded to the AAW questionnaire.

Why do you need this grant (lack of funding, etc)?

CAT is a relatively new club, having been established in Jan 2009. We would use this grant toward the purchase of support equipment for use with our club lathe. The majority of our 68 members are new turners and have gained a lot

of knowledge of the craft in our first year. This equipment will greatly enhance the educational aspects of our club through having sufficient club-owned gear to stage good demos at our meetings without having to have members bring their personal gear in each meeting.

How would you/your chapter/school help others to benefit?

Since we are a new club, our treasury needs some assistance to get up to speed on equipment. We have been able to obtain a Jet 1442VS lathe but it came with minimal support equipment so we would like to outfit it with the usual gear as well as have a sharpening system for use by demonstrators available at the club meeting site. Any cost savings in discounts not considered in Pare (4), below, will be returned to AAW unless advised otherwise. (Para 4 was a list of intended purchases)

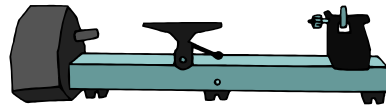
How would you use the educational grant? What is the "educational" aspect?

We are a 501(3) non-profit charity open to the public for woodturning education. We have public demonstrations whenever possible and monthly meetings where both our members as well as the public have the opportunity to watch woodturning, some perhaps for the very first time. Others, who may have been turning for some time, are able to see demonstrations and perform hands-on turning without having to bring their own gear to meetings where such opportunities may present themselves.

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The Call of the Lathe



by Tom Boley

Many thanks to Walt Bennett for his demonstration of basic woodturning techniques for our March meeting. Since our club is comprised mostly of relatively new woodturners, having a basic demo like that is right on target and Walt did a mighty fine job of presenting it. Thanks, Walt. We always appreciate having members of our own club step up to do demos for us.

With the improving weather, we will need to start thinking about the club picnic in June. We'll need someone to plan and coordinate it so please let me know if you would like to be that person this year. We have another opening, too, and that is for a second representative from our club to Virginia Woodturning, Inc., the non-profit conglomeration of the nine woodturning clubs in Virginia which plan and present the biannual Virginia woodturning symposium. Having two reps from each club gives us enough folks to be able to do the thousand tasks which must be done to make it a success. Walt Bennett was our second rep but has been having trouble attending the occasional meetings in Richmond due to scheduling conflicts on the days of the meetings. Please let me know if you are interested.

I am excited about this, our second year as a woodturning club serving Loudoun County and the surrounding areas of Virginia and Maryland. We continue to grow as new woodturners learn of the club

from us as well as from the Woodcraft Store in Leesburg. I think we'll have a second great year and thank all of you for rejoining for 2010.

For all of you whose shop is in the garage, I have welcome news. Spring is here and the weather is starting to warm up so it will be much easier to get out there and make round stuff. My shop was the garage for many years in many locations so I sure do understand how cold it can be. The gradually warming weather is certainly welcome, although I do think the skiing season was a bit short. When the Call of the Lathe rings in your ear now, you will be able to throw open the garage door and let the shavings fly while butterflies flit around your head, wondering what in the world you are doing. I guess butterflies wonder about things like that. At any rate, Spring is a time of renewal for all of us so come to the meetings, see the great turnings on the Show and Tell table, and go home refreshed and excited about trying something new. See you at the meeting.

Tom Boley

Upcoming Demonstrations

April: The demonstration will be presented by our president, Tom Boley. This demo will be about making a plate. This plate could be a cookie plate, a dinner plate, or even a small tray, as the technique is the same. Tom will demonstrate preparing the wood and then turning both the top and bottom using “special plate turning techniques.”

Tom has been turning since about 1995 when he joined the Capital Area Woodturners in Alexandria. He served that club as vice president for two years and then president for two years. Having moved from Springfield to Loudoun County in 2005, he found that the drive to CAW was 61 miles but continued to drive in for meetings. In January 2009, he helped found Catoctin Area Turners and is still serving as its first president. Tom is a full time architectural woodturner and always enjoys having club members visit his shop, either to just hang out or to practice their woodturning skills on one of his lathes. In his demo for us in April, he'll tell the story of how he learned to spin the piece by hand before turning on the lathe after moving the tool rest.

May: Dale Bright will be discussing and demonstrating different cuts with captured tools of different designs.

June: Our CAT summer picnic.

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Mark Duffell - Raffle Tickets
Chet Olson - Web site/Gallery Photos
Brian Sullivan - Bulk Purchases
Jeremy Baker - Arborist Extraordinaire
Tom Boley - Newsletter Proofreader

The Editor's Bench

by Ron Cote

Now that the March newsletter is out, I'm sitting here trying to decide what could I add to the upcoming April issue to continue making improvements? So, looking for ideas, I began searching through a couple of

recently purchased AAW CDs of the American Woodturner, which include the first 16 published volumes. I've come to realize what a great incentive I have being the newsletter editor after spending a couple of hours browsing through these CDs. Researching these CDs will hopefully provide our club with some useful information, expose me to some great turning ideas, and hopefully prevent me from making a fool of myself (maybe?).

I did notice a constant theme throughout all of these archived American Woodturner magazines. That theme being "safety first". So expect to see both short tips, as well as different safety articles each month. This is something that we must never get so comfort-



able as to take safety for granted. I have yet to personally encounter any accident on my lathe, but that could be attributed from an actual lack of turning experience and/or my respect for revolving wood pieces, aka potential UFOs. I have experienced a very strong kick back on a table saw a number of years ago which

grazed my stomach and proceeded across my workshop and put a pretty good dent in a wall ten feet away. So to say that this got my attention would be an understatement. I believe that I was probably much too complacent, and since then, have checked twice prior to turning the power on to any sort of woodworking tool.

There certainly seems to be an abundance of tips available from many sources. So look for those on occasions. I would certainly like to continue to spotlight our club members as time permits. I'll check our previous newsletters to see who has been previously spot-lighted and start calling on you.

Ron Cote

This Ain't No Bull



Well for those of us who attended the Whitestone Bull Sale this month, what we did see were about 50 beautiful black Angus bulls at the auction. You quickly realize when each bull enters the sale ring that they are just that, Bulls! There was no meandering slowly around the ring. They came out charging. It was a very unique experience that my wife, grandson and I totally enjoyed. I would certainly encourage you all to attend the next auction should Mark Duffell extend the invitation. Many thanks Mark!

What I've Learned — Month Eight

Jeff Greene

I love this time of year. The trees are budding, flowers are blooming, and the rays of the sun feel sooo good on your face after a looong winter. It's that time of year when the window in your office becomes a major distraction, constantly reminding you of places you'd rather be and things you'd rather be doing. Of course, I enjoy turning this time of the year but the call of the golf course is the loudest. However, between rounds, I did find some time to make a few nice pieces this month. One of my favorites was a clock I made out of dried Chechen. I picked up the wood and the clock face at Woodcraft for a total of \$17. This is a wicked easy project that produces a very nice finished product. One word of caution, Chechen is a very hard wood so make sure you have sharp tools before taking it on. With that said, it also is becoming one of my new favorites. It is fairly inexpensive and has a beautiful closed grain. My favorite thing about Chechen is actually the end grain produces a translucent, almost holographic, effect when sanded and polished to a high gloss. Simply gorgeous! Keep the design clean and let the wood speak for itself.

My new toy for the month is a chatter tool designed by CA Savoy. I can honestly say it's the best chatter tool I've ever

used, but then again it's the only one I've ever used;-). The CA Savoy chatter tool offers a round ended and a triangle shaped chatter tip and has a very simple yet sturdy design. Although I wish it was a little longer it works well and was certainly worth the 35 bucks.

I'm still being rewarded as I'm sure a lot of you are by the carnage the winter storms produced. My garage and storage room is quickly filling up with green wood. I have some nice cedar, Bradford pear and some gorgeous box elder (tons of red veins). The only problem with the box elder is its too big for my band saw and chainsaw! The two larger pieces must weigh 100lbs each. I about broke my back lugging them to the truck!

That's all I have for this month, see you on the course.

Jeff G....

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Mentoring Program

by Terry Lund

We have established a mentoring program for CAT members, so Terry Lund is looking for volunteers to be mentors as well as requests from any of our members who would like to be paired up with a mentor in one of the following areas of interest for turning skills, or for general mentoring activity. Terry will have sign-up forms for those who want to be a mentor as well as for those who would like to be matched

up with an assigned mentor at the next meeting on April 8. If you are interested in either opportunity but will not be at the meeting, please contact him via email at terry.lund@gmail.com or call him on his cell phone 585-455-2517. Please include your name, address, phone number, email address, and indicate your level of experience as Beginner, Intermediate, or Experienced when requesting a mentor.

Areas of interest for mentoring

Functional turning	Ornaments and small items
Artistic turning	Pens and Pencils
Bowls	Lidded Boxes
Natural Edge Bowls	Segmented turning
Square Bowls	Spindle turning
Hollow forms	Turning/Chasing Threads



Dulles Expo Center
Chantilly, VA
Apr 9 –11

Did You Know??

Past *American Woodturners* issues now available on the web- As of 3/23/2010, in addition to receiving all 6 issues of the *American Woodturners* each year, you can read the Journal in a true "magazine format" on your computer anytime you wish. As an additional AAW **member benefit**, you will receive not only the current issue but all 95 back issues of the AAW Journal all the way back to 1986. Go to the AAW Website, log in to the Members Area, select "Online Journals", and see for yourself. You're going to be amazed at what you see!

But I didn't inhale...

Few people talk about the hazards of using super glue beyond the danger of getting stuck when you don't want to. But, they are significant and should not be overlooked, especially when using the accelerator and within an enclosed work area. Continuous or prolonged inhalation of even a minimum of fumes produced by super glue—including cutting through a hardened glue joint—can cause wildly irregular heartbeat, dizziness, extreme irritability, even lethargy. Ventilate your work area and don't sniff the smoke!

Safety First and Turn Safely

Selling Your Wares

by Chet Olson

If you have turned a lot of pieces you may be building a collection that is starting to fill your living room shelves. Selling your art or craft pieces in a show can be both fun and rewarding. Even if your sales are small, simply experiencing the public enthusiasm and talking with potential customers offers considerable reward.

There are some things you will need to do to get started.

A Booth

You will need a booth (tent). Some shows specify a maximum size and a 10' x 10' white tent will work about any place. Even though you can get some canopy tents in Wal-Mart or Costco I highly recommend getting a fairly sturdy tent with side walls that is designed for exhibition. I

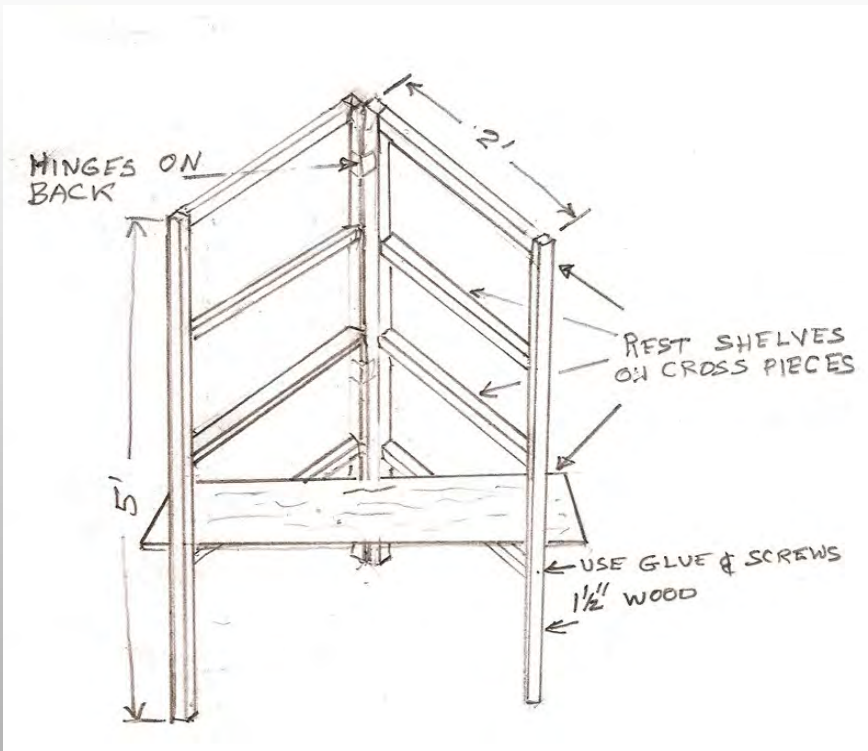


bought two tents from the following website and am very satisfied. <http://www.elitedeals.com/>

The Elite Deals site offers large discounts and a huge selection. My 10' x 10' cost me \$279.

A Display

I initially used the Wal-Mart \$49 folding tables with a homemade vertical shelf display sitting on them – shown above. A vertical display is far superior to simply putting your pieces on a table which tends to make for clutter and the individual character of your pieces tend to become lost. However, but I have now learned that there is a better set up than the tables and cumbersome display shelf. I saw some exhibitors who had built the tripod type folding framework as diagramed below and it served several purposes. It folds and fits well in a station wagon, van or pickup truck. Being a tripod it is a little easier to make stable on irregular ground. You can have two to four of these in your booth depending on the size of your display. I recommend strong joints and hinges – glue, screws, and substantial hinges. You can space the cross pieces with some variation to accommodate different heights of your pieces.



Make the wood smooth and paint it white or black or maybe a black framework with white shelves. Keep it simple. Don't get carried away and make it so beautiful that it pulls the viewer's eye away from your art pieces. You should plan on placing no more than two or three art pieces on a single shelf unless they are especially small.

Identifying Yourself

You will need some business cards. If you like doing things yourself you can design and print your own business cards. You can buy tear-apart sheets of business card blanks at office supply stores. For more professional cards there are services on line and also at places like Office Depot and Staples. Allow at least several weeks when ordering cards since problems can develop. I recommend a sign for your booth showing your name or DBA. I made a sign of wood for inside the booth and had a sign maker create a vinyl sign for outside the tent.

A Credit Card Machine

Unfortunately this day and age people don't carry much cash and shows don't necessarily have ATMs. Selling "cash only" will definitely limit your sales. I spent some time searching for a good service and, at first, I found the whole concept of credit card processing a little intimidating. Most services want to lock you into a contract for a long period of time, but I found that Merchant Warehouse (see link) does not do this, and the cost of doing credit card transactions with them is as low as any I found. They are also very helpful in explaining your options and how the system works. The cheapest way to get into processing credit cards is to obtain a manual credit card machine that physically takes an imprint of credit cards. The one big drawback with this method is that you have to trust that the credit cards are OK and you won't discover the bad ones until much later. At that point you would have to chase down the owner of the card and hope you get your money. If there is a crook in the crowd, he will probably be seeking out people with manual machines. I bit the bullet and ordered a VeriFone wireless credit card machine for \$600 and I really like the way that it works. Once you have it it's yours. The machine uses a dedicated cell phone account and that air service costs about \$19 /

month. Lately, it has been a while since I attended a show, so I have suspended my service for several months. Such a two month or seasonal suspension is not a problem for this company. No matter what type of service you get, Merchant Warehouse is very helpful in getting you off the ground. Don't lose the link: <http://merchantwarehouse.com/?cpao=1021>
You can also find a small clickable Merchant Warehouse banner add on my personal wood turning site since I want to promote their service: <http://chetolsonwooddesigns.com/>

Deciding what Show(s) to Attend

If you put a lot of time into your art pieces and they qualify as fine art, you should attend shows that are juried. That is, you need to send good quality photos of your work and there is some amount of competition involved to be allowed into the show. These shows have a jury fee such as \$10 to maybe \$50 that goes to the experts who make the art assessments. Don't let this intimidate you. It's not a big deal. How can you learn about the shows? Different people have different methods but I personally have subscribed to Festival.net: <http://festivalnet.com/index.html>

I use the free version of their service and they do provide lots of information about shows all over North America such as how many exhibits and customers attended the last show, the type of art etc, but most of all they send periodic emails reminding you of deadlines for your application to enter the shows. Be aware of booth fees and rules of selling, if any. I have learned that some circuit organizations promote their shows to artists heavily, charge large fees to artists, and their shows offer little in sales. In addition, some show themes simply attract people who don't buy art. That's where your wood turning club comes in handy. Before applying for a show, check with your turning associates who have done shows to learn the reputation of the show. In our CAT club, Walt Bennett has told me a few show circuits to avoid. Tom Boley, Deb Breton, Don and Harriet Maloney have definitely been around the block with art and craft shows, just to name a few more.

Sales Tax – Very Important

You need to be authorized to collect and pay sales tax in any state in which that you do business. If you simply intend to sell in shows, you can obtain individual event authorizations, and the show sponsor will want to be sure you have been so qualified. You can go directly to the county tax collector and obtain forms. I know that Tom Boley has offered such forms for CAT members, and often shows have the forms available on site. I went to the trouble to register as a business and get a North Carolina Sales Tax license when I lived there because I wanted to be able to sell on line and possibly sell other things besides art. Although I have not experienced a tax challenge, I hear that the sales tax people will ask for your permit at a show. I have also heard that offenders can be shut down on the spot and the tax people can even confiscate your wares. Don't take this chance.

Present a Good Sized Inventory

Take every piece you can stuff in your vehicle to the art show as long as it presents well. If your display would become too cluttered, keep the excess items in boxes and rotate some of them the second day of the show. Don't limit your display to your top end items. Much of the public is nothing but browsers and who don't intend to spend any substantial amount of money. However, if they are impressed with your art or with you personally, they may buy a \$10 or \$20 token item just because you made it. In some shows those small sales may be the only money you make, and you DO need to break even by paying your show costs.

Advice from The Arborist

Jeremy Baker

I thought it would be nice to have a recurring article in the newsletter where I offer a tidbit of advice that I have picked up in my career as an arborist. Some articles will be directly related to wood-turning and others will be indirectly related. The first in the series follows, and I welcome ideas for future articles or questions regarding this one. jeremywbaker@gmail.com

Proper pruning techniques

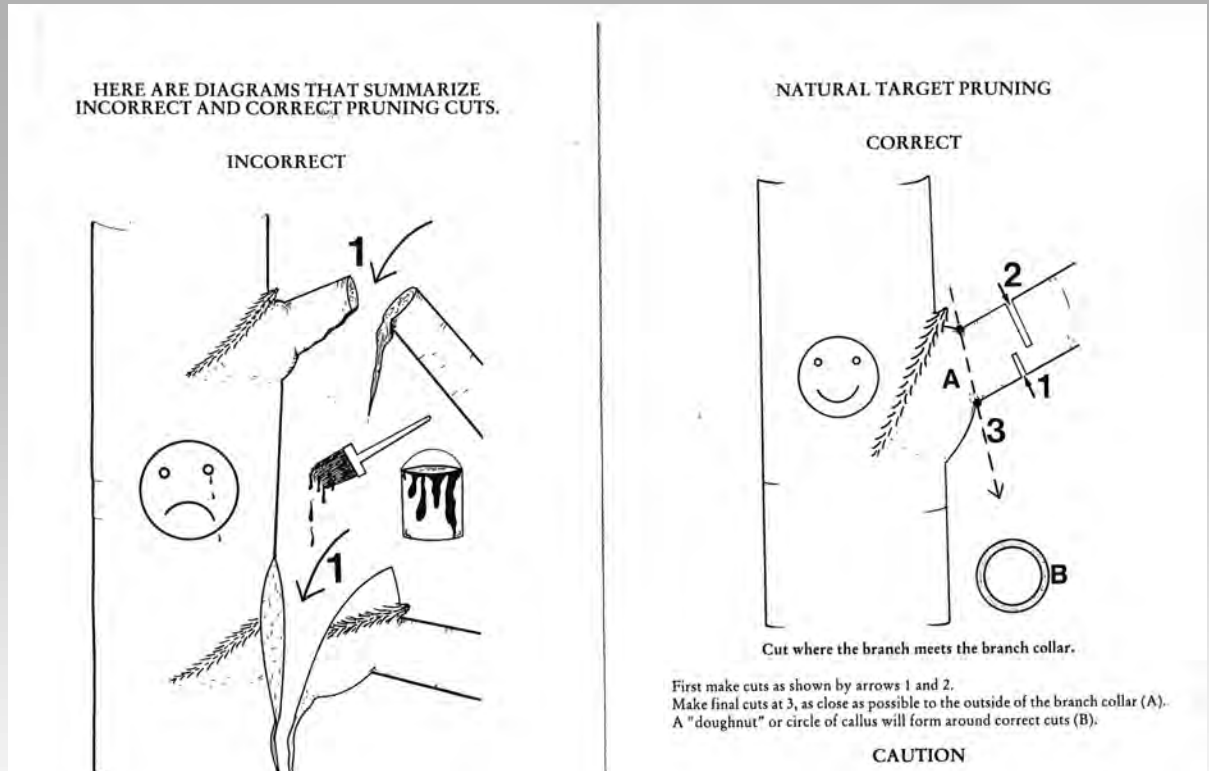
From time to time, many of you will find the need to prune a tree. Sometimes it will be in the form of 'yard-work', and other times it will be purely recreational. If you find yourself in the moment where you will be pruning a branch off of a tree, put away the visions of bowls, vases, boxes, etc. just for a minute and remember the following:

Always use the 3-cut method to avoid tearing or stripping down the trunk.

Cut 1 is the undercut – 1/3 the diameter of the branch.

Cut 2 is the top cut just beyond cut 1. For small branches, Cut 2 can be very close; for large branches, you may need to space them out an inch or two to allow the branch to 'snap' off.

At this point you will be left with a stub, make Cut 3 according to the diagram (from 'Tree Basics', being careful not to cut in to the bulge of the branch collar-the collar is the area of the branch that contains latent cells ready to leap into action and seal (or close) over the wound.



Continued on page 12

February Meeting Minutes

by Bob Parson

The March 11, 2010 CAT meeting was called to order by our president, Tom Boley at 6:40. Tom introduced the forms for CAT members to order custom name tags which include our club logo. Several members picked up order forms, so by next months meeting we should look “even more official”. Our club turnout was a little light, but we had several guests who attended tonight for the first time. We also had a discussion about coordinating, on behalf of our club members, situations where people contact Tom with possible opportunities to obtain green wood from trees scheduled to be felled. Jeremy Baker and Mark Kaplan volunteered to act as an “ad hoc” committee for this effort. We are aware of an osage orange tree in a cemetery in Purcellville which will most likely need to be removed within a year or two. This tree is heavy with burls, and would definitely be of interest to several club members. By forming this ad hoc committee to pursue opportunities like this, and to track and maintain appropriate

contacts, we will be creating opportunities for our club members to get turning wood through our club activities that both are environmentally sound and efficient for our club and others.



Our club demonstration tonight was presented by our own Walt Bennet. Walt walked through an introductory primer on turning safety and basic turning procedures. He distributed blanks to some of our “beginner” club turners and demonstrated the making of a weed pot. Thanks, Walt, for a great presentation.

Bob Parson

Turning Tips/Rules

- The thickness of a rough-turned bowl should be 10% of the diameter.
- The final base width should be 1/3 of the diameter of the bowl.
- The diameter of the base of a plate should be 2/3 the diameter. That makes it very stable but still works for looks.

Angle for tools:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| ○ Parting tools | 25 | ○ Spindle gouges | 35 | ○ Spindle Roughing gouges | 45 |
| ○ Bowl gouges | 55 | ○ Scrapers | 80 | | |

Member Discounts

Woodcraft of Leesburg



Leesburg Plaza

512 E. Market

Leesburg, VA 20176

Phone: 703-737-7880

Fax: 703-737-6166

Leesburg@woodcraft.com

Store Hours: Sun: 9 AM— 5 PM Thr: 9 AM— 9 PM
Mon: 9 AM—9 PM Fri: 9 AM— 9 PM
Tue: 9 AM— 9 PM Sat: 9 AM- - 6 PM
Wed: 9 AM— 9 PM

Show your CAT membership card and get a 10% DISCOUNT! Valid Thursday thru Sunday of each monthly meeting week.

(The Arborist)

Following these steps will keep you safe and your trees healthy! Do not use tar or wound dressing as they actually cause problems for the trees as they strive to seal the now open wound.

Remember to always use the appropriate safety equipment – protective safety glasses, gloves, hard hat if you are cutting above chest height, and ear plugs, boots and chaps if you are using a chainsaw. Safety equipment is replaceable – you are not!

Jeremy W. Baker

AAW Tidbits

There are some very interesting things that are occurring if you are a member of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). I think that most of you are aware that we, Catocin Area Turners (CAT), are a member chapter of the AAW, and we would certainly encourage everyone who belongs to CAT to join the AAW. Here are some upgraded benefits that are now available to the membership. Check out the AAW site for yourselves at <http://www.woodturner.org/>

- Past *American Woodturners* issues now available on the web
- Monthly membership drawings
- Year End Lathe Drawing
- Best Practice on Website
- Electronic Membership
- Vendor and Supporters of AAW Discounts

Upcoming Symposiums

2010 American Association of Woodturners (AAW): June 18 - 20

Hartford, CT

<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/>

2010 Virginia Woodturners: October 23 - 24

Augusta Exposition and Entertainment Center

Fishersville, VA (Expoland)

The nine woodturning clubs in Virginia are collaborating once again to produce the fourth biannual Virginia Woodturning Symposium the weekend of 23 and 24 October 2010 in Fishersville, VA, the same location as in 2008. The Virginia Woodturning, Inc, web site at <http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/> has much more information and also has a list of the motels which will offer discounts for the symposium. Making an early reservation will help VWI convince more vendors that attending and setting up at our symposium would be worthwhile. The more attendees we have, the more vendors will be willing to come. This will very much be a hands-on symposium. Save some money by sharing a motel room with a fellow woodturner.

Odds and Ends

Photographer Needed

We are in desperate need for someone to be able to take photos at our club meetings, especially for our show and tell. So please, we would appreciate someone stepping up and volunteering for this project.

Newsletter Submissions

I would like to encourage everyone to submit an article to the newsletter. Some subjects that could be submitted that I would think would have in interest to all, would be such things as reviewing a good turning book or DVD. Maybe describing your own experience in turning a specific project. How about identifying a specific type of tree and the usefulness of that wood. Another article could be on your experience with attending a woodturning class such as Campbell. I may not immediately add it into the newsletter of the same month that you submit it, but it will surely find its way in shortly. Even if your submission is only a one time affair, that is ok. Help us all out.

CAT Web Site

www.catocinareteturners.org

Remember to check our CAT web site from time to time for new information and the schedule of demonstrations for our meetings. Chet Olson has moved to Florida but is still our web master, for which we are very grateful. He has done a great job of getting it up and running and it is now a source of a lot of information about our activities.

Newsletter Contributions

A special thanks has to go out in this month newsletter to Chet Olson and Jeremy Baker for stepping up to the plate and submitting their articles on "Selling Your Wares" and the "Pruning Techniques". As a matter of fact, Jeremy has already provided me with a second article, which I will run next month.

I would also be remiss in not thanking our elected officer for their monthly submissions. Thanks guys!

Have Fun Turning