

# Catoctin Area Turners



Next meeting: Thursday, August 12, 2010, 6:30 pm  
Location: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,  
Leesburg, VA



*Volume 2 Issue 8 - August 2010*

## VA Symposium

**T**ime sure flies when we are having fun turning. The first thing you know is

that our Virginia symposium will be here in just over two months. Hopefully many of our members have already made plans on attending, and if you haven't please consider going and register at the VA Woodturners Inc website. As many of you know our own chapter president will be a featured turner along with the ever popular and well know turner Alan Lacer. Remember, that at this symposium we will all have the opportunity to turn and try some of the demonstrated techniques.

Here is a partial reprint of a recent email that we all should have received.

Hello,  
I am Jeff Fleisher, member of the 'Woodturners of the Virginias' woodturning club in Mt. Jackson, VA and new webmaster for the VA Woodturners Inc (VWI) website. VWI is the organization that sponsors the VA Woodturners Symposium that is held every other year in Virginia. We have just created a new online Discussion Forum and Information Center for Virginia woodturners. This forum is now available for you to join and exchange information with your fellow Virginia Woodturners. There are forums for general discussion, tool information and reviews, class reviews and tools for sale.

Registration to the VA symposium can be accomplished by going to the below listed web-site.

[www.virginiawoodturners.com](http://www.virginiawoodturners.com)

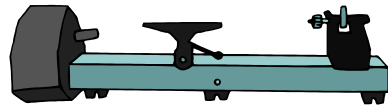
### **2010 Virginia Woodturners:**

October 23 - 24 Augusta Exposition and Entertainment Center  
Fishersville, VA (Expoland)

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# The Call of the Lathe



by Tom Boley

This month will be a bit different. Both Dale Bright, our VP, and I will be absent from the meeting. I really don't like to miss a meeting and especially this one as Bob Parson, our Secretary, will be presenting our program. I think it is going to be very interesting as Bob will both show photos and discuss the AAW Woodturning Symposium held in June in Hartford, CT. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to attend one of the national symposia, you are in for a treat. I understand that Bob has taken a lot of photos of works in the Instant Gallery. That alone is worth the price of admission, but actually, if you only go for the gallery, it is free and open to the public. Some of the most stunning works I have seen are presented in the Instant Gallery year after year.

Bob will also be running the meeting for us in August as Dale and I will both be in North Carolina. Nope. We aren't going together. These are two completely separate trips planned independently and both happen to be in the same area of NC the same week. Dale is taking his family on a family trip and Judi and I will be going to the John C. Campbell Folk School. She is taking a cooking class, Northern Italian Cooking, and I will be taking, you guessed it, a woodturning class. The instructor is John Mascoll. I tried to take his class a few years back but he had to cancel out so they substituted another instructor and it was a great class. But, still wanting to take John's class, Turning Magnificent Vessels, I have signed up for it again. We'll have to wait to see the outcome.

For those of you who were unable to attend last month's demonstration by Patrick O'Brien, you really missed a great presentation. I have known Patrick for many years and know him to be a very talented turner. He got his start, by the way, at Campbell. But Patrick turned a number of things for us, starting with easy and progressing to more difficult. I am quite jazzed by his bark-edged hollow forms and hope to try a few myself. It was a very helpful demonstration for everyone present, especially the newer turners among us.

I am going to try to make a few of those bark-edged hollow forms of Patrick's and, if I can make them good enough, I'll take a couple to the Gateway Gallery at Hill High Orchard just west of Round Hill on Rt 7. For those of you who are feeling more confident in your turnings, there are options for you to try as outlets for your work. The two most obvious are craft shows and galleries. Galleries will require jurying your work to ensure that it meets the standards of quality expected from artists who exhibit in that gallery. Jurying may range from approval by the owner to appearing with your work before a several-member panel to describe and show just what you have made. We can discuss gallery exhibits and craft shows in future newsletters.

Now that August is upon us, it is time to start thinking about who your officers will be for next year. We'll have our official annual meeting as a non-profit corporation in November and have elections for all positions then. Our officers are a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Operations Director, Program Director, and Newsletter Editor. I am hoping that several of our current officers will be willing to continue in their current positions or perhaps in a different position on the Board. But I also recognize that three have now served two years and may desire to step down in favor of others rising to serve Catoctin Area Turners. We will appoint a Nominating Committee to determine who wishes to continue and who wishes to be replaced. The Nominating Committee will also then reach out to the membership, seeking members who would like to serve on the CAT Board of Directors. Please be thinking about serving on the Board as an officer of our club. It is hugely rewarding and can be as time-consuming as you want to make it, or not. That's the thing about volunteer work. You can put in as much time as you want, or try to limit how much time you spend. CAT is a very worthwhile endeavor, as you know, and it is both an honor and a pleasure to serve. This is a kind of Call of the Lathe which is greater than merely stepping into the garage to make a piece of wood round. This is the Call to serve your fellow woodturners. Please give it some thought.

# Upcoming Demonstrations

**August:** Bob Parson, our club secretary, will be discussing his symposium experiences and presenting many pictures of the recent 2010 AAW Symposium that he recently attended in Hartford, CT.



## CAT Officers

### *President*

Tom Boley  
540-338-1718  
tboley@erols.com

### *Vice President*

Dale Bright  
540-571-9121  
frog21@comcast.net

### *Secretary*

Bob Parson  
703-724-1879  
rparson@gmail.com

### *Operations Director*

Jeff Greene  
703-787-1858  
jeff\_greene@bmc.com

### *Treasurer*

Mark Kaplan  
703-608-6914  
markap6@comcast.net

### *Program Director*

Don Maloney  
540-554-8223  
caffeyh@aol.com

### *Newsletter Editor*

Ron Cote  
703-444-0026  
ron4519cote@yahoo.com

### *Support Volunteers*

Burgan Pugh - Lending Library  
Terry Lund - Mentors  
Debbie Woods - Silent Auction  
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

Wow! What a month this has been for me. As the saying goes, there has been good news and bad news. The good news is that I had the opportunity of spending a couple of days getting one to one instruction with Bob Rosand. Bob, who lives up in Bloomsburg, PA, is a former vice president of the AAW and served six years on the Board of Directors (BOD). I particularly like to work with Bob as many of his creations are small with a lot of emphasis on tool control, and boy do I need tool control. We concentrated on doing some hollowing techniques. We first started working on how Bob creates his Christmas ornament globes followed by the techniques for the icicles and finials. We followed that project by working on small Christmas ornament acorn bird houses. I completed three of these, and I will bring them in at this month show and tell. Finally, for more tool control and aesthetics, we worked on making eggs. It really wasn't too bad or hard. Like many other tasks, knowing the steps to take and practice, yes practice, practice, using the spindle gouge will lead to nice shapely eggs. I would say that my first egg wasn't exactly your everyday chicken egg. Let's say it was more like a goose egg.

So what's the bad news you say? I think most of you have now probably have received the notice that the AAW president has sent out regarding the problems and concerns over the termination of the AAW's Executive Director, Mary Lacer. This whole situation is very disturbing and regardless what the final outcome will become, the healing period will probably be a lengthy one. From a personal stand-



point, I don't really know any of the principals or any of the behind the scenes finagling that is going on, but I do know and have observed one specific thing that I find quite disturbing. The day after the Hartford convention, the AAW president posted a notice on the AAW web site stating that Mary Lacer, the AAW Executive Director, had resigned. She had not! In the following two weeks we saw that she didn't resign. In fact, she was terminated at the convention and escorted to her room to ensure that AAW property was immediately turned in. The Board of Directors had actually unexpectedly provided Mary with a prepared letter of resignation for her to immediately sign, of which she refused that day and since. The original post by the AAW president was removed during the second week and I certainly don't recall any apologies for what I would call either a misrepresentation or as some have called it, a lie. I'm assuming, as there were six members of the Board who were in agreement with Mary's termination, that they were in agreement with the initial posting of her purported resignation. I thereby hold that group responsible for what has happened, regardless if Mary deserved to be terminated or not. Wow, I don't know about you, but that sure smells funny to me. The manner in which Mary was terminated and the way in which this BOD has acted sure doesn't give me any warm fuzzes. Let's hope that somehow all this gets resolved and we can all get back to what we enjoy doing and that is "turning".

Till next month - Keep Turning!!  
*Ron Cote*

# What I've Learned - Year 1

Jeff Greene

**W**ow! A year under my belt and still not a single **trip to the hospital**. Mission accomplished. I want to personally thank each of the members of CAT for your help in getting me to this point, especially Tom for putting up with all my stupid questions and fixing my tools when my first few sharpening attempts went horribly wrong. Looking back, I've gotta admit I am surprised at how much I've accomplished in such a short period of time; over \$3000 in equipment, a website, board member of a turning club, and a little over \$300 in sold items. Not bad for a hobby that's just one of many. After a year, turning is still one of my favorite things to do right up there with Skiing, Scuba, and my newest passion, Golf, so I think it's here to stay. In fact, I've been working hard to finalize the plans for my new workshop. The plan is to build a 30x30 garage with 1/3 to 1/2 devoted to my workshop. If anyone has design suggestions, I would certainly appreciate them (dust collection, heating/cooling, power, etc). Bottom line -- I've enjoyed the first steps of this journey immensely and look forward to the next year.

I do have a couple of comments to share about new products I have tried this month. First a big thumbs up to Petri Gel Poly Finish, it's easy to apply and produces a beautiful smooth finish. In stark contrast, I'd like to give my lowest rating to InLace, "The Liquid Inlay." First off, it's gotta be the most toxic thing I've ever worked with. I was actually worried even with gloves and a good mask. Second, the directions are useless. And third, it doesn't even come close to working as advertised. If you have worked with this product, I'd certainly appreciate any pointers you can give. Maybe it's me..

That's all for now. Happy turning..

*Jeff Greene*

**One very important note.** Tom Boley, Terry Lund and I attended and represented CAT at the Virginia Woodturners Inc. meeting on Sunday, 27 June. The purpose of this group and meeting is to foster the ongoing efforts for a statewide woodturning symposium. See what this is all about and go to the web site for the details. <http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/>

The list of vendors who have already committed is getting impressive. Keep up the registrations, that will encourage additional vendors to support our symposium.

If at all possible and you intend to attend the 2010 Virginia Symposium, **please register asap.**

More information on the symposium is posted on page 12 of this newsletter.

## July Meeting Minutes

Bob Parson

The July 8, 2010 Cat meeting was held at Banshee Reeks, as usual. This evening we had a guest demonstrator from Capitol Area Woodturners, Patrick O'Brien. Patrick is a professional woodturner and his demonstration was the creation of a "winged bowl". Patrick started out warming up to our Jet lathe by doing some spindle turning, mainly by making a spinning top. When he moved on to create his main piece he started with a 3" tree branch mounted between centers. The CAT website devoted some space to show pictures of Patrick at the lathe and some examples of his winged bowl projects.



# It's Woodcraft Contest Time!

## It's not too late to enter!!

The Leesburg Woodcraft Store will be hosting its second annual woodturning display and competition at the store 15 through 21 August this year. Barbara and Lee are inviting beginners and experienced turners alike to show off your favorite turned piece. Submitted pieces will be on display during the week for all to view and to vote for the Public's Pick award. This year we are expanding the judged categories to include not only the classics, but other categories such as lidded boxes, pens and other kit pieces, and more. We will also have separate categories for youth and beginner submissions.

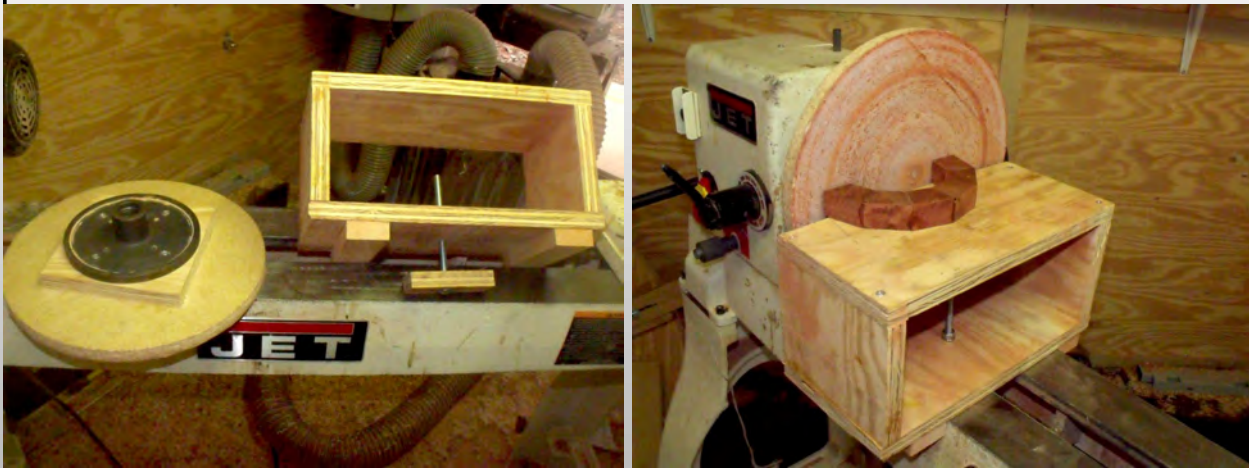
To enter, stop by the store or send an e-mail to [woodcraft327@woodva.com](mailto:woodcraft327@woodva.com) providing your name, phone, a description of your entry, and what category you want to enter.

(President's Note: This was a lot of fun last year. Let's really wow'em this year! All you new woodturners, now's your chance to go public with your turnings!)



## A Large Disc Sander From Your Lathe

Chet Olson



**M**y friend Brian Sykes showed me this and it works great. Do it like I did and buy an extra face plate to leave attached to this cool tool. Go to Woodcraft and buy some 12" (or whatever desired size) sanding disc stick-on papers. Take a piece of MDF, and cut to approximately round using whatever jigsaws or band saws you have. Attach the new faceplate to the center of the MDF. I glued an additional 6 inch square backing to the MDF to stabilize against warping of the MDF. Turn it to your desired diameter on your lathe and trim/sand the face until true.

**Safety:** I recommend a face shield when turning MDF. Although the board turns easily, the waste that flies off is hard and hot and has a way of getting right past goggles and scouring your eyeballs.

Stick the round sand paper disk on it. If you don't like the price of stick-on sanding discs, you can cut and glue regular good quality sandpaper to the round MDF disc using 3M Spray Mount Artist's Adhesive. This adhesive does not stick very securely, but it has been secure enough to endure sanding use and old paper peels off very easily.

Make a square sturdy heavy plywood box about the height of the center of your lathe to use as a project rest. Make the box so it can easily be attached and removed from the lathe bed. (I recommend a centered wooden twistable bar hung below on a vertical 1/4" carriage bolt. When the box is mounted in place, you can use crazy glue to attach two little guide boards that fit against the outside of the lathe bed. This helps facilitate quick square mounting.

For sanding segments with critical angles, I attach a guide board (not shown) to the top surface of the box set to the horizontal angle I wish to maintain and held using a C-clamp.

Now you have a large disk sander you can use for flattening the bottoms of bowls or sanding segmented discs etc.

**Next meeting: "Thursday", August 12, 2010, 6:30 pm**  
**Location: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,**  
**Leesburg, VA**

**This month demonstrator/speaker: Bob Parson of CAT**



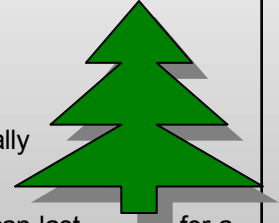
# Advice from The Arborist

Jeremy Baker

Hey guys and gals! Thanks for letting me take last month off while I toured the U.S. with my family. We covered over 6,000 miles with all four kids in an RV and we still like each other! Here's the next installment in my series. As always, I welcome ideas for future articles or questions regarding this one. [jere-mywbaker@gmail.com](mailto:jere-mywbaker@gmail.com)

## Proper Chainsaw Maintenance

A chainsaw is often perceived as a brute instrument capable of mass destruction. While it is true that a chainsaw can wreak havoc in a short period of time, it is actually a precision tool that functions much like a highly trained athlete.



The chainsaw is an expensive tool, but with consistent and proper maintenance it can last for a very long time. The list below is to serve as a general guideline. Different saw models require different maintenance, so be sure to consult your owners manual if you have questions.

Air filters must be checked frequently. I always knock the sawdust off the filter after each use to ensure that it will be clean when I pick the saw up the next time. Sometimes you may need to clean the filter during the day if you are cutting large amounts of wood or dead/dry wood. I will also clean the filter out with compressed air blowing from the inside out after I have run 2 gallons of mixed fuel through a saw. \*Tip-engage the choke fully before pulling the filter off to avoid getting dust in to the carburetor.

Sparkplugs on chainsaws withstand tremendous amounts of abuse. Pull the plug prior to each use and inspect for: degradation of the electrode, build-up of oil, and cracked porcelain. Replace the plug if you note any of these items. Also inspect the sparkplug wire/boot for cracks in the insulation.

Pull the side cover off and remove the bar and chain. Remove built up 'crud' from the sprocket/drive area to ensure more efficient operation and to keep the chain brake area clean and functioning. Clean off the oiling port on the side of the saw.

Ensure that the oiling holes in the bar are cleaned as well as the entire groove and bar tip sprocket. Flip the bar each time you remove it to promote even wear. If you can feel a ridge on the side of the bar, use a single bastard mill file to remove the burr using soft and short strokes. Keep the file as flat as possible to avoid mal-forming the surface that the chain rides on.

Sharpen the chain frequently to avoid excess engine wear and to make your work easier. (This is a topic all of its own, so I won't go into the details right now.)

Always use fresh gas mixed to the proper ratio (usually 50:1). Don't mix more than you can use in a 30 day period. Replace the fuel filter annually (more often with excess use).

Use brand name bar and chain oil to ensure the longevity of your saw, bar, and chain. It's a few dollars more expensive per gallon but definitely worth the investment. I prefer Stihl or Husqvarna bar and chain oil – these companies spend a lot of money refining their mix.

I'm certain that I missed something here, but following these steps will definitely help to protect your investment as well as improve your efficiency. This saves you time, money, and frustration.

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*

# Mentoring Program

by Terry Lund

**W**e 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 August 12. If you are interested in either opportunity but will not be at the meeting, please contact him via email at [terry.lund@gmail.com](mailto: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.

We will try to match interested individuals with a mentor who lives “reasonably close” whenever possible, and if we get enough mentors to sign up, we will also try to match based on one of the following areas of interest, or feel free to mention another area of interest.

## **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

# Odds and Ends

**This is a must see video for all woodturners.**

Please check this Guy Out.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnv0DAR\\_gWA&feature=player\\_embedded#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnv0DAR_gWA&feature=player_embedded#!)

Do you think that he really cares at what speed his lathe is turning??

I wonder if he ever watched Alan Lacer's DvD about the use of a Skew.



## **Photographer Still Needed**

We are still in need for someone to be able to take photos at our club meetings, especially for our "Show and Tell". So please, get involved and you too could be the next newsletter editor, I mean photographer. Isn't that right Tom??

## **CAT Web Site**

[www.catoctinareturners.org](http://www.catoctinareturners.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.

# Have Fun Turning

## Member Discounts

# Woodcraft of Leesburg



Leesburg Plaza

512 E. Market

Leesburg, VA 20176

Phone: 703-737-7880

Fax: 703-737-6166

[Leesburg@woodcraft.com](mailto: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.

## Dunlap Woodcrafts

Located near the Dulles Expo Center at  
14600F Flint Lee Road, Chantilly, VA 20151  
Tel (703) 631-5147 Fax. (703) 631-7103

**Discounts are available to CAT members**

Purchase \$100 and receive a 10% discount  
Purchase \$250 and receive a 15% discount  
Purchase \$500 and receive a 20% discount

I would suggest that you give them a call prior to making the trip to ensure that they are open.

# AAW Tidbits

**Are you a member of the AAW? Well if you aren't, you might consider the following as an added incentive. Each month your name is automatically entered into a drawing.**

**Take a look below at this months prizes.**

**August 2010 drawing will be for the following prizes:**

- A 16 oz. bottle of walnut oil and an 8 oz. container of wax, from Mike Mahoney, <http://www.bowlmakerinc.com>
- \$100 gift certificate provided by Thompson lathe tools - <http://www.thompsonlathetools.com/>
- \$100.00 gift certificate provided by Hunter Tool Systems - <http://www.hunterwoodturningtool.com/>
- A five-DVD set provided by [David Ellsworth](#)
- \$100.00 gift certificate provided by D-Way Tools, <http://www.d-waytools.com/>
- \$100.00 gift certificate provided by Turningwood, <http://www.turningwood.com/>

Go to the AAW web site to see who were the July winners.

<http://woodturner.org/>

# Habitat For Humanity Request for Donations

On September 18, Loudoun Habitat for Humanity will be holding its sixth annual Barn Dance and Auction, the charity's largest fundraiser each year. The event is held at a farm donated by one of Loudoun Habitat's board members and features a live and silent auction, dinner and dancing. The evenings' activities center around the property's 100 plus year- old barn, with the silent auction being held in a walk-in shed next door which receives a magical transformation. The event, aptly named "An Evening in the Country", is by invitation only and has become quite popular with most guests returning year after year. Over the years, this has become a very successful event and a great place to showcase local businesses, woodworkers and craftsmen. Each donation is displayed with the donor's name prominently visible - in fact, if you give us one of your shopping bags we would love to display it with the item, along with your business cards.

As you know Loudoun Habitat for Humanity builds homes for the less fortunate in our community. Our motto is "A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out". Every Habitat homeowner pays a monthly mortgage for their home and, during its construction; they must contribute 300 hours towards its completion. They also go through a series of training sessions on home ownership and financial responsibility. To date, not a single Loudoun Habitat homeowner has defaulted on his or her mortgage, and these homeowners include single mothers who are the sole support of their families. Their mortgage payments are placed in an account which is applied toward the construction of even more homes - it's a real revolving door system.

We hope you will consider donating to the Barn Party as a means of supporting our all volunteer organization and your local community. Every cent of the profits from this event go directly towards the purchase of land or construction of homes for some very deserving and grateful people in our county. Due to our volunteer support - including electricians, plumbers and landscapers - we are able to build the only houses in Loudoun County that have a construction cost of less than \$150,000.

We hope you will consider our request with even a small donation. We would be happy to pick it up, or if it is a certificate it can be mailed to the address above. If you would like more information, please call me at 540 338 3707 or on my cell phone at 703 999 4922. We really appreciate your time and consideration.

Yours truly,  
Carolyn Green\  
Event Coordinator

# Symposiums

## 2010 Virginia Symposium

Fishersville, VA

[http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/symposium/symposium\\_info\\_home.htm](http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/symposium/symposium_info_home.htm)

**2010 Virginia Woodturners:** October 23 - 24

Augusta Exposition and Entertainment Center

Fishersville, VA (Expoland)

**T**he 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.

<http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/>