

February 2024

OCWoodWorkers.org

Volume 41, Issue 2

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ralph Crowther



The new year is off to a great start with the toy program picking right up where we left off last year and the pen program having new people making pens. We also had some great programs already with more to come this year. The February meeting will have our first woodworking contest for 2024. The challenge is to make something with a hidden compartment. Judging will be based on originality, workmanship, use of materials and finish. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, HM and People's Choice. The next contest will bring back a club favorite, the 2 x 4 contest. For this challenge you need to use a common construction grade 2 x 4 from the big box store to make your project. You should use at least 75% of the wood. Hardware may be used and any finish including painting is allowed. Let your imagination go outside your comfort zone and come up with a great entry. The contest will be judged at the May 2nd meeting so you have plenty of time to get a project completed.

Our club is adding many new members. Last year there were over 50 new and returning members and we had 4 more join in January of this year! Us old-time members forget and take for granted that some of our history is not known to all. This became apparent when the Woodworker

of the Year was given out and also during the annual turning contest. You see the Woodworker of the Year is prefaced with the words "The Joe Lomax Memorial" at the top. So who was Joe Lomax? Joe was the owner of Austin Hardwoods which he opened in 1981 after retiring from a 25 year career as a microbiologist in the medical field. Joe was a great friend and supporter of the organization up until his death in August of 2010. Many will remember that he used to cater our Christmas dinner at his expense. He also donated many tools to support our raffles and other fundraisers. At the annual woodturning contest, the winner of the segmented turning category is also the winner of the "Fred Adams Memorial Award". So who was Fred Adams? Fred was a long-time prolific woodturner who started experimenting with segmented turning. His earlier works were based on Native American pottery and blanket patterns. He evolved from platters to vases and pushed the limits at a time when segmented turning was still fairly new. He would bring several pieces each month and give the number of segments in each. He also did all his turning on a Shopsmith showing that the skill is with the operator and not the tool. Fred passed away in 2003 and the award was started that year. So now you know!

Hope everyone has the opportunity to get out to their shops and make some projects or at least some sawdust!



David Wade

**Sam Maloof's Drop Leaf Table Joint
and Reminiscences about Working with Sam**

Thursday, February 1

6:30 p.m.



Toy Work Party

Saturday, February 3

9:00 a.m.



Craig Elliott

**Designing Spindle Templates
and Turning the Design**

Thursday February 15

6:30 p.m.

WOODWORKERS' SAWDUST

By Drew Shellenbarger, Vice President and Program Director

Well, my woodworking friends, another year has passed. I was told a long time ago that the years go by quicker as you get older. I believe that planning on the calendar and looking at each job and vacation on said calendar expedites our journey. We had a wonderful meeting with our friend and speaker, Jeff Bennett. He

showed up with all kinds of knives and such and gave a great presentation. Since learning from Jeff was such a good time, we also shared our sharpening experiences with each other. Remember that we don't all sharpen the same way. It's the end result that matters most.



TURNER'S SHAVINGS

By Chuck Phillips



It's a new year, and a new demonstrator. We kick things off with Rich Haagsma on bowl basics. He's been turning since 2017, and has found bowls to be fun, yet relaxing. One thing that really appeals is the fact the each bowl is unique,

with the pattern only revealed when you cut into the wood.

So, if you're just setting out on your turning journey, what tools will you need? (Rich has a list.)

-Lathe

-At least one bowl gouge. Of course, you will probably want more.

-Scraper. A skew chisel on its side work nicely for this, and has other uses.

-Some thing to mount the work on the lathe. A chuck is the most versatile, but also the most expensive. In a pinch you can do a lot with faceplates, but it won't be very quick.

-A way to sharpen your tools. The simplest to learn is a grinder and jig system. Rich uses the Oneway Wolverine, as it offers simple repeatability. (I use this setup as well.)

-A rotating center for the tailstock.

-Safety gear. At a bare minimum, get a face shield that is rated for impacts. If you work indoors, some sort of respiratory protection is a Very Good Idea.

-If you are making your own blanks from logs, get a decent chainsaw and learn how to use it safely.

Now that we have all these tools we're going to need some wood. The best type of wood is free wood, of course. Pay attention to people trimming trees in your area, and chat up the local arborists. My experience is that they are generally friendly, and will gladly give you all the wood you can carry. In a pinch, or if you want a specific species, you may have to resort to buying blanks. While there's nothing wrong with that, it can get pretty spendy if you turn a lot.

Rich starts with a log, which he cuts into pieces that are about as long as their diameter. These are then split in half, (Thirds if it's big enough.) Knocking off the corners will make something round-ish enough to put

on the lathe. The most convenient method is a screw center held in your chuck. From this point Rich gets the outside fairly round, with a large diameter tenon. This is then flipped round and preliminarily hollowed. Unless you plan to completely finish the bowl in one sitting, leave it fairly thick. Somewhere around 1 1/2" is good. At this point Rich will coat the wood with a sealer (Usually Anchorseal), pack it in a bag with the shavings, and set it in his shed to dry.

Drying wood takes some patience. For the first week you will want to open the bag and shake things around every day or so. After that you can go a bit longer, and after 8-12 months the wood should be ready. Of course, if you're not ready for it you can wait longer.

Final turning starts by truing the tenon back to round. To do this, use the tailstock to press the bowl against your chuck. Make your cuts towards the headstock until the tenon is round. There are two important things about the tenon: The angle should match your chuck jaws, and there should be a flat that the tops of the jaws will bear against. Rich uses a small scraper ground to match his dovetail jaws to achieve both of these in one pass.

With a solid tenon, you can flip the bowl around with a much more secure grip in the chuck. Get the outside back to round, and assess how much the wood moved as it dried. This establishes your maximum wall thickness. Sometimes this tends towards zero and you either scrap the bowl or do something artsy. (You could call it a dieter's cereal bowl.) Rich likes to finish sand the outside before hollowing as a guard against any movement as stresses are relieved. Hollowing the inside is best done in steps of about an inch. This ensures that the section being cut is well supported. The last section in the bottom can be reached with either a scraper or a "bottom feeder" bowl gouge.

The final turning step is removing the tenon. Rich does this by holding the bowl with a set of Cole jaws in his chuck. These are large diameter jaws with rubber grippers, and offer a fairly secure hold. You will still want to make your cuts pressing into the headstock. Be sure to make a slight hollow in the base so the bowl rests on a ring instead of a disk.

Rich does a fair bit of sanding. His preferred method is power sanding with a pad mounted in an angled-head drill. He starts with 80 grit and progresses up through 400. The recommendation from the room was a good dust collector when you do this. An economical source for abrasives is Klingspor, whose woodworking store can be found at <https://www.woodworkingshop.com/> Rich buys hook and loop in 10 meter rolls that he cuts into squares.

Rich uses a medical grade CA for his finish. He gets this from Mark Sillay (<https://www.marksillay.com/index.html>) and it's a good thing a little goes a long way. He mentioned that the bottle he showed, which appeared to hold at most 250 ml, cost him \$44. One

coat is enough, applied by wiping on with a nitrile glove. Once it has had time to harden Rich polishes the bowl with a Beall buffing system. His end result is a very smooth finish that feels good when you pick it up.

Bowls aren't scary, and they should be a part of everyone's repertoire. Your challenge for the February meeting is to make one.

We would like to congratulate the two runaway leaders in the 2023 Ironman Challenge: Ralph Crowther and Len Musgrave. They showed tremendous dedication to this hobby, and hopefully next year they will be joined by more of us.



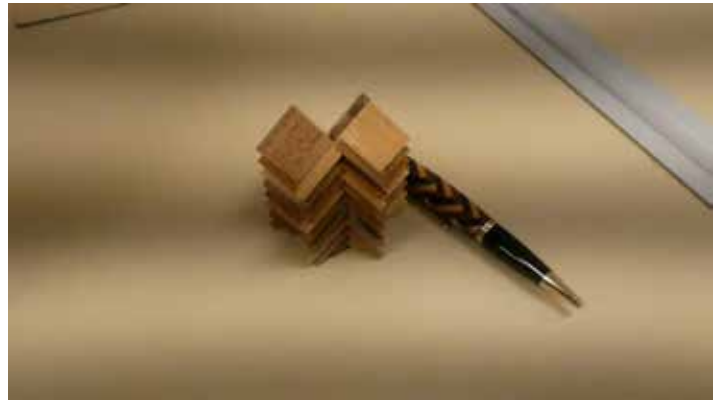
TURNERS' SHOW AND TELL



TURNERS' CHALLENGE



TURNERS' CHALLENGE

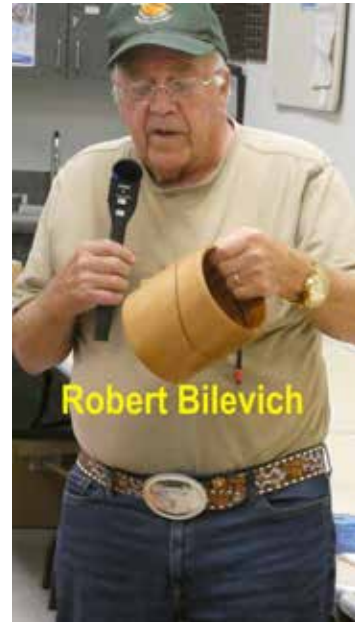


TURNERS' CHALLENGE

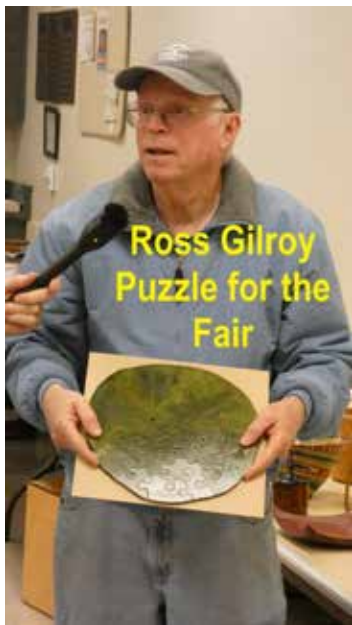


TURNERS' CHALLENGE





TURNERS' CHALLENGE



December

TOY STORY

By Ken Crandall, Chair, Toy Program



Brrrrrrrr! January's work party was cold, cold, cold! But the low temperature didn't keep the faithful away. An already good turnout was boosted by five newcomers, Brad, Charles, Jeanne, Joanne and Kelce (Sorry I didn't write down last names) Hope they had a good time and will make us a habit.

Production was prolific. Rex Bullock brought in 44 of his famous low-roll games, Robert Morris contributed several sets of puzzles. I collaborated with Mitchell West on 100 doll cradles, and his wife Marilyn brought 60 dolls for them. Trucks and paddle ball toys rounded out a dynamite first month. At the end of the day, Richard Kalman reported that we boxed up 509 toys. Great job gang.

I continue to receive thank you letters from the non-profits we serve. They are very complimentary about the quality of our hand-crafted toys and how much the children enjoy them. Our efforts are making a difference for these children. Keep up the good work

Our next work party will be on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:00. See you then..



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS PEN PROGRAM

By John Sobota, Chair, Support Our Troops Pen Program



For those readers that may not be aware, the OCWA operates a “Support Our Troops” pen program. The club furnishes members with pen kits and wood pen blanks to turn, finish and assemble. The pens are then returned to the OCWA

where they are inspected for quality and distributed to various organizations for our military personnel, both active-duty and veterans as a small token of our appreciation for their service. Over the last few years, we have been averaging over 2,000 pens per year distributed to various organizations.

Our members submitted over 2,200 pens during 2023. The pens are very much appreciated by the recipients as evidenced by the emails and letters received from many of the recipients. We are again off to a good start this year with our members turning in 362 pens since our holiday party in December. We are however looking for more members to become actively involved in our program to come closer to a goal of 2,500 pens for this year. I encourage any members that have a lathe to check out five or ten pen kits to take home and make pens to contribute to our program. Please contact me with any questions

you may have regarding the pens for our program. Our members can be as creative as they desire in making the pens, including the shape/design of the pens, any embellishment of the wood blanks and the finishes used, if they are in line with our policy of distributing quality wood pens to our servicemembers.

We are planning on having a pen-turning event later this spring geared towards boosting our pen production. Pay attention at the upcoming meetings and watch the newsletter articles for more details regarding this upcoming event. We did have a pen-turning event last spring in which members met at my house on a Saturday for us to exchange tips and tricks to efficiently produce quality pens for our program. We all enjoyed the day as well as being productive in boosting our pen production.

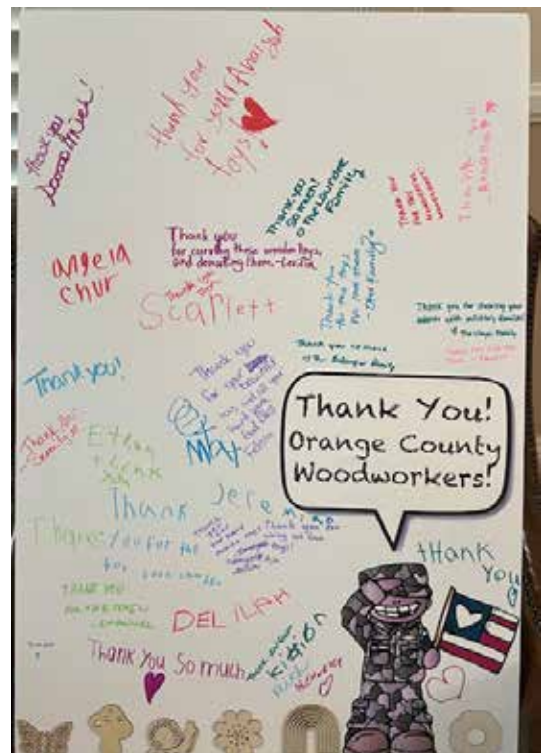
I would again like to thank all those who have contributed to our pen program by donating tools, materials or money for the continued support of our “Support Our Troops” pen program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the OCWA and the members, as well as the veterans of our armed forces who receive the pens we distribute to the organizations we support.

Mr. Sobota,

John Calabrese gave me the pen you made for me yesterday. It is absolutely beautiful, writes wonderfully, and is really thoughtful of you. Thank you sincerely. As it turned out, I had a follow-on meeting where I had to review and sign no less than 150 documents. So, when I say it writes beautifully, that is not speculation.

I look forward to using the pen for years to come and I'll remember fondly the OCWA support to our Marines and Sailors. God Bless and Semper Fidelis. Get Some,

Jerome
LtCol Jerome Greco, USMC
Commanding Officer, 3d Bn, 5th Mar
Office: (760) 725 2064
Mobile: (760) 468 9927
NIPR: Jerome.greco@usmc.mil
SIPR: Jerome.greco@usmc.smil.mil



“CLUB ROOTS” (25 YEARS)

Bruins, William
Couch, Sam
Crowther, Ralph
Daniels, James
Davis, Carson
Gamo, Gilbert
Goldman, Andy
Kaufholtz, Lee
Musgrave, Len
Neesley, Michael
Overholt, El Jay
Plummer, George
Rogers, Les
Santhon, James
Smet, Edward
Wade, David

LIFETIME MEMBERS

James Santhon
Jeff Bennett
Carson Davis
Andy Goldman
Len Musgrave
Michael Neesley
Ingko Oetomo
George Plummer
Al Whitcomb
Larry Marley
Ralph Crowther

TURNER OF THE YEAR

2023 Ross Gilroy

WOODWORKER OF THE YEAR

2023	Robert Morris
2022	John Sobota
2021	Richard Kalman
2020	Ken Crandall
2019	Ken Cowell
2018	Bill Rogers
2017	John Marshall
2016	Len Musgrave
2015	Ken Cowell
2014	Larry Marley
2013	Ralph Crowther
2012	Ed Smet
2011	Len Musgrave

Person of the Year

2010	Al Whitcomb
2009	Ed Straub

PAST PRESIDENTS

2013 - 2020	James Santhon
2012	Vic Cohn
2010 - 2011	Craig Chambers
2006 - 2009	James Santhon
2005	Doug Nowlin
2001 - 2004	James Santhon
1999 - 2000	Carson Davis
1997 - 1998	Sam Migliazzo
1995 - 1996	Mike Neesly
1993 - 1994	Larry Baum
1991 - 1992	Len Musgrave
1988 - 1990	Al Griffin
1987	Andy Goldman
1986	Greg Martin
1985	Dough Christie
1984	Bob Pederson



A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Carl Harris, Long Beach
David Streiff, Newport Beach
Gavin Knapp, Brea
Ivan Wolder, Irvine

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Sawdust & Shavings is the newsletter of The Orange County Woodworkers Association.
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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1038
Fullerton CA 92836-8038

Do you have an idea for an article, shop tip, or tool review?
Please send articles to: ssmolinsky@comline.com
Deadline for submissions is the Monday after the Woodturners meeting.