

March 2012

## Editor's Corner

This month the newsletter seems to be all mine so I'm telling you about my life for the last month, sorry if it gets boring for you.

I've been working hard to try and turn out some product for the Spring shows that I'm entering and not getting a lot done. The shows in November and December totally wiped me out, not just of product but of physical stamina. To put it plainly I'm exhausted, but we will try to struggle through. Although wood turning is a hobby, the marketing of the turnings can also take a toll because you begin to develop a following who want to see more and better pieces. I've just taken three days off from my day job just to devote time to turning, but as you know, the weekly things that you tend to do when you get home from work also eat into that time off. I'm even taking some time out just to produce this Newsletter. This isn't a complaint, just the truth as you all are probably aware.

Over the last month I've also been able to take part in some very good demonstrations as I will write about in the rest of the Newsletter.

I also took a three day course with my wife on preparing for retirement. I'm ready for it now, but I think we might be able to do it in about four years. Then "life" will begin again.

Anyway, that's the monthly diary, it was busy but interesting. As usual, I want to encourage people to take part in the club. You are responsible for the future of the group and you can have input into what happens. Happy turning!

*Laurie*

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The views expressed in the "Editor's Corner" are my own. If you have any questions or comments concerning this newsletter, or if you want to contribute an article please contact me at [lfriley@rogers.com](mailto:lfriley@rogers.com)

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**Congratulations** go out to **Glenn Heatherington**, winner of this year's Brian Larkin Trophy.

## Future Monthly Presentations

### March 20

Kathy Daub - Rim Treatments

### April 10

Vic Buxton - segmenting

### May 8

Ken Waller - Marketing your Pieces

### June 12

TBA - Favorite Tools/Jigs

## Monthly Challenge

### March 20

Story stick projects/following a pattern

### April 10

Pens

### May 8

Rim Treatments

### June 12

Segmenting

## Website Improvement

We would like your help in making the index page of the club web site more "alive". If you come across sites you think would be of interest to other wood turners, please send the link to our webmaster. We will try to update this every week or so.



## *Carlo Robazzo*

Carlo is a very unassuming member of our club but was our demonstrator last month at our monthly meeting. The topic presented was about Pens and CA Finish. Although I've been making some pens for awhile I must admit that I've never tried this type of finish; to tell the truth, it scares the bejesus out of me, with the thought of getting stuck to a finished piece of work as it merrily spins around.

But Carlo was a good teacher. He methodically took us through the making of a pen step by step. For those who have done it, it was a good refresher, for those who are contemplating this type of turning, it was an excellent introduction.

Finally he got to the "scary" part. But it wasn't. Carlo explained each step and answered all the questions thrown at him with regards to producing this hard shiny finish that will last for years. He even showed how to correct mistakes that might happen and was able to show in his demonstration that each step was possible for anyone to do.

Carlo has a very easy way of teaching and I was impressed with the knowledge that he shared on his topic that night. If anyone is looking for a mentor in pen-making, Carlo is the man!

## *Alan Carter*

So I took the two-day Alan Carter demo course and was truly amazed at the work this man has produced. Alan shares very easily how he does the turnings that he makes with Thin stems, thin-walled goblets, split bowls and Suspended vessels or reliquaries.

On the Saturday morning Alan showed us his technique in making a thin stem for a goblet. This is a really thin stem, something for show rather than every day use. I've done some thin stems in my turning for finials and icicles for ornaments but nothing even close to this. These are so impressive, and with a bit of practice a piece of work each of us could do as I'm sure we will see in upcoming Show-and-Tell.

Lunch was great, as usual at these demos and gave everyone a chance to socialize for an hour.

The afternoon was spent with Alan demonstrating the Split Bowl turnings that have inspired many woodturners. Watching this part of the demonstration was truly a duh! moment when you realize that the whole concept is so easy to understand and produce.

Sunday was spent learning about the suspended vessels or reliquaries as Alan likes to call them because the way you build them they can hold a very special object.

This part of the weekend was a bit more demanding of a turner with tolerances down to very little such as making sure the headstock and tailstock are directly in line or that measurements are exact when drilling holes. But once again, Alan explained each step and answered all the questions that were asked on how to produce this type of vessel. Alan has a very easy-going way of demonstrating and he doesn't rush his explanations; he is very easy to speak with and is a true teacher.

Alan had a number of slides to show off his work. Traveling from Illinois limits the amount of finished work that can be packed in his luggage so the slide show on both days was used to expand on the work that he has completed and some test pieces that he is working on.

One of the fascinating tips was compwood ([compwood-products.com](http://compwood-products.com)) that he is beginning to use in some of his turnings.

All in all it was a great weekend and worth the price of admission. I know that I will definitely try some of this type of work in the future, in fact I've used his thin stem demo to help create a finial (not one 8 inches long yet).

Congratulations to the executive for bringing in this excellent demonstrator.

Did I mention lunch on Sunday?

