

# As The Burl Turns

Bi-Monthly Publication of the Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association



A progressive chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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

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Special thanks to **Andy Chen**—guest demonstrator at the COWA March general meeting. He thrilled us with his expertise turning corian, and produced a lidded box. Some of Andy's work can be seen by browsing through the galleries of the Gulf Coast Woodturners website at: [www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org/](http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org/)

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**COWA's** April meeting yielded a host of almost 80 turned pieces from our members and as usual, they were very impressive! I am amazed at the variety and quality exhibited by our members. These turnings speak highly of the woodturning skills found in our club. Great job everyone!

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**Beginner's Corner** shares the perspective of a novice turner. The **President's Skew** shares thoughts about current events and activities of the club. **Librarian's Gouge** promotes a selection from the club library you can pop into your DVD player. Keep up-to-date by reviewing the **Calendar** below.

Take a peek into the **Woodturner's Toolbox**. Don't miss the **Safety Tip** AND don't forget to look at all the pictures! Last but not *least*, do you **Know Your Turner?** **Enjoy!**

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## Calendar

<b>May</b>	<b>10th</b> Club Meeting	Metro Technology Center South Bryant Campus Demonstration-Turning Natural-edge Bowls by Virgil Barksdale
<b>June</b>	<b>7th</b> Board of Directors Meeting	
	<b>14th</b> Club Meeting	Metro Technology Center South Bryant Campus Instant Gallery and Bring Back Session
	<b>18th</b> COWA Picnic	Lane & Marilea Miller 5600 Sycamore Pond Dr. Mustang OK
	<b>23rd—26th</b> AAW Symposium	Saint Paul, Minnesota
<b>July</b>	<b>12th</b> Club Meeting	Metro Technology Center South Bryant Campus Demonstration-by Jerry Brownrigg of Alva OK
<b>August</b>	<b>26th—28th</b> SWAT Symposium	Waco Convention Center, Waco TX

Visit COWA's official website for the latest club information. <http://www.okwoodturners.net>

## **Beginner's Corner**

*straight from the perspective of a novice turner*

By Karen Robinson

If you are just beginning your wood turning hobby/career, you know that there is a wealth of information everywhere. On my journey, I was really interested in buying my own lathe. But how does one choose?

- ◆ Do I want a big, midi or small lathe?
- ◆ Do I want a #2 Morse taper or #1?
- ◆ What am I going to turn?
- ◆ How much money do I have?

I found the best consolidated place for all this information on the American Association of Woodturners site [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org). There is a resource link that will bring you to another link called Lathe Specs [www.woodturner.org/resources/LatheSpecs.pdf](http://www.woodturner.org/resources/LatheSpecs.pdf). This collection of information was easy for me to read thru and helped me research the lathes I wanted verses trying to collect all the information myself. It also helps in comparing apples to apples instead of apples to watermelons.

This site also helps when you are looking to upgrade. I suggest sticking to the same Morse Taper size or you will have to re-buy all your tapers.

Selecting a lathe is one of the easiest choices you will make, because after that, you have to decided if you want to eat or turn wood all day!

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## **Librarian's Gouge**

*Librarian's recommended DVD*

By Karen Robinson

We have new DVDs! If you have not already been through the library, you will see the SWAT 2010 DVDs. Although I was there, Eli Avisera was so great, I would watch his DVDs again. He was the international turner showcased at SWAT. He is one that gives you those "That is so simple! Why am I not doing that!" moments. Eli made a very simple jig to help make the longest and thinnest finial I have ever seen. We have added 27 new DVDs to the library.....a little something for everyone!

*Editors Note: Visit Eli's Internet home page at <http://www.avisera.co.il/content/default1.asp>*

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## **Volunteers Needed**

The club needs two volunteers for helping with club functions.

One volunteer is needed to take the coffee pot and be responsible for making coffee at the monthly club meetings. Our very own Little Mary Dear is going to need to hand over this function to someone.

Another volunteer is needed to take charge of keeping the wood end sealer for the membership. We usually receive the sealer in 5 gallon containers and you would decant into one gallon containers and bring a couple of gallons to the monthly meeting for members to purchase.

If you can help with either of these functions, please contact JIM CLOW (405) 293-9388 [jclow@cox.net](mailto:jclow@cox.net)

## **President's Skew**

*a few syllables from the president of COWA*

By Jim Clow

**H**i all! I want to extend a BIG thank you to all members that volunteer for COWA activities. One thing that makes our club so successful is the willingness of many members that volunteer. We have a lot of activities and it helps tremendously when enough members volunteer so as to not make it a burden on a few.

Again, **THANK YOU!!!**



### **Moore Norman Class Season Ends**

**W**e have successfully completed the class schedule for the spring at Moore Norman Technology Center (MNT) with the advanced Hollowing class. The classes continue to be the highest rated offerings by MNT.

**W**e have a new schedule set for the fall session. Five classes will again be offered for woodturning starting with beginning levels and advancing to more difficult tool handling techniques.

**I** highly recommend our newer members consider taking some or all of the classes. Classes are limited to ten students on a first come first served basis. MNT charges \$49 per student per class.

### **Youth Bowl Class Success!**

**D**ue to the excitement and enthusiasm of the youth at MNT from the pen class, we held a bowl class which had twenty two students (10 in the AM 2 1/2 hour class and 12 in the PM class.) Dewayne Colwell showed the students how to cut and place a walnut segmented ring on a Maple base bowl blank.

**T**he first day was spent mounting the blank on the chuck and turning the outside of the bowl. The second turning day the students turned the outside and finished the bowl. Boy do they look good!

**A**t the end of the last day the students rolled out two cakes, one with "COWA" and the other "Thank You", and ice cream. We have never had students, of any kind, reward us for turning instruction like this before. As you can expect, all 9 helper/instructors participated even though some of us are diabetic. That makes your heart feel good!!

*See Page 6—Bowl Class Photos*

### **COWA Write-up To Be Published In AAW Journal In June Issue**

**A**n article covering COWA's doubling membership over the last four years and our turning instruction classes for members, adults, and youth will be published in the June issue of AAW Journal. Maybe other Woodturning clubs can follow our lead in these efforts. The entire club is to be congratulated for our successes.

### **Public Article About COWA For Teaching MNT Youth**

**T**he MNT woodworking instructor has written an article praising COWA for our work with the youth for their newsletter. It is nice to have our volunteers recognized in a public way.

### **Choctaw Spin Top Success**

**W**e turned spin tops for the Choctaw Land Run Festival this last week. We let the Mid – High students choose a top from inventory or stand in front of a lathe and order their "special" top by choosing three of their favorite colors. About 1000 students attended on Thursday, 1200 on Friday and as many on Saturday

as local youth came over after a public Easter egg hunt held in another part of the Park. It is estimated that we gave away over 700 tops for the three days. Boy were we busy. *See Page 7—Choctaw Spin Top Photos*



## **South Bryant Student Class Rescheduled**

**W**e rescheduled a pen turning class for students at the Metro Technology Centers’ South Bryant facility (where we hold our normal club meetings.) The first class was cancelled as the day we came for class was an in service day for instructors and no classes were held on that day.

A total of 18 students were scheduled to turn a pen from both the AM and PM classes. Several students were so excited some of the AM class stayed and turned another pen in the PM. The instructors were very pleased and we will be scheduling another class in the fall session. *See Page 7—Pen Class Photos*

## **Incentive For Members To Turn Spin Tops This Year**

**T**he amount of spin tops returned in relation to the amount of wood blanks taken by members was disappointing this year. We spend approximately \$300 on wood for top blanks each year and need to make it count.

**W**e will be making a DVD covering “top making” and have copies available to members for instructional purposes. This may be helpful particularly to our newer members.

**S**o, we are considering a program where if a member returns 20 colored spin tops, their name will be placed into a hat and we will draw a winner in December. The winner will receive an AAW paid membership for next year. We are visiting with AAW to supply the membership.

## **SWAT Special Interest Group Discussion**

**W**e have again been asked to lead a discussion group covering membership increase. COWA’s membership has doubled in the last four years. This discussion will be on Thursday night prior to SWAT programs beginning on Friday.

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## **Club Officers**

<b>President</b>	Jim Clow	(405) 293-9388	jclow@cox.net	4054 Prairie Falcon Pointe Edmond OK 73034
<b>Vice President</b>	Wayne Furr	(405) 364-7278	the2furrs@aol.com	3400 NE 36th NE Norman OK 73026
<b>Secretary</b>	Dick Nowlin	(405) 348-2728	nowdem@aol.com	10713 Canyon Crest Edmond OK 73025
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Robinson	(405) 802-4613	karenp_is@yahoo.com	10200 Hefner Oaks Jones OK 73049
<b>Board Members At Large</b>	Dale Jones	(405) 348-6889	jdjones9@swbell.net	6625 N Sooner Edmond OK 73034
	Bob Weaver	(405) 947-7772	bobweaver@cox.net	4917 NW 17th Okla City OK 73127
<b>Past President</b>	Bill Johnson	(405) 329-6668	bjwoodturner@sbcglobal.net	7990 E Rock Creek Road Norman OK 73026

## **Supporting Volunteers**

<b>Photographer</b>	Carl Shortt			
<b>Videographer</b>	John Ashworth			
<b>Librarian</b>	Karen Robinson	(405) 802-4613	karenp_is@yahoo.com	
<b>Editor</b>	Russell McLelland	(405) 728-8678	COWAEditor@cox.net	

## Know Your Turner

Story and Photos by Virgil Young



**Dale** has been a member of COWA for about four years and has been a moving force in the overall improvement and building of the Club. He has distinguished himself as a top-notch turner and provided assistance in many ways within the Club.

He was born April 13, 1939 near Robert Lee, Texas and was raised in and around that fair town. He attended Oklahoma State University and graduated with a BA in Electrical Engineering. He later achieved his masters degree at Southern Mississippi University. After spending 20 years in the Air Force as a Communications Officer, he retired with the rank of Major in 1984. He labored in the oil fields for about five years and then a stint of ten years with Civil Service.

During 1970 he was fortunate to meet and marry Betsy. Between them they have raised four children; three boys and one girl, which have provided them with seven grandchildren.



**Dale** started turning around June of 2006 on a Jet Midi lathe. It seems that Betsy came home one day with a bowl that a friend had given her, and asked Dale why he didn't do something like that. So, he attended one of Woodcraft's beginner classes and was not too impressed with turning. Then he took a class on bowl turning and was hooked. He now has a Delta, a Nova, and a Powermatic along with a rose engine lathe. His turning has improved by leaps and bounds to the extent he is considered to be an expert within the Club.

He has taught bowl turning, hat turning, as well as box turning. He also bought a metal lathe and built a miniature steam engine from scratch.



He joined the Club in 2007 and quickly became an active member. For around two years he was the Club's audio-visual technician, doing all of the camera and microphone duties. He even did a sponsor tour at SWAT and AAW symposiums. He is also a Board Member-at-Large on the Club's Board of Directors.

Get to know Dale Jones. You can't go wrong!

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## Woodturners Toolbox

**Moore Norman Technology Center (MNT)** is located at 4701 12th Avenue NW in Norman Oklahoma 73089. Enrollment and Information Center (405) 364-5763. Woodturning classes are \$49.00 each and enrollment is limited, so register early!

**Metro Technology Center South Bryant Campus (MTC-SBC)** is located at 4900 S Bryant in Oklahoma City. Going North or South on I-35, exit on SE 44th Street and go East a mere over 1.5 miles to S Bryant. Turn South (right) on S Bryant, and go about 1/3 mile. The campus is located on the West side of S Bryant.

**COWA club meetings** start at 6:30 on the second Tuesday of every month (weather permitting!) at the Metro Technology Center South Bryant Campus (see above for address and directions.) Annual membership dues are \$30.00.

**COWA Board of Directors** meet quarterly on the 1st Tuesday of the months of March, June, September and December. Special meetings may be called at any time.

**COWA maintains a Video Library** which is made available to members of the club at each club meeting. Members may check out up to 5 selections at a time. The selections should be returned at the following meeting. Club Librarian, Karen Robinson, maintains a Check-out/Check-in list at each meeting where members note their selections and returns.

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**NEXT MEETINGS**

**TUESDAY MAY 10TH AND JUNE 14TH**

**6:30PM**

**MTC-SBC**

## Safety Tip

Submitted by Virgil Young

BEWARE!!, those of you turners that use the new florescent light bulbs in lamps around your lathe. As you know, electricity in the U.S. travels at a frequency of 60 Hz. If you are turning at a speed at any multiple of 60 Hz, the florescent bulb will act as a strobe light and can make the turning seem to stand still or vibrate at 60 Hz. At least the light will flicker at a 60 Hz frequency. You can still turn, but it will dazzle the eyes. Be cautious!

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## Bowl Class Photos

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*Submit your ideas, tips, experiences, techniques and anything else that may be of interest to the general membership to: COWAEditor@cox.net. Material that includes pictures should be submitted on CD, DVD or flash drive. Your contributions make the newsletter! Deadline for submitting newsletter contributions is two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December unless special arrangements are made with the editor.*



**Pen Class Photos**



**Choctaw Spin Top Photos**

