



March 2019

#### **Meeting Info**

We had 28 attend the March meeting even though the weather was a bit questionable.

The April meeting will be on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dennis Duehren will be doing a demonstration on segmented turning.

See you there!

#### **Membership**

We now have 29 members in the PVWA and another half dozen or so who have expressed an interest. This is amazing growth from the 14 who attended our first meeting last June. Thanks to all of you for making the PVWA a success.

#### **Club Challenge**

Last month's challenge was a lidded box and we had a lot of very nice ones at the last meeting. See the photos later in this newsletter.

The club challenge for March is a winged bowl. If you haven't done one, Dick provided a nice description we sent via e-mail recently.

Bring your challenge pieces each month for the monthly drawing and a chance at the annual drawing at the end of the year.

## **President's Message**

**Dick Anderson**

### **FORM AND DESIGN**

Accomplished woodturners have developed an understanding of the following three primary elements of woodturning:

1. The character and nature of wood and wood grain, moisture content, and toxicity.
2. Learning and mastering the safe and proper use of the various cutting tools.
3. An understanding of good form and design that will produce a bowl, hollowform, vase or other woodturning that is pleasing to the eye and feels good to the touch.

Woodturning is a creative process whereby rules relating to form make a piece pleasing in appearance and attractive whether it is intended to be functional or artistic. A well-turned bowl should have balance, good proportions, and a form and finish that feels good when handled.

Design development is a repetitive process focusing on an exploration of ideas using sketches and evaluations for the development of those ideas. Through observation and imagination, the basic ideas come from a multitude of sources that are refined through feedback from critiques, the market, friends, and self-assessment. It is a thought process void of early judgments that inhibit the expansion and progression of ideas. The design process should encourage maximum input and participation leading to creative solutions. Also, in woodturning, design takes into account many other elements such as color, texture, grain pattern, etc.

Nature has provided us with the materials and images to learn, understand, appreciate and apply good form to the woodturning projects of our choice, whether spindles, bowls or sculptures. Mankind has taken the information provided by nature and converted that to several basic mathematical principles. These principles, which define relationships, interestingly are found in structural makeup throughout the plant and animal world and in musical harmonics.

What Constitutes Good Form: The basic shape, proportion, continuity of lines, balance, consistent thickness, curves with smooth transitions, a rim that is crisp and clear, how it feels (weight, curvature, smoothness), are contributing elements in a woodturning that has good form. Shape is made up of straight and curved lines, with curves being either convex or concave and, further, being either constant (circle) or variable curvature (spiral). Form is the incorporation or combination of several basic shapes to form a complete turning. It is the foundation of a woodturning that holds the eye and creates a universal appeal. However, form may not necessarily be the dominant element (Binh Pho work). How do you achieve good form? Some people have a natural eye for it, others rely on rules from examples in nature. The rule of one-third is a starting point. When a turned bowl, hollowform, vase, etc. has good proportions and balance, it will be pleasing to the eye, and it will feel good when handled.

## President's Message (continued)

Basic Considerations: Some factors that should not be overlooked and cannot be avoided:

- Surface treatment usually takes more time than turning.
- Execution does not always clearly follow the vision you have of a piece while in production. Maybe that does not matter if the piece displays good form and the design elements work together in a pleasing and interesting manner. Sometimes the wood will cause a design modification.
- Know what you're going to design, don't let the turning decide your final treatment. Plan ahead; don't make a bowl or platter then come-up with the design or surface treatment. Make sketches before beginning, but recognize that changes can happen.
- With few exceptions, a curved surface is more pleasing to the eye than a flat one.
- Seek your own style. Seek a surface design that represents your own expression.
- Learn turning techniques from all sources then apply your own ideas to design. Be original and don't copy others turners' designs.
- Seal wood before applying a dye for a more uniform effect. Alcohol base dyes will run when an oil finish is applied.
- Surface Treatment: Where will the design be best presented? On bowls and hollowforms the design is usually more dominant on rim or upper portion of bowl.

Woodturnings of an irregular shape or offset, start the lathe at a slow speed then increase to a safe and faster speed for a good cut; however, do not turn at a high speed if that will be unsafe and put you in a dangerous position. For safety sake know your limits (skill level, fear factor), know your wood grain, hardness, cracks/ring checks, voids, and keep your tools sharp. Finally, be fully and constantly aware of what you are doing and your position in relation to the spinning wood (try to stay out of the line of fire from pieces that may break off). Wear proper protective equipment even if it has to be a baseball catcher mask.

## Demo on The Skew Chisel

By Alan Johnson

Alan gave a very informative demonstration on the Skew Chisel. I know I learned a lot.

The video is on the PVWA web page. It is worth watching again.



**Club Challenge**  
**Lidded Boxes**

























































