



# Northern Rockies Woodworking Guild

September 30, 2013

NRWG.org

Volume 9, Issue 2

## Officers

### **President**

Bob Taylor

### **Vice President**

Dan Olsen

### **Treasurer**

Rick Hedlund

### **Secretary**

Dean Center

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 8

7 pm Bozeman  
High Wood Shop

## Topic

Building  
Segmented Rings  
by Bob Taylor

## Minutes of the September 10 Meeting

Meeting called to order by happily out-going President Jim Larson at 7 pm.

### Greetings and Introductions

Paul Johnson, a woodworker and carver, was a guest, as was Rory Running, an artist who would like someone to teach her how to make picture frames. Rick introduced Chad Koch ('cook') who is the new woodshop teacher at Bozeman High. Rick will mostly be teaching welding and metal work, but will stay involved with the club.

### Treasurer's report

Nick reported after a little in and a little out, we have a balance of \$2931. (Keep in mind half of this is the grant from the AAW)

### Annual election of officers

After soliciting nominations and volunteers from the floor, the members elected Bob Taylor as President, Dan Olsen as Vice-President, and Rick Hedlund as Treasurer.

### Bylaws

The Revised Bylaws were introduced. Dean explained that all places where it says "woodworkers guild" will be replaced with "woodworking guild". The Bylaws were adopted by vote of the members present.

### Announcements

The club now starts its year in September, so Dues Are Due! Still a bargain at \$20.

Dean announced the AAW is offering scholarships to either Arrowmont or the John C. Campbell Folk School. Our club can nominate one member for their consideration. Dean will send out more details shortly. Anyone interested should contact Dean or Bob Taylor. (Deadline for applications is November 15, per the AAW)

Dean inquired whether the members would have an interest in putting on a day long demo for the high school shop students. We had planned to have Trent Bosch come this fall, but he was unavailable and we scheduled his workshop in late winter instead. Chad said it sounded like a good idea, and would be best if done soon. A half dozen members volunteered and Dean will send them an email. --Continued p2

### Minutes from September, cont'd

Jim reminded the members that last year we replaced the Bring-back raffle with a Winner's-choice raffle that depends on members to bring donations from which the winner may choose. Please bring something you might want to win next meeting, as the box is pretty empty.

Jim also mentioned that our current insurance policy runs until the end of December and at that time, we might want to sign up for the AAW sponsored policy. It costs less for somewhat less coverage.

Show and Tell featured a good selection of projects. We held a raffle, but there was no demo due to the anticipated length of the business meeting.

Dean Center,  
Secretary



September Show and Tell

### Notices

#### **DUES ARE DUE!**

The club's year will now start in September, so annual dues are now due. Please come to the October meeting ready to pay new Treasurer Rick Hedlund.

#### **Monthly Raffle**

Not long ago, the monthly raffle was changed from the bring-back format, as other clubs had encountered hurt feelings. We adopted a "Winner's Choice from the Prize Box" format instead. The Prize Box is pretty empty. Please bring something to donate to this important club fundraiser.

*The following letter was sent to AAW members by Board Member Lou Williams and I think it is worth sharing—DC*

## **Why We Turn**

As someone who has spent an entire career involved with researching questions on public opinion, I'll admit to being fascinated with the question of: Why do we turn?

It is, after all, hard work. It's frustrating at times. It's not inexpensive. It's pretty darn messy; my wife hates the dust and shavings I track from my workshop into the house. Pieces of spalting wood are scattered throughout and around our garage, garden shed, and behind my house. And even when I finish with a piece, I'm not always satisfied with the results of my efforts, let alone pleased. Sheesh!

So why do we spend hour after hour in something of a daze, reducing a piece of wood to some far-fetched dream?

Hmmm. Maybe that's the key word: dream. We all dream of making the perfect cut, the absolute fit, the graceful shape, the right interpretation and, in the end, a piece that will cause you to say to yourself: "I did it!" That doesn't happen often but then a hole-in-one doesn't either, and neither does a grand slam home run. But we do chase that just right turning. The one we can proudly show to someone else and say: "I created this."

There is an amazing sense of accomplishment in woodturning. A sense of pride. I do a few art shows every year, and I can't tell you how many times a fellow turner has entered my booth and pulled out a smartphone to share a recent piece they completed.

For most of us, our skill levels change for the better over what seems to be an excruciatingly long period of time. But change they do. Lessons and practice really do make for a better turner. I'm reminded of the magazine that asked readers to send in early works created by turners...and then later ones to show how things changed. To say that the later work showed improvement would be an understatement. Our skills do improve. It keeps us coming back.

Recently, we conducted a survey of chapter leaders of AAW. We found that the majority of our members want to execute functional items: rolling pins for the cook of the house, salt shakers for the table, bowls for salads and soups, garden planting pins and much, much more. The second largest number of our members want to create art. They want to interpret, enthuse, motivate, explain their inner thoughts and dreams through their unique cutting of the wood. The third largest group is the pen turners. They turn wood, plastic, stone, pine cones, nuts, wood knots and whatever else intrigues them so they can create their own personal statement of beauty in a writing utensil.

But, when the shavings are flying, there is a certain commonality among us: We try to harness our creativity and skill to produce something that engenders pride and accomplishment. And for most of us it is hard work. Our arms and backs and legs may ache at the end of the day, but that pride of authorship is real whether it's a simple salt shaker or strange looking, oddly shaped object we can't even identify without explanation.

And even if we didn't do so well today, tomorrow will see a better piece. For sure.

In the end, that's what makes the American Association of Woodturners important and successful. We have only one, overriding goal: helping you turn your dream into reality.

Lou Williams  
Membership and Chapters Chair  
American Association of Woodturners

