

American Association of Woodturners

Message from Botho von Hampeln

The other day I descended into my shop in the basement and realized I had no project going.

Normally several turnings are in various states of completion. Not this day.

Now what? Where to start? My wife chides me for my "Wood collection disease." She says I have enough wood to turn until I am 105 years old. Surely, other turners do not have this affliction. We all know she is "right," don't we?

Anyway, back to where to start. The agony of choosing the next piece of wood from my endless pile. My friend Dale Larson said he always starts with the best piece of wood he has. Great, but what if it does not turn out right? What if it was the wrong choice of project for that piece of wood? Decisions, decisions!!

But then I remembered our website, www.woodturner.org. On my way to the gallery for ideas for my next project, I realized it has been some time since I last went to the site. So I started browsing. I had forgotten what a treasure trove of information and ideas it contained, and we all owe Ed Davidson for his past efforts in building, improving, and maintaining it.

Next to the journal and the symposium, our website is an unequaled extraordinary benefit for all of us. At several board meetings now, the website improvement was a topic and the more we talk about it, the more we become aware of how big an effort this really is.

While browsing, I got stuck twice, until I figured out how it worked. Like anything complex, there is always room for improvement.

Your help is needed. Every time you go to the website and you get an idea to add a feature, report a glitch, or simply improve a selection, send an e-mail to our Executive Director, [Cindy Bowden](mailto:Cindy.Bowden@woodturner.org). It will all go to the webmaster to help better the site.

We already have the best woodturning site there is, but let's try to improve it anyway.

Botho von Hampeln, AAW Board Member

Don't forget that the Board of Directors elections are under way. If you haven't voted yet, please get to it as the deadline for ballots is October 21. You can find links here to the [candidates information and balloting](#).