

AAW Rolls out Young Turners Program

A chapter's blueprint for youth programs

As part of the AAW's effort to put more emphasis on developing another generation of woodturners, the AAW board has announced a Young Turners Program for chapters.

There are many reasons to support a Young Turners Program through your chapter. One growing motivation becoming all too common is school budget cuts. Unfortunately music, art, and industrial arts programs are the first to feel the spending shortfalls. Other reasons may include providing programs for your local community, making better rounded individuals, or simply the enjoyment of helping others. Whatever the driving force for a chapter's program, the most important rule to remember: Have fun!

Two-phase program

There are two participation phases for the young turners. Phase One involves turning either two tops or a honey dipper. These projects provide AAW chapters the ability to easily work with youth in different settings and venues. At the end of the turning session, the chapter will award the young turner a completion certificate that identified the youth as a woodturning student.

Phase Two requires the young

turner to complete four additional projects from a list of 15. Chapters will be familiar with the projects



Canadian Joel Dunkley, 22, turned this 10"-diameter elm bowl for *Turning to the Future*, a youth-only exhibit currently on display at the AAW Gallery in St. Paul. For more details, see [page xx](#).

and the turning fundamentals they develop. It is intended for the young turners to become more involved with both the local chapter and their mentors. When the youth completes Phase Two, he or she will receive a second completion certificate and a complimentary one-year AAW membership. Chapter presidents will sign and present the certificates and notify the AAW office to begin a complimentary one-year AAW membership. (Many chapters currently give youth free local memberships; the AAW is extending this practice.)

Web-based materials

The Young Turners Program will be web-based, allowing chapters to obtain the required materials and certificates as needed. Project outlines and teaching tips will be available in PDF format for easy download and printing. The outlines are being developed by many familiar names throughout turning community. FAQ pages and further information will be available on the AAW website as the program is rolled out.

The Young Turners Program is scheduled to debut in Portland at the AAW symposium.

There are already exemplary programs run by chapters and individuals across the country. Jim Rodgers and Jacques Blumer wrote excellent articles about their experiences in the Winter 2006 issue of *American Woodturner*.

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