

From the Editor

Like many of you, I began my woodturning journey by turning a bowl. Since I was not pleased with being instructed to screw the turning blank directly onto a faceplate (not wanting screw holes in the bottom), Dabney Doty, industrial arts professor extraordinaire, reached further into his bag of tricks and came up with the explanation of how to use a glue block with a paper joint. Satisfied, I proceeded, and my first turning blank and glue block made it onto the lathe. I happily scraped and sanded the wood into submission. After a total of twelve turning hours, I applied an oil finish and proudly displayed my first bowl!

I still turn an occasional bowl, and I use wooden bowls in my home. Joshua Friend's tribute to functional bowls reflects my own thoughts, that well-made wooden bowls have a place in every home. Thomas Trager's instructional article on bowl bottoms would have been just as welcome in 1980 when I turned that first bowl, ammunition for my argument that bottoms *do* matter.

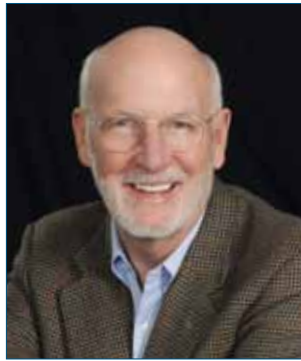
For those in their early years of turning, the information about gouges contained within is essential. Scrapers have their place, but gouges make turning bowls and spindles easy and quick. Joe Larese's "Guide to Gouges" will help beginning turners understand some of the many options available when selecting and using gouges.

I envision the article on nightlights as an opportunity to be creative and explore holiday decorations—perhaps ornaments that light up your tree—the holidays will be here soon enough!

—Betty Scarpino



President's Letter



The AAW: It's All About Family

I often hear AAW members discussing what they believe is the best benefit of the AAW. The answers vary widely. Many say that the journal, *American Woodturner*, is the greatest benefit. Others think it is the local chapters, of which there are more than 330, where most members first really learn about woodturning. Some believe that the annual international symposium surpasses all other benefits, with its world-class demonstrators and panelists, Instant Gallery and exhibitions, and the biggest woodturning tradeshow there is. Still

others think it's our website, with its wealth of information for woodturners.

All of these answers resonate with me. I find the journal especially compelling, with its breadth of excellent articles ranging from basic techniques to topics that challenge and stimulate creative juices. And I absolutely love attending the annual international symposium. This year's 25th anniversary celebration in Saint Paul was amazing. I am an active member of two local chapters of the AAW, the Front Range Woodturners in Denver and the Rocky Mountain Woodturners in Loveland. I appreciate these groups because of what they have meant to me personally. I began turning wood as a teenager, but I never progressed until I joined an AAW chapter. Then my skills, knowledge, and understanding skyrocketed.

For me, however, the greatest value of the AAW is intangible. The AAW offers a community and unlimited connections that provide a special opportunity to be a part of a family of like-minded people. With 14,000 members from all around the world, I have made good friends, met wonderful and interesting people, and enjoyed camaraderie, more than I could possibly have imagined.

This family is integral to the workings of the AAW. Members volunteer at our national and regional symposiums and participate in local chapters as officers, mentors, and cleanup crews. We write articles for the journal, freely sharing our woodturning wisdom. The AAW is made up of individuals, but together we represent family and a sense of community.

So, when you are asked what you regard as the AAW's greatest value, think about all the great people in your AAW family. I'll bet—even though you may still feel the *American Woodturner*, or the symposium, or your local chapter is the greatest benefit—that you'll agree our family of woodturners is one of a kind!

With warm regards,
Tom

Remember to Vote! AAW Board Election

Photos and statements of the six nominees running for election to the AAW Board of Directors appear on pages 5–7 of the August Journal and online at woodturner.org/boardvote/BoardCandidates.pdf. Please read the statements and then vote for up to three candidates.

There are two options for voting: (1) by electronic ballot, which is available on the AAW website at woodturner.org/BoardVote or (2) by paper ballot, which was included in the plastic bag with the August journal. The ballot contains your name and membership number. Tear off the ballot where instructed, put it in the enclosed envelope, affix a stamp, and mail the ballot. **Your vote must be cast electronically or postmarked no later than October 21, 2011.**

We encourage you to participate in the voting process and hope that you take the time to help make this election turnout significant.