

From the Editor

Six issues. *Six!* Two additional journals a year provide an opportunity to publish in-depth articles on complex techniques and processes—articles that will now be in members' hands sooner than ever before.

I am pleased and excited to present Peter Exton's article, "Turning Diamonds." It is studded with valuable techniques he has developed for taking inside-out (reverse) turning to a new level. He freely shares the processes you need to learn in order to explore his innovative approach to woodturning. The piece on the cover is completely turned! With Peter's article, you can find out how he made it and begin your own adventure.

Speaking of the cover, I am also delighted that this issue of the journal features a makeover in the form of a new typeface for the cover, as well as for the inside text. I hope you agree that the text is easier to read; that was our intention. We selected a display typeface that is more subdued and modern looking than the previous one. With the use of this typeface, cover photos will receive the focus and attention they deserve.

The article, "Mastering the Four-Jaw Scroll Chuck," was a team effort that resulted in what I think is the best primer on chucks ever written. The two authors, Dick Gerard and Stan Wellborn, and photographer Ed Kelle worked together in a way that illustrates a dedication to sharing knowledge that so clearly defines our organization.

Clifton Chisum and the Tidewater Turners have a thank-you to pass along to Heather Caillet. Heather and her husband, Bill, own a Woodcraft store in Virginia. Heather



was instrumental in helping organize a club collaboration. Thank you, Heather!

—Betty Scarpino

President's Letter



I'd like to tell you a little about myself and share with you the reasons why I am so enthusiastic about serving you as President of the American Association of Woodturners.

I grew up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, an area with a rich tradition of woodturning. Historically, turnings were spindles, primarily turned legs for furniture. My Dad was an expert on American period furniture, built reproductions, and had a lathe in his shop. I began to use that lathe as a young boy.

Upon graduation from college, I traveled extensively, lived in Asia, Europe, and in ten states. The lathe in my Dad's shop became a distant memory. About fifteen years ago, I happened upon a demonstration by Richard Raffan. I had heard of him, but I had no idea what he would be turning in his demonstration. I was amazed to see him take a piece of green timber and turn it into a beautiful bowl. It had never occurred to me that someone could use a lathe to turn lovely objects from timber, such as the kind that grew on my own land. I was hooked. I bought a lathe and began teaching myself to turn.

I read a few books, but I knew nothing of the AAW, and progress was slow.

A few years later my wife, Melinda, read something about the Utah Woodturning Symposium and out of curiosity we decided to go. At the opening ceremony we had the good fortune to sit close to Jerry Smith, an AAW advocate with a passion for teaching and for woodturning. In chatting with Jerry, we discovered we lived only a few miles from one another. He encouraged us to join the AAW chapter in Denver. We did, and it opened our eyes to a whole new world. We were embraced by a community of woodturners who taught us techniques, critiqued our work, and encouraged us to advance our skills. My turnings improved dramatically and so did my enjoyment of the craft.

I'm a member of two AAW chapters and a past two-term president of the Front Range Woodturners, the AAW chapter in Denver. Two years ago, you elected me to serve on the AAW Board of Directors. This year I was elected to serve as your President.

I now regard myself as a reasonably good woodturner, but it took many years to get here, and I can sincerely say that if it hadn't been for the AAW, I'd still be toiling away in the dark. I owe my turning success to the AAW, which is why I am so enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve you. I believe it is important for all of us to reach out to others who may not yet be AAW members, especially when I think of what the organization has provided for me. I would like to see all turners benefit from a similar experience so that they will have the support they need to advance their woodturning skills and to enjoy this craft that we all find so compelling.

With warm regards,
Tom