

Turning Topics

American Association of Woodturners Annual 2014 Symposium

Photo: Andi Wolfe



Outgoing President Dale Larson of Gresham, OR was thanked by Executive Director Phil McDonald for his year's of leadership on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Woodturners.

The 2015 AAW Symposium will take place, June 25-28, in Pittsburgh, PA. Session proposals are being solicited, with a submission deadline of Sept. 15. There are also Call for Entries for the member's exhibition *Merging and the Professional Outreach Program* exhibition *Creativity in Construction*. For information on the American Association of Woodturners and its symposia, visit the web site: www.woodturner.org.

Clay Foster
Ripple
Wood, stone, pigment
(9" h, 22" w, 5" d)

Photo: Tib Shaw



The 28th annual *International Symposium* of the **American Association of Woodturners** (AAW) was held, June 12-15 in Phoenix, AZ. For the nearly 1,200 attending from more than 12 countries, it was rewarding, educational, inspirational, and collegial. It provided substance and networking for both the novice and the master.

The core of the conference was the more than 150 sessions of talks, demonstrations, and panel discussions, involving 59 presenters. Content ranged from basic turning techniques to advanced embellishments to business strategies, featuring both emerging artists and established masters.

An always important component is the exhibitions of work. *Rising* (showcased in *Woodworker West*, July-August, 2014) was the juried exhibit of members' work, inspired by the name of the symposium's host city Phoenix. The invitational exhibit for the *Professional Outreach Program* was *Ceremony* (showcased in *Woodworker West*, May-June, 2014), featuring 38 studio artists from five continents, addressing various forms of ritual.

The Saturday night banquet provided a venue for attendees to socialize, eat, and honor society award winners. The 2014 *Honorary Lifetime Member* was presented to **Al Hockenberry** of Lakeland, FL, for his efforts on behalf of AAW and the field of woodturning.

The 2014 *Merit Award* of the *Professional Outreach (POP) Program* went to **Clay Foster**, formerly of Krum, TX and currently Indianapolis, IN. The *Merit Award* recognizes artists whose work demonstrates exceptional development during their career and influences or has a significant impact on others in the field of woodturning.

Special recognition was also bestowed on outgoing AAW President **Dale Larson** of Gresham, OR, Board Members **Binh Pho** of Chicago, IL and **Cassandra Speier** of Olathe, KS, and retiring *American Woodturner* editor **Betty Scarpino** of Indianapolis, IN.

The texture-rich surfaces and timeless forms of Texan-born artist Clay Foster evokes a sense of the sacred. The evolution of his work between 1994 and today was shown in ten pieces at the AAW Symposium. Each reflects Clay's abiding respect and admiration for "Things that endure, things that last, ancient voices that speak to our hearts in modern times; these are the things that give us comfort and courage."



J. Paul Fennell
(Scottsdale, AZ)
Untitled
Carob
(5" h, 3" dia)

David Ellsworth
(Quakertown, PA)
Black Pot Dawn
Ash, acrylic base
(7" h, 7" dia)

Jim Christiansen (Moscow, ID)
Harmony
Cherry
(4" h, 7 1/2" w, 7" d)

Several auction were held, raising nearly \$75,000 for educational grants to individuals (adults and youths), chapters, schools, and other woodturning-related associations. This funding supports subsidizing attendance at a woodturning event or a class for an individual or expanding or enriching educational opportunities for the woodturning community.

This year's live auction consisted of 44 items, raising nearly \$40,000. Top auction items were **J. Paul Fennell's** *Cycles* and **Christian Burchard's** *White Baskets*, each receiving winning bids of \$2,700. Other high-bid pieces were work by **J. Paul Fennell's** *Untitled* (\$2,400), **David Ellsworth's** *Black Pot Dawn* (\$2,300), and **Jim Christiansen's** *Harmony* (\$2,000).



J. Paul Fennell (Scottsdale, AZ)
Cycles
African Sumac
(6" h, 6 1/2" dia)

Christian Burchard (Ashland, OR)
White Baskets
Bleached Madrone burl
(8" h, 16" w, 18" d)





Paul Hedman
(Moorehead, MN)
Holy Moly
Bleached White Oak
(12 1/2" dia)



Jennifer Shirley (Indianapolis, IN)
Black Flame
Cherry, black leather dye,
copper, pyrography
(4" h, 2 1/2" dia)



Jay Shepard
(Olympia, WA)
Crucible: Star Nursery
Big Leaf Maple,
acrylic
(1 1/2" h, 6 1/4" dia)

Lynne Yamaguchi
(Tucson, AZ)
Back Row:
Ash to Ashes, Ash
Crackalicious,
Eucalyptus
Filled to the Brim,
Spalted Curly Maple,
Front row:
It Comes in Waves,
Bubinga
Bowl, Walnut
His, Walnut

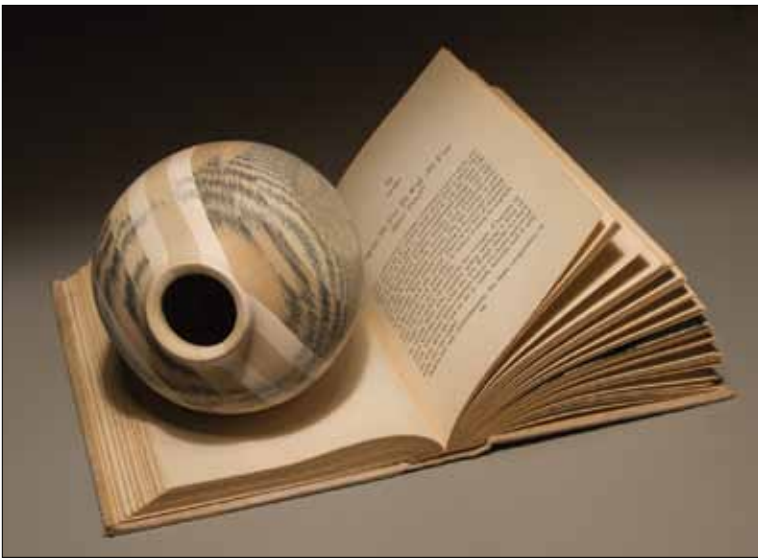
Molly Winton (Edmonds, WA)
Caballos Negros
Cherry, dye
(10" h, 4 1/2" dia)



Photos: Andi Wolfe



Photo: Kailee Bosch



Kailee Bosch
Fort Collins, CO
Discover
7" h, 13" w, 9" d)
Recycled books,
epoxy resin

The most popular feature at the AAW Symposium is the *Instant Gallery*, where attendees show off their latest work. This year, 748 pieces were displayed on long tables in the Exhibit Hall, and judges selected five for *Excellence Awards*: **Paul Hedman, Jay Shepard, Jennifer Shirley, Molly Winton, and Lynne Yamaguchi** (left). In addition, the *Youth Turning Award* was presented to **Michael Anderson** and **Kailee Bosch** (above).

In the *Chapter Collaborative Challenge*, the *Best of Show* and the *Artistic* awards went to the home team **Arizona Woodturners (AZ)** (below), while the **Association of Revolutionary Turners (MA)** won the *Technical* and *Fantasy* awards.

Awards were also presented for pieces in the juried member exhibition, *Rising*. **Michael Foster's** *Euclid's Phoenix* was awarded the *Master's Choice Award* and **Hal Metlitzky's** *Bubbles Rising on the Great Barrier Reef* won the *People's Choice Award*. *Rising* is on display at the AAW Gallery of Wood Art in St. Paul, MN, Sept. 1-Dec. 30.

Arizona Woodturners Association
Collaborative Challenge
Best of Show

Photo: Andi Wolfe



Hal Metlitzky
(Claremont, CA)
*Bubbles Rising on the
Great Barrier Reef*
Various woods
(11 1/4" h, 6 3/4" dia)

Michael Foster
(Springfield, VT)
Euclid's Phoenix
Sugar Maple, Cherry,
India ink, acrylic paint
Turned, hollowed,
carved, airbrushed
(17 1/2" h, 7 1/2" dia)



Photo: Tib Shaw



Photo: Tib Shaw