

Presidents Message -- Arizona Woodturners Association -- June 2015

The radio just announced excessive heat warnings for the week and a high of 111 degrees today. This is the time of year to take advantage of other opportunities in the State. Last weekend the Prescott Area Woodturners invited us up to the Kirk DeHeer demonstration. They have a nice location and offered wonderful hospitality (thanks to Wayne and Spence). We had 10 members at the Saturday demonstration (including John and Karel Armstrong whom are dual members) out of about 20-25 attendees. Bob, Norris, Mike Holland, Ken and I, amongst others, all made the trek north. Ken and I stayed for the Sunday hands on. We are blessed, in that, while it's hot in the valley we can drive 2 hours and be in the mountains. Prescott's high was 88 each day and it rained each afternoon. Matter of fact it was 71 and light rain when we left at 5pm on Sunday.

Kirk DeHeer is the resident Craft Supplies Teacher. He has a sharpening DVD and has just launched a line of patinas that age wood in copper, brass and iron (rust). Most of us have seen copper and brass patina, but none of us had seen a rust patina. Kirk is a wonderful teacher and I learned a lot. He understands each and every cut and using the right tool for the right cut. I used a pick up stick for the first time to add alcohol dye coloring to my turnings. The thing I liked best was that Kirk let each student work on their own project. We had one student who spent the day mastering thread turning, while most of us turned platters and bowls. I learned a lot about Kirks' surface embellishments. I will incorporate some of this into my demonstration next month (July) on turning platters.

For our June meeting we will be blessed to have two demonstrators. Gerard Merchant will be turning a pepper mill. Gerard is a woodworking professional who owns a cabinet shop and has been a new member for about 15 months. Jason Clark will be doing his last demonstration before he moves to Chicago. He will be making a salt cellar. The Presidents Challenge for June is "Put A Lid On It".

Mike Holland is building mobile storage cabinets for the TV's and all the AV equipment.

Ken Northern is looking for a new location for our club meetings. We would like to have a place where we can leave the lathe and TVs instead of moving them from storage for every meeting. Of course the price has to be reasonable as we have a very reasonable rental rate at the Pyle Center. Please speak with Ken at the meeting if you have suggestions.

If you haven't been on the club website for awhile, you need to check it out. Marvin Fretwell has done a great job even while he is sending me photos that make me drool, of big trout he is catching in Canada. The 2016 Desert Woodturners Roundup website is up and linked through our home site. You can reserve your Glenn Lucas hands-on class or pay for the DWR online now.

The National Symposium in Pittsburgh is June 25 thru 28th. We have several members attending including Ana and Jason. Jason will be presenting two rotations for the first time on the national stage.

Please come to the June meeting this Saturday and say your good-byes to Jason, as we will probably not see him again until he comes back (escapes) Chicago next February for the 2016 Desert Woodturning Roundup. As the current President of our club, I will say for the club

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members “One BIG THANK YOU Jason” for all the time, effort and work you have volunteered to the club as an officer and for your three previous years as President.

Chip Hiding
President Arizona Woodturners Association
Chiphtr6tx@gmail.com