

## **Presidents Message -- December 2015**

This month is our annual Christmas Party with ornament and gift exchange if you chose to participate. We also have the large gift table for all of the years President Challenge. We have some great wood that will be given away at the party.

So I had an interesting experience with the lacey oak (I think). I cored several large blanks of the lacey oak wearing long sleeve smock and Trend respirator. I had no issues with the lacey oak, but the shavings were all over my shop. The day after the Alan Lacer class I was at NASCAR at PIR (Phoenix International Raceway) on Sunday and I started to itch behind my left ear. (Note: this is the weekend after I had cored the bowls.) The next day was Monday and I took the Alan Lacer class; and it was cold there, so I wore long sleeves. I noticed I was itching. When I got home that night I had a rash in five spots, the biggest about 3" x 3" on the bend of my arm. I went to the doctor the next day and was immediately diagnosed with a fungal infection. Note he did not take any sample or cultures. By the end of the day I was worse and called back and the doctor gave me a steroid cream to put on. The next morning I was worse and called the doctor who put me on Prednisone steroid. Prednisone dosage starts high and tapers off each day. I was feeling better for the next 3 days, but by Saturday for my grandmothers 93 birthday party and Sunday for my mother's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party I was just miserable, red and itchy. Monday morning I went back to the doctors as I now had a rash in 10 places. He told me they need to put me on an oral fungal as it was stronger, but they did not like to do this as it is hard on your liver. I went back to work and my wife dropped off my prescription around noon. I immediately started feeling worse. I had a big meeting at work I was prepping for, so I stayed until 8:30pm, but was very red and itchy. When I got home I had hives all over my chest and blistering of my skin on my back and arms. From my waist to my neck and down my arms I was so red, I looked like someone had just pulled me out of the boiling lobster pot. My wife immediately had me take a cold bath and sent me to the ER. I was in the ER until 1:30am and they put me on an IV and gave me steroids and Benadryl. The ER Doctor said I definitely did not have a fungal infection but an allergic reaction to the oral fungal I took for the first time that day. She also said the fungal cream I had been putting on for 10 days was a sister medication and I had been having an allergic reaction to it every day. She suggested I see a dermatologist the next day. The dermatologist immediately diagnosed me with a chemical exposure, either plant or to something from PIR, possibly when we were in the pits. I am not taking any chances and I gave Ken my lacey oak blanks. I think I should have done two things differently. One immediately cleaned up the shop once I was done roughing out the blanks. Two insisted they take some type of culture. The misdiagnosis basically made a small matter much worse for over two weeks.

After the Alan Lacer Saturday demonstration and on our way to PIR, my wife, Caren, and I had the pleasure to meet Heather and Ed Clarke. Ed was an AWA member during the late 1990s and early 2000s, so hopefully some of you remember him. As you can see from the photos he is very talented and patient. They donated some wood, tools and blanks, some of which I passed on to the carvers club. We will be bringing this wood to the Christmas Party. Here is a photo of some of Ed's work I took at their house.

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### A Man of Many Talents

For 47 years, I have been married to Ed Clarke and it has been a true joy to watch all his varied talents emerge. Over the years, he would move from guitar building, to drumming, to pencil drawing, to wood carving, to wood turning. Since he is a perfectionist, his very first creations were worthy of being framed and hung on the wall or displayed in our hutch.

He loved to gather all the tools and an entire library of books on the project at hand. He was a member of your Arizona Woodturners Association and

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took great pride in winning the contests that were set up for the members at the meetings.

He is also a musician, having earned his way through college playing bass guitar and drums in a local rock and roll band, and for 8 years after he retired from real estate, we took African drumming lessons in Tempe every Friday night.

As you can see, his life was enlightened through his artistic, creative, and musical talent. And now for the past several years, he is on a new adventure with Parkinson's Disease and is no longer able to pursue all of his creative endeavors. He has recently decided to let go of all the books, tools, creations and a huge collection of wood that has been waiting to be turned into another delightful creation.

We found Chip on the Internet and he and his wife stopped by to pick up several boxes of wood, some books and a few tools that Ed is donating to your club members. He wanted to pass them all on to someone who will be able to get as much enjoyment out of them as he did.

Wishing you lots of joy, Heather Clarke

See you this Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Pyle Center in Tempe at noon.

**Chip Hidinger -- President, Arizona Woodturners Association**