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## Central Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

# CICA AW Turnings

Volume 20, Issue 3

March 1, 2009

## February Meeting Notes and Upcoming News

The February meeting was held at the Zionsville Boys and Girls Club, with Dick Gerard presiding and around a whopping 50 turners in attendance.

Jennifer Shirley talked about some upcoming demos at Marc Adams. If you weren't at the meeting, please contact her for more information.

Thanks again to those that helped with the Indy Woodworking Show, especially with the last minute transport of the club lathe!

Tim Kennedy gave a demonstration on spheres at the meeting. (See story on pages 2 and 3.)

There is a sphere turning contest for march. (See page 1.)

We're having a two-day, all-day demo in March given by Clay Foster. Please attend if you can! (See story on page 4.) There will also be a pitch-in lunch each day. (See article on page 5.)

In April, we'll have a one-day, all-day demo by Judy Ditmer on the third Sunday, April 19.

Dick Gerard has been lining up lots of demonstrations and do-

nations for the club lately. (See stories on page 3 and 5.)

The calendar article fears no snow. (See page 5.)

### DST Delay

Note that Daylight Savings starts on Sunday, March 8th, so be careful not to show up to the demo or meeting at the wrong time!

### Show and Tell

The February meeting had a varied Show-N-Tell.



Mike Hamilton will be accepting CICA AW dues for 2009 at the next few meetings. (See story on page 6.)

Finally, it was announced that March's meeting will be held at **Don Skiles' Shop** on the 2nd



Sunday, **March 8th at 2PM.** (See page 6.) This is during the two-day, all-day Clay Foster Demo.

Hope to see you there!

## Turning Contest

In appreciation of the great February demo given by Tim Kennedy, we're having a turning contest for the March meeting!

The contest is focused on turned spheres.

Pieces entered in the contest should consist of a turned sphere that's at least 3" in size.

Beyond that, be creative!

Attach things, make the sphere out of different materials, decorate the surface, whatever.

Basically anything goes, but whatever you choose to make, have a ball.



**Tim Kennedy did a fabulous job with the demo. He came prepared, he knew his stuff, he answered questions, he had great tool control and technique, and he had an interesting topic.**

**“...when the piece is spinning, Tim said he can see a ghost image where the wood is too high...”**



**The new CICAAW officers have been doing a great job, don't you think?**

**Be sure to thank them for all the hard work!**

## February Meeting Demonstration

Tim Kennedy was our featured demonstrator at the February meeting. He showed us how to make “true” spheres.

All around, Tim did a great job...especially for his first demo! (See photo, left center.)

Tim came prepared! He had finished examples and extra materials/jigs, just in case. He knew his topic well and talked about it throughout. He explained the techniques and also gave tips.

Tim started out from scratch with his demo, showing us how to make the friction chucks that are used to turn a sphere. They should be made out of a strong/hard wood, such as ash.

One chuck is a large cup that is



attached to a taper that goes in the Morse tenon. (See photo middle top.) This cup should be bigger to avoid slipping (which will produce a burned ring on the sphere).

While making the tenon, Tim used calipers to get the taper just right and several times did a test fit, using the rub marks from the Morse taper to determine where to remove more material. For these tests, he kept the cup chuck in the four jaw chuck, simply unscrewing it from the lathe. This ensures that the wood will still run true after the test fit.

The other part is a small cup that goes over the live center in the tail stock. (See photo

bottom center.) Tim advised us to drill a hole through the tail stock cup center so that you can push the live center out if it gets stuck.

The concave curve in the cup chucks doesn't need to exactly match the curve of the sphere being turned, so the same set of chucks will work for spheres



in a range of sizes. (But only one tail stock cup chuck is needed for all sizes really...it's the head stock cup that needs to have lots of sizes.)

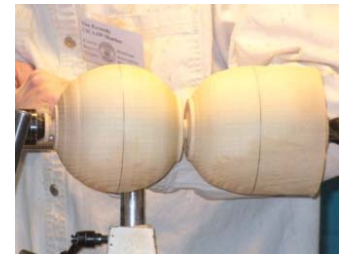
Another piece of advice Tim gave us is to make sure to round over the edges of the cup chucks where they contact the sphere so it doesn't mar the wood with a sharp edge.

For a lot of his turning, Tim



used a skew, several times wowing the audience with his control and technique. For the tail stock cup chuck, Tim even used a back hollowing technique, which was quite exciting.

After that, Tim began turning a pair of spheres from a large piece of ash. He started with the wood between centers and



eyeballed the rough sphere shape. It doesn't have to be perfect at this point, but being over-size in an area is better than taking off too much wood. (See photo, top right.)

The wood doesn't have to be hard, but a very soft wood might tend to get crushed by the cups.

Tim did mark center lines and used calipers to mark how wide the sphere should be. He also said you could use a template of a half-circle to help with this stage, but again it just needs to be approximate.

After parting off the rough sphere, Tim puts it between the two cup chucks he made earlier (which can be used again and again). He puts the piece in at about 90 degrees to what it was when it was between centers.

At this point, when the piece is spinning, Tim said he can see a ghost image where the wood is too high (the part that was on the ends when between centers originally) versus the part that's already round (the part that was the center of the sphere before and must be round). (See photo, bottom right.)



## Demonstrations for the Club

Our new vice president, Dick Gerard, has been working hard to line up demonstrators and donations for the club. (See story on page 5 for more about the donations.)

In March, we have the great two-day, all-day Clay Foster demonstration on the 7th and 8th. (See story on page 4 and pitch-in details on page 5.)

In April, we have a one-day,

all-day demonstration by Judy Dittmer. She's an author of books on turning wooden jewelry and basic bowl turning. This will be on the **third** Sunday, April 19th. We also tentatively have Mike Mahoney coming in March 2010!

We still need demonstrators for the May and June meetings.

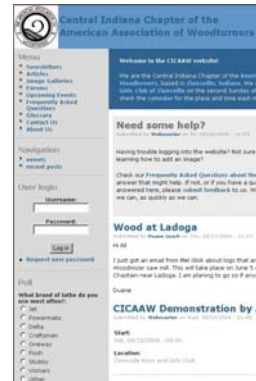
It can just be a 10 minute seg-

ment showing some interesting technique, jig, or whatever that you want!

Of course, it can also be a full meeting demo or a half-demo.

If you have something that you can show, please contact Dick Gerard.

(And thank him for all the great stuff he has lined up for us!)



You can always get newsletters (new or old) and other news from the club website at:

[www.cicaaw.org](http://www.cicaaw.org)

## February Meeting Demonstration, cont'd

...story continued from page 2.

From an aesthetic perspective, Tim doesn't mind wood that has checks or cracks. He finds that it adds a lot of interest to the finished sphere. He does fill the checks or cracks with sawdust mixed with glue though.

Another way that Tim adds interest to his spheres is by gluing up blocks of wood to make his blank. Sometimes he makes a simple checkerboard pattern out of contrasting woods. Sometimes he might create more of a grid or other pattern from the wood blocks. (See photo, bottom left.)

Even though the glued up block pattern might be simple, it's greatly enhanced by the curvature of the spherical surface. Be creative!

Once the sphere is shaped



correctly, Tim sands with 80, 120, 240, etc. then turns the piece 90 degrees in the cup chucks and sands through the grits again.

Tim uses Minwax wipe-on poly, applied off the lathe. He holds the piece by hand and doesn't apply the finish to the entire sphere at once, setting the dry bottom on a lid-less turned box as a stand.



In the end, Tim ends up with 16-20 applications to build up the high gloss finish he's after on all sides of the sphere.

In the end, Tim creates lots of beautifully compelling pieces...as simple spheres. (See photo, bottom left.)

Tim has a nice gallery of his pieces for those that would like to see more of his work.



[www.timsturnery.etsy.com](http://www.timsturnery.etsy.com)

Tim also showed some interesting oval turning he had done using a special mechanism he constructed and attached to his lathe. It was a small picture frame. But, that's a better topic for a future demo...

Ah, what the heck, here are a couple photos. (See photos, top right and middle center.)

Thanks for the great demo Tim! You're making some great works of art.



**“Even though the glued up block pattern might be simple, it’s greatly enhanced by the curvature of the spherical surface.”**



Pictures from the February meeting can be found on the website.



Clay Foster also does large architectural pieces where he often collaborates with his wife, Penny, who does stained glass work.

**“Clay is a full-time studio woodworker and has taught woodturning workshops in North America, Europe, and Australia.”**



Have you checked out the library lately? There are lots of new books and videos on many different topics! Here's a challenge: Check out a book, try something out, then give a demo about it...

## Clay Foster Demo in March

In March, we're having a two-day, all-day demo given by Clay Foster from Texas. Several of our members have seen him demonstrate before and highly recommend it to others.

Clay is a full-time studio woodworker and has taught woodturning workshops in North America, Europe, and Australia.

In particular, Clay has demonstrated at several CICAAW clubs. From browsing some of their newsletter write-ups, it certainly seems they felt Clay's demonstrations were great events for their clubs.

At our club's demo, Clay will be demonstrating:

- A two piece hollow form



- A multiple axis vessel
- Surface decoration, including printer's ink finish, eggshell, burning using mud as a resist, and milk paint.

(This appears to be a similar agenda to what I read about in other clubs' newsletters that were all so positive about Clay. So, ours is likely to be a great event as well.)

### DST Delay

Note that Daylight Savings starts on Sunday, March 8th, so be careful not to show up to the demo or meeting at the wrong time!

Of course, in the process of showing us these projects and techniques, Clay is bound to have lots of little artistic tricks, anecdotes, tool techniques, jokes, or observations that can inspire you to find your own artistic voice (or just to have a good time).

Included in this article are some photos of Clay's turnings.



However, his works go well beyond these into furniture and architectural creations involving wood and stone. He has been involved in woodworking for 48 years.

Clay Foster's website is [www.clayfoster.com](http://www.clayfoster.com) if you want to see more of his architectural work or learn more about him.



If a laptop is available to hook up to the TV, Clay will show some photos of his recent works, if there would be any interest in it.

The price will be \$25 for one day or \$45 for two days (which is very low for this sort of event).



Ned Hugus has once again volunteered to head up the food committee. Please help him at the event.

The club will provide meat, buns, condiments and drinks. We will have an alphabetical pitch-in lunch schedule as usual. (See story on page 5.)

### Attendance Drive

If enough people attend the Clay Foster demo, we'll greatly reduce (or eliminate) the fee for April's Judy Ditmer all-day demo on the 19th!

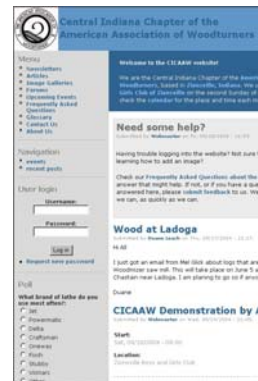


## Calendar of Turning Events

The calendar of events is also available on our website so you can check it anywhere, anytime!

Have a turning event to post here? Email it to [webmaster@cicaaw.org](mailto:webmaster@cicaaw.org) please!

<b>Mar. 7th &amp; Mar. 8th Pitch In!</b>	<b>CICA AW Meeting Demo: Clay Foster Don Skiles' Shop</b>	<b>May 17th Third Sunday!</b>	<b>CICA AW Meeting Demo: T.B.D. Zionsville Boys &amp; Girls Club</b>
<b>Mar. 8th 2 PM</b>	<b>CICA AW Meeting Demo: Clay Foster Don Skiles' Shop</b>	<b>June 14th</b>	<b>CICA AW Meeting Demo: T.B.D. Zionsville Boys &amp; Girls Club</b>
<b>April 19th 9 AM-5 PM 3rd Sun.!</b>	<b>CICA AW Meeting Demo: Judy Ditmer Don Skiles' Shop</b>	<b>July 12th 9 AM-5 PM Picnic!</b>	<b>CICA AW Meeting Demo: T.B.D. Zionsville Boys &amp; Girls Club</b>



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## Clay Foster Pitch-In Lunch

The March all-day demo/meeting will include a pitch-in lunch each day!

Please take a look at the list to the right to find out what you should bring. The sandwich stuff (meat, cheese, buns, etc.), soft drinks, plates, utensils, etc. will be provided.

There will likely be coffee and snacks for the morning sugar rush.

The food goes fast and attendees end up full of energy for

the day's activities.

Notably, these events succeed due to the great way in which individuals help out while setting up, putting the food out, last-minute errands, and cleaning up.

If anyone can help in the kitchen area with setting out food and making things happen, please pitch-in...this usually falls on the same people and we should spread the fun.

Thanks in advance!

Please bring the following items according to your last name:

Last names A-M:  
Desserts, chips, snacks, condiments, pickles, olives, etc.

Last names N-Z:  
Covered dishes or salads, such as baked beans, casseroles, potato salad, etc.

Again, the meat, buns, and soft drinks will be provided.

## Donations for the Club

Our new vice president, Dick Gerard, has been working hard to line up demonstrators and donations for the club. (See story on page 3 for more about the demonstrators.) So far, he has lined up \$400 in donations from woodturning supply companies. These were mostly in the form of gift certificates that can be used at those businesses. The club will raffle off the certificates at upcoming meetings and demos. So be sure to attend!

Some free raffles as a bonus for those that attend. Some as part of bigger raffles with other prizes.

We'll probably also use some of the gift certificates to say "thank you" to our unpaid demonstrators. So be sure to demonstrate!

Thanks to these company's for their support!

Donations have come from:

**Choice Woods**  
[www.choice-woods.com](http://www.choice-woods.com)

**The Beall Tool Company**  
[www.bealltool.com](http://www.bealltool.com)

**Packard Woodworks**  
[www.packardwoodworks.com](http://www.packardwoodworks.com)

**Tropical Exotic Hardwoods of Latin America**  
[www.anexotichardwood.com](http://www.anexotichardwood.com)

**“Dick Gerard, has been working hard to line up demonstrators and donations for the club.”**



Pictures from the February meeting can be found on the website.

Central Indiana Chapter  
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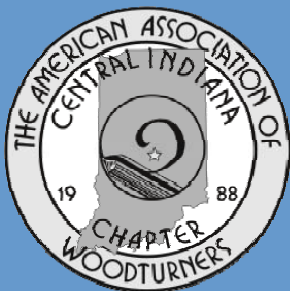
Zionsville Boys and Girls Club  
1575 Mulberry Street  
Zionsville, IN 46077

E-mail: [webmaster@cicaaw.org](mailto:webmaster@cicaaw.org)

We're on the web!  
[www.CICAaw.org](http://www.CICAaw.org)

#### DST Delay

Note that Daylight Savings starts on Sunday, March 8th, so be careful not to show up to the demo or meeting at the wrong time!



## Turning wood and making friends!

### Member Notes:

- If you have a new email address, please send it to [webmaster@cicaaw.org](mailto:webmaster@cicaaw.org).
- Are you a new member and don't have a nametag yet? Just email [webmaster@cicaaw.org](mailto:webmaster@cicaaw.org).
- Have something you'd like to mention here? Let us know!

### CICAaw Dues

Our treasurer, Mike Hamilton, will be accepting 2009 CICAaw local membership dues at the next few meetings, so please be sure to get together with him, to make his job easier.

Just as with last year, national AAW membership dues should be sent separately via their preferred ways.

Thanks for your continued contributions...they help our club hold great events like the upcoming Clay Foster demo in March 2009.

(Be sure to thank Mike for all the hard work he does when you see him!)

## March Meeting at Don Skiles' Shop

The March meeting will be held at Don Skiles' shop during the two-day, all-day demonstration by Clay Foster.

For more information, see the article on page 4. There's also an article on page 5 about the pitch-in lunch.

See you there!

**What:** CICAaw Meeting  
**When:** Mar. 8th, 2PM-4PM.  
**Who:** You and a friend!  
**Why:** It's educational!

**Where:**  
Don Skiles' Shop  
(See below for address).

#### Directions:

Skiles Electric  
286 North. Gasoline Alley, Unit D  
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Starting out at I-465 on the west side of Indy. Get off I-465 at the Rockville East Exit. Go east on Rockville Road. At the 3rd traffic light, turn left onto Gasoline Alley. Go approximately .5 miles. Look for bright yellow "Earls" sign. Turn into that driveway on left. Shop is on the right. We will have signs out on Gasoline Alley and in the driveway as there are several shops back in that area.

### Construction

Last time, there was still construction at the I-465 Rockville Road exit.

I'm not sure if there still is, so allow time to find an alternate route from a different exit!