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## Central Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

# CICA AW Turnings

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## November Un-Meeting Notes

There was no official meeting in November due to the Matthew Hill demo. We do have some notes though! So, let's give a nod to Alice in Wonderland and have some "un-meeting notes."

Did you know that Matthew Hill gave a demo last month? I'm sure we mentioned it somewhere. (See story on page 2.)

We had 18 2-day and 7 1-day attendees for the demo. After expenses, we had a net loss of \$92.97 which is right on target given the late notice. Our treasurer was quite pleased with this.

The CICA AW also had a good time at Rockler's Turning event. They rented out the retail space next door and we had several lathes running for the throngs of people that came by. It was a major success for us and I'm sure Rockler did pretty well (at least judging by how many of our members I saw running around like kids in the candy store!).

At the un-meeting, there was no raffle (not even an un-affle), but one will be held at the December meeting. I can't wait to see what Bill Tichenor brings in.

We'll discuss it more at the December meeting, but don't forget the Indianapolis Woodworking Show is coming up in January on the 21st and 22nd.

Speaking of which, December's meeting will be a regular meeting at the Boy's and Girl's Club. The meeting will be held on the 2nd Sunday, December 11. (See story on page 4.)

We'll also be having officer elections, a turning demo, great people to talk to, a fabulous facility, show-n-tell (you can bring in your fancy-handled lidded box), a well-stocked library of turning books and videos, and of course lots of talk about the craft and art of turning.

Hope to see you there!

### Officer Elections

Officer elections will be held at the December meeting.

We need candidates for the presidential positions. (See story on page 1.)

"So what," you say? I have an answer for that. (See story on page 3.)

### Membership Dues

If you haven't already done so, please don't forget to see our fabulous Treasurer, Mike Hamilton.

Local CICA AW dues for 2006 will once again be \$15.

## Officer Candidates for 2006-2007

Election time is coming up at the December meeting. Our CICA AW officers serve two year terms (barring life getting in the way).

We need candidates for the presidential positions.

Here are the current candidates:

President:

Need Candidates

Vice President:

Need Candidates

Secretary:

James Purciful

Treasurer:

Mike Hamilton

Also, Ned Hugus has stepped down as Librarian and Wally Page has taken on this role.





Matthew had some exciting turning techniques to show us such as the whizzing legs of death and the hacksaw parting tool (with lathe spinning).



**“This looked like a whirling accident waiting to happen.”**



Matthew gave critiques for CICAAW member turnings. This was the best turn out for critiques we've had in recent years!

## Matthew Hill Demonstration

Matthew began by demonstrating how he turns an endgrain lidded box. (See below.) The general procedure was the usual one for turning such a thing, other than his use of a hacksaw to part off the lid (about 1/3 of the stock) with the lathe running.

He said that most woodworkers try to “hide” endgrain, for example furniture makers, but woodturners must create pieces that feature endgrain.

So, we must learn how to cut it cleanly. To demonstrate, Matthew spent a lot of time sharpening his tools. He showed us a diamond slip stone he uses along with other sharpening and honing tools (e.g. a hard



Arkansas stone and leather strop). He was very meticulous, sharpening for each of many passes to get a perfect clean cut.

Matthew discussed the advantages and mechanics of a shoulder cut using a skew. There is little room for error. Again, he pointed out the need to have all four faces of the skew perfectly sharp for such a cut. He also admitted that the cuts could be made without a skew.

Matthew also showed his home-made hook tool and discussed the process of making one. He showed how to use the tool and pointed out how it could get a clean cut in the bottom of an endgrain box, even close to the side wall.

Matthew strives to not sand endgrain or insides of the box if possible, preferring to get a perfect cut off the tool.

He gave a slideshow of some of his work. It included burial urns and high end art pieces that were quite stunning. The price tags matched. The pieces included lots of surface texturing and tinting, intricate carving,



and fancy handles on the lids.

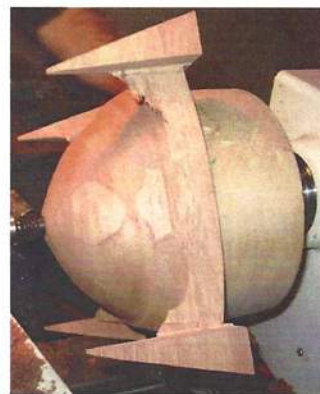
Matthew demonstrated the making of such a handle. (See above as well as a demonstration model below.) For the handle, he initially turned the pieces on the lathe, then carved, drilled, and sanded them into their final pierced shapes.

The bend in the handle was made by soaking the piece then forming it over a piece of hot pipe (Duane ran the blow torch).



Matthew also gave critiques of CICAAW turnings that were brought in. (See far left.) This was fun, but perhaps lacking structure in the comments.

Next, he showed off some experimental pieces he has been working on. (See right bottom.) These are formed by making a single cone that consists of a few lidded boxes, then cutting them up at angles, rotating, and re-gluing.



Finally, having sparked our interest during the slide show, Matthew demonstrated how he turns a square, footed, lidded, bowl from a single piece of wood.

He put a large piece of mahogany on a faceplate and attached it to a carver's vice in the lathe's banjo. It had been bandsawed to remove as much waste as possible ahead of time. He used a Japanese saw to form the pointed feet and would hand sand them.

He turned the inside of the bowl and some of the top face, but would have to use the saw and hand sanding to finish around the square tops of the legs.

Then, he reversed it onto a jam chuck. This looked like a whirling accident waiting to happen. (See above right.) It was also quite difficult as Matthew broke off two legs during the demonstration.

Finally, Matthew showed some carving using a Foredom.

Overall, the demo was a success. Thanks to all that helped!





## CICAAW: More than just a club

A couple years in a row at the Indy Woodworking Show I watched demos and talked with these amazing craftsmen about woodturning.

I even signed up to get their newsletter, but didn't feel worthy of attending a meeting. After all, even though my wife and I had a craftsman lathe (from when the Sears Hardware in Glendale went out of business), we hadn't even ever turned it on!

But, their booth was exciting enough that my wife and I resolved to get the lathe setup.

First, we decided that we needed a heavy duty lathe stand from an old Shop Notes issue we found. It was an opportunity to practice our long term goal of making furniture!

In the process of building that, we learned a lot about four-squaring rough lumber (hard maple), making and hanging drawers, and generally making a large furniture piece. Finally, we filled the stand's hollow beam with lead shot for ballast.

At the next Indy Woodworking Show, we had an agenda! We researched and ordered a chuck (with a coupon). We of course attended the free turning demos by Stephen Russell.

And, we talked to the woodturning club guys again. There was even this one turner that was a real tinker with his own contraption for reverse turning bowls (a Longworth chuck).

Along the way, we had picked up turning tools (from when Sears Hardware and the old Woodcraft each went out of business). We even had the sense to purchase a shop apron and face mask.

So, there was just one more thing my wife and I needed.

Wood! We had never used our fireplace before, but we ordered a rick of firewood (and bought some fireplace tools for good measure).

So, after all our preparation, we excitedly placed a piece of firewood on the lathe and took turns making our first shavings!

With lots of bumping and thinking, we figured out how to hold the roughing gouge to make it go a little smoother.

After a bit, we made the piece of firewood into a cylinder! Then we made a thinner cylinder. Incredible!!

We went on to cover the floor in home-made confetti that consisted of walnut, maple, hickory, and osage orange firewood shavings.

It's funny now to think that we were so excited about making what was essentially a **baton**.

After that I had the courage to attend a CICAAW meeting.

Everyone was so welcoming! They engaged me in conversation and cracked jokes and talked about lathes and turning. It was a whirlwind of friendships being made.

There was a great show-n-tell of turnings. So many interesting things! Some of the pieces were simply incredible to a simple firewood turner like me.

And there was a demo! They showed how to make a "weed pot." It was really cool. They challenged everyone to make one for the following meeting.

And you know what? I did it. It was a piece of osage orange firewood. I drilled out the top (which looked like a canon barrel) and it had a completely flat bottom, but it was round and looked a little like a genie bottle (to me).

It's sitting over there on the window sill where my wife keeps it. It turned dark brown, but it's still yellow on the bottom. Occasionally it holds dandelions from our kids.

I wouldn't have tried a weed pot so soon if not for the club. Later challenges prompted me to turn a goblet and a pot-pourri pot. I learned so many skills (and sometimes what not to do) from those projects and the associated club demos.

Over those months, I had enjoyed the club enough that when the need arose I volunteered to help with the website and newsletter.

It has been a lot of work, but I have realized that being an officer has challenged me.

...to learn about the history and traditions of the club and of turning in general.

...to learn new things (technologies for the website, the video system, turning techniques).

...to pay attention to the turning demos, not just watch.

...to make stronger friendships with the club members and to get to know many more than I might have otherwise.

...to attend more meetings and demos (I've only missed one).

...to learn how the club works (planning; setting up and tearing down; organizing, contacting, and motivating people; and coming up with ideas for things like demos and raffles).

That first turning we made was a firewood baton.

Like that baton, the CICAAW is more than just a club. It's a tradition of woodturning that is handed down and enhanced with each new member.



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

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

*"It was a whirlwind of friendships being made."*



Pictures from the Matthew Hill demo can be found on the website.



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Woodturners

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



Turning wood and making friends!

Member Notes:

- There are many great pieces of turning wood available **FREE FOR THE TAKING**. Simply contact Ed McCartney at 293-5607 (while supplies last).
- Thanks to Ned Hugus for the countless hours he has spent contacting people while trying to find candidates for the CICAaw president and vice president positions.
- If you have a new email address, please update your user information on the website., or send it to [webmaster@cicaaw.org](mailto:webmaster@cicaaw.org).
- Have something you'd like to mention here? Let us know!

Use this space to design a fancy handle for a lidded box.

December Meeting at Zionsville Boys and Girls Club

The December meeting will be at the Boys and Girls Club in Zionsville on December 11th from 2PM to 4PM. Duane Leach will be presiding (for the last time!).

We will be holding elections at the December meeting. (See stories on page 1 and 3.)

There is probably a turning demo, but I forgot to ask!

Another rotating raffle will be held at the December meeting. Good luck!



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