

# *Classic City Curl*

The Newsletter of the  
**Classic City Wood Turners Club**

March 2005

[Jim Underwood](#), Editor

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## March Meeting

The March Meeting will be held on the last Monday of March the 28<sup>th</sup>, at Coleman Cabinets, 6:00 – 9:00 PM. See the directions to Coleman Cabinets at the end of the newsletter.

There will be a sharpening demonstration at this meeting. Jim Talley will bring in his One Way grinding system. I spoke with Lou Kudon and he will also bring his Tormek system. So I'm sure we'll have a good and informative time. Bring your cutting tools so they will have something to sharpen. I'll definitely bring my dull tools. Jim Talley ought to have plenty to say about them! Please bring your questions and experience - or lack thereof. I'm positive I have a lot to learn.

As Jim Talley's teaching gig is *not* up, we will probably discuss the meeting date and location for the rest of the year in the May meeting. Until then we'll continue meeting on Mondays.

Dues are due. They are \$25/person or \$30/couple. If you have not done so, please give them to Lou Kudon this next meeting.

The name of our club has become "Classic City Wood Turners" due to the simple necessity of naming the club when creating the checking account. Thanks for taking on that responsibility Lou.

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## Last Meeting

We had a good turnout for the February meeting. We had fourteen in attendance including a couple of newcomers. Thanks to all who came and please come again this month. Hopefully we'll see a couple of our regulars that we've missed the last couple of meetings.

Roger Jessup gave us a great demonstration on turning bottle stoppers (and had Kaleidoscopes on display). He brought us a photocopy of several profile ideas one could use for bottle stoppers.



One great tip Roger gave us was the 'bolt' trick. There is no need to buy an expensive specialty chuck, mandrel, or hardwood dowel for doing this project. The only thing you need is an 11/32 drill with a one-inch stop set, a 3/8 bolt, and generic 3/8 dowels. Cut off the bolt head, chuck the bolt up, drill your blank slightly under the bolt size using a depth stop on the 11/32 drill, and then screw the blank on the bolt. Then bring the tail stock live center up to the other end of the blank. Roger says he turns

these about 1200 RPM. Once your piece is turned, you can then finish drill it, and glue in the dowel. If you leave the dowel long enough it also makes a great handle during finishing.



This method eliminates the need to have a hardwood dowel and a special chuck to keep from wringing off your dowel while turning. This also prevents problems getting almost through with your project only to have to start over because the glued in dowel twisted off. Of course Roger pointed out that with this project it really wasn't even a great loss if you messed it up since you've only lost a few minutes. He tells us it is a good warming up exercise. I noted that Jim Talley also 'warmed up' with his mushroom shapes. Warming up seems to be a good practice.

Roger was also showing some of his Kaleidoscopes that were turned using much the same method. The Pen kits range in price from \$2.99-\$4.50 and the Kaleidoscope kits are around \$8.50-\$9.00 from [Packards Woodworks](#). They are also a good source for cork for your bottle stoppers. I've also heard that [Nick Cook](#) sells a good cork.

Roger also said that he bought his chuck from WoodCraft for about \$79.00 dollars. It's a four-jaw chuck and works well. He says the only drawback was that it takes two bars to adjust it. But the price was right.

Thanks for sharing your experience Roger. I enjoyed this and look forward to turning a couple of things when my new chuck comes in for my lathe.

Raffled off last meeting was a stack of Ironwood blanks, some Ipe wood, commonly used for decking, some Brazilian Rosewood, and a bottle stopper- I think it was spalted ambrosia maple. Please bring your raffle items next meeting.

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## Turners Showcase

Once again I've enjoyed seeing what our members have been up to.



Lou Kudon brought this absolutely gorgeous bowl turned from 'Goncalo Alves.' The photo just doesn't do it justice.



Newcomer Michael Hollis brought a variety of interesting pieces he has made.

Here is a Natural edge goblet with a Deft finish. I neglected to write down the wood species on this.



This is a White Oak Crotch natural edge bowl with a lacquer finish.



This laminated Hawthorne natural edge bowl with Polyurethane finish should certainly give us some ideas...



And finally here are two hollow form ornaments made from River birch and Spalted Bradford pear possibly made at the workshop? Michael recently attended classes at Arrowmont in which he made some of these pieces. (I'd love to get a report on this school Michael!) I cannot remember which pieces though. Unfortunately I've gotten to be an old fart who doesn't remember things unless I write them down. Sorry Michael, but thanks for sharing with us, and please come again.



Jim Talley also brought a couple of Walnut bowls. One was still rough but the other had been turned and is showing off that rich Walnut color and a lustrous finish.



Roger Jessup brought a couple of things in as well as his bottle stoppers.

Seen on the left is a natural edge bowl that was turned green from local Cherry with a Deft finish. On the right is a spalted Red Maple natural edge bowl also with a Deft finish.

Again thanks to all who shared their creativity and projects.

*Photographs courtesy of Sheldon Washington*

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## Upcoming Shows

This is a short list of shows coming this year:

Southern States Symposium V April 29-May 1 Gainesville, GA

Featured turners: Stuart Batty, Lee Carter, Hayley Smith, Todd Hoyer and more

AAW National Symposium July 22-24 Overland Park, KS

Featured turners: (too numerous to mention)

GAW Turning Southern Style XI September 16-18 Unicoi State Park, GA

Featured turners: Christian Burchard, Rex Burningham, and Don Duden

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The **Fifth Annual Southern States Symposium** (see above) is one of the best turning events in the Southeast. This event features nationally and internationally known turners in a local forum. A total of 40 demonstrations, the trade show, and the Instant Gallery will fill the entire Georgia Mountains Conference Center. Those who have been before tell me that it is easily the best value, for the money, of any show around for \$100/person or \$125/couple. For more information go to [www.southernstates.org](http://www.southernstates.org) or see Jim Talley for a brochure.

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## AAW Membership

I strongly encourage our members to join the [American Association of Woodturners](http://www.aaawoodturners.org). They publish the American Woodturner journal four times per year. AAW has an Annual Symposium featuring many renowned turners. Educational Opportunity Grants are also awarded to assist members in their education and teaching. Local chapters may also receive grants for demonstrations. AAW also publishes other resources as well. A membership also protects our members in case of accidents as this association carries insurance on members. It's only \$35 per year for individual membership.

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## Chips and Bits

I was down at [Scull Shoals archaeological site](http://www.scul shoals.com), on the Oconee River last weekend. The town of Scull Shoals became a large industrial center back in the 1800s. A few historic preservationists have been doing some digs and research on the site. The **"Friends of Scull Shoals"** were hosting a 'craft fair' and trail walk. I saw several artisans there including a blacksmith who might agree to do a demonstration for us sometime. There was a basket maker - who was very interesting and informative, a potter (whom someone might possibly turn some things for), a spinner/weaver, whose husband turns a bit and was interested in the club, and some paper makers. Cindy Bowden who is Director of the American Museum of Papermaking in Atlanta was one of the ones who were showing us how to make paper. (Wow! I had no idea she was the director of a museum! I only knew that she was an expert!) I even made my own sorry piece of paper. Cindy could tell you that I'm a long ways from being a paper maker! I spent a very interesting few hours there. If you haven't been there I heartily recommend it. I also ran into Jack Wynn, who is a cultural Heritage preservationist, has been a big proponent of the preservation and archaeology of the site. Jack has done a few turnings from wood picked up on the site. He told me he attended the [Chattahoochee club](http://www.chattahoocheeclub.com) that meets near Gainesville there in Belmont. So what has all of this got to do with woodturning you ask? I am interested in older style lathes and wonder if someone would run the thing at one of these shindigs if I bodge one together sometime? The next one will be held there on May 21st.

Speaking of older lathes... as I said, I'm thinking of building a couple of reproductions. (Of course I might not get past the contemplation stage!) I'd like to start with a simple bow lathe, then make a pole lathe, and then a treadle lathe, and perhaps a wheel lathe. I'm primarily interested in one you'd find in use in the mid or early 1800's. These would be great article material for the newsletter for one thing, but would also demonstrate that you need not go out and buy several hundred dollars of equipment to get started. One can make a simple lathe to get started.

In addition to older style traditional lathes I'd like to design some more practical motorized lathes that any of us could build. I've seen some great examples and plans in various sources. I've also got some ideas myself. As I work in a cabinet shop I also have access to a couple of things a lot of folks don't have.... If you've made your own lathe, I'd love to hear your story about building your lathe (or get an article from you). If you just have ideas and would like to bounce them off of me then [email me](mailto:jim@woodturners.org) and let's see what we come up with.

One of the reasons for my interest in this subject is that several of you were interested in the newsletter but mentioned that you had no lathe. Well, I'm nearly in the same boat. I've got a really 'lower end' lathe that's not

worth much. Hey, it's a \$99 Big Lots special a friend had, and just gave me because he never used it. The price was right. I've turned with it and know its (extreme) limitations. It has a sheet metal bed and light duty square tube 'ways'. No Morse taper for mandrels or chucks. The centers don't quite line up when you bring them together and it gets worse as you put pressure on it despite the torsion box bed I built up under it. It's a royal pain in the neck to change speeds and several adjustment pieces are broken. My experimenting with it the other night also emphasized my lack of knowledge and experience! (Oh... you mean there's a difference between 'cutting' and 'scraping'?) I did find a chuck from Harbor Freight that would fit the 3/4 x 10 threads though. If it comes in time I will bring it to the meeting. But I have turned several pieces on my lathe. My point is this; you can get started in turning for *relatively* little. Don't let the cost of the One Way, Powermatics, or big Deltas scare you off. There are used and/or smaller lathes out there. Heck, you can even make your own lathe for very little. And quite probably it'll be better than mine!

So, on that note, I'd also like to do a review on lower end lathes. I've found several less expensive lathes but really don't know much about them. If you have information or opinions on affordable lathes [email me](#).

Even if you don't have a lathe please come to the meeting. It has always been informative and it's a great place to learn about the lathes other people have. This way you can make an informed decision when you finally buy one.

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## Directions to Coleman Cabinets

**Directions to the shop are as follows:**

From Athens, travel down 441/Watkinsville bypass. When you reach The Stone Store/Hog Mountain Road Traffic light, go to the NEXT light, and turn left. When you reach downtown Watkinsville go through to the 'Y' intersection, bear left down Hwy 15. Once you cross the railroad tracks, you will see the concrete pipe plant on the right. Just past the pipe plant on the right is Morrison Street. Turn right and about 1/4 mile or less you'll see the first paved road on the left. The road is marked by a big, concrete and stucco, sign with "Oconee Connection" lettered near the bottom. Turn left and drive down between the rows of Leyland Cypress until you see our building on the right. It will have a big green awning on it with Coleman Cabinets in white lettering on the front. The office will be closed so please come to the big bay doors on the left side of the shop for the meeting.

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## Classified Ads

### For Sale:

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- Kellogg 2 Hp 2 Stage Compressor (rebuilt) - \$400
- Milwaukee/Delta 14" Radial Arm Saw - \$400
- Delta Lathe Duplicator - \$75
- Kreg Manual Pocket Hole Jigs - \$75
- Leigh 24" Mortise and Tenon Attachment for Leigh 24" Dovetail Jig - \$75
- Leigh 15" Dovetail Jigs - \$50
- 2 Chain Saws - \$30 ea
- 2 Gas Water Heaters - \$20 ea
- Makita 12V Battery Charger - \$15
- Sawblades 10 in carbide tip - \$10
- Assorted Clamps

Call Bob Bitsko  
Ph 706-769-7520

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**Wanted:**

- Inexpensive Band Saw for light use; must have rip fence.  
Please Call Jay at 769-5036
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**Miscellaneous:**

- Magnolia tree down, call Jim Talley by this weekend. 706-353-7675
- For those of you who are looking to buy or sell things, the AAW has these [classified ads](#).
- Bob Bitsko mentioned that Peachstate Lumber has Birch turning blanks, some Cocobolo squares for about \$35.00, and some Clara Walnut veneer cores.

You can also purchase exotic woods from:

- [Atlanta Wood Products](#)
  - [Carlton McLendon Inc.](#)
  - [Peachstate Lumber](#)
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**Newsletter copy**

If you have ideas of articles you'd like to see in the newsletter, or would like to submit an article please email [Jim Underwood](#). I would like reports of schools or shows you attend, reviews of tools you own or make, demonstrations you'd like to see or any other ideas you might have.

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