



Slightly *Skewed*

Volume 11, Number 12

December 2003

Next Meeting: December 14, 2003 Sunday, 2:00 PM. Sharp at Crescenta Valley Regional Park Recreation Center.

Activity: Christmas Party and Auction.

Challenge: None Scheduled.

Workshop: None scheduled this month.

Brigantine Sails: None scheduled.

President's Column: By Don Comer

Well, we finally settled the question of who would be our President and Vice-president next year. Jim O'Connor and Dan Hogan magnanimously volunteered to accept the jobs. Dan has, of course, been VP for the last two years and agreed to serve in that office once again.. Jim is brand new to the job of president so let's all pitch in and help him as much as we can. We have to be careful to not "kill him with kindness", of course. Speaking of pitching in, we introduced our three new volunteer Assistant vice-presidents: Pete Carta, Carey Caires and Bob Ulrich to the members. Bill Noble, who unfortu-

Continued on Page 2.

Christmas Party and Fund Raiser Auction

By Jackie Comer

In case you missed November's meeting, you old-timers in the Club know this but our newer members may not know what a rollicking good time we all have at the Christmas party and auction. Wives, husbands and children are invited.

The party starts with all of us sharing the wonderful food the members bring to share. We've had everything from sushi, shrimp platters, lasagna and Buffalo wings.

Here's your chance for the cooks in the family to show off their talents. We've all enjoyed every bite, from nuts to dessert. Just bring a dish to share. Please bring it in a disposable dish or one with your name on it. Don't forget to bring serving utensils, if required. The Club furnishes punch and coffee.

After we've had a chance to eat and visit, we get to the main event; the auction. We hope you will bring items in good condition that you may not need anymore but that someone else will think is a real treasure. Items in good condition; tools, member's turnings, baked goods, candy; paintings, picture frames and turnings from our demonstrators have been auctioned off. We hope you will join us; we really have a good time. Our auctioneer, Bill Kelly, keeps things moving and entertains us in the process. See you at the Party.

This lovely lacquered cedar box was made by Phil Pandolfo. The inside is left raw so the smell of the cedar is strong.



1

Merry Christmas!



nately was not present, has volunteered to help Jim with all the e-mail and Internet traffic that pertains to the Club activities. I'm glad that was resolved in such a good fashion. All of the new volunteers are highly motivated to bring you the best the Club can offer and Dan is already moving out aggressively to set up interesting activities for next year. Scratch your head for new ideas about what you'd like to see the Club do. I think Dan's going to be asking for them very soon.

We had a really good turnout for the Christmas Ornament Challenge this time. Surprisingly, we only had two entries in the Novice class but a lot of entries in Intermediate and Advanced. The quality in all classes was very impressive. Enough so that I think the judges, Mark Fitzsimmons and Cal Elshoff, had a hard time deciding which should get the awards. In addition to our usual first and second place awards, we handed out awards for third place. That made for so many winners that I can't remember who all won what, so I won't even attempt to name them all. I apologize for that. Maybe next year the new board will have someone with a better memory handling the awards. Because of the lack of time, we had no Show and Tell, except for me wondering why some guy would try to make a Christmas ornament out of a rock.

Ray Leier gave us a very informative critique of the turnings we brought in for his review. He picked up and talked about every piece on the tables. Except for a couple of old curmudgeons, everyone seemed interested throughout the whole process. I keep telling people to listen to

what he says even when he's talking about someone else's turning and you all seemed to do that. He never gives bad advice and what he says may help you turn out gallery quality work.

Be sure and reserve December 14 on your calendar for the Club's Christmas Party and Auction. There'll be good food and a chance to get better acquainted with your fellow woodturners. You may even pick up some good advice too, who knows? Also it's a chance to gain a little space in your workshop, garage, storage shed, kitchen or whatever and do the Club a little good at the same time. Bring in useable or decorative items that you no longer need to donate to the auction. Last year a few of our turners donated one or two of their turnings for sale. That sort of seems like "bringing coals to Newcastle" to me but bidding for those items was very spirited. Speaking of bidding, bring in some cash or your checkbook; you undoubtedly will see something that's too good a bargain to pass up. And remember, it's for a good cause. Since we don't charge membership dues this and the monthly raffles are major sources of revenue for us. The rent on the Park facility is due soon and the Club has a surprising amount of expenses to keep it running like we've all become accustomed to.

For those of you, who've never been to the Party, check out Jackie's accompanying article. It'll give you more information on what to expect and bring. Incidentally, we want you to come, even if you don't have anything to bring. Just bring your happy face and I don't think I need to remind you to bring your appetite.

Upcoming Events

By Dan Hogan

I know people are starting to turn their attention to getting ready for the holidays. So this is to advise that the GWG Challenge will be small and modest. For our January meeting, the Challenge will be item(s) that will fit inside a standard 35mm film canister. You have to be able to get the lid onto the canister.

Good luck, and let's get creative. There are people among our membership who are expert at making small items, so this should be an interesting challenge.

Continued on Page 4



Want to do something like this? Attend the Binh Pho Demo February 7th 2004

Show and Tell

By Cheryl Schneiders

There was no regular Show and Tell this month. In its place we had Ray Leier, who graciously evaluated pieces submitted by the membership and discussed the principles of good design as they apply to wood art from the viewpoint of an upscale gallery owner who has to be able to defend his choice of pieces to his customers.

Ray examined every aspect of each piece that he evaluated, holding it up above his head to view the bottom and looking down on it. He commented on the workmanship and the finish. He was careful not to use words like “good” or “bad” but instead to comment on what he, as a potential buyer, thought “worked

well” (or didn’t work) in the context of the implicit objective of the artist.

The photos below show some of the pieces Ray chose to examine, and his method of examination. Most aren’t identified because without having a photo of the artist in close proximity to the piece, I couldn’t tell who did what except in a few instances.



Upcoming Events (Continued)

The Binh Pho Demonstration

The first demonstration for 2004 will be by Binh Pho on Saturday, February 7. Because of the likelihood of cold weather, we will be holding it inside the Crescenta Valley Park building. The Sleepy Hollow Woodcarvers have agreed to share the room with us so a little bit of cooperation may be in order. But, at least we won't have that cold, icy wind blowing over the fence on us.

Binh plans a long day for us that will include turning, piercing and coloring of his signature hollow vessels. He has some techniques for turning very thin walled (one sixteenth inch) hollow vessels that are unusual and may be useful to those of us who have the nerve to try turning a vessel approaching that wall thickness. He will show us how he decorates his vessels by painting a colorful scene and emphasizing it with a delicately carved filigree pattern. He uses masking and airbrushing to do the painting and carves the filigree by piercing the vessel wall with a very high-speed carving tool. I'm sure we all will have an interesting, informative day.

By the way, lunch will be served. Jackie says that even though she won't be First Lady anymore, she will still be "Chief cook and bottle washer" for this demo.



The Work of

Binh Pho



GWG Mentors List

Goblet Rings & Spiral Work:

Bill Kelly - (310) 541-1144

Hollow Vessels:

Bill Haskell, Placentia - (714) 528-4783

Kaleidoscopes:

Bob Coleberd - (818) 368-3525

Lidded Boxes: Al Sobel - (818) 360-5437

Pens: Wes Hall, Palmdale - (661) 947-9326

Segmented Work:

Don Comer, Downey - (562) 928-4560

Basic Turning Techniques:

Don Comer, Downey - (562) 928-4560

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