



Central Florida Woodturners

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Monthly Meetings

Regular scheduled monthly meetings of the Central Florida Woodturners are held via Zoom on the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. Members and friends are encouraged to join. Make sure we have your email address in order to receive this newsletter along with future invitations to our monthly zoom meetings. Please go to <http://centralfloridawoodturners.org/>

All day hands on workshops at Danny Hoffman's house 4311 Golden Gem Rd Apopka, FL 32712 are also canceled until further notice.

JIMMY CLEWES INITIATES PETITION TO REMOVE AAW PRESIDENT GREG SCHRAMEK AND RESTORE MEMBER RIGHTS TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS.



Well known, Las Vegas based woodturner and long time AAW member, Jimmy Clewes has initiated a petition to remove current AAW President Gregory Schramek from office and to renew the rights of our members to attend board meetings. Clewes, who won a law suit against the organization in June 2020 claims that the AAW has reneged on the 2020 settlement in which Clewes

successfully argued the AAW was in breach of an agreement he had with them and that he has suffered damages as a result.

In a recent letter to AAW members, Clewes is petitioning to recall AAW President Gregory Schramek and have him removed from office. Additionally, Clewes points to a decision by Schramek at the November 2020 Board Meeting, during which the President recommended that the Board, without notifying members, remove Section 5.16(d) of the By-Laws. This section details a 34 year old provision that protects the members' fundamental right to participate in meetings.

The Clewes letter is reproduced on page 6 for your convenience. Links are provided for anyone interested in supporting the effort by adding your name to the petition. Only AAW members may sign.

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From the Presidents Desk



As turners, we make. And when we make, we produce things. Whether pens, Christmas ornaments, or bowls, we have something to show for our efforts at the end of our day.

One thing that makes turning so exciting is that we get to share our efforts with others. When we give or sell a turned item to someone, we pass on a little piece of us.

Most recipients are excited to have a custom-turned piece and cherish it for what it is in its final form. Over time those items can easily blend in with many other owned objects.

Not often do we get an opportunity to turn something that makes a profound deep connection with someone that we will never know and we will probably never meet. How rare is it to be at our lathe and know we are turning a piece that will be valued more for its combined purpose than simply a woodturning?

With the Beads of Courage project, we have the opportunity to not only make an heirloom memory for an entire family, but we are also sending a message.

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ROBERTO FERRER

Artist - Sculptor - Demonstrator



Last month, guest demonstrator, Roberto Ferrer gave us an in-depth look at how he creates his complex carved and textured wooden creations. Hopefully you were able to view the demo. We expect to have more demos like this in the future. We have posted a link on the CFW website containing information on all the tools he used in the demonstration. The link is:

<http://centralfloridawoodturners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Roberto-Ferrer-Carving-Tools-List.pdf>

Additionally, Roberto asked that members take a moment to fill out a survey that will greatly assist him in making his presentation a better experience. Here is a link to the survey.

Link to the survey: <https://forms.gle/R3EbB1u8PUuNWojr6>

From the Presidents Desk continued

That message is simple. We may never meet, we will most certainly never fully understand your struggles, but we are out here for you and your family in your time of need. You're not alone.

Turning a piece of wood into a bowl or vessel that holds the symbols of your family's journey and all the struggles along the way is the least we can do for you.

As a woodturner, the Beads of Courage vessels you will be making will stir so many more emotions than any other turnings and for years to come. Beyond a well-received artistic wooden object, you will be bringing a ray of hope, encouragement, and a sense that each child and family are not alone in their ordeal.

I believe there is magic in turned wood.

We will never know how often a mother or father will sit quietly with their Beads of Courage vessel and reminisce about their child's struggle. And we'll never know how many of our vessels will be pulled from shelves and shared decades later containing stories of success and victory over a long-ago fought battle.

But one thing we do know is that we will most likely never turn anything this important on our lathes, ever!

This month we're kicking off the Beads of Courage ongoing program, and I hope you will join me in turning as many vessels as possible to share and give hope to the families of children struggling with cancer.

We will have more details at our March meeting, [March 18th at 7pm](#) on Zoom. Stay tuned, meeting details will be sent to you soon.

Thank you and Happy Turning,
Kent Weakley
President,
Central Florida Woodturners

Kent Weakley,
President CFWT
kw@TurnAWoodBowl.com
www.TurnAWoodBowl.com



JOIN US IN MARCH

For our live Zoom meeting. We are kicking off the Beads of Courage program and will provide additional details at the March 18th meeting starting at 7 pm. Hope you will join us then. <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/ReturntoCommunity/Beads-of-Courage.aspx>
Beads of Courage provides innovative, arts-in-medicine supportive care programs for children coping with serious illness, their families and the health care providers who care for them. Through the program, children tell their story using colorful beads as symbols of courage that commemorate milestones they achieved along their unique treatment path.

SAVE THE DATE

Omaha, Nebraska • July 15-18, 2021

AAW'S 35TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

PARTIAL DEMONSTRATOR LINEUP (TOPICS TO BE ANNOUNCED):

- Nick Agar
- Stuart Batty
- Dixie Biggs
- Michael Blankenship
- Trent Bosch
- Michael Hosaluk
- Johannes Michelsen
- Dan Tilden
- Craig Timmerman

Photo: Courtesy of Visit Omaha

SYMPOSIUM VENUE



Photo:
Brad Williams

CHI Health Center Omaha
455 N 10th St., Omaha, NE 68102

The convention center, CHI Health Center Omaha, is near the airport, and close to the riverfront and the Old Market Entertainment District. A glass-enclosed skywalk connects CHI Health Center to the Hilton Omaha. Just down the street is the Omaha Marriott Downtown hotel.

HOST HOTELS



**Omaha Marriott Downtown
at the Capitol District**
222 N 10th St., Omaha, NE 68102



Hilton Omaha
1001 Cass St., Omaha, NE 68102

REGISTRATION

Information about AAW Symposium registration and reserving a hotel room will be coming soon.

VISITOR HIGHLIGHTS

- **Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium**, a 160-acre facility and home to Dome Desert, the largest indoor desert in the world, as well as the Lied Jungle, the largest indoor rainforest in North America.
- **Old Market District**, in downtown Omaha, features cobblestone streets, interesting cafes and galleries.
- **Durham Museum**, originally one of the nation's busiest train stations, showcases the history of the local area.
- **Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness and Pioneer Courage Park**, one of the most unique permanent outdoor art installations in the nation.



Photo: Courtesy of Visit Omaha

Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

AAW leadership is moving forward with its plans for an in-person 2021 AAW Symposium in Omaha, despite the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Leadership is approaching arrangements for a live event cautiously, while monitoring pandemic developments, and will consider contingency plans as needed. AAW membership will be kept informed of developments and changes.

AAW
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

CLASSIFIED ADS

Large 2.5 inch X 32 inch Hickory rounds. Tree was over 150 years old when Hurricane Michael blew it over. These pieces are perfect for coffee tables or other fine pieces of custom made furniture. \$95.00. Call 770 843 4908 please leave message.



SHOPSMITH MARK 510 FOR SALE

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12" Disk Sander
Horizontal Boring
16 1/2" Drill Press
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Belt Sander
Jointer
Dust collection
Scroll Saw
Power Station
Extra Saw Blades -4 Disk sander -4 conical Sanding Disks
Planer/jointer knife sharpening Jig



Image may differ from actual unit being sold

Visit SHOPSMITH.COM and look at their 2020 Catalog.

Contact pete.eden36@gmail.com or call 407-864-1281

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

All classified ads must be submitted by the 10th of each month in order to be included in the CFW newsletter. Photos of the item(s) must be in jpg, tiff, or png format.

Also a brief description of the article and a good contact number will ensure the ad gets the attention it deserves.

Please email all your requests to the editor at tomason@earthlink.net and let us know when the item is no longer available.

If you have a piece of work you are fond of, proud of, or just particularly pleased with, you don't have to wait for show and tell to brag about it. Just email tomason@earthlink.net with a photo and a brief explanation about your inspiration or the process you used to make it and I will be happy to include it in a future newsletter. JPEG, TIFF, or PNG files are accepted. Deadline is on the 10th of the month.

If you would like to place a classified advertisement in the next issue of our monthly newsletter please email the editor at tomason@earthlink.net. Submissions must be received by the 15th day of the month. A picture and brief description of the item will be helpful. Remember to include your contact information.

IF YOU CAN TAKE GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS AND WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT PICTURES FOR THE CFW CLUB NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT US. ALL PHOTO SUBMISSIONS MUST EITHER BE IN .JPG FORMAT. YOU WILL RECEIVE PHOTO CREDIT FOR ANY IMAGES WE USE.

AAW Members, please take time to read.

MEMBER- INITIATED PETITIONS

PETITION #1 To remove Gregory Schramek from the Board of Directors of the AAW

{Click here to Sign the Petition to remove Gregory Schramek}

<https://jimmyclewes.com/aaw-petition-to-remove-gregory-schramek-president/>

PETITION #2 To Reinstate By-Law 5.16(d) that protects the members' fundamental right to attend Board Meetings

{Click here to Sign the Petition to Reinstate ByLaw}

<https://jimmyclewes.com/aaw-petition-to-reinstate-by-law-5-16d/>

Dear Friends and Fellow Woodturners –

I ask you join me in a petition to remove Gregory Schramek from the Board of Directors of the American Association of Woodturners

Item #1 – Breach of Agreement

The President, on behalf of the AAW, entered into a Settlement Agreement with me, Jimmy Clewes, on June 12, 2020. This Agreement was about the mishandling of my invitation to an AAW National Symposium and my ADA accommodation. The AAW did acknowledge their errors (with no apologies for their actions), granted my accommodation and agreed as follows:

Section E of that Agreement states:

“The present members of the Board of Directors will undertake a training program on ADA requirements of charitable organizations within 6 months of the date of the agreement. The manner and form of such will be determined by the Board. **Proof of compliance** *{emphasis added}* will be provided to Clewes within 6 months and ten days from the date of this agreement. Such training will become required under the new AAW Board member orientation rules.”

The required Proof of compliance was **not** delivered and a Notice of Breach of the Agreement was issued.

It is with strong belief that, on behalf of the AAW, the President knowingly and willingly breached this agreement and washed his hands of further responsibility. This failure could put the organization at risk of significant damage. This is not good business practice for **OUR** organization and cannot be allowed to continue.

Item # 2 – Violation of Members’ fundamental right to attend AAW Board Meetings

At the November 2020 Board Meeting, the President recommended that the Board remove a 34-year old By-Law that protects the members’ fundamental right to participate in meetings. The November minutes state:

“The AAW Board appreciates your support of the proposal to remove Section 5.16(d) of the By-Laws”.

This recommendation was **read by the President to the Board**. It did not appear to come from the Board. The recommendation was hurriedly passed by a vote of 7 to 1 without Board discussion or notification to the Members. This action stripped the rights of **all** AAW Members. In addition, By-Law Section 16.01(b) states “Any changes to the By-Laws shall be posted on the AAW website and printed in the Journal. As of February 2021, no notification on either site have been made available other than the minutes of the Board Meeting; another By-Law violation.

The By-Laws Section 16.01 clearly states that revision or repeal of a fundamental principle of the By-Laws **must** be confirmed by a majority of the members of the Association. **Clearly the Board did not feel that your right to attend a Board meeting was a fundamental right!** The President of the Board, Mr. Schramek, stated the motivation for removing member participation at a board meeting as follows:

- “...enable the AAW Board to communicate transparently, succinctly, and completely through the minutes of the meetings without risk of misrepresentation.”
- “Retain...privacy and confidentiality when dealing with sensitive matters...”
- “Improves meeting management and operational efficiency...”

Executive sessions are for items that require privacy and confidentiality, so that it is not an argument for closed meetings. Members were not allowed to participate/speak at the meetings anyway so barring them from listening would not improve “operational efficiency” of the meetings. Member attendance may be an annoyance as the Board is often made aware of several By-Law and procedural anomalies of their actions. *The apparent reason is for the Board to operate non-transparently/secretly.*

The general meetings should be open to members should they choose to participate. I am shocked and appalled by their actions. In my opinion, the President of the AAW has failed as a leader and rather than leading the Board or advocating for members, he has dictated his own agenda – and then tried to shroud it in secrecy.

Disappointed and eager to see **our** AAW return to the force of good that it has long been for our woodturning community, I present the following two items for a Membership Initiated Petition

- 1.To have Gregory Schramek removed from the Board of Directors as a result of his improprieties outlined above; and,
- 2.To reinstate By-Law 5.16(d) “All members of the Association may attend Regular or Special Board Meetings.”

Member-Initiated Petitions for removal of a Director must be signed by at least 10% of the members (Section 4.02(b). This is a HUGE challenge. However, I believe that the current President may cause further damage to the AAW and the membership by his lack of action, lack of leadership, lack of ethics and total disregard of legal agreements that can harm our organization.

I ask for your support and urge you to click below and sign both of the Member-Initiated Petitions.

{Click here to Sign the Petition to remove Gregory Schramek}

<https://jimmyclewes.com/aaw-petition-to-remove-gregory-schramek-president/>

{Click here to Sign the Petition to reinstate By-Law}

<https://jimmyclewes.com/aaw-petition-to-reinstate-by-law-5-16d/>

Jimmy Clewes
AAW Member