

February 2010

The Dakota Woodturners continue to work on finalizing the preparations for the Spring Hands-on Symposium and we'll be looking to the membership for help in completing the necessary preparation activities. This year's symposium will be one of our best ever with this line-up of demonstrators. The opportunity to learn from some of the best in the world of woodturning is very exciting and I know it will provide numerous inspirations for our membership. I bet you can't tell I'm excited about our symposium, as I am every year. I hope each of you will consider taking part in the symposium. Many of you know this learning experience is one of the best regardless of your skill level. You will not be disappointed in the experience!

The symposium is only one of the activities on our plate. On February 6<sup>th</sup> the Dakota West Arts Council's will have their "Live Art in Motion" event at the Kirkwood Mall. The Dakota Woodturners will have a demonstration booth at the event. We will be setting up at approximately 9:00am and the event will be from 10:00am until 4:00pm. If you would like to volunteer to demonstrate or help set-up, please give me a call. Just a reminder – you must be an AAW member to demonstrate. We will set-up a display and you are invited to bring some of your turnings to put in the display. Also, you are more than welcome to stop by the booth and lend moral support (or heckle) the demonstrators. Hope to see you on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

This past weekend I experienced one of those moments that affirms why I love to turn wood. I received a call from a fellow turner who needed a little help dealing with a large cottonwood burl. Upon the turner's arrival at my shop, I realized this was no normal burl. The burl was a true monster and when it was resting on the floor of my shop, it created one of those moments of silence and the question in the air was "Now what?" After an exchange of ideas, where to cut and what to create, it was decided we needed to set –up the coring system and away we went. After a couple of hours of chain sawing, turning, and coring, we stood back and admired what Mother Nature had created. Although the cored pieces were not even close to a finished state, it created an excitement in me and an expectation to see what this turner will create in the next few months. I'm envious of the this turner with the monster burl, but thank you Don for letting me learn and share the experience of how to bring the monster burl down to size.

A final thought for the month: the E-board struggles each month to come-up with new ideas for demonstrations, new demonstrators, and how to engage the membership in the learning process. We want to continuously improve our programs, meet the expectation of our existing membership and to generate excitement for the newest members to catch that wood turning bug. That being said, at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting we will provide the club with the details on a special demonstration to occur at our March meeting. The March demonstration is sure to help all of us in our preparations for the symposium. Hope to see you at the February meeting.

As one wise turner said before me "Keep the chips and ribbons flying".....and from me "do it safely."

Ron Day, President