

Turning Points

online

Wood Turning Center

June/July 2007

Issue: 03

Editorial

by Robin Rice

Turning Points Online continues to evolve and improve.

[Full article with images](#)

[Text-only version](#)



Turning Points online - listening to your feedback

Change, Growth and Choice in the Turning Field

by Bob Marsh

Bob Marsh (Assistant Professor, Kutztown University) discusses approaches to teaching and learning in the wood medium.

[Full article with images](#)

[Text-only version](#)



Bob Marsh, *Bowl*, 2007

There's No Map

by Steven Loar

Steven Loar describes the struggles and rewards of developing an original curriculum for The Center for Turning and Furniture Design with collaborator Christopher Weiland. "We didn't put 'wood' in our title because who knows what might be turned, and what might be turned might be a piece of wood."



In This Issue

[Editorial](#)

[Change, Growth...](#)

[There's No Map](#)

[Back to School...](#)

[Show Me the Bowl](#)

[Reviews](#)

[My Turn](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Featured Objects](#)

Featured Object from the Collection



C.R. "Skip" Johnson
Itinerant Turner's Toolbox, 1981
Mahogany, basswood, walnut,
padauk, honey locust
21 x 26 x 12"
1995.01.01.103G
Donated by the Artist

C.R. "Skip" Johnson, a well-known and beloved teacher began his academic career in 1960 at SUNY Buffalo. He then established a fine art wood

assembled, carved or machined - in the future?'"



"What does a person need to succeed...?"

[Full article with images](#)
[Text only version](#)

Back to School...

by Betty Scarpino

From her four months as the Artist-in-Residence at The Center for Turning and Furniture Design, Betty Scarpino narrates experiences with students, colleagues and unexpected pieces of wood and equipment. "There's something to be said for working in an atmosphere of high enthusiasm. It's catching."



Betty Scarpino, *Familiar Strangers*, 2007

[Full article with images](#)
[Text-only version](#)

Show Me the Bowl

Gordon Peteran

In his essay *The Case Against the Vessel* (May, 2007 Turning Points Online), Peter Exton suggests that "In their quest for creative growth...vessel makers [are] leaving behind the things that made them unique in the first place: wood turning." Provocateur Gordon Peteran responds to Exton with some thoughts on the definition of a vessel, its value and possible functions.



Gord Peteran, *Bowl*, 2007

[Full article with images](#)
[Text-only version](#)

Exhibition Reviews



Roll Call review

by R. Vincent Johns

R. Vincent Johns gives *Roll Call* students and teachers all 'A's.

Ward Stevens, *Rolling Pins for Bread and Cake Making*, 2006

[Full article with images](#) / [Text-only version](#)



Why Eastern State Penitentiary Isn't Barbie's Dream House

by Susan Hagen

Sculptor Susan Hagen's miniaturized vision of 142 years in the pen.

Susan Hagen, *Construction Workers*, 2007

[Full article with images](#) / [Text-only version](#)

established a fine art wood program at the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1965, where he taught until 1990, retiring as Professor Emeritus.

"Once upon a time I used the same techniques as most other woodworkers because I learned them from Tage Frid. This all changed a few years ago. I was walking through the woods on our farm near Stoughton, when I heard a faint voice calling for help. It belonged to a beautiful wood nymph trapped in a hollow tree. Well, as you can probably guess, with her freedom and three wishes I ended up with a bunch of elves that work nights, don't eat much, and do nice work."

-C.R. "Skip" Johnson

Featured Object from Museum Store



Mark Sfirri
Nubby Bat, 2006
Ivory wood
2 1/2 x 11"
\$500 + s/h

Mark Sfirri, well known for his ironic and humorous turned sculptures, received his B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1974 and 1978 respectively. He has won numerous awards throughout his professional career and has taught woodworking at Bucks County Community College since 1981.

My Turn

We welcome your feedback to *Turning Points*! The "My Turn" section is a place for everyone to share thoughts on *Turning Points* articles and the field of wood and lathe-turned art. Unless otherwise indicated, comments sent to *Turning Points* will be treated as letters to the editor for publication in *Turning Points*. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.



"My two biggest interests are art and mathematics. I feel that this work is the perfect marriage of those two interests. The viewer sees none of the mathematics but I explored and understand the cause and effect of the subtle positioning of the pieces on the lathe."

-Mark Sfirri

For information on purchasing *Nubby Bat*, please contact the Center: **215.923.8000**

Opportunities



Call for Art [Challenge VII: disFUNKtional](#)

The call for submissions to **Challenge VII: DysFUNKtional**, showcasing art which subverts, satirizes, or burlesques function, is now available. Jurors will be architect Cecil Baker, public art expert and curator Marsha Moss, and curators Richard Torchia (Arcadia University) and Ricardo Viera (Lehigh University). To view the prospectus, [click here](#).



Call for Papers [Twentieth Century Furniture Research Group](#)

This year the Fifth Conference entitled *Furniture Design and Manufacture, 1970 - 2000* takes place on November 16th 2007 at the Design Museum, London. The conference themes will be based upon the following subject areas:

- Furniture manufacturing
- Design and make
- Conservation
- Collections

We are particularly interested in those who worked in the period 1970 - 2000 who can provide perspective on furniture based activities that are representative of this time. We are also interested in those who have experience of conservation and /or curation of furniture produced at this time (1970-2000). It is also an aim of this conference to provide a collective forum for designers, makers, curators and conservators where issues can be raised, articulated and discussed through presentation with opportunity for questions/discussion. Finally we are keen to present papers with an international perspective to give a global representation to the conference.

If you would like to informally discuss your proposed abstract then please contact either Prof. Jake Kaner (tel: 01494 522 141, email: jake.kaner@bcuc.ac.uk) or Sharon Grover (tel: 01494 522 141, email: sharon.grover@bcuc.ac.uk). Please submit abstract (150-250 words) to jake.kaner@bcuc.ac.uk, before July 27th 2007. Full papers to be submitted by October 26th 2007.

papers to be submitted by October 20th 2007.

Prof. Jake Kaner
Furniture Research Centre
Faculty of Creativity and culture
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College
Queen Alexandra Road
High Wycombe
Bucks HP11 2JZ

For up to date information on forthcoming workshops and free visits please see the online ARLIS/UK & Ireland Events Calendar 2007 at <http://www.arlis.org.uk/even/>



International Events Wanted

Do you know of any wood art events going on in your part of the world? We'd love to know about them so we can share the information with our members. Please reply to *Turning Points* with the relevant information.
Thank you for your help, the *Turning Points* staff

About Us

Turning Points newsletter and *Turning Points* online are electronic publications of the Wood Turning Center.

Turning Points staff: Editor, Robin Rice; Systems Designer and Publications Manager, David Bender; Director of Exhibitions and Collections, Suzanne Kopko
Contributing writers: R. Vincent Johns, Steven Loar, Bob Marsh, Gordon Peteran and Betty Scarpino

.....
Wood Turning Center
501 Vine St, Philadelphia, PA 19106, US
www.woodturningcenter.org
turnon@woodturningcenter.org
p: 215.923.8000 f: 215.923.4403

**Save
10%**

Your membership helps support the **Wood Turning Center's** not-for-profit programs, including *Turning Points*. Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership at a higher level. Easily join or renew online! Members also receive 10% off all purchases of books, videos, and DVDs from our [Museum Store](#).

[Click here to renew or to become a member online](#)