

American Association of Woodturners

July AAW Board Message from Jean LeGwin

Dear Members,

AAW had a 25th anniversary party in Saint Paul, June 24-26, and a near-record 1719 of you attended. It was an incredibly joyous celebration of our craft that offered a wide selection of activities for all attendees.

We invited all past Honorary Lifetime Members to attend and were privileged to have many attend *and* demonstrate. Those attending were David Ellsworth (who gave a wonderful keynote address), Dale Nish, Al Stirt, Alan Lacer, Robyn Horn, Ray Key, Nick Cook, Bonnie Klein, Dick Gerard, Arthur and Jane Mason, and Albert LeCoff.

Three exhibitions were held in conjunction with the symposium: Roots-An Artist's Voice featuring work by artists reflecting on their own evolution; POP Merit Award winner David Ellsworth's Retrospective; and Turning 25-A Celebration that featured individual and collaborative works from many, many of our local chapters. Catalogs are available for all three exhibits by contacting AAW's office or [ordering online](#). In addition to the AAW exhibits, there was a stunning exhibit of a portion of David and Ruth Waterbury's collection of wood art held at the Minnesota Institute of Arts. A companion book is available titled *Conversations with Wood: The Collection of Ruth and David Waterbury*. Another book that will be of interest to AAW members is *The Cutting Edge: Contemporary Wood Art and the Lipton Collection* by Kevin Wallace, which traces the evolution and development of wood art in the last 25 years.

Speaking of books, AAW's 25th anniversary book, *Woodturning Today: A Dramatic Evolution*, is now available for order. You can [order it online](#) : or call the AAW office. It is a beautiful 256-page, four-color book filled with dramatic images and interesting stories of woodturning, the growth of AAW, and experiences of many members.

There is a very special opportunity for those wishing to make a \$1000 donation to AAW: A limited edition of the deluxe edition of the 25th anniversary book is available in a beautiful cloth-covered presentation box, which includes a small piece of original art made by an artist of your choice from the list of participating artists. These are unique pieces of art created especially for this special limited edition. Each book is numbered and each piece of art is a small treasure signed by the artist. *There is a very limited number available.*

The *2011 Symposium Handout Handbook* is also available for [purchase here](#) : or call the AAW office to order. Sharon Bierman, a volunteer, has once again produced an outstanding resource book and the demonstrators have provided many detailed instructions for projects and techniques. For those of you who were not able to attend in person, reading and using the Handbook is the next best thing to actually being there.

Scott Kosteretz from East Troy, Wisconsin, is the lucky winner of Binh Pho's painted lathe. Thanks to Binh for the many, many hours he donated to AAW in creating a true working piece of art and to all of you who purchased tickets. Special thanks are also due to Powermatic for their generous donation of the lathe used as Binh's canvas. Money raised from the raffle will be devoted to improving AAW's web presence.

I would personally like to thank the many volunteers (far too many to name individually) who helped make our 25th anniversary international symposium the great event it was. We could not do it without you! Ours is an organization that is truly unique in the craft world in being such a sharing and open community. I am proud to call myself a member.

Jean LeGwin

American Association of Woodturners Board Member