

Gary Roberts Accepts AAW Lifetime Award

June 13, 1998 will forever remain a special day to me. At the 12th National Symposium banquet Charles Alvis asked me to join him on the stage for a joke about Texas. As it turned out the purpose was to surprise me with the presentation of the AAW's most honored award.

My emotions prevented my response at that moment. Now I would like to take this opportunity to do just that.

Originally, the AAW concept was one of openly sharing our skills, the results of which were intended to be mutually beneficial. Little did we know how those seeds would grow. At the start, there were several highly skilled turners, but a tree does not grow from the top down. An ever broadening base of enthusiastic turners from diverse backgrounds began to join.

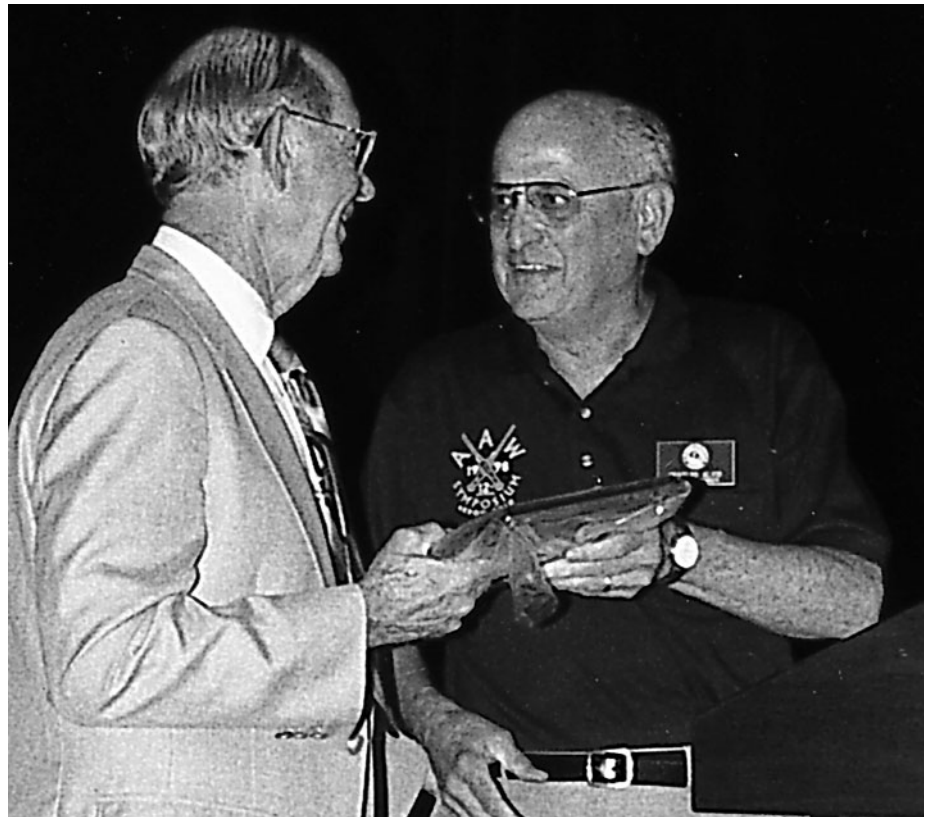
Encouraging the formation of affiliated chapters to expand local educational opportunities enabled the association's root system to reach into every corner of the nation and beyond.

The diversity of these turners provided the needed cross section of experienced volunteers necessary to operate a national organization.

Our seedling grew into a rather awkward sapling that stubbornly weathered the winds of change. Ever gaining strength, the AAW resisted pressures to change the direction of growth.

Our organization now stands straight and strong with a base of over 7,000 members and 119 chapters. The organization's canopy has extended branches out to many other countries who continue to add their strength to our skills.

During this time I have been blessed to have even a part of the enthusiasm and excitement that



Gary Roberts of Austin, TX, accepts the AAW Honorary Lifetime Membership award from outgoing president Charles Alvis at the 1998 Akron Symposium

nurtured this sustaining growth.

Although our association is still young in years, we have already established an integrity level that provides a distinct graining pattern for all our future generations of woodturners to follow.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank every member and every chapter, past, present and future, for the privilege of belonging to their association.

I am truly honored.

—S. Gary Roberts, Austin, TX.

Friends, Memories At Akron

Another symposium has come and gone and I sit here trying to put on paper the many things that were part of the experience. It is hard to know where to start. So I guess I will go back to Turning Ten. This was the first for Trent and me. As members of one of the host chapters we were

part of the team helping in the organization of this anniversary event. There was a lot of work to be done before, during and after, BUT it was fun at the same time. We got to know and make friends with the AAW board members, Mary, Eunice and members of the other host chapters. Then during the event more friends were made from all over the world.

If I were to make a list of memorable events for Akron:

First: would be meeting these friends and the making of many more.

Second: would be talking to our fellow turners in the lobby, over breakfast at the local restaurant, and between rotations. The rotations are always informative and each one gives us a new outlook, but the "just talking" will often produce a tip that will make us respond "why didn't I