

Annual International Meeting

Indiana 2011

by Arthur Lee #7984-L

Ninety-two members attended the annual international meeting at Crawfordsville, Indiana held from 24 to 28 August 2011. Bob & Judy Chastain, along with a strong Indiana contingent of IWCS volunteers, hosted the meeting. Marilyn Nunan managed the meeting financials, door prizes and the hotel. Jerry Zipprich organized the silent auction. Garry Roux and Nevada Rye managed the pot shot raffle cards for a couple of exotic wood boards and a lathe knock out bar with a snake wood head turned by Garry. The pot-shot auction funds the membership recruitment efforts. The meeting had a mix of presentations, hands-on demonstrations, a saw mill, and the favorite wood and craft auctions. Garry Roux convened the annual business meeting with the board of trustees and will provide a summary of the agenda items in WoW.

On the first day of the meeting, attendees had an opportunity to visit several of the local museums and shop at a Crawfordsville antiques mall. Ken Mays gave a demonstration using super glue as a pen finish. Bill Perkins demonstrated several innovative lathe attachments. Bill also had his table of wood puzzles, games and turnings. He challenged unsuspecting passers-by to the board

game "Fox and Geese" (he beat me in 3 straight games!) Sharon Sparks gave a hands-on class for silk scarf painting.

Bill Poynter displayed his carved mushrooms and walking sticks and gave a class on carving mushrooms using butternuts. Judy Chastain gave a demonstration on making microwave apple butter. Larry Myers turned several natural edge bowls from ambrosia maple.

Cathy Harkrider of the Parke County Association gave an evening presentation on the covered bridges of Parke County, Indiana, also known as the "Covered Bridge Capital of the World" with 31 covered bridges. Cathy handed out souvenir photo books and sweatshirts at the end of her presentation to the audience members who could answer questions about the covered bridges. In 2005, an arsonist destroyed the 137-year old Bridgeton covered bridge. A team of volunteers (many were IWCS members) cut the enormous boards required for the project. Larry Myers brought a photo album of the reconstruction.

On Friday, Terry Rooksberry brought a saw mill to the meeting and made quick work of two Kentucky coffee tree logs. John Burris displayed his duck calls and showed how he turned them on the lathe. Tim Kennedy showed how to put a razor sharp edge on turning tools with a grinding wheel and a jig. He also demonstrated how to turn flat-faced wooden cooking utensils. Mel Glick

Choosing specimens.



showed some of his pine lamp shades and discussed the challenges of turning with pine. Sue Dickerson gave a hands-on class for making flower pins. Amy Clones gave a hands-on class for making professional looking greeting cards.

The member displays were open to the public on Friday evening. Forty non-members visited the craft displays and met with the members. First time attendee, Wes Kolkmeier, displayed a 5-foot tall segmented vase he had built and turned over several months. He is planning a 6-foot version as his next project. Karen Fett displayed her turned bowls. Bob Dickherber displayed several of his exotic turnings. Dick Wakeman brought his letter-opener collection. Garry Roux displayed his shaker boxes and small exotic topped boxes. Bill Poynter gave an impromptu hands-on demonstration of how he peels the bark and shapes his diamond willow walking sticks.

On Saturday, Bill Servies ran the wood auction under the tent. Several members volunteered as runners, carrying the individual boards, turning rounds, boxes of cut-offs, and bundles of pen blanks. All of the wood was donated by members. Income from the auction added over \$1,000 to the general fund. Three silent auctions were held during the meeting. High value wood was selected from the general donations and placed in the silent





Wes Kolkmeier 5-foot tall segmented vase.

auction, which raised about \$300.

During the Saturday wood auction, Kris Troyer gave a hands-on demonstration of Kumihimo braiding for bracelets. Lue Maughmer demonstrated dried flower pictures. Lue donated a beautiful dried flower picture to the auction.

The bird house/bird feeder competition brought amazing entries. Phil Conlon won with his "Taco Bill" bird feeder, a replica of the popular fast food restaurant. Lloyd Marshall won with a 2-sided spirit-face carved bird house. Ken Platt built a slate-roofed bird house mounted on a 5-foot tall pole in the center of several metal sunflowers constructed of painted tractor parts and rebar. Bob Chastain built a multi-roomed bird house with door knob accents. John Burris built a 3-foot long, super-sized hand plane bird house made from tulip poplar. The wood came from the Bridgeton covered bridge scrap pile. Ron DeWitt built a miniature log cabin bird house of African Teak, (afroresmosia) logs. If you looked closely, you could see an even smaller bird feeder on the cabin porch. Photos of all the bird houses

and feeders, along with pictures of the demonstrations are posted in the "Past Meetings" section of www.woodcollectors.org.

Attendees at the Saturday banquet were serenaded by a strolling violinist during dinner. Everyone received a turned table favor, such as a toothpick holder or a spatula. Depending on where one sat at the table, others won triangle golf tee board games, cutting boards, or canning jars with turned wooden tops filled with candy. Thanks to all the members who donated the hand crafted favors! After dinner, Garry presented the executive meeting summary. Ron DeWitt told the members about the passing of "Herbie" an American elm (*Ulmus Americana*) in Yarmouth, Maine. Herbie was 217 years-old, and 110 feet high when he fell to Dutch elm disease in 2010. Herbie was cut down and the wood was distributed to artisans and collectors. Ron was able to obtain some samples, and he donated them as a fund raiser for IWCS. Samples will be advertised in future WoW. Allan Nemetz, the chair of the Endowment Fund, presented ideas to build the fund such as direct contributions, fund raisers, including IWCS in wills, and contributions in remembrances. The craft auction was held after the dinner. Bob Chastain organized several members to create a friendship cane for the auction, composed of turned or carved sections. Bob carved the American eagle handle. Other contributors included John Burris, Lucy Cruise, Art Lee, Dave Munger, Allan Nemetz, Harry Wheeler, Jim Zoellner, and an unknown donor. The bidding on the cane was spirited and brought in \$150. Marv

Smith was the winner. Pam Munger made a gorgeous Afghan for the auction. Opal Powers donated two of her hand crafted beaded butterfly necklaces. Ron and Judy DeWitt brought a large container of their home-made maple syrup. Bob Parker donated a Leopold style bench made of natural edge cedar with "IWCS" engraved in the back. Ron Odegaard donated several of his turned wooden bells. Garry Roux modeled a stylish hat for the auction. A heavy chunk of desert ironwood fetched \$80. A few members who could not attend the meeting sent items for the auction. Dozens of other members donated items and all of them are appreciated for helping build the IWCS general operating fund. The craft auction brought in over \$2,000 for the IWCS.

A Bosch radio/charger, a gift basket, and an original watercolor print were raffled. Allan Schwindt's wooden map of North America was displayed. Pat Powers sold over \$500 of chances to date for the map. Chances will be available through the summer of 2012 and the winner will be drawn at the next annual meeting in Springfield, Illinois in 2012. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Crawfordsville meeting.

Hope to see you in Springfield next year!

