



## OFFICERS:

- President – Ken D’Ambrosio
- Vice President – Steve Imms
- Secretary – George Nazareth
- Treasurer – Bob Hopkins

<http://oceanwoodturners.com> : Ocean Woodturners Website

Webmaster: Member, Dick Larowe

A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners: [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

## January, 2005 “Turnings”

**Attendance:** We had a good turnout at our December meeting with 41 present including 2 guests, **Jack Daly and Henry Lambert**, both of whom signed up as new members.

**President, Ken D’Ambrosio**, opened the meeting by announcing the slate of officers presented by our nominating committee: **President, Mike Murray; Vice President, Steve Imms; Secretary, George Nazareth; Treasurer, Bob Hopkins**. Ken then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, the secretary was ordered to cast a single ballot for the nominees as presented.



( left to right Steve Imms, Mike Murray, Bob Hopkins, George Nazareth)

**New Business:** **Rich Lemieux** reported that his woodturning program at **Ocean Tides** has applied for a \$1000 grant from the **AAW**. **Rich** also stated that his woodturning program has been accepted as a curriculum subject. **Wayne Collins’** woodturning group at the **Tiverton Middle School** has also applied for a \$1000 grant from the **AAW**. It would be great if both grants were approved in March 2005.

**Wayne Collins** talked about his woodturning program for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. **Rick Sousa** was there the night before our membership meeting, teaching and demonstrating for the young woodturners. Rick has stated that he gets a lot of satisfaction from this volunteer activity.

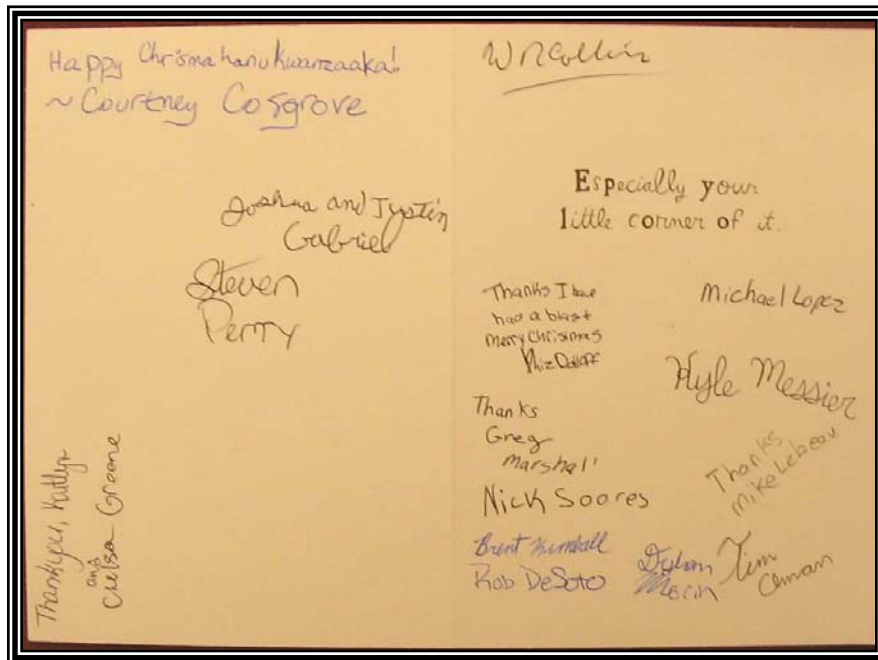
**Rick Sousa** was featured in a three page article in the **January, 2005 issue of Rhode Island Monthly**. The article was written by a woman who took the beginning woodturning class at **Woodcraft** which Rick teaches. Get a copy if you can to read this interesting article.

**Treasurer's report: Bob Hopkins** reported a balance of \$1692.56 in our checkbook. He also was accepting payment for \$10 dues for 2005. He still has more sandpaper kits for pen turning.

**Dick Larowe**, our Webmaster, attended his first meeting in 1 ½ years. Dick, who lives in Connecticut, is physically handicapped, and is fearful of driving on desolate roads at night. Tony Bancalari, who also lives in CT, agreed to bring Dick to some of our meetings.

**Emilio Iannuccillo**, who secures our paid demonstrators, stated that **Angelo Iafrate** was able to get **Jean Francois Escoulen**, a French woodturner who specializes in eccentric turning. His website is [www.escoulen.com](http://www.escoulen.com). Your secretary has polled those members who have e-mails and 14 out of 18 replies were in the affirmative for securing him for next July. July 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> have been confirmed, so please mark your calendars.

**George Nazareth**, your secretary, was given a card of appreciation signed by all the students in Wayne Collins' woodturning group. I accepted it in behalf of all the members of the Ocean Woodturners.



**Dues are now due for 2005**  
**Pay your dues at the meeting**  
**or mail your \$10 check to**  
**Bob Hopkins, 31 Bethany Rd, Wakefield, RI 02879**  
**Make checks out to Ocean Woodturners**

## Demonstration



Rick Sousa filled in at the last minute for Ernie Grimes who called in sick. Rick demonstrated his skillful technique for turning small bowls with the bowl gouge. He also demonstrated his jig and techniques for sharpening the bowl gouge on his 8 inch, 1800 RPM grinder.

## Show and Tell



**Ken D'Ambrosio:** a rough natural edged bowl of an African wood from the Serengetti

**George Nazareth:** a thin-walled segmented bowl of Walnut, Maple, and Cherry

**Richard Murphy:** 2 lidded boxes and 1 raised cup

**Greg Marshall:** a stained cherry small bowl with outside darkened with steel wool and vinegar



**Curt Mason:** a Black Walnut candle stick and snuffer

**Mike Murray:** a vase of Maple Burl

**Bill Mershon:** a bowl of Bubinga wood finished with Minwax wipe-on poly



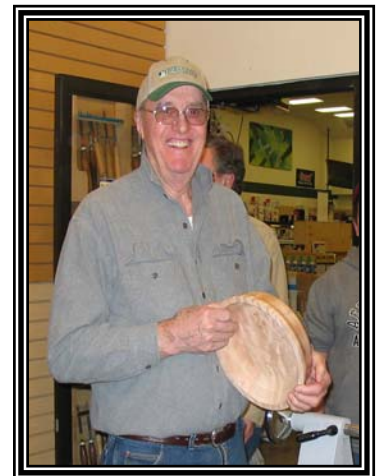
a blue colored bowl of  
er w/ silver and copper  
leafing

**y:** A Black dyed Cherry  
bowl with exotic leafing



**Tim Dawes:** 3 bowls of Mysterious Origin,  
finished with oil and Butchers wax.

**Larry Dunklee** holding his  
Figured Maple bowl.



**Next Meeting**  
 Thursday, January 20, 2005  
 At Woodcraft, E. Greenwich, RI

Demonstration by Ernie Grimes  
 Assisted by Anthony Scuncio  
 “Sharpening”

# Tribute to Ken D'Ambrosio

## Ken D'Ambrosio—Ocean Woodturners Founder and First President

As most members now know, Ken, D'Ambrosio, a founder of Ocean Woodturners and its long-time president, stepped down in December, handing over the reins to Mike Murray. I think it is an appropriate time to reflect on Ken's accomplishments.

Ocean Woodturners had a humble beginning—in his garage-workshop (interestingly enough, his highly successful marketing firm, Cote & D'Ambrosio, also had its start in another garage on his property!) And in the spirit of Silicon Valley, the garage birth of Ocean Woodturners was equally successful.

I first met Ken through a classified ad. Ken had placed an ad in my paper looking for a buyer for an old horse of a lathe he had. He just bought the Rolls Royce of lathes—a custom made Nichols (his lovely wife, Dori, probably still doesn't know what that cost!) and he wanted to unload the old one he had. I was looking for a used lathe and called him up. I didn't end up buying the machine; instead I bought into a long friendship.

Ken mentioned that he and a friend, Bruce Arnold, a skilled machinist, were thinking about starting a woodturning club and he invited me to come aboard. He had gotten the idea after seeing a woodturning exhibit in Connecticut.

A little background on Ken: He came to Rhode Island after falling in love during a visit here. He had a highly successful marketing and advertising business in New York City and one day had to do a photo shoot in Newport. Driving through the state was enough to convince him he wanted to move to a more relaxing place.

Now Ken is one of those *disgusting* persons you sometimes meet—you know the type—whatever he does, he does well. Ken is an award winning marketing expert, an expert photographer, an expert wine-maker, an expert stone carver and expert gardener—the list goes on. Artistically inclined, he decided after seeing that Connecticut exhibit that he wanted to further explore the art of woodturning. He is now an expert woodturner.

Our first meetings in his garage-workshop were small in number but large in enthusiasm. A big meeting was 14 people. I put out newspaper notices about the fledgling club (it had no name as yet) and gradually people started joining. Interestingly some of the earliest members were people like Emilio Iannuccillo; Ernie Grimes, Bob Iuliano and John Chakuroff who came from way out of town but who were already involved in the big woodturning club in Worcester. They brought a lot of the skills and knowledge to the meetings and we all learned from them. They remain active members.

From the very beginning Ken urged the members to bring something to the table, to share knowledge. Many of us novices (I was basically a woodworker doing furniture, not a turner—I bought my lathe initially to do table legs and have yet to make one!) were reluctant to come forward. But gradually we did—Ken, ever the pitch guy, can be very persuasive.

It wasn't long before we had to seek larger meeting quarters. In succession we moved to an old mill, then to Ray Hall's converted stable, then to the Cold Spring Community Center and eventually ended up at Woodcraft

. Even that excellent facility (and candy store) is too small sometimes. If all members on the roster ever showed up, we would have to meet in the parking lot.

The growth of Ocean Woodturners has been a wonderful experience for those of us who used to jam into Ken's garage. Under Ken's leadership, we began social events such as the annual outing, we have become a mainstay exhibitor at the Wickford Art Festival, we helped host a AAW symposium in Providence for which some members built a unique working steam engine out of wood, we have encouraged and supported young people getting involved in woodturning, we have put on public presentations, we have supported the Make-A-Wish Foundation, we have brought in world-class turners to teach us, we have witnessed many novice members come in and watched them blossom to pro-caliber, we have established relations with woodturners in England, we have become one of the most viable woodturning clubs in the country—the production of this very professional-looking newsletter under the leadership of George Nazareth and Jeff Mee is a symbol of the progress that has been made.

All of this and more would not have been possible without the creative foresight of Ken D'Ambrosio who got an idea several years ago and ran with it, bringing all of us on an enjoyable and educational journey.

All of us who enjoy working with wood, exchanging ideas and helpful hints, joining together with other hobbyists, owe Ken a great debt of gratitude.

--Rudi Hempe, former secretary