

Joy,s story

Joy is a Wood-turner from Michigan who has been turning for 9 years. She returned to turning at the end of 2015 after a 2 year break due to medical issues.

She attended her first AAW symposium in Atlanta and saw that the program included Intimate critiques with a well respected turner or turners.

Joy had been concerned to know if her skills are good and if her turning is taking the right path.

Her only previously experienced critique was at her local AAW Chapter and whilst all comments were positive, she wanted an unbiased critique by professionals.

Joy submitted a Sycamore bowl for critique and on the day of the critique she did not know what to expect, only that the turners that would review her and others work would be independent and have a broad range of knowledge and experience.

The critique was undertaken by Rex Burningham and David Marks plus a crowd of other turners who had gathered round! Both Rex and David examined and picked up her work and made comments, both positive and negative and of course the other turners also chipped in with ideas, thoughts and comments. Any not so positive comments were made in a kind and constructive manner which was really appreciated.

Overall Joy found the critique was good and provided her with a wide range of comments to ponder on for future pieces. The critics agreed that her work was on the right track and gave suggestions of technical points to include in future work, for example to work for a consistent thickness for the sides of bowls.

Joy, having gone into the critique process with an open mind, took away good ideas which will enable her to move her work to another level.

Joy's advice to anyone coming into Woodturning would be to make something you like -you can,t sell it if you don,t like it.