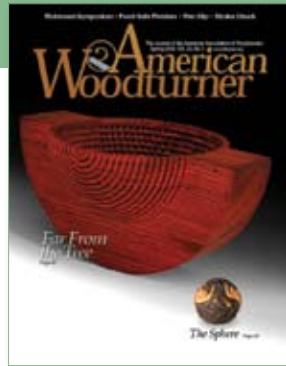


# JOIN

If woodturning is your relaxation, your passion, your art, the American Association of Woodturners is for you.



## membership benefits

### american woodturner

official quarterly journal of the aaw

- New one-of-a-kind projects
- Big, beautiful color photos throughout
- Time-and money-saving shop tips and techniques
- Step-by-step instructions with helpful how-to diagrams
- Calendar of events, seminars, and exhibitions
- Inspiration and insider secrets

### aaw resource directory

With over 250 pages, the directory is jam-packed with complete contact information of AAW members, local chapters by state, turning resources, demonstrators, books, DVDs, videos—everything you need to be a successful turner and have more fun!

### savings

Discounts on AAW books, videos, DVDs, and logo merchandise.

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Looking for expert help in improving your skills? Many of our members get great advice when they participate in local woodturning chapters. There are now nearly 300 chapters across the United States and Canada. Most meet on a monthly basis. The members-only portion of the AAW website provides more helpful information.

### insurance

- Free bodily injury liability insurance for all members involved in AAW activities
- Commercial and personal liability insurance available for professional woodturners



Check out our official website!

[woodturner.org](http://woodturner.org)

Click on the link for membership information or call 651-484-9094

# It's Crete to Me

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American Association of Woodturners

In the ancient land of Greece and on the island of Crete, Nikos Siragas, the AAW's only Greek member, has carved out a niche in this tourist area. Nikos, a 30-year veteran, has a small shop and a fine gallery in Rethymno, just off the main drive along the Sea of Crete.

In good weather, you can find Nikos demonstrating outside on the street in front of his gallery. Selling woodturnings anywhere is a challenge at times, but Nikos has discovered tourists like to take home items that represent Greece. More than 95 percent of his sales are to non-Greeks, with most items selling for between \$10 and \$100. His work includes ring stands, bracelets, fruit bowls, and sculpted turnings. Nikos (siragas.gr) has also published a book, *From Tree to Gallery*.

One of Nikos' great selling points is that most of his turnings are from olive, among the most beautiful and great turning woods in the world.

Nikos fights (as all wood artists have at times) the view that wood is for fire or building purposes, not for art or fine crafts. His mother once heard some local residents say just outside his gallery, "This poor man is trying to make money from wood."

If you happen to be traveling in that part of the world, Nikos and his wife, Frances, will warmly greet you.

—Alan Lacer



Photo: Frances Wildey



Photo: Photo Rethymno

**Above:** "Genie Goblet," one of Nikos's signature pieces, is inspired by the Sea of Crete. Olive; 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". Collection of Dale and Norene Nish. **Left:** Olive root; 9 $\frac{7}{8}$  x 9 x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



Photo: Juhani Vitanen

When demonstrating outdoors, Nikos turns at a 70-year-old metal lathe converted to woodturning.

"Eel Vase;" is also inspired by the sea. Olive; 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 5". "I used to go fishing with my father and I remembered the movement of the sea eels we sometimes got on the boat. This inspired the fins on the sides of this carved vase."