

The High Desert

PALETTE

April, 2022, Vol. 2, No.8

EXCLUSIVE

One Man's Hobby, Pg. 16



**STICKS
AND TONES**
Music and Marriage, Pg. 6

**AGING AS A
CREATIVE ENDEAVOR**
Learn about WTA's ACE of Arts Program, Pg. 24

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WELCOME TO *The High Desert Palette*

Welcome to *The High Desert Palette!* In our first year's nine issues, we brought work from local artists to these pages to share – from painters to blacksmiths; writers to culinary artists; photographers to musicians – and we've barely made a dent in the list of talented creatives in the area.

Art is meant to be shared: every page will share something intriguing and creative, and every issue is something that you can share with others after you've read it.

You can share with us your knowledge about more artists and creatives, so that our future issues will bring their work to the fore and for writers, share your writing in these pages.

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Vol. 2 No. 8

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 6. **Sticks and Tones**
Music and Marriage
- 12. **Did You Know?**
Wood Turning
- 16. **Walter Wien**
One Man's Hobby
- 19. **Art Look**
Patina Thompson
- 24. **Aging as a Creative Endeavor**
Learn about WTA's ACE of Arts Program
- 31. **Support the Arts**
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On the Cover -

Walter Wien

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STICKS AND TONES

Music and Marriage By Sarah Cameron

From Detroit, Michigan to Prescott, Arizona, Henry and Maria Flurry have brought their unique music style to audiences of all ages. Blending together culture and family, they have always found a way to entertain and inspire the audience. Whether it be through their compositions, or the visual entertainment they

provide, Sticks and Tones are a musical experience you don't want to miss. But how exactly did they get started?

Music and Computer Programming

Maria Flurry is a conservatory trained musician who holds undergraduate degrees in music performance and music education from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland. From the University of Michigan, she acquired her master's degree in Percussion Performance. She plays percussion professionally, but she started with piano in 2nd grade. She is also the principal timpanist for the Flagstaff Symphony and the Arizona Philharmonic. Furthermore, Maria co-founded and was the long time partner for award winning children's

group Harpbeat!, based in southeast Michigan.

Henry Flurry is a computer programmer turned professional musician. He started piano at 7 years old and continued on all through high school. He has a master's degree of Fine Arts in Composition from the University of Birmingham. He also received undergraduate degrees in music theory and composition, and electrical engineering from Northwestern University. He taught composition and piano at the University of

Michigan School of Music for many years. He even helped author multimedia software for companies such as Disney, Hasbro, and Mattel.

From Fill-in to Family Duo

Henry and Maria were married for about 10 years before they started playing together. From the beginning Henry wanted to play together, but Maria resisted because she felt as though they should keep their marriage and work lives separate. "I was afraid it would ruin our





marriage”, Maria joked. Around 2000, Maria had a duo with a harpist. When a situation arose where the harpist could not make an event, Maria suggested Henry join her.

“I’m a composer, a pianist.” Henry remembers thinking. Nevertheless, he agreed and they performed beautifully with each other. “It was so fun, we should do more of this.” Henry had told Maria, and she grudgingly agreed.

With Harpbeat!, they had played all around southeast Michigan, in the Detroit Area. Shortly after, they moved to Prescott, Arizona and that’s when Sticks and Tones was introduced. Their first gig was in Bagdad, Arizona. The first time they made the drive, Maria recalls telling Henry, “This is so much better than highway 94!”.

Battling Discouragement

Despite it’s creative and expressive freedom, music

can still be a stressful skill to develop. Aspiring musicians and veterans alike can experience burnout and become distressed over musical aspirations.

Sometimes when feeling overwhelmed in practicing, Maria finds it helpful to remember what motivated her to get started in music. She gives that same advice to anyone in a musical rut. “Whenever I get discouraged, I do something to remind myself why I chose that instrument. Start with that. Then, show up, set a goal that is a little past what you can reach today, and always be better than you were yesterday.”

Henry and Maria know that making a commitment to music

can be scary, hard, and can serve as a source of self-criticism. They offer a reminder to not let negative thoughts ruin a love for music. “Measure yourself

by how far you’ve come, not by how far you are from your goal.” Maria encouraged.

She then continued, “Be nice to yourself. It was a real struggle to come to this point. If I’m being honest, there are some days I’ve been

practicing and I’ve had to step back and remind myself to talk to myself the way I talk to my students. In this society there is a lot of self-criticism, especially in classical music. So above all, be nice to yourself.”

“ Be nice to yourself... In this society there is a lot of self-criticism, especially in classical music. So above all, be nice to yourself.”

See Sticks and Tones perform live at The Palace of Art and Theater!

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Apr. 19th



Ace of Arts

Be a part of this creative endeavor led by Monika Cronberg. Bring your own lunch for a mid-day social break!

Apr. 20th

Sicks and Tones

Appreciate music inspired by the string bands of old Appalachia and the early stars of country music!



Apr. 30th

Smartmaker

Join instructor Paola for a STEM oriented workshop designed to get your gears turning!



Apr. 22nd

Kids Art Club

Have a creative kid? Maybe a kid that would be interested in artistic activities? Well this free art club is for them!



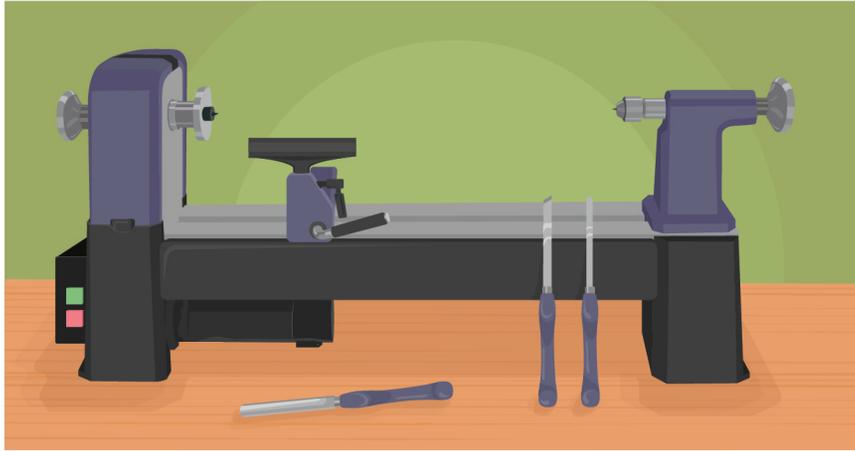
May. 6th

Brown Bag History Talk

Join speaker Jan Cleere in exploring the stories of Arizona's 19th century woman settlers in her presentation, Military Wives on the AZ Frontier.



May. 12th



DID YOU KNOW?

Wood Turning

By Josh Allred

Wood turning is the practice of shaping revolving wood; a craft that goes back as early as 1300 BCE in Egypt and continues to be practiced by artisans and artists today. So how's it done?

Securing the Wood

Once an artisan has selected their desired wood it can be fastened to the lathe by centering it between what are called the "tailstock" and "headstock" spurs and turning their associated handles to drive the spurs into the wood. It is important to ensure the spurs line up correctly with the center of the wood being used.



Tools of the Trade

Whether the craftsmen or "Turner" is working on a bowl, a pen, or a stool leg, a lathe is necessary for wood turning. A lathe is a motor-driven machine that secures a piece of wood in place and spins it at a desired speed. Chisels are also needed to shape the wood as it twirls. Many chisels exist in different shapes and sizes, each performing unique functions!

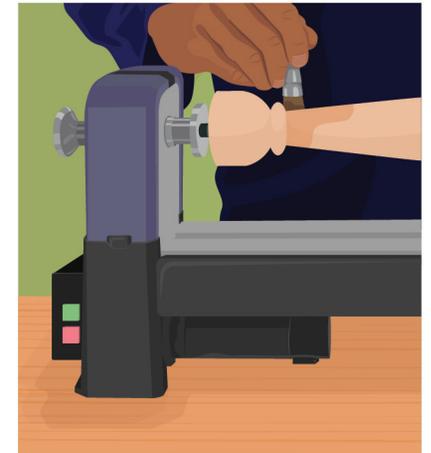


Shaping the Wood

After the wood has been secured and rounded, the Turner can begin to shape the wood. Progress is made by pressing a variety of chisels up against the fast moving wood from a secure position on an adjustable metal railing known as the "tool rest". Depending on the project, rates of speed may reach up to 4,000 RPM!

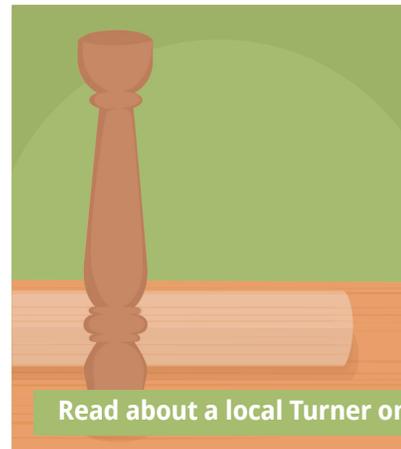
Finishing Touches

When the Turner is satisfied with the shape of their project it is time to sand the wood while it is spinning at a slow speed. Once smooth, an artisan may want to apply a finish. A finish is an exterior coating applied primarily to preserve and protect wood, which is otherwise prone to wear. A finish will also enhance the look and feel of an artisan's finished product!



The Finished Product

Finally, the finished piece can be cut directly from the lathe. When loosed from the lathe, the exposed ends can be sanded, have their finish applied, and the project is complete!



Read about a local Turner on page 16!

2021-2022 SEASON OF LIVE EVENTS.

The 2021-2022 Season of Live Events is here! Prepare for classic country, fantastic guitar, finger-pickin', and fiddling-and so much more!



Cindy Rae

Enjoy the classic country sounds of Willcox' own Cindy Rae in a solo act with her Dad's Gibson guitar

Sep. 17th



Igor the Jazz Cowboy

Enjoy the "Jazz Cowboy" and his story songs that cover the U.S. borderlands from the Deep South to the Wild West.

Oct. 15th



The Manhattan Dolls

Tap your feet to a swing-style female vocal trio with the sound of The Andrews Sisters!

Nov. 19th



Sahnas Brothers

Enjoy the beautifully blended sounds of Greek culture and classical Spanish guitar that is the Sahnas Brothers!

Dec. 17th

'HEDY! The Life and Inventions of Hedy Lamarr'

See the one woman wonder, Heather Massie, perform 'HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr'!



Jan 29th

Carolyn Camp and Joe Baker

Appreciate music inspired by the string bands of old Appalachia and the early stars of country music!



Feb. 18th

J Scott Howard

Enjoy riveting renditions of tunes ranging from Motown hits to Texas Troubadour classics.



Mar. 18th

Sticks and Tones

Embark on a voyage of heart and mind with this duo's performances of classical, flamenco, jazz, ragtime, and world music



Apr. 30th

Learn more about our performers and their performances on our website at willcoxtheater.com and facebook page @willcoxtheaterandarts! Tickets are available for purchase on our website! Get yours today!



WALTER WIEN

One Man's Hobby

By Peter Spitzer

Walter Wien is a man of many talents. A true craftsman with a variety of skills ranging from welding to photography, he can do a bit of everything. His true love though, is woodworking. When you enter his shop you may be surprised by the sheer variety of his work. His catalog includes bowls, pens, wine stoppers,

pepper shakers, and even bigger projects like a beautiful cherry wood gun stock from 1969. His willingness to try new projects knows no bounds, but how did he get started?

A Simple Interest

For Walter, his first exposure was back in the 5th or 6th grade. Dwayne Clapp (aka Coach Clapp) had a wood-shop and Walter describes his early projects, "One of the first things I did was turn an ashtray stand for my dad out of an old piece of 4 by 4. It was pretty cool to do that." Going on about his early experiences with woodworking he

“ One of the first things I did was turn an ashtray stand for my dad out of an old piece of 4 by 4. It was pretty cool to do that.”

reminisced, “You can imagine a bunch of 10 or 12 year olds in a room full of woodworking machinery, but Coach Clapp had this big ol’ paddle hanging on the wall to let us know to uh, work safe,” Walter laughed.

The problem for Walter at that time was the lack of equipment at home. This led to a sort of hiatus for his hobby until years later when he was in the Air Force. “Most bigger bases had hobby shops for things like auto and woodworking so I started back. I made things like furniture, mostly things I wanted, needed and used.”

But, as Walter put it, the real hobby didn't start until about 14 years ago. “At the time we (Walter and his sister Carol) and a few folks started the art gallery up by Dos Cabezas. I was actually doing a lot of welding at the time; Things with horseshoes for the gallery. One day one of the ladies in the gallery, Casey Dennis, who does glass work, asked if I could make a frame for her. Well I started making frames for her and eventually started other things like lamps. Before I knew it I was back into woodworking and here I am.”

The Eye for Art

When Walter goes out on his land and spys a thorn riddled bush of catclaw, unlike most of us who would just see a



Learn more about the wood turning process on page 12!

nuisance, he's able to see a beautiful project. As Walter humbly put it, "My gimmick is that I mostly use woods I find out in the pasture. Mesquite, catclaw, whitethorn, juniper, black walnut, and sycamore, they're all woods that can grow out here."

The downside to this desert wood is that most of it contains defects like cracks and bug holes. Not to mention that it's hard to find a very big piece to use from most of these woods. For Walter though, this is an opportunity for something better. Through filling these defects with crushed stone and minerals (especially the local turquoise) Walter is able to add unique accents to his work. "I just like to have fun with it and make something different from how I made something last time."

This sentiment is epitomized by the stunningly unique practice of segmented turning. By combining different woods

together into a single piece before turning, Walter is able to turn something as simple as a bowl into a piece of art. With striking patterns and various colors, this highlights two common themes throughout Walter's work. No two pieces are exactly the same and everything has a use.

A Hobby First and Foremost

Today you can find Walter's work in multiple galleries around the area and even in our local KOA, but he doesn't do it for money.

"There's no money in this," Walter laughed. "At least not for me, it's just a hobby. I just sell them to free room and help pay for a new project."

This led into some advice Walter had for anyone interested in woodworking, "It's very time intensive and you can never get your time back.

So, and I think this goes for most crafts, you can't do it for money. If you're going to do it, you have to love it."

“It's very time intensive and you can never get your time back. So, and I think this goes for most crafts, you can't do it for money. If you're going to do it, you have to love it.”

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Handiwork can be found at Stronghold Art Gallery, 1036 E. Eastland Rd, Cochise AZ

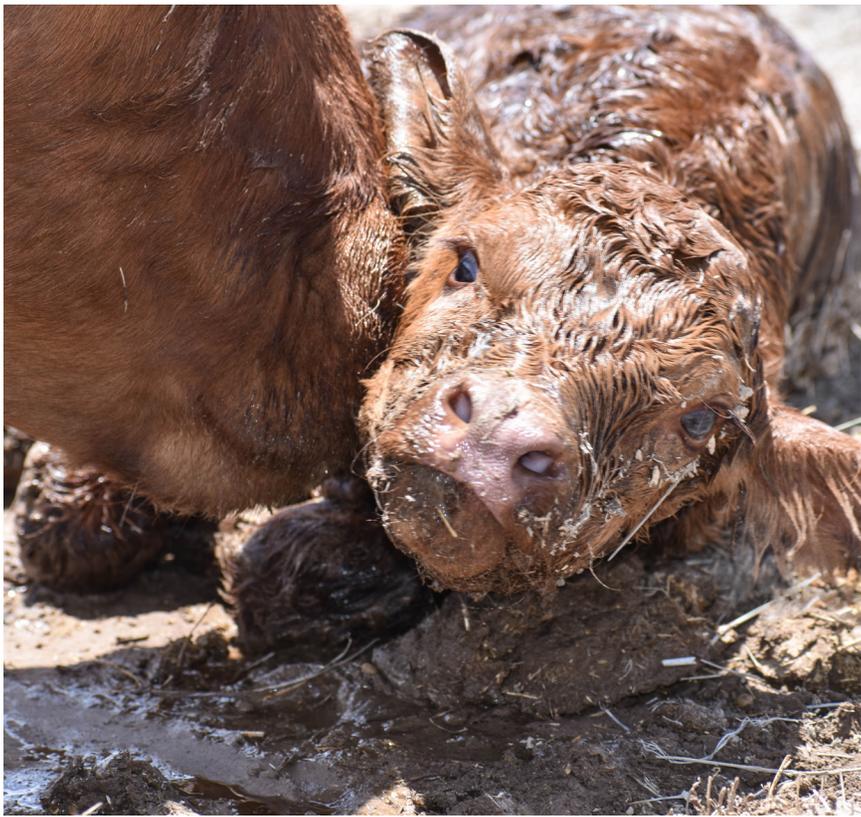


ART LOOK

Growing up in the Arizona desert with the Dragoon mountains as my playground, I always had a passion for nature and photography. Wildlife, cactus and pets were my first subjects and more recently, I have enjoyed capturing everyday life on our family ranch and of local agriculture.

Photography is my favorite art form because you are literally capturing a moment in time. When I look at a photo that I took I can take myself back to that exact moment, which I think is so unique.

-Patina Thompson



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AGING AS A CREATIVE ENDEAVOR

By Taylor Belden

Studies have shown that lifelong learning offers increased knowledge, critical thinking skills, improved health, a longer life span and greater self-fulfillment. Senior programs have been focusing on these principles since the mid-60s. Monika Cronberg, the lead instructor for our new creative aging program, ACE of

Arts, runs her program by the same reasoning.

Tools for the Toolbox

The big question is 'What is ACE of Arts?'. ACE of Arts is an arts program that meets every two weeks for three hours. Throughout each meeting participants experience a new art form or project. ACE is the process of looking at Aging as a Creative Endeavor.

ACE is a free program with the goal of helping individuals, especially older community members, access a creative outlet and learn more about art. "I hope to get more art knowledge; more tools for the toolbox. That way, when I create I have refreshed knowledge and am able to use it to create pieces

that I'm happy with." Says Debra Hamilton, who comes down from Benson to participate in ACE.

Monika, formerly an art teacher for both Middle School and Elementary School age groups, finds teaching ACE to have it's own rewards. "There are a lot of differences because I'm working with adults. It's fulfilling on a different level. For me, to be a part of this is a gift. It's a gift of time for all of us."

Monika's experience with art and teaching makes her a valuable instructor for the arts. ACE participant, Sally Robbs, agrees. "I look forward to coming every two weeks and enjoy the social activity and

the learning. Monika is such a talented person and I want to learn from her."

Future of ACE

ACE of Arts is still new, but members and our instructor hope that it grows bigger through both learning participants and other instructors who wish to present what they are passionate about.

"I look forward to coming every two weeks and enjoy the social activity and the learning. Monika is such a talented person, and I want to learn from her."

There is also hope to expand into arts outside of visual art. Such at theater, photography, music and story-telling. There are so many different topics to be explored!



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The High Desert Palette welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

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