

[Betty Scarpino](#): But wait ... drones ARE useful. (Would be an interesting discussion.)
5/14/2016

[Malcolm Zander](#): Well, yes, it is an interesting discussion. They are useful for just one thing. This is a family site, but perhaps it can still be described. I kept bees for fun for a number of years. A new queen, either placed in a hive by the beekeeper, or else emerging from queen cells laid by the workers and instantly killing off all other nascent queen competitors, takes off on her nuptial flight. She is a strong flyer and only the fastest of the (male) drones can keep up (good example of natural selection). A number of them mate in the air with her. As each mates his genital apparatus is torn from him and he falls back, dead (the ultimate sacrifice). There is an audible pop when this happens. The queen returns to the hive and never flies again (unless the hive swarms). The combined sperm from the drones is stored in a special sac in the queen and is viable for up to 7 years. When the queen lays an egg, she can at will either fertilise it with this sperm, in which case she makes a (female) worker, or not fertilise it, in which case it develops into a (male) drone. Meaning that the drones have only half the regular number of chromosomes (haploid). Yes, they are operating with only half a full deck (no comment please, ladies). The drones have very specialised mouth parts and cannot take nectar from a flower, unlike the female workers. They can feed only on honey from the hive. So they are a drain on the resources of the hive, and are tolerated only as potential mating machines if there should be a new queen. In the Fall they are all thrown out to die therefore, so they will not consume the valuable honey over the winter. In the spring the queen lays new ones.
Perhaps there is a moral to this story.....

[Greg Gerstner](#): It's telling that Bertie Wooster, the gentleman in the 'Jeeves' books and stories, is a member of the Drones club. I don't think he ever married or otherwise issued an heir. Guess he would have been tossed from the hive!

Great work and an inspiration on several levels. There is a famous french glass design similarly inspired, according to certain stories.

[Betty Scarpino](#): Yes, you have told the story well. Drones are useful and necessary, perhaps at some point in their lives. 'nuff said ... and I'm chuckling. I'll leave the discussion at that.

[Bill Boehme](#): Yes, where would they BEE without the drones?

Very clever, Malcolm. From a Woodie Allen movie, "Don't they usually travel in pairs?"

From your description, the life of a drone isn't exactly all roses ... not that they actually go out and gather pollen.

[Kathy Daub](#): I keep coming back to these pictures and thinking how creative and talented etc you are! Congratulations and best of luck at raising money for both worthy projects.

[Malcolm Zander](#): Thanks, Kathy. Put your bid in.. :-)

[Dan Oliphant](#): Truly outstanding, hope the bids are high.

[Alby Hall](#): Hahaha ! good name, What came first, the name or the idea ?
Very well done and thanks for the information. I hope it raises plenty of money.

[Brad Adams](#): Got me smiling.

[Geoff Whaling](#): Malcolm, this has a lot going for it, inspiration, perspiration, quantity, quality, purpose, and altruism. Ticks all the boxes and more for me. I must say I was expecting something a little different though with a title like that.

[Dave Long](#): exceptional as usual. We shall see who raises their paddle . . .

[Marshall Gorrow](#): Malcolm,

This is a wonderfully creative piece for two very worthy causes. I love everything about this piece. This my choice for today's cover. I am very late choice on the cover tonight as I am a guest of my son Phil at The 2016 Woodturning Symposium at Provo UT. Sorry about shorting you on your time.

[Malcolm Zander](#): Thank you , Marshall. That is very kind of you.
It was fun making it.

[Phil Gorrow](#): Beautiful work with a great sense of whimsy. Love the title!

[Thys Carstens](#): Hope it raises a lot of money . It should for such an excellent piece of work.

[Colin Parkinson](#): Malcolm, , all other things aside, i just love the whimsey, ,, ..

[Betty Scarpino](#): I love ambiguously worded titles and this one, and the piece itself, is right up at the top! I will have to admit, though, it took me just a bit to "get" the reference to bra sizes. Clever. Especially for a donation to breast cancer research.

And the execution is first-rate! I look forward to seeing it in person in Atlanta.

[Michael Gibson](#): Malcolm, you have excelled again, and for a very worthy cause, I hope it brings in a worthy amount. Love the title.

[Mike Brazeau](#): Awesome work Malcolm. I am sure it will do well. I remember like it was yesterday seeing Terry running on Highway 69 just south of the French River, north of Parry Sound. He was unbelievable! It was the Civic Holiday Weekend, first weekend in August, and we were waiting for a campsite in Grundy Provincial Park and staying in a fishing camp on the other side of 69. Kids were 8 and 10. Can't remember if we have a photo and albums of the day are buried somewhere in a closet. In those days, colour prints were expensive and you did not snap everything you saw like we do today with digital cameras and phones, so probably do not.

[Hal Taylor](#): Bravo Malcolm! Can't wait to see it.

[Al Hockenbery](#): Malcolm,
Another well executed example of your creative genius, profound use of language, and your generosity.
Looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta. -al

[Malcolm Zander](#): Hooboy, Al. I don't want to seem ungracious, and I do thank you for the kind words, but there are many others and especially you who have have done far more for the woodturning community and the AAW than me. You have put in thousands of hours. Thank you.

[Harvey Meyer](#): I wish I could think of things like this. Malcolm - it's stellar and it will raise a lot of money for the 2 worthy causes. Can't wait to see it in person.

[Geoff Whaling](#): A comment by John Lucas about photographer Ansel Adams had me off looking up his work and I came across this quote "A photograph is usually looked at - seldom looked into."

I love how you offer so much more to the inquisitive, a cleverly disguised form in a very impractical object.

[Jordan Ferr](#): I chuckled the moment I saw the title. The is highly unusual, the execution is marvelous, as usual. And the intent for the proceeds from the auction are very, very worthy. I can only begin to guess at the time necessary to create all of the bees. Your patience exceeds mine exponentially. Wish I were toing to Atlanta. I am certain the bids will be quite high. Wonderful!

[Peter Rand](#): Wonderful, Malcolm!!!!

[Mike Foster](#): Awesome work as usual Malcolm. Love the bees, but I'm a bit partial beeing a beekeeper.

[Colin Parkinson](#): see you at AAW ?

[Malcolm Zander](#): Will be there.
Best woodturning show in the world.
Trouble is one can't see it all.

[Dave Long](#): Piece sold for \$2,600