

Hello Albert,

I ask you to forward this information to your chapter members as soon as possible.

Immediately after the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the AAW Board of Directors created the AAW Disaster Emergency Relief Fund. The fund was created through generous donations made by many world famous artists from the online sales of their donated art pieces and by cash donations made by many chapters and individual members. This fund helped 8 AAW members with their losses by distributing \$54,800 and retained 20% for future disasters. As Katrina was our first major tragedy, we had to invent the wheel as to how to get the money, identify AAW members affected by uninsured catastrophic losses, and how to verify those losses.

With the rapid approach of Hurricane Gustav into the Gulf of Mexico with tragic loss expected from Florida to Texas, all AAW members should have this information. If any AAW member suffers catastrophic uninsured losses during this event, future events, or recent past events like fires in the West, floods in the Mid-west or floods in the East, they should contact the AAW office at mary@woodturner.org or call 651-484-9094. It will be the responsibility of the AAW chapter officers to confirm losses. If anyone knows of another AAW member affected, possibly dislocated, please let us know that as well along with any possible contact information.

Chapter presidents in areas affected should stay in contact with the AAW Chapters committee.

Tax deductible donations can be made to the AAW Disaster Emergency Relief Fund. All chapters and members are encouraged to donate and help out fellow woodturners during their time of loss.

John Hill - AAW Chapters and Membership committee
johnhill6@verizon.net
828-645-6633