

# The South Central Penn Turner

Newsletter of the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners, November-December 2002

---



Box elder burl with copper gilding,  
by Dave Barkby (6½" w x 12" h)



Box elder burl with bronze gilding, by Dave Barkby  
(6½" w x 12" h) See Applying Bonded Metals, p.4.

## November Meeting:

**November 5, 2002**

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Place:** Valen Frye's shop

535 Conewago Creek Road, Manchester, PA.

**Directions:** From York, take exit 28 (old exit 12) off I-83. Go east on Susquehanna Trail (about ¼ mile) to a right onto Conewago Creek Rd. Go approximately 0.8 mile to 535 Conewago Creek Rd. on your right (Look for red barn on right)

**Program:** Show & Tell (bring your recent projects), business meeting, and faceplate demonstration (See November Program p 2).

## Christmas Party:

**December 3, 2002**

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Emigsville Recreation Building

**Directions:** From York, go north on N. George St. until you go thru the flashing yellow light. Soon after that turn right at the next signal light and turn right again between the tennis courts and ball field prior to the railroad bridge

**Program:** Good food and fellowship, Show & Tell, sharing the holiday spirit. John Stewart and his wife will host the party and provide a main (meat) dish--each member bring a covered dish. Details to follow in a Christmas letter.

## About Our Members

**Dick Diehl** and **Dave Barkby** will be participating in the 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Christmas at the Guild* craft show on the weekends of November 8, 9, & 10 and November 15, 16, & 17, 2002 at Windsor Park in York (See Christmas at the Guild, page 4).

**Dave Barkby**, **Jan Barkby**, **Mike Galloway** and **Dale McCoy** participated in the Conewago Carvers show and sale at the Community Center in East Berlin, October 26 & 27. Jan earned a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Intermediate General Class for a hollow form decorated with floral relief carving. Dave earned a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Open (professional) General Class for a hollow form with carved handles.

**Bill Fordney** has moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. His new address: 9046 Hunting Arrow Street, Las Vegas, NV, 89123. His email: [nerotoo@aol.com](mailto:nerotoo@aol.com).

Tell others about your activities in the newsletter by sending the information to Glenn Zepp, 1160 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, (717-337-9571): [zeppga@blazenet.net](mailto:zeppga@blazenet.net)

## New Members

**Lee Bradenbaugh**, 1913 Pin Oak Dr., York, PA 17402. (717) 747-9662.  
[lbradenbaugh@hotmail.com](mailto:lbradenbaugh@hotmail.com)

**Larry Skinner**, 45 Warrington Ways, Wellsville, PA 17365 (717) 432-5924.

## November Program

Using a tap that matches the lathe spindle, David Smith will demonstrate how to make wooden faceplates on the lathe and discuss making them on a drill press. He will demonstrate and discuss several uses for wooden faceplates (such as drives for

## SCPA Woodturners Information

President:  
Vice-Pres.: Dave Barkby 717/292-0173  
Secretary/newsletter:  
Glenn Zepp 717/337-9571  
Treasurer: Jerry Kopenhaver 717/432-2753  
Librarian: Dick Becker 717/755-0794

The South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners is a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Membership dues are \$20/year. For membership, send a check, payable to "SCPA Woodturners", to the treasurer, Jerry Kopenhaver at 50 Warrington Ways, Wellsville, PA. 17365. AAW membership information can be found at [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org).

## Treasurers Report (Oct. 11, 2002)

Jerry Kopenhaver

Balance \$1545.05

## Club website

David Smith has created a Club website wherein he is posting the newsletter, examples of our turnings, and other information. The address is [www.DavidReedSmith.com/SCPW](http://www.DavidReedSmith.com/SCPW). Check it out.

## Did You Forget Something

Someone purchased two of Harry Memelink's woodturnings at the July meeting but forgot to take them along home. You may claim your purchases by contacting Jerry Kopenhaver.

turning the bottoms of bowls, vases, and vessels), drive plates, square drives for spindle work, dedicated mandrels, and sanding disc cutters.

Bob Switalski of Furniture Medic, Elizabethtown, is looking for someone to turn an 18" oak chair leg. Jerry Kopenhaver has invited him to bring the

chair to our November meeting and see whether anyone wants to make the leg and to have him give a short presentation about Furniture Medic's services.

### September Notes

Vice president Dave Barkby chaired a discussion of club leadership and objectives. There was general agreement that the club should continue as a woodturning organization and that leadership should derive from a committee of interested persons. A number of persons indicated willingness to participate in a leadership committee. A decision on how to structure the committee was left until the October meeting.

The issue was raised about whether the club wanted to create a perpetual gift to the Thaddeus Stevens Trade School in honor of Valen Frye. A decision was postponed until the October meeting.

After the business meeting, Elmer Absher exhibited a number of shop-made woodturning tools and David Smith conducted a woodturning demonstration.

### October Notes

Jerry Kopenhaver chaired the meeting. The club voted to create an executive committee to guide the club and arrange programs. That committee consists of Dave Barkby, Jerry Kopenhaver, Glenn Zepp, Elmer Absher, Todd White, David Smith, Donald Naylor, Mike Galloway, John Stewart, and Dick Becker.

The club voted to create a \$250 scholarship at the Thaddeus Stevens Trade School in memory of club founder, R. Valen Frye. Todd White will serve as contact with the school.

After the business meeting David Smith, Todd White and others assisted club members in making and heat-treating tools.

**Program Ideas:** Let the executive committee know of topics that are of special interest to you. Following are some possible ideas: a) chucking; b) inside-out turning; c) sharpening; d) forge work; e) piece painting and decoration – finishing; f) ring tool; g) tool use; h) faceplate turning; i) spindle turning; j) pen turning; k) woods; l) lathe tools – what's used for what; m) speeds/feeds; n) work shops; o) safety; p) fluting; q) deep/hollow turning; r) projects – bowls, hollow forms, boxes, plates, laminates, handles.

### Christmas at the Guild

The York Towne Chapter, Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas craft show at its Friendship Craft Center, 639 North Franklin Street, York, PA on the weekends of November 8, 9 & 10 and November 15, 16, & 17, 2002. The show features the finest works from members of the York Towne Chapter. Work offered includes jewelry, wood, glass, metal, pottery, basketry, weaving, quilting, knitting, batik, pysanky eggs, candles, braided rugs, folk art and more. Admission is free. Hours are: Fridays 2pm—7pm, Saturdays 10am—5pm, and Sundays 12pm—5pm. Directions to the Guild: From Rt. 30, turn towards York City (South) onto North Sherman Street. Turn right at Olive Street. Turn left at North Franklin Street. The Guild's building, the Friendship Craft Center, is on the left at the alley corner--park in the open lot.

## A Turning Tip

By David Reed Smith

If you liked Harry Memelink's tip of cutting grooves on a tenon to match the teeth on your One-Way chuck but don't want to work so hard to get them, try this. Take one jaw off the chuck and grip it with a pair of vise-grips. After forming the tenon, while the work is still mounted between centers, shove the jaw teeth into the tenon. Make sure to register the top edge of the jaw against the shoulder of the tenon. This lets the lathe motor do the heavy work. I tried sharpening one edge of the jaw teeth, but it seems unnecessary.

## Applying Bonded Metal

Dave Barkby

The two cover-page turnings are decorated with bonded metal. Bronze and copper powders were mixed with a polyester-resin and applied to the turnings. After curing, the resin was buffed with steel wool to bring out the metal color. Bonding powdered metals is a technique used in making castings and is used mostly in commercial applications under controlled conditions. The polyester is highly flammable, the component must be mixed in precise proportions, the mixture reaches high temperatures, and there is a very short working time until the mixture hardens. An additional disincentive to its use for most woodturners is that the polyester resin is not readily available in small quantities. I got the materials while working in a casting shop

Other, more forgiving, bonding agents can be used in place of polyester. Reportedly kits containing urethane resin as a bonding agent are available, although I haven't been able to locate a source. Two-part epoxy also can be used to bond powdered metals. It is readily available and requires

less exacting conditions than either polyester or urethane resins.

I haven't located a source for small quantities of metal powders. If others know of sources or have worked with bonded metals, their experience and results could be reported in future newsletters.

## Warning! Turning wood can be a SERIOUS health hazard! Unless of course, you—

- Protect your face and eyes with a face shield
- Protect your respiratory system and ventilate your work space with a proper dust collection system
- Remove all moldy (spalted) wood and shavings immediately
- Protect your skin from toxic materials and possible allergies to some woods
- Work sober, never under the influence of drugs or alcohol

This reminder is from The American Association of Woodturners. AAW membership entitles you to:

- **American Woodturner**—the quarterly journal of the American Association of Woodturners
- **AAW Resource Directory**—including a membership list, local chapters, instructors/demonstrators section, woodturning resources, and a book and video list.
- **National Symposium**—held annually in different locations
- **Website**—<http://www.woodturner.org>
- **Local chapters**—affiliated with the AAW, offer sharing of ideas and techniques.
- **Discounts**--special publications, videos, and merchandise at membership discounts.
- **WICS**-- (Woodturners International Communication Service)—locating demonstrators and woodturning events from around the world.

AAW membership information is found at [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org), or ask a club member who is also an AAW member.

## **Know Your Members: Dale McCoy--Turner and Carver**

By Glenn Zepp

In order to better know one another, I will occasionally profile a member of our club in the newsletter. For this first, I chose Dale McCoy. A regular at our monthly meetings, Dale virtually always contributes to Show & Tell with unique pieces that reflect mastery of technique, creative flair, and an artistic point of view.

I had the privilege of visiting with Dale in his workshop on a recent warm October afternoon. Located in a pastoral setting just two miles from the Mount Zion exit off Route 30, Dale's shop reminded me of a Norman Rockwell scene.

My first impression on approaching Dale's place was that an avid woodworker lives here--stacks of firewood lay beside the shop, rows of potential turning stock line the driveway, and through the shop door can be seen a trove of various sizes, shapes, and varieties of lumber. Then numerous carved and turned objects are seen. Two life-size American Indians, sculpted in walnut, gaze across an imaginary valley or unseen river. Foot-tall painted casting of Generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant, perhaps surveying their troops, and other distinguished looking Civil-War era personalities stand on tables near the shop entrance.

Dale's shop is a converted two-level tobacco barn. In size I judged it to be approximately 30 feet long by 20 feet deep. The upper floor, flush with ground level at the side entrance, has a finished office/gallery with a stone fireplace and contains a variety of Dale's carved and turned pieces. The remainder of the floor is devoted to storage—lumber, equipment, and completed pieces. The lower level,



**Dale McCoy; A contemplative moment amid tools, lumber and projects**

basically a walk-in basement, is the business end of the shop, with tools, machinery, lumber and more projects—some finished, other in progress.

I found Dale downstairs turning a hollow form/vase from a piece of persimmon. His lathe, a Woodfast, had various “Dale McCoy” innovations. The hollowing tool was a 1 1/8-inch shaft with scraper blades on either end, and it rested on a bow-shaped guide rail designed to keep the scraper at the correct angle with respect to the wood. A homemade caliper checked wall thickness.

A masonry contractor by profession, Dale got into woodworking 20 some years ago after he retired. At first it was cutting firewood—he still likes to cut firewood. His Husqvarna sat by the doorway upstairs ready for action. Cutting firewood wasn't enough for Dale. He was intrigued by wood's beauty “I wanted to know what's inside every piece of wood,” Dale says.

Dale started turning with a Sears lathe—“that was a good lathe,” he said. But he soon got hooked on carving. At first it was ducks, next aquatic figures, then historical

figures, especially Civil War and Western personalities. Dale says he loves the competition associated with entering carving shows. “I love a challenge” he says, “and I hate to fail” He admits, however, that failures should be steps on the way towards success.

Dale has earned numerous woodcarving and woodturning awards. These include the Canada Expo Demer award, the Global Aquatic Challenge Sarasota Florida purchase award, a Channel 33 award for a turned box elder vessel, and several Best-of-Show awards for woodcarvings.

Dale says, “I get bored if I do one thing too long.” Consequently he has, at times, pursued other woodworking interests. One of these pursuits was building one-man paddle wheel boats and boating on Pennsylvania’s rivers. Another was chain saw carving. “I’ve made tables, chairs, benches and coffee tables with the chain saw.” He has on display a prototype of a water-powered Chinese water pump he built from a picture in a magazine. “It had artistic value and that’s the reason I built it.”

In addition to the Woodturners Club, Dale is a member of the Conewago Carvers Club, the York Carvers Club, and the Lancaster Carvers Club. He currently has his work on display in Jester’s Palace, a gallery in York.

Although largely self-taught, Dale has taken woodcarving and woodturning classes and workshops with various persons including woodturners, David Ellsworth and Russ Zimmerman and Penn State wood sculptor Dr. Butler. He also has attended AAW symposia in Purchase, NY, Fort Collins, CO, Akron, OH, and Charlotte, NC.

Dale says that he averages about 6 hours a day in his shop. He also tries to walk 2-3 miles a day. His dog was waiting to go for a walk as we visited. He occasionally bicycles historical trails and scenic byways—20 miles in a day is about the maximum—and he enjoys hiking and backpacking.

Dale and his wife, Gladys, have three children—two sons, who live in the York area, and one daughter who lives in New Jersey.

What are his thoughts about our Club? “I would like to see more explaining of process and technique as part of the Show & Tell,” he suggested.

What advice does he have for beginning turners? “Don’t be intimidated by the experienced turners. Bring your projects to the club meetings for Show & Tell, explain problems you’ve encountered, ask questions, and seek critique; that’s the way to advance your turning skill,” he advises.

---

**The newsletter:** Published bi-monthly, material is actively solicited for the newsletter and every effort will be made to use appropriate material from the membership. Unsolicited material from non-members also will be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit for length and appropriateness. No placement of material is guaranteed. Ads will be accepted free from members and may run for two consecutive issues. Contact the editor for the deadline for ads and material to be placed in the newsletter.



