

The South Central PennTurner

Newsletter of the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners, March-April 2003



Box elder vessel crafted by Dave Barkby and walnut clock built by Tom Elledge. See “Cover ” p2.

Future Meetings:

March 4, 2003

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Fisher Millworks (Todd White’s shop)
East Petersburg, PA.

Directions: From York take US 30 east to the Centerville exit. Turn right at the end of the ramp and go north on Centerville Road (it eventually turns into State Street). Cross over route 283 and proceed about one mile to train tracks. The first left after the train tracks is Fisher Millworks (look for big red and brown barn). The sign isn’t very prominent. Chem Gro is on your right. The shop number for the night of the meeting is (717) 569-0122.

Program: Business meeting, Show & Tell, and program by Todd White on the use of wood turning in his architectural millwork, cabinetry, and furniture making business. He will also cover shop safety and basic woodworking techniques. It sounds like an interesting evening.

April 1, 2003

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Dave and Jan Barkby’s shop, 2695 Sky Top Trail, Dover PA

Directions: From York take route 74 North through Dover. Proceed about 3 miles beyond the light in Dover (Exxon on corner). You will go up a hill and as you start down turn left onto Sky Top Trail (Don’t be fooled by Sky Top Trail to the right before you come to Sky Top Trail to the left). Go 1 mile to the Barkby house on the right—brown brick with a split rail fence around the front and side yards. Parking is limited so carpool if you can. Call if you need further directions (717) 292-0173.

Program: Business meeting, Show & Tell, and Bill Smith, renowned turner and teacher from Doylestown PA. He will demonstrate segmented turning, including the layout, cutting, and assembly of the blank. Bill has written a book on segmented turning. He also conducts segmented turning classes at his shop on Saturdays for groups up to 3 people. Don’t miss this program.

Cover Pictures

The cover photos feature projects using multiple woodworking techniques. **Dave Barkby** used turning, carving, and colored-resin bonding in creating and decorating this three-handled vessel. **Tom Elledge** combined wood turning and carving with his furniture making skill in building a beautiful walnut grandfather clock. The clock stands a full 6 feet tall. Tom turned the finial and four columns and hand carved the rosettes on either side of the finial.

About Our Members

Dave Barkby, Mike Galloway, and Dale McCoy are exhibiting at the Lancaster Wood Carvers Show and Sale in the Student Union Building at Millersville State University, Millersville, PA on March 22 and 23, 2003.

Tell others about your activities by sending the information to Glenn Zepp, 1160 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, (717-337-9571) or email him at zeppga@blazenet.net.

New Member

Jay Hurwitz, 621 Lancaster Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112; (717) 232-6990; email jay_hurwitz@baxter.com

Donald Titus, 579 Hoffman Home Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, (717) 359-5409; email dptitus@pa.net

February Notes

The Club met at Elmer Absher's home in February; the topic, turning pens and pencils. **Jerry Kopenhaver** and **Dave Smith** directed a lively and informative discussion on the basics of turning pens and pencils. They also demonstrated jigs used to hold blanks when drilling (see Jerry's article, page 4). After their presentation we moved to Elmer's shop where members acquired hands-on pen-turning practice. The program was well-received. Everyone, experienced and novice turners alike, took home ideas to improve their pen turning.

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: Mike Galloway 717/757-2907

The South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners is a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Membership dues are \$20 per calendar year (\$10 for a partial year if joining after June 30). 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.

Treasurers Report (Feb. 22, 2003)

Jerry Kopenhaver

Balance \$1885.44

Membership Renewal Reminder

The date in the upper right corner of your address label indicates when your current membership expires. If your membership expiration date is Dec 02, your dues for 2003 are payable now. If you wish to renew your membership, please pay your 2003 dues (\$20) to Jerry Kopenhaver by the March meeting to continue receiving your newsletter.

Thank you Elmer, Jerry, and Dave for the fine program.

Upcoming Event of Interest

Lancaster Woodcarvers Show, March 22 and 23 at the Student Memorial Center on the Campus of Millersville University, South George Street, Millersville, PA.

2003 AAW Symposium—Now is the time to plan for the 17th Annual National AAW Symposium in Pasadena, California, June 27-29, 2003.

Featured demonstrators include Vic Wood (Australia), Eli Abuhatzira (Israel), Ciaran Forbes (Ireland), Johannes Rieber (Norway), Stephen Hogbin (Canada), Luke Mann (Vermont), Craig Nutt (Tennessee), and David Ellsworth (Pennsylvania). See the Spring 2003 AAW Journal for a list of additional demonstrators.

You may bring up to three of your own turned creations to share with others in the Instant Gallery. The Gallery is open to the public as well as to symposium participants.

Spouse/family activities for "non-turners", include daily chartered tours to points of interest in the Los Angeles area.

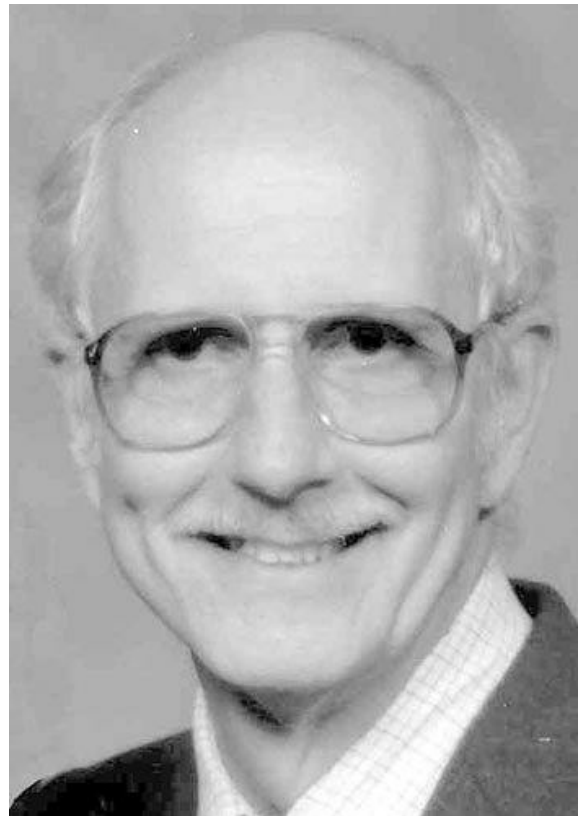
Look for more details in the spring issue of the American Woodturner.

Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild Mini-Symposium--The Ohio Valley Woodturners' Guild is sponsoring a Mini-Symposium October 17-19, 2003. The location, just minutes from the Cincinnati airport, is served by four interstate highways.

Five featured turners--Richard Raffan, Michael Lee, Bonnie Klein, Al Stirt, and Michael Mahoney-- will demonstrate for ten hours each during the three days.

The cost for the three days, \$235, includes 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, Friday evening dinner, and the Saturday Banquet. Rooms at the facility cost \$55 a night. Off campus motels are available for a higher fee. For additional information contact Joe Keeler at jgklr2732@aol.com.

Twenty-five 75-minute time slots are available for demonstrations by symposium participants. "Participant turners" get their meals free (a \$70 value). If interested in being a guest turner, contact David Morrical, Vice President, Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild at 513-771-5205 or email dmorrical@aol.com. Because of insurance requirements guest turners must be members of AAW.



Dick Diehl, 1936-2003

Richard G. (Dick) Diehl

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of our friend Dick Diehl on Friday night, January 24, 2003. Dick, a charter member of the SCPA woodturners, attended nearly all of our meetings. He frequently participated in Show & Tell and occasionally gave demonstrations. One of Dick's special talents was creating reverse (inside-out) turned Christmas ornaments. He captured the imagination of everyone with a reverse turning demonstration at our May 2002 meeting.

In addition to the SCPA Woodturners Club, Dick belonged to the American Association of Woodturners, the York Town Chapter of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, and the International Wood Collectors Society.

Dick, an avid collector of woods, was a trustee for the International Wood Collectors Society. He displayed his wood samples in the form of turned wooden eggs. Reportedly he had over

1,000 turned eggs, representing wood species from around the world.

An Industrial Arts teacher for the Central York School District, Dick retired in 1993 after 34 years of teaching. He held professional membership in both the National Education Association and the Pennsylvania State Education Association. He belonged to the Mountville Church of the Brethren.

Tall and quiet, Dick always had a ready smile for those he met. Max Murphy remembers Dick as “–a wonderful, kind, generous, patient, loving man.” “The Turners club will be much poorer from the loss of Dick,” says Max. All of us who knew Dick would agree.

Dick and his wife, Mary, observed their 44th wedding anniversary on December 20, 2002. Dick and Mary worked together in the production of painted Christmas ornaments. Dick turned the ornaments and Mary, who also is an accomplished artist, painted them.

Born February 2, 1936 in West Hempfield Twp., Lancaster County, Dick graduated from Columbia High School in 1953. After High School, Dick went to Millersville University, graduating in 1959

In addition to his wife, Dick leaves two sons, Karl and Duane both of York and four grandchildren. Two sisters, Alice Good of Elizabethtown and Grace Doerrler of Columbia, and several nieces and nephews also survive. Two brothers, Daniel M. and Irvin H. Diehl, preceded him in death. Dick is buried in Mount Joy Cemetery.

Pen Turning by Jerry

By Jerry Kopenhaver

The following steps and methods work best for me but are not the only way to turn pens.

1. First you must have a pen hardware kit. Penn State, Woodtek and the woodturning

supply houses carry the kits. They also offer kits to make bottle stoppers, magnifying glasses, perfume dispensers, letter openers, etc. Procedures for turning all these items are similar.

2. Next, select your wood. You may purchase the wood as square or round blanks, with or without predrilled holes. Wood with a lot of color and/or grain result in more interesting pens than bland woods. Blanks measure about 5½ inches long and have a 5⁄8 to ¾ inch square cross section. Materials other than wood, such as deer antler, bone, and thermo-set plastic, also make attractive pens.
3. Now cut the blank about 1/16 inch longer than the two brass tubes supplied with the pen kit. Some styles (slim line pens and others) require equal length pieces; with others styles the top and bottom pieces measure different lengths. I prefer to cut the blank into its smaller pieces before drilling the center hole. The drill is less likely to wander off center with a shorter blank. **Always mark the blanks before cutting so you can match up the grains and keep them adjacent when turning.**
4. Next drill a hole lengthwise through the blanks. The pen kits specify the bit size. It’s important to hold the blank perfectly vertical while drilling to avoid exiting through the side. I suggest using a jig or clamp to hold the blank while drilling. Blanks can also be drilled on the lathe. Go slow when drilling, backing the drill out frequently to clear debris from the hole.
5. Now glue the brass tubes into the blanks. But first, rough the outside of the tubes with a fine grit sandpaper to remove tarnish and ensure good bonding. I prefer thin cyanoacrylate glue, but medium thick glue works also. Epoxy and polyurethane (Gorilla Glue) can be used, but wood glues like Tightbond II don’t bond securely to the brass tube. Put a few drops of glue in one end of

6. After the glue has dried, I use a pen mill to remove any excess glue from inside the brass tube and to square the ends of the blanks with the brass tubes. Some turners sand the ends square or cut them with a saw. If you are confident enough, you may initially cut the blanks to exact lengths and skip this step.
7. Now assemble the blanks on the mandrel taking special note to the bushing arrangement. Each pen style has its specific bushings and with some styles the bushings need to be located at specific positions on the mandrel. The pen kit directions should specify the correct bushing arrangement.
8. Next turn the blanks to the correct diameters as indicated by the bushing diameter. Keep a close watch that you don't cut too deeply. It's helpful to have a micrometer to measure diameters as you approach the final cuts. Because of the small diameter, you may turn at fairly high RPM but apply only light pressure as the final thickness of the wood may be as little as 1/16 inch. I always turn close to the correct thickness and sand away the last 1/16 to 1/32 inch. Remember, turning 1/32 of an inch too small will probably result in you throwing the pen blank away. If you're not satisfied with the final product, turn the wood off the brass tube and reuse it. Or, you can purchase spare tubes from the pen supply houses fairly cheaply.
9. For final sanding, 320 grit sandpaper and steel wool give a smooth surface.
10. Next I apply the finish. Blond shellac and a drop of baby oil make a fine finish. Hut finishes and several friction finishes also work well. I wax and buff after two or three coats of friction finish. Use a cotton cloth for finishing and buffing. Don't use cloth with polyester content as polyester melts and discolors the finish. **Note:** Wax finishes work better for pens used by ladies than for pens used by men. Men's hands tend to be warmer than ladies hands, and the added heat tends to remove the wax after about 6 months of use.
11. After buffing the finish, remove the blanks from the mandrel and assemble the parts. Follow the directions closely at this point as different pen styles may be assembled differently. With most pens the writing end is assembled first. In all cases a press (pen press, drill press, or clamp) will be needed to press parts together. A holder jig can be made to restrict depth of pen part insertion.
12. That's all. You are now the proud owner of a new pen ☺