

# The South Central Penn Turner

Newsletter of the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners November-December 2003



**Art Niesley turning a mallet under watchful eye of Elmer Absher—September meeting**

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## Future Meetings:

**November 4, 2003**

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

**Place:** Carol 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 next to the road)

**Program:** Finishing and buffing turned pieces—getting that glass smooth surface.

**December 9, 2003**

**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:** Christmas Party. Good food and fellowship, Show & Tell, sharing the holiday spirit. Details to follow in a Christmas letter.

## About Our Members

**Donald Naylor** has turnings on display and for sale at Heart & Hands Gift Shop, Market St. York. He says sales have been good.

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](mailto:zeppga@blazenet.net).

## New Members:

### Shawn Moyer

200 Memory Lane

Dover, PA 17315

(717) 308-0642

[smoyer01@wmconnect.com](mailto:smoyer01@wmconnect.com)

## Meeting Notes

Rain prevented firing up the forge for the tool making session planned for the September meeting. However, Elmer Absher salvaged the evening with a program on turning basics and mallet turning. Several persons advanced their skills by turning a mallet under Elmer's tutelage.

Zeke Miller showed turning tools and tool handles he had made as well as some paulonia bowls and bowl blanks. We then auctioned off the bowl blanks, the proceeds being donated to the club treasury.

## October Notes

Dave Smith explained how he built his own tool sharpening set up and demonstrated the use of the jigs he constructed for sharpening turning tools. The abrasive surface on his sharpener is a flat plate holding three different grits of sandpaper. He demonstrated the sharpening of various tools and discussed the pros and cons of his sharpener versus a grinding-wheel sharpener. Dave's sharpener gives a flat cutting surface, while a grinding wheel results in a concave surface. It sharpened tools quickly and did not result in multifaceted cutting surfaces.

## 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](http://www.woodturner.org).

## Treasurers Report (October 7, 2003)

Jerry Kopenhaver

Balance \$1,992.44



**Top, Dave Smith explains the use of a sharpening jig. Bottom, Dave sharpens a turning tool.**

Dave constructed the sharpener in part from recycled materials. He estimated the total cost of materials at about \$100.

Dave, along with Jerry Kopenhaver, also discussed and demonstrated the Tormek sharpener system.

### Special Article

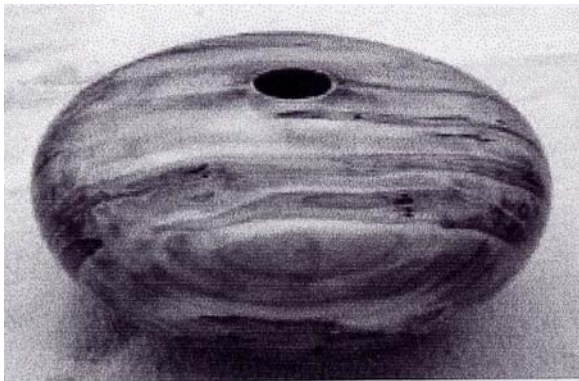
Thanks to Dave Barkby for providing the following article from the Keystone Turners News.

## More “WOW” on Wood Figure

By Jim Fazio

In the January 2003 Keystone Newsletter I had written an article that focused on spalted figure in wood. Other types of defects that give wood “figure” are knotty, wormy, and insect affected timber. Wood affected by the above defects often produces a “WOW” visual factor.

When boring insects invade some living or dying tree species, ones that still has high moisture content, pigmentation may occur a little above and below the entrance of the intruder. This pigmentation causes figure known as ambrosia. The adults and larvae do not feed on the wood but on a fungus the beetles carry into the tree and culture in the tunnels. Most woodturners in this area are familiar with the red and pink streaking found in ambrosia box elder. Red and silver maples affected the same way will display olive green to brown streaks, as pictured below. These streaks don’t seem to vary the hardness of the



Ambrosia form by Jim Fazio

wood surface as with spalted wood. Because of this, the surface of ambrosia figured woods don’t tear like the surface of spalted woods when turned.

Often adult insects or their larvae give wood a unique visual appearance without streaking or pigmentation. Tunnels are created in this “wormy figured” wood, as pictured below. The larvae of the chestnut timber borer may

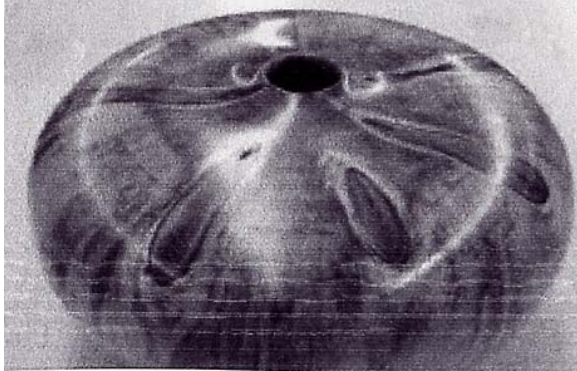


Wormy form by H. L. Channer

live several years before emerging from a living tree. The timber borers often increase their presence on dying wood. Wormy woods are highly desired by many turners but avoided by most other woodworkers. Nature created interesting tunnel throughout the wood, which are more exposed after being turned. These tunnels often vary greatly from very small to somewhat large in size. The holes created by the woodborers in ambrosia wood types are most often very small in diameter.

Knotty woods are caused by the growth of branches and where they meet the trunk or another larger branch. These “knotty” areas are generally denser than the surrounding areas. Many turners may be familiar with the

Norfolk pine forms that produce a ring of knots around the form. To get knots the full 360 degrees the form must be turned with the pith in the center, as pictured below. Although knots can add beauty to the turned piece, be



**Norfolk pine form by Dave Souza**

extra careful to examine the integrity of the area. These areas may also become loose and separate from the surrounding area.

Once, back in my high school shop class, when joining the edge of a piece of cedar the jointers' cutterhead vibrated violently when coming into contact with a knot, throwing the knot and my hand. The vibration was so great that my thumb flew away from the wood and into the feed table of the machine. My thumb hurt so much that for a split second I thought it might have come into contact with the cutterhead. (I still have all my fingers!) That was an "eye opening" experience about knots.

This article along with my article "Wow! What Great Figure" found in the January 2003 issue have examined types of defects that are often overlooked by many areas of woodworking. Wood with "figure defects" as spalting, ambrosia, wormy, and knotty types often present extremely difficult problems for furniture and general woodworkers. Woodturners can often work around problems of structural integrity that furniture and general woodworkers must contend with. "Figure defects" as mentioned above, often interfere with joinery, supporting members, matching of grain, etc., these must be addressed when

making objects that most often are comprised of many parts as in furniture making.

I hope the information in both "Wow" articles has shed some light on unusual wood figure and multiplies other potential wood sources for your future masterpieces.

Reprinted from the Keystone Turners News. Issue 4. July 2003.

## **LIBRARY REPORT**

By Mike Galloway

The library has received two books you ought to look at if you haven't already. They are *Woodturning Techniques* and *Woodturning Methods*. Both books are by Mike Darlow. The fee to borrow them is \$2.00 per book per month.

Don't forget about the videotapes available for rent from the club library at a cost of \$2.00 per tape per month. I have viewed a number of them and recommend them highly. I think the AAW Symposium videotapes are especially useful in helping to judge the quality of your own turnings.

If you have any of your own videotapes that you would like to donate to the library, bring them to the next meeting or mail them to me at 720 S. Russell St., York, PA 17402.