

# The South Central PennTurner

Newsletter of the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners, March-April 2004



**Oak candleholder by John Brady (11”h x 3”d) and pine stool by Elmer Absher (12”h x 15”d)**

## Future Meetings:

**March 2, 2004**

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

**Place:** Elmer Absher’s shop, 2530 Pin Oak Drive, York PA (717) 843-1627

**Directions:** Going east on US. 30, Turn left onto Tononita Street at the first traffic light east of I-83. Travel about 3/4 mile to North Point Drive on left. Turn left onto North Point Drive and go up the hill to the first condo units and park on condo side of street. That condo number is 2531. Walk across lawn to the right of number 2531 to Pin Oak Drive. Number 2530 is across the street. Elmer's shop is at the rear of 2530, basement level. For those who know the way off North George Street, that's an OK route also.

**Program:** Business meeting, Show & Tell, and discussion of woodturning topics and problems. Programs and plans for the coming year will be discussed. Elmer has a duplicator, which he will demonstrate. He also has several lathes, which can be used for hands-on help with turning problems.

**The Executive Committee** (Jerry Kopenhaver, John Stewart, Todd White, Mike Galloway, Elmer Absher, David Smith, Dave Barkby, Donald Naylor, and Glenn Zepp) will meet from 5:30 to 6:00 before the regular meeting to plan programs for the coming year.

**April 6, 2004**

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

**Place and Program:** To be determined

### Membership Renewal Time

Please bring your 2004 dues up to date if you wish to renew membership and continue receiving your newsletter. The dues are \$20 payable to the SCPA Woodturners. Mail payments to Jerry Kopenhaver, 50 Warrington Ways, Wellsville, PA. 17365

## New Member

Keith D. Klahold, 9625 Ashwood Drive,  
Seven Valleys, PA 17360; (717) 495-3387;  
E-mail: [ashkdk@adelphia.net](mailto:ashkdk@adelphia.net)

Jim MacLachian  
4045 Glenn Moore Circle  
Jarrettsville, MD 21084-1216  
E-mail: [chance@bcpl.net](mailto:chance@bcpl.net)

## February Notes

Only six members showed up for the February meeting. Weather that evening was a wintry mix of snow, rain, and ice. Elmer demonstrated the use of his duplicator to reproduce identical multiple copies of an object. We discussed pen turning, reverse (inside-out) turning, and other topics.

## Upcoming Event of Interest

### 2004 AAW Symposium

Planning a summer vacation? Consider attending the American Association of Woodturners' 2004 Symposium at the Caribe Royale Hotel in Orlando, Florida, July 23-25. Highlights of the Symposium include three days of demonstrations by international, national and regional turners recognized in the field, panel discussions, an Instant Gallery of those attending, and Chapter Collaborative Projects. There is an Annual AAW banquet and auction for the Associations educational fund, a complete woodturners' trade show, and a Gallery Exhibit titled - "Sea to Odyssey." The Gallery Exhibit, Trade Show, Instant Gallery and the Chapter Collaborative Projects are open to the public.

For information about the symposium contact  
Mary Laser, Administrator AAW  
3499 Lexington Ave. N.,  
Suite 103  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
(651) 484-9094  
fax (651)484-1724  
[woodturner@qwest.net](mailto:woodturner@qwest.net)

## 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/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

Jerry Kopenhaver

Balance Feb. 22, 2004: \$2,388.38

## West Coast Symposium

Here's another vacation opportunity. The Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild is sponsoring the West Coast Roundup, an international woodturning symposium, September 10 - 12, 2004, in Vancouver, British Columbia. This event will cater to all levels of turning enthusiasts. Presenters include Richard Raffan, David Ellsworth, Lyle Jamieson, Jacques Vesery, Michael Werner, Vernon Leibrant, Joe Fleming and Martin Thorne. For registration and information, please contact Marco Berera (604 274 7594) or visit our web page at: [www.gvwg.ca/Symposium2004.htm](http://www.gvwg.ca/Symposium2004.htm).

## Training Opportunity Closer Home

The following is a communication from Lyle Jamieson concerning a woodturner training offer: "I will be traveling in your area sometime this year. Some of your turners might want to contract with me to do one-on-one classes while I am in your area. I do workshops for all skill levels from beginners to multi-axis hollow form techniques. I use my boring bar system and laser measuring to do my torso figurative sculptures. I

am sure I could help some of your club members take turning to the next level, no matter where they happen to start from in skill level.”

Lyle Jamieson  
Sculptor and Instructor of turned objects  
285 Lauri-Wil Lane  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
231-947-2348  
[ar785@tcnet.org](mailto:ar785@tcnet.org)  
<http://www.lylejamieson.com>

**Have you seen**—David Smith’s website at [www.davidreedsmith.com](http://www.davidreedsmith.com)? Especially check out the Articles, Gallery, and Selecting a Wood sections.

### **Caution—Watchword Around the Lathe**

Glenn Zepp

A recent band saw accident got me to thinking again about safety around the lathe. A common—and generally well-founded—wisdom among woodworking professionals is that novice tool-users are less likely to have accidents than experienced ones. The potential dangers of a tool intimidate the novice into using it correctly. Injuries are more likely to occur when he becomes more skilled and takes short cuts or becomes careless.

The following are some safety reminders I gathered from various sources and from my own experiences. They may seem overly obvious to those of you who have been turning wood for a long time. But remember, it’s the experienced woodworker who’s most accident-prone.

**Maintain your tools in good condition**—check handles to be sure they are seated firmly and are not cracked. Also, keep cutting edges sharp. Not only is a dull chisel or gouge more difficult to control, it will require more time to do the job, taxing your patience and making you more accident-prone.

**Secure your tools**—while a sharp tool is safer than a dull one, you should cultivate a healthy

respect for those sharp edges. Store tools securely with the cutting edges shielded. Have a place for each tool and put the tool in its place. Return tools to a secure holder when not in use, and preferably one that covers the cutting edge. Don’t leave them lying loose on the lathe or workbench. A gouge or chisel falling from the lathe or workbench can inflict nasty wounds and also ruin the sharp edge.

**Avoid an air-borne tool**—As you turn away wood, you lengthen the distance between the tool rest and the wood. Eventually this distance may become so great that the tool dips to near the midpoint of the work where the tool is likely to catch in the spinning wood. As the distance from the tool rest increases a catch has more leverage increasing the chances of flipping the tool upward out of your hand or breaking the tool handle. To prevent this, reset the tool rest closer to the work often so the rest is never so far from your work as to flip the tool.

**Mount blank securely**—be sure the blank is securely mounted and that a faceplate is flush on the stock. Always use the tailstock when possible even on faceplate work secured by screws. The roughing process can loosen screws. Retighten the tailstock often, especially during the roughing process. Be sure a faceplate is screwed on all the way before turning the lathe on. Otherwise, it will screw itself on **very, very, very**, tight.

**Check for clearance**—Once mounted, turn the blank by hand one or two full revolutions to be sure it does not hit anything. Repeat this process every time you adjust the tool rest. And ensure that all items such as chuck keys, tommy bars, etc are removed before the lathe is started.

**Be aware of your lathe speed**—always check the lathe speed before turning it on. Better to start slow and work up until you are comfortable. Also don’t stand in the “fly path” when you turn the lathe on for the first time with a new piece of wood.

**Sanding safety**—sand in the lower quadrant nearest you so that the wood is turning away from you. Sanding on the opposite side of the piece subjects your fingers to being jammed.

**Care applying friction finishes**—I like to use paper towels, rather than a cloth rag for applying friction finishes. I get nearly as good a finish using paper and if there is a catch, the paper is likely to tear whereas a cloth rag will not. Never wrap an applicator around your fingers. Hold it between your fingers so that if it does catch on your work it will yank out of your hand without extracting any fingers.

**Dress appropriately**—avoid loose clothing and work gloves that could catch on turning parts; button or roll up your shirt sleeves, tuck in your shirt, tie back long hair, and remove neckties, rings, and watches. Your spouse would rather you remove that wedding band while turning than to have you lose a finger due to the band catching on a rough edge.

Wear a face shield or goggles; add a dusk mask or respirator when you are sanding or working with spalted wood.

**Avoid distractions**—give 100 percent of your attention to the task at hand. Don't be thinking about the next step, or another project, or what you're planning for next week while you're working on the lathe. Ensure that you have no distractions, like someone trying to get your attention or your cat jumping onto the lathe.

**Take your time**—haste makes waste. Accidents are more likely to occur when you are in a hurry. That's when you are more likely to overlook a potential hazard. And if you become tired, **STOP**; rest for a while, or put your project aside until tomorrow. Like haste, tiredness also makes you more accident-prone. Needless to say, you should never use the lathe after drinking alcoholic beverage.

As with all woodworking, there is the potential for serious accidents when turning wood. The chance of accidents happening can be greatly reduced by knowing where dangers lie and giving full attention to preventing them.