



# The South Central Penn Turner

Newsletter of the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners  
June-July 2008



## JUNE MEETING

**June 3, 2008**

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Place:** Club meeting hall in Jacobus

**Directions:** From the North – take 83 south to Exit 14 – Leader Heights. Turn right at the end of the ramp. Go to the second traffic light. Turn left – this is George St., or the Susquehanna Trail, or Main St. once you get to Jacobus. Go two miles which will bring you into Jacobus. Turn right on Water St. (An additional sign on the sign post says “Lake Williams.” Go 1/10 of a mile. Right after the last house on the left (Which is 14 W. Water St.) you will see a white sign that reads “Lakeview Park – Christ UMC Cemetery.

Turn left onto a stone lane. You will see a cinder block building ahead of you.

**Program:** Next meeting will be on June 3. Our speaker will be Martin Stolpe. Martin is the person who brought a truckload of ash, red mulberry and box elder to us, which some of you picked up. He is a Forester and will speak about various species of wood, the properties of wood, and how the various species can be worked. He indicated that he will have samples of wood with him. I’m sure he would answer any questions that we may have about wood, so bring your questions. From my conversations with him I believe he will speak about domestic woods and not the various exotic woods.

Don’t forget your show and tell items. It would be really cool if those of you who got some of the wood he gave us would bring a show and tell item made from that wood. If any of you who got some of his wood would like to make something from his wood that we could give to him that would be even cooler.

This program appears to be very educational, so let’s try for a really big turnout to hear Martin and learn what we don’t know about wood.

See you on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### SOUTH CENTRAL PA WOODTURNERS INFORMATION

**President:** Bill Fordney 717-741-0957  
**Secretary/newsletter:**  
Mike Galloway- 717-757-2907  
Bryan Sword  
**Treasurer:** John Stewart 717-755-8737

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, John Stewart 3088 E. Prospect Road, York PA 17402 .

### APRIL 2008 MEETING

Don’t have any notes on this meeting, but **DON WILSON** gave a great presentation on using indexing on the lathe. Don always gives a very thorough presentation. He goes through the extra work of making up a Power Point program to illustrate and describe what he is talking about. He gave many tips on the uses for indexing and where to buy reasonable priced gauges. See Don for details on sources. Thanks Don, for all your extra effort in your presentations.

### MAY 2008 MEETING

Our illustrious President Bill Fordney was out of town, so John Stewart opened the May meeting with great anticipation from our members. We were not disappointed. John, as always, took a firm grasp of the situation and did a sterling job.

New members that were present were introduced and welcomed.

New members for 2008 are Jonathan Amos, Thomas Barry, Mike Carnes, Edward Dattner, R. Stacy Gongaware, Tim Kirkpatrick, Ian Wolfe. This is a great start in gaining new members for the club; let’s keep it going. The more members, the greater the expertise there is to share.

The treasure’s report was presented. We are not rich but we are not poor is all I can remember. For detail see John. A slight increase in dues has been suggested which would help as the meeting room

does cost \$75/ month. The meeting room is well worth it, but new ideas for sources of income and new members would be welcomed.

### **SHARPENING DEVICES, JIGS, TECHNIQUES, ETC.**

John Stewart presented an excerpt of a training film from David Ellsworth on the use of his jig for his 'Signature' Gouge. Very informative if you have an Ellsworth gouge. Don't use it on other gouges I was told.

Briefly, some of the hints, which would apply to any jig, are as follows:

1. Employ fluid even motion when applying tool tip to wheel.
2. Hold tool near tip, not handle
3. Use fingers to hold tool, do not clamp hard with hand.
4. Support guide rod of jig into holder with other hand, so it doesn't bounce around.
5. Use 100-120 grit 8" wheel.
6. True wheel with a diamond jig. Wolverine makes one that works real well.
7. Cool tools as you sharpen so as not to burn them.
8. Tool cuts with the burr, do not hone. (There are many opinions on this especially from Lee Valley Hardware's book on sharpening. But to each his own, I say)

### **Tips given by members.**

1. On a new skew, round corners off-less chance of catching.
2. Craft Supply has pamphlet on Wolverine's jig.
3. Don't buy a Penn State copy over a Wolverine system.
4. Grizzly's copy of a Tormek system is still out with the jury.
5. Tormek System was discussed

### **Mike Galloway's High Speed Tormek Sharpening System.**

Once again Mike Galloway's inventiveness dazzled us all. Mike has blended together two systems. Using the Tormek Universal gouge jig and Turning Tool Setter gauge (available from Craft Supply) with dual high-speed wheels used for other systems. (Mike ought to patent some of his jigs and thoughts, but let club members continue to copy them.) As simply as I can here is a description of Mike's jig. He made a box around his dual 8" wheel grinder. Precisely placed eyehooks on edges of box to hold a rod that the Tormek Universal Gouge Jig attaches to and slides across. Using the Tormek Turning Tool Setter to set your angles, a consistent bevel can be obtained for different gouges with minimum risk of mistakes. For further details see Mike. (I am sure he will charge only a minimum amount to explain the whole thing again.)



### **Disclaimer**

Any mistakes, misrepresentations, opinions, humor, political comment or anything else in this report that members may find offensive, wrong, correct, off base, on base, to the point, misses the point, etc. is not the fault of the news letter editor, Mike Galloway. It is the ADD mind of the writer of this piece whose identity we will not reveal unless big money is offered.

And a greeting from our beloved craftsman and picture taker Phil Reed. Be kind to Phil or you could look like this too.



Hand Model Tom Deneen



### SHOW AND TELL

Show and tell was interesting as always and elicited many rounds of applause from the members. (Ha! Does anyone else think we ought to show the other members we appreciate their work. It is not easy standing up there and presenting our creative works our greatest critics.)

Elmer Absher showed a vacuum attachment he made and a chuck for goblets. (Elmer did receive applause, truly a remarkable feat.)



Phil Reed presented a remarkable hollow form in keeping with his fine work as always.



Don Wilson showed a spectacular box elder bowl. Truly a fine creation admired by others.



Don Titus showed a bowl from a cherry burl. Another presentation greatly appreciated by members.



More Show and Tell turnings from April meeting.



## **The 2008 Symposium of the AAW**

**Greater Richmond Convention Center  
Richmond, Virginia**

**The 22nd Annual National AAW Symposium  
Date: Friday June 20 - Sunday June 22, 2008**



# Drying blanks with Alcohol

by

David reed

*(Copied and edited from WoodCentral forum)*

Bowls are roughed out to 1/2 inch wall thickness for pieces less than 8" in diameter. Over 8" in diameter, I leave a wall thickness of 5/8 to 3/4 inches. Since my lathe is limited to 12 inches, I have not tested bowls larger than that for optimum wall thickness. I often turn utility pieces with a finished wall thickness of a quarter to half an inch. In these cases the roughed out wall thickness needs to be thick enough to allow for distortion. No drying method will completely prevent movement of the wood when it dries, so plan your roughed out blank accordingly.



Once the bowl is roughed out it is submerged in denatured alcohol for at least 2 hours. Larger, thicker bowls need to soak longer to ensure good penetration of the alcohol. Longer soaking time does not appear to damage the wood.



Remove the blank from the alcohol and let it air dry for about an hour to dry the surface.



Now wrap the outside of the bowl in heavy paper such as a grocery bag. Secure the paper with a couple of wraps of masking tape around the rim. Fold the paper over the rim, trim off the excess, and place the bowl upside down on a rack to dry. If the bowl set on the foot it may not rest evenly due to the paper and the air may not circulate as well. The inside of the bowl needs to be exposed to air.

The reason for wrapping the outside only is the theory that it will create a compressive stress on the bowl by drying the inside quicker than the outside. As the inside dries it shrinks which pulls on the outside causing it to compress. This compressive force minimizes cracking during the drying process. Thinner walls yields less distortion and fewer cracks by decreasing the maximum stress developed between the inside and the outside.

The alcohol I use for soaking bowls is denatured ethanol alcohol, straight from the can. I do not recommend methanol due to health and safety concerns. Although I did successfully test some bowls in isopropyl alcohol I did not like the smell. Isopropyl is not readily available in concentrations greater than 70% while denatured ethanol normally is 95%. Alcohol is added to a container as needed to cover pieces. During soaking, some alcohol will be absorbed, so a small amount will be lost when each bowl is removed and must be replaced with fresh alcohol. Because of this I have not worried about the dilution of the solution over time. The results have been consistent for bowls soaked in fresh alcohol and those soaked in solution used many times.