



## South Central PA Woodturners

# Newsletter

March/April 2009

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### MAY DEMO TOPIC

#### “Using the Skew”

Demonstrated by

**Don Wilson**

### MEETING DATES

at the Jacobus meeting location  
MAY 5, 2009

Social 6 - 6:30 pm

Meeting starts 6:40

JUNE 2, 2009

Social 6 - 6:30 pm

Meeting starts 6:40

Jacobus meetinghouse is on  
Water St. just off Main St. Turn  
onto Water St. from Main onto  
Water St. From South turn left,  
From north turn right. Then left  
on drive just past the first street  
(Cherry St.) Driveway leads to  
cemetery.

### SOME THOUGHTS from the President

If you missed the April meeting, you missed a very interesting presentation by David Reed Smith on “Toolmaking”. David is a former member of our club who lives in Hampstead, MD. David left the four tools he made that evening and we will set up a raffle for them in the future. I talked to David about rejoining our club. He now works evenings (he had to arrange his schedule to be with us) and finds it difficult to get out to a lot of meetings. He said he plans to retire in about four years and then he can go to all the meetings he would like.

I reported on a discussion I had with someone at the AAW office about the liability insurance and coverage when we have someone come to our home shop for some hands-on learning. I learned that our members would be covered if (1) they are AAW members, and (2) we have some kind of a formal mentoring program. Accordingly, I will work on a draft of such a program that we can adopt. Having this kind of coverage would relieve the worry of an accident that someone’s homeowner’s insurance may not cover.

I previously reported on a discussion to acquire some video equipment so that everyone has a better chance of seeing what a demonstrator is doing. I learned from one of the visitors at our March meeting that the Baltimore club got an AAW grant to buy video equipment. I’ll continue the search for adequate equipment, and how we can get a grant to pay for it. Video equipment will prove very helpful as our club grows and we have a larger attendance.

In order to expand our newsletter I would still like to see some articles written by our members relative to woodturning, so think about what you can contribute.

There is a lady that I work with in Mechanicsburg whose church is trying to raise money for a mission trip to Guatemala. They will be having a silent auction of donated items on May 30. If anyone has something you would be willing to donate for the auction it would be most appreciated. I have a form they would like completed with name, description, etc. which they will publish in an auction catalog. If you are willing to donate something, please get in touch with me. They need the form with information before they actually get the item, so I can email the form to you, which you can complete and email back to me. If you have items you can bring them to the May 5 meeting, or see that I get them up to May 20.

Don’t miss the May 5 meeting. Our own Don Wilson will present a program on “Using the Skew”. Over the years we have had discussions about being afraid to use the skew, so you may be able to gather some valuable information.

Don’t forget that we will start a classified “Wanted” or “For Sale” section in the newsletter.

I will attach an article on Wood Dust Toxicity to this month’s newsletter. It’s a topic that we all need to be aware of.

That’s all for now...Bill



### **MARCH DEMO – Bird Feeder Ornament**

The making of a Miniature Bird Feeder was presented by TOM DENEEN. Tom always does a good job of giving an informative demo on the clever things he makes and sells. These ornaments sell better at \$25 than \$15 according to Tom.

Tom whips these out in about 20 min once he has them on the lathe, so about three an hour. Tom’s sense of humor and good looks always makes for an enjoyable demo.

Tom threw in a few of his secrets for doing them fast (he does everything fast). Feeder tubing comes from Jo Anne Fabrics. Tape tubes before cutting them in half on the band saw. Wetting the wood for the jam chuck part makes it stick better. For finish storage bottles use ketch-up bottles that are the type that sit up-side down. These applies finish evenly and in small amounts. When knocked over they will not allow much of the finish to spill.



### **APRIL DEMO – Tool Making By David Reed Smith**

David Reed Smith was a much appreciated guest speaker at our April meeting. David always has an article in Woodturning Design and we were fortunate to have him as a demonstrator. David likes to say he turns wood so he can create new jigs and tools to make things simpler. He did so by making 4 handy tools on the spot and demonstrating their use. Of course, he made it look easy. David gave a very enjoyable presentation both informative and humorous. He made the following four tools. He provided a handout show the 4 finished sides of the tool.

- A Mini-cove maker made from a parting tool from Penn State Ind..
- A bowl Shear made from a scraper from Penn State Ind..
- Shear Scraper made from HSS drill blank
- Shear Spear from a parting tool



Shear Scraper



## March Show and Tell

Many works of skill and cleverness are show each month by our members. This is just a small example of the talent that exists in the club.



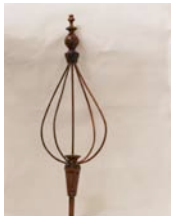
Kitting Needles  
Purple Heart  
Bill Fordney



Basket  
Cork Elm  
Tom Deneen



Hollow Form  
Cork Bark Elm  
Phil Reed

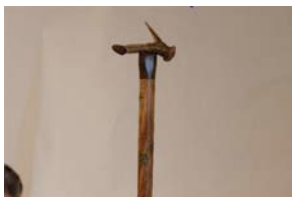


Spinning Wheel  
Distaff  
Maple  
AL Herner



Hollow Forms  
Buckeye Burl and Redwood Burl  
Dave Barkby

## April Show and Tell



Walking Stick  
Spalted Ash &  
Walnut  
Carl H May



Hollow Form  
Spalted Male  
Phil Reed



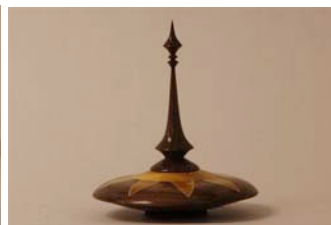
Bowl  
Honey Locust  
Lloyd Shelleman



Pens  
Charlie



Honey Locust Bowls  
Kay Pomroy



Hollow Vessel  
Walnut Maple & Osage Orange  
Ed Donaldson



Bird Feeder  
Ornament  
Tom Deneen

## Wood/Dust Toxicity *\_Edited by: Bruce Campbell*

For centuries, it's been fairly common knowledge that some woods could hinder your health. As far back as 60 A.D., the Roman historian and naturalist Pliny the Elder described a case where four soldiers actually died after drinking wine from hip flasks made of yew. Of lesser gravity was the experience of a few German sawyers in the early 1700s. It seems they developed chronic irritation of the nose and eyes, as well as headaches, from sawing bald cypress.

What are your chances of a reaction to wood? Statistics say that only 2 to 5% of all people develop an allergic sensitivity to one or more compounds found in wood. But, if you handle a lot of potentially toxic species, and work with them long enough, you increase your chances of an allergic reaction. And, with sufficient exposure, some woods bother almost everyone.

Any dust, including wood dust, mildly irritates the sensitive mucous membranes of your nose and eyes, making you sneeze and tear. The dust of some woods such as western red cedar and rosewood can be especially bothersome. However, other woods, called irritants, can make you even more uncomfortable, with a rash that classifies as either irritant dermatitis or allergic dermatitis. The rash usually has a uniformly red, swollen area that may erupt in blisters, and typically first shows up on the webs of skin between your fingers. Irritant woods include black locust, cocobolo, ebony, oleander, satinwood, sequoia, and yew.

However, for you to get an allergic-type rash, you first must be allergy-prone to one of more of the chemicals found in certain woods called sensitizers. And, it may take repeated contact for your body to develop a great enough allergy for it to react (the so-called "latency period of as little as five days and up to 6-8months). If you do eventually get a reaction, the rash will look like poison ivy - red with small, individual, itchy bumps. Sensitizer woods include cypress, balsam fir, beech, birch, elm, greenheart, mahogany, maple, myrtle, redwood, sassafras, spruce, walnut, willow, western red cedar, and teak.

In addition to the actual wood dust, molds frequently trigger reactions, too. One that actually grows in wood happens to be extremely potent: *Cryptostroma corticale*. This mold lives happily between the bark and sapwood of many hardwood trees, especially favoring maple and birch. It's responsible for the marbled spalling that woodturners prize, and for "maple bark stripper's disease," a condition with all the symptoms of a severe respiratory allergy.

If you have an aspirin allergy, be wary of willow and birch. Both of these species possess significant concentrations of salicylic acid (the predecessor of aspirin) and very sensitive individuals might only need casual exposure, such as a whiff of sawdust, to react.

Never say "no" to a dust mask. Among woodworkers, the chances of developing nasal and sinus cancer run about 5-40 times greater than non-woodworkers. Although researchers haven't identified the exact cancer-causing compound (primarily because the disease has a latency period from 30 to 50 years), some evidence points to dust from wood with high tannin content, such as chestnut, oak, redwood, western red cedar, and hemlock.

If you are sensitive to wood dust, work in a well ventilated area (this also reduces the risk to mold), avoid unseasoned wood as much as possible, and wash or shower frequently. If you develop persistent rashes or respiratory problems, contact your physician or dermatologist. (source of above: <http://www.city-net.com/albertfp/toxic.htm>)

There is an interesting list of Internet sites at <http://www.davidillig.com/awg/safety.html> where you can find additional information.

The chart below is a blend of information from two sources. The first is an article which appeared in *American Woodturner* in June 1990 (originally posted to [rec.woodworking](http://rec.woodworking) by Bruce Taylor (I took it from the Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild <http://w3.one.net/~ovwg/Tips-Toxicity.html>). The second is an article prepared by Roy Banner, a woodturner from Torrance, California who almost lost his life in 1989 to anaphylactic shock after turning pieces of exotic wood (see <http://www.mimf.com/archives/toxic.htm> ). Roy

has assembled his data over the years from various sources. I can't judge with any authority the validity of the information and it's up to the you to further research any wood yourself. Take this as a jumping off point. You might also want to check out The Botanical Dermatology Database at <http://bodd.cf.ac.uk/BoDDHomePage.html> although I found it pretty hard to follow, technically.

A final note; this data does not take into consideration the added effect of formaldehyde in plywood, treated woods, sodium compounds in white pine to prevent blue stain, etc. Also, I am not aware of any work to study the interactions of woods and chemicals such as oils, glues, stains, etc. Bottom line - ensure good ventilation and good respiratory protection when you work in the shop.

### **Wood Toxicity Chart**

**Chart will be handed out at May meeting. I can not figure out how to insert it here.**

### **Editor in Chief**

### **Index of Meanings**

[1] Cancer of nose and sinus: Statistics show that woodworkers have a 40 per cent greater chance of nasal cancer than the general population. However, the majority of statistics on nasal cancer are based on data from 1920-1960 when the furniture industry became highly mechanized with little or no dust control methods.

[2] Irritant or Sensitizer: Woods are either an irritant which cause a reaction fairly rapidly after exposure and will cause a similar reaction repeatedly, or sensitizers which may have a latency period of hours or months and may require repeated handling before reaction occurs. Sensitizer's are the more severe, because once you're sensitized, you're sensitized for life and the reactions only get more dramatic.

[3] Potency: This is the potential of the wood or sawdust doing harm and would vary with the individual. i.e., those who are allergy prone might think twice about working with wood classed as extremely potent.

[4] Risk: This is a qualitative assessment of the risk of a given wood doing serious harm. It is derived by combining the Potency and Incidence measures as follows:

**Chart References:** *\_1. \_Woods Toxic to Man\_, author unknown \_2. Woods, B., Calnan, C.D., "Toxic Woods." \_Br. Journal of Dermatology\_ 1976 \_3. \_ILO Encyclopedia of Occupational Health and Safety\_ 1983 \_4. Lame, K., McAnn, MEDIUM., \_AMA Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants\_, AMA 1985 \_5. \_Poisondex\_, Micromedix Inc. 1990 \_6. List of woods and toxicity characteristics, Roy Banner, 1989*