



South Central PA Woodturners

Newsletter

July, August, September 2010

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Coming Events

October 2
Boy Scout Demo
See Bill

October 6
Jacobus Church building
Spindle Turning
By Jon Amos

Nov 2
Jacobus Church building
**End Grain Natural Edge
Bowl Turning**
By Mark Supik

Dec 7
Holiday Party
More on this to follow

SOME THOUGHTS... From President Bill

Now that the Autumnal Equinox has come and gone and we are officially in the fall season, thoughts turn toward less outdoor time and more time in our shops.

Looking back at the summer, we had some very good meetings. In July Dean Swaggert, who never ceases to amaze me, gave a demo on “Unusual Mountings and Fixtures”. Talk about thinking “outside the box”. August was our picnic month with lots of good food. Thanks again to John and Joan Stewart for their hospitality. In September Tom Deneen presented a demo on how he makes his acorn boxes. Tom also gave a demo on why we should all have a first aid kit in our shop – not an intended demo, but proof that accidents (or cuts) can and do happen.

On that note we can never be too careful. Safety is paramount to working in a shop. It doesn't hurt to review various safety tips often. You can find many online – just Google “Shop Safety” and you will find lots of articles. The AAW website has a section on Lathe Safety Guidelines.

Speaking of the AAW I received an email called “Woodturners Forum”. It purports to be an opportunity for open discussion relative to the AAW. Isn't that just “cute?” You can see it for yourself at www.woodturnersforum.org.

COMING UP

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 6 at the church building in Jacobus. Jon Amos will present a demo on “Spindle Turning.” With so much emphasis on bowls, it should be interesting, and informative, to look at how most of us started. This should be of real interest to those beginners in our club.

On November 2 at the church building we will have Mark Supik as our demonstrator. Mark is a professional turner from Baltimore who runs woodturning workshops in his shop. He will demonstrate “End Grain, Natural Edge Bowl Turning.” Thanks to Jon Amos for making the contact with Mark.

In the meantime I am working on a professional turner to do an all day demo for us, hopefully later this fall. We would hold it on a Saturday, and, depending on how many of our members would attend, perhaps invite other clubs. Fortunately, the church building (we will coordinate availability) has the space and facilities for such an all day event. I have already spoken to one of the ladies from the church about providing a lunch if we go ahead with this.

That's all for now. Enjoy the autumn weather. See you on October 6.

July 2010 Minutes - Carol Woodbury

President Bill introduced new member Denny Heller, a friend of Tom Deneen. He reminded us that his presidency ends in Dec. and members are needed for a nominating committee and other committees.

Treasurers Report

John Stewart reported that we had \$1734 in the bank. Bill is now going to write the letter to AAW requesting the last 20% of our grant for the video equipment.

Bill Burke brought a duck basket for the raffle and it was won by Denny Heller who will bring next month's raffle item.

Hartford Symposium

The York contingent numbered 8 at the recent Hartford Symposium. There were sessions taught by top-notch turners. Bonnie Kline taught sessions for kids - with help from Tom Deneen - and Tom's granddaughter Elessa was one of the winners of a new lathe plus tools. Bill brought a photo of her turnings. Congratulations to Elessa!

AAW Shake Up

There was explanation/discussion of the shake up at AAW. See President's letter in our latest newsletter or the website for ongoing blogs about the replacement of Mary Lacer, Exec. Dir.

Turning Demo for Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts have requested that we demonstrate at their 100th Anniversary weekend (Oct. 2) at Wizard Ranch. Due to insurance restrictions only AAW members are covered by our insurance, but enough members raised their hands for Bill to be able to reply that we will be there.

Anchor Seal

The question of purchasing a 55 gallon drum of Anchor Seal brought lots of suggestions for substitutes, incl. regular glue on newspaper, returned paint from paint stores, etc. Bill will check the price of Anchor Seal to see if it is economical to choose that product over others.

January Shows

The Timonium Show and Cabin Fever are both in early January. There is some question of whether we want to demonstrate 2 week ends in a row. The matter was left open.

Professional Turner Demo

There is a possibility that we can do joint events with Baltimore, Lancaster, Cumberland Valley, or other clubs, thus sharing the expense of a demo by a professional turner such as Keith Tompkins from NY state (he could stay with his brother in Manheim and save us lodging costs). If this is done on a Saturday, the church ladies could provide lunch.

PICNIC, August 3 at Stewarts'. Bring one side dish. John offered birch wood for the taking.

TIP: Tom Barry showed a double fly cutter, a gizmo with 2 knife blades, really for a metal lathe but good for use on a wood lathe.

Demo Recordings

Don Wilson - showed the HD recording of his demonstration. We now have the capability to record every demo. There was discussion about whether we should make and sell DVD's of our demonstrations.



DEAN, THE INCREDIBLE

Dean Swagert showed how to utilize “**Unusual Mountings and Fixtures**”. He brought 7 amazing turnings he has done and discussed his method of making mountings for faceplates. With them he can attach blanks at multiple spots on a wooden mounting in order to achieve off-center or multiple centered hollows, bowls or boxes.

1. Standing Ornament - eucalyptus burl slab only 1 1/8” thick. Dean laid it on paper to draw outline and located 4 centers. He drilled a hole in each center, anchored the piece with a matching dowel to the mounting and clamped the unusual shape to the board/faceplate. Each opening had to be turned shallow enough so as not to go through into the opposite side’s turned opening and an exact plug was used to support the “hole” while he turned the exterior rim of each circle.

2. Three Shallow Hollow Bowl - red mallee from Australia. He has a set of circles from 2” diameter to 16” diameter in 1” increments, cut on his bandsaw from ceiling light cover plastic; each has a 1/16th hole drilled in center to be used with an 18 gauge brad. These he uses to set his centers before turning. Due to the sharp bubbly exterior of this blank, Dean smoothed it a bit and created a mounting with a collar so the bubbles wouldn’t be damaged. He leveled the blank then held it in the collar with tempered fiberboard blocks, bolts and wing nuts; having drilled many holes in the mounting, he could move the blank to different positions as needed. For this large piece he had to turn outboard, swinging the lathe head to the side.

3. Multiple Shallow-centers Bowl Dean glued blank to piece of wood with paper between so that rather than changing faceplates, he can move the wood around against the faceplate. He created a piece with one larger concave area and several off-center shallower ones.

4. Pair of Circle/rectangle Bowls - The trick is to first glue two thick blanks together with paper between. Then he turned the exterior as a full circle, creating the exterior of a round bowl, half of it being on each blank. The two blanks were then separated so that each looked like half of the bowl still attached to a rectangular end. Each was glued to a mounting so it could be attached off-center to the faceplate. The difficult critical task is to get a perfect interior to the bowls. He used a jig, measured to center, and constantly adjusted the mounting to the faceplate to get it centered properly.

5. Small Rectangular Box with circular off-center interior and decorated exterior - done on rose engine lathe. Dean’s suggestions included using double sided tape from Craft Supplies, using different chucks for different turnings, mounting the board onto the faceplate, cutting the black wood in half first and then turning each half mounted inside out to create the interior of the box. Exterior decoration occurred last, while the pieces were held on the mount.



DEAN, THE INCREDIBLE - continued

6. Five-Sided Chalice - padauk and holly done on rose engine lathe. Again Dean used a mount to hold it from the interior before cutting the center out and then turning the interior bowl. He used double-sided tape, which can be removed with a thin putty knife. The discard from the center then was glued to the bottom to create the foot Tip: if he has a center and needs to get the faceplate centered he uses a 1/16" brad.



7. Creation In Process - rhododendron. Dean showed us a chunk of stem with 5 branches that he has chained to his mount. Each stem has been turned to look like something from Disney-Pixar. He is not yet sure what the final product will be. He glued wedges to the wood to keep it from slipping around. These were then unstuck by touching them with a glue gun to melt the contact glue so he could move the blank to the next stem. He determined the counterbalance spot by dangling the mount and letting it find its own place to set a counterbalance opposite; in this case he set a chunk of wood anchored by an inserted screw and heavy-duty nut.



Dean attended the Hartford Symposium and said he constantly asked himself, "How did they make it and how did they hold it?" as he looked at the wonderful turnings there.

Thank you for sharing some incredible turnings and techniques, Dean. It was a fascinating demonstration.

July Show & Tell – Photos by Phil Reed



Phil Reed – Bowl Osage Orange



Tom Deneen – Norfolk Island Pine



Jon Amos – Maple Bowls



Weed pot
Jim Morrow



Walnut Bowl
Jim Morrow



Small Oak Canister
David Neuberger



Goblet - Bartlett Pear
Bryan Sword



Spalted Birch Bottle
Don Wilson



Osage Orange Platter
Don Wilson



Finial Box Maple & Padauk
Bill Fordney



Winged Bowl - Silver Maple
Mike Brecht

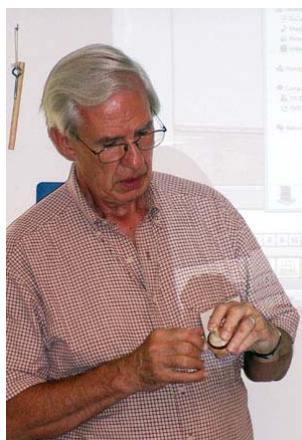


Norway Maple Bowl
Mike Brecht



Nice Bowl
But we do not know who made it.

More pictures of our illustrious members showing off their creative work.



September 2010 Minutes - Carol Woodbury

Guests: President Bill Fordney introduced 5 guests: Kevin Amos, Jean-Louis (“Louis”) Jugeau, Gary Vreeland, Dave Hunter and Clark Bixler .

Treasurers Report: John Stewart reported \$1,901.68 in the treasury.

Raffle: Elmer Absher’s bowl was won by Barry Stump who must now bring next month’s item.

Boy Scout Camporee: October 2, 2010,. 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts. Bill and Tom will bring portable lathes to Wizard Ranch and volunteers were sought to demonstrate during the day.

Anchor Seal: Bill asked again for members to let him know for sure who will take Anchor Seal if he purchases a 55 gal. drum. He will ask Dave Barkby if he will take any extra remaining.

Photo Directory: Members indicated a desire for a photo directory. John Stewart will organize it.

Woodturning Clinic: “It’s Your Turn 2” weekend of turning in Fishersville, VA, Oct. 22-23.

AAW ballot Information: AAW ballot for Board Directors. Mr. Ellis has withdrawn his name. Bill does not endorse any of them but suggests not voting for Tom Wirsing.

Elmer Absher noted that he has received letters from as far away as Australia in response to his article in Woodturning Design magazine.

Tips and Tricks



Dean Swaggert showed a hard maple clamp he fashioned to prevent base markings from a metal chuck when turning goblets or small bowls. He has graded it in 7 diameters from 3/8” to 1 ” so there is full clamping at every diameter.

Don Wilson showed a homemade wood-burning tool that he made from material gathered from eBay and other Internet places. He powers it from a car battery charger (“a cheap one” he says). After hours of burning his latest artistic creation (to hide a crack) his wife complained that smoke was filling up the house.





Tom Deneen
World's Fastest
Demonstrator



ACORN BOX DEMONSTRATION

By **The Inimitable Tom Deneen**

Tom's Rules

1. Begin with totally dry (less than 10% moisture) hard white oak for a lidded item. His blank for this box is 6" x 3" x 3".
2. Do the cap first, hollowing it to about 3/8" deep and checking with caliper to see if it's square, then it will fit whichever way you turn the base.
3. Check the size to fit the cap, and then put the cap on tight so you can turn and sand the tip He uses a Wagner texturing tool at 600 rpms to texture the lid. Then sands the interior and cuts it off leaving the tip pointed as the acorn top.
4. Hollow the base with full round and half round scrapers for the slope and bottom of the interior - about 2" or so. The interior & exterior should both be teardrop shape. To sand the interior Tom folds his sandpaper in 3rds to protect his fingers from friction heat.
5. Finish with Walmart's Mineral Oil (it costs \$1.90 vs Butcher Block from Craft Supply at \$8) After detaching bottom, make a cuff to put acorn back on in reverse to finish the bottom tip.

TRICKS:

1. Rub a beeswax candle both inside and out for a nice smell.
2. Unchanging chirping from vibration tells if it is even all the way down.
3. Using mineral oil on exterior before sanding reduces dust.

LAST TIP: Have a box of Band-Aids in the shop. Tom added drama to the demo by truly putting a little of his blood into his work.

Tom says people buy these acorns to put small Christmas gifts into, rather than using paper boxes. The wood costs him about \$5 or \$6 alone and he is able to price them at \$25 for some shows.

Tom is one of the most fun and instructive guys to watch turn. He always is giving out information. Everything from how he carefully developed a third hand around his middle as additional support for his tools or where to buy supplies cheaply that work well for him. His homemade tools such as his \$1 starter-boring tool made from a star drill are very effective.

I recently spent 3 days with Tom at his shop where he very generously gave me his time and the use of his equipment to flatten out 4 – 20+” slabs of natural edge cherry wood. Plus he did 99% of the work, while I watched. He also demonstrated how to use his bowl core saver, which he then loaned me. If you ask him what angle he sharpens his gouges, scrapers, skewers to he will say he has no idea, just whatever cuts. But I think he is keeping those bevels as his one secret.

If you are just starting out and want some quick lesson and tips, spend a day with Tom. He is open to anyone who wants to turn.

So thanks Tom for another entertaining demo and the help you have given yours truly in the past month.

Show & Tell September 2010 - Photos by Phil Reed



Cherry bowl
Phil Reed



First bowl - pine
Kevin Amos



Natural edge oak bowl
Turned green - microwaved dried
Tom Deneen



Cedar bowl
Jon Amos



Walnut bowl
Elmer Absher



Cherry crotch bowl
Lloyd Shelleman



Christmas ornaments
Leo Deller



Walnut/spalted maple ornament
Al Herner



Maple chuck extension
Dean Swaggart



Walnut miniature hollow form



Don Wilson
Sycamore hollow form
Mayan dancers & texture burned
in the fashion of Ollie Winton

Tom Frey did a pen from padauk but we don't seem to have a picture. Keep turning Tom!



Bag Pipe Guest - Jean-Louis Jugeau

“Louis” was a guest for this meeting but gave a short presentation on bagpipes at show and tell.

He is shown here with a Scottish small pipe chanter in Key of A made from lilac. Louis mentioned that the length of the bore determines pitch; bore shape & placement of hole dynamics influence sound. Perhaps we will learn more at a later date.

FOR SALE



Sharpening/grinding Equipment

Ellsworth Sharpening Jig looks like new!
Plus slide for jig. Already made!

Craftsman 1/4 hp 8” grinder 3400 RPM no load.
36 grit and 60 grit wheels. You will probably want a better wheel for sharpening your turning tools.

Heavy duty Cast Iron Stand

You will need to remount the grinder to line up the wheels with the slide, as this is not the grinder that was with the original set up of this system however for grinding tools it works just fine.

Was \$100 **Now only \$75**

MICROWAVE WOOD BOWL DRYER

You too can have your own special microwave to rapidly dry your green wood creations. Just like Tom! Now you will not have to use your kitchen microwave you will have one for your very own in your shop. Almost like new. Black Kenmore (Consumers Report “Best Buy”)

Only \$25

Contact Bryan Sword (717) 225 6807