



South Central PA WoodTurners

January/March 2011

President

Don Wilson
(717) 741-1226
wilson.don@verizon.net

Vice-President

Tom Deneen
(717) 927-9004
Tomdeneen
@emailaccount.com

Treasurer

John Stewart
(717) 757-2212
JRWS3088@aol.com

Secretary

(717) 854-1749
carol.ivue@comcast.net

Newsletter

Bryan Sword
(717) 225 6807
bryansword@gmail.com

Dates to Note

April 5 2011

**Pyrography &
Branding**

**By our own
President Don Wilson**

March 26-27, 2011

**Totally Turning
Symposium**

Saratoga Springs City
Center

Saratoga Springs, NY



Some Thoughts from the President -

Don Wilson

January's weather kept us on our toes wondering if we would have meeting or not. Thanks to Joan and John Stewart for hosting the meeting at their home. The weather cooperated long enough to have the meeting and the next morning we viewed the world covered in a layer of ice.

We have a good start on programs for the coming year. The March meeting will be a demo on turning a natural edge green bowl by Bob Gochenauer from the Lancaster area. Bob is a well know turner in the area and does a wide array of work.

This year we hope to have "hands-on" sessions on some Saturday mornings with multiple lathes set up so members can have an opportunity to turn with some of the more experienced turners. This will be an opportunity to get questions answered and learn new ways to approach a problem you may have. It is also a great way to try tools to see if they are something that would make a good addition to your collection.

Some of us are interested in visiting the Turning Center in Philadelphia, <http://www.woodturningcenter.org/>. Please contact John Stewart or Don Wilson if you are interested in seeing the center. We will carpool and set up a date when the weather is bit more predictable to make this trip. This would be a weekday trip.

We are ready to order new club shirts and have pricing for them. Contact John Stewart to place your order. There are also jackets for turning smocks available. The items will be embroidered with the club logo.

We are looking into having a full day demo by an outside turner again this year and would like suggestions on who you would like to see or topics you would like see demonstrated.

Happy turning.
Don



Don demonstrating his self-made hollowing setup. Definitely worth a visit to his shop. Plus free lessons!

SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
WOODTURNERS

PLANNING MEETING - JANUARY 11, 2011

Members present: Don Wilson, President; Tom Deneen, Vice President; John Stewart, Treasurer; John Amos; Mike Carnes; Bill Fordney; Barbara Palastak; Martin Stolpe.

1. John Stewart announced the treasurer's report is the same as last month. Bill Fordney was asked to serve as auditor.
2. OLD BUSINESS
 - Set up for Cabin Fever: 10 AM Friday, January 14. Meet at Bill's house at 9; he will take one of the club's Jet lathes. John S. will take the second club Jet, and his own. Barry Stump made a shield for Bill's Jet. Question: should Bill's Jet get another set of legs instead of box used at present? Tom will bring his granddaughter's Jet and stand; bringing total lathes to 4.
 - From Bill's go to Club House and get vacuum. 7 people will attend set-up, 8 attendees for Saturday and Sunday. Several people have signed up for sales.
 - Totally Turning Workshop takes place in Saratoga Springs, NY, March 26 & 27, featuring big name turners. Don, John Bennett, Bill, and Barb have signed up.
3. NEW BUSINESS
 - Club House rental will be paid for the entire year (9 months, excluding January, August, and December). Bill offered to remain liaison to the church for delivering check, etc.
 - Programs for the year were discussed. Tom will start off in February in response to a request for mounting wood; his topic will be "Log to Bowl". Other suggestions include sharpening tools, using DVDs for some topics with or without accompanying demos, wood air drying vs. kiln drying, and proper tool use and their respective cutting features.
 - Martin will contact Bob Gochenaur (turning green wood) from the Lancaster-Harrisburg clubs for possible demo dates. Martin also suggested meeting at a property where he will be cutting wood and supplying members with turning blanks. He will also discuss various trees. Another idea would be to spend a Saturday with a local sawyer and observe cutting trees.
 - "Understanding Wood" was mentioned as an excellent book on the subject. Should the club use some money to start a book library for members' use?
 - Don suggested "Hands on Saturday" to take place at a members' home with access to trees and space for parking, etc. Each attendee would bring a dish to share and club members would help each other with turning, sharpening, mounting wood, what tools to use, etc. Various locations could be at Tom's, Bryan Sword's, John Stewart's or John Amos's homes.

- AAW sends notices to club presidents informing them when professional turners will be in their respective areas so that the local club may contact them for a demo. It was suggested that we charge more for attendance than previously; attendance also will be limited due to space concerns to 40.
- Grants from AAW are available and clubs may apply for money each year. Don will submit a request for money for a professional turner as education for club members. The deadline is January 15.
- Bill will contact Cumberland Valley Woodturners for possible demonstrators.

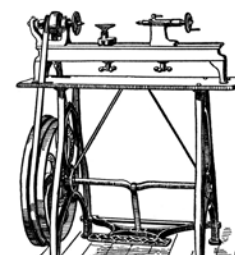
4. CLUB CHALLENGE

- Don stated that this has been done in the past. Each club member would receive a piece of wood and be requested to make something for the next meeting.
- Bill discussed the possibility of members making Christmas ornaments for the Council of Church's "Festival of Trees" held at the Historical Society in late November. Trees are decorated by local groups using a variety of themes and the public places bids on them and various other crafts available. He will investigate how to go about getting involved with this and report back with details. The September meeting could serve as time for several members to demonstrate the fine points of ornament making and to distribute wood to be used to decorate "our" tree. Also, Mary Diehl could be invited to discuss painting techniques.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

- John Stewart asked about the names printed on the Club's business cards and who should be included. Don will work on this.
- Should club shirts be ordered, and if so, what color? Should smocks be considered instead? Ideally, wood should not cling to the fabric and the neck should be closed. In the past Athletic Lettering was used for ordering. They have the means to embroider the club logo on the shirts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.
Submitted by Barbara Palastak



Christmas Party, December 7

Thanks were once again given to John and Joan Stewart for their hospitality as well as to Bill Fordney for his service as President.

Once again, the Stewart's home was filled with the sounds of happy woodturners.

We convened at 5:30 with potluck food in hand and sat down to a real feast (as usual with this group) by 6:30, with meeting to follow.

President Bill Fordney had us introduce ourselves and our guests and thanked John and Joan for hosting us.

Treasurer 's Report:

Treasurer Stewart reported that our 11/17/10 demonstration cost a bit more than was brought in but even after that and the purchase of our video equipment, \$3,095 remains in the treasury.

Raffles: There were multiple raffles this evening:

1. Barb Palastak's inside-out ornament was won by Gary Vreeland.
2. Don Wilson's bowl was won by Joyce McCormick
3. Four Thompson Lathe Tools gift certificates were won by Tom Deneen (2), Kay Pomeroy, and Gary Vreeland (who generously passed it on to our youngest member, Tom Frey).

These certificates were accompanied by advertising for the tools which are made by woodturners for woodturners; the certificates must be redeemed by March.

Announcements:

AAW's annual Symposias will be located as follows: 2011 in St. Paul; 2012 in San Jose; 2013 in Atlanta. Cindy Bowden is the new Exec. Dir. of the AAW. Bill reminded us of Totally Turning in Saratoga March 26-27, read Gerry Copenhaver's email, and suggested the gift of a membership for hard-to-buy-for spouses. George Robinson's email to the club was read with his thanks for wood given him and a photo of the bowls made from it.

It was decided to gift donations we get for tops and other turned items to Olivia's House for grieving children. George Robinson has kindly donated turned key chains for 'sale' at Cabin Fever.

Elmer Absher



Elmer Absher, age 83, passed away on Thursday, December 30, 2010.

He was one of our longest active members. We think he joined the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners in 1999. Dean Swagert, Valen Frye (deceased) and Dick Diehl (deceased) initiated the club in 1999. There were three or four

meetings at the Woodworkers Warehouse store in the Fields shopping center that operated where the off track betting operation is now located. They then moved to Valen Frye's shop in Manchester.

The last meeting that Elmer attended was this past December 7th Christmas gathering. Elmer was very active and always willing to do anything that supported the club. He usually brought along something for "show and tell". He was happy to share his designs and the woodworking tools that he created. While he sold many items, like a true wood turner he left many pieces for family and friends to cherish.

During his working career he was a tool and die maker. He owned a metal lathe, a milling machine, and a whole lot of wood working equipment. It gave him great satisfaction that in addition to making his own tools he made many tools, jigs and fixtures for other members too.

One of his last projects was an article published in Woodworking Design, Issue # 27 in the fall of 2010. He described in great detail and pictures a perpendicular segment jig that he designed. He was pleased to have inquiries from as far as Australia.

I am grateful that Elmer encouraged me to join the Woodturners back in 2002. He was a friend and I think that we will all miss him.

John Stewart

Laser Engraving by Kay Pomeroy



Kay showed a pen she laser-cut her name onto and announced that she is available to provide this service at \$5 for members who are giving pens as gifts.

Free Historical Wood

Martin Stolpe has 40,000 board feet of wood from the college that needs to be cut up for use – Kentucky coffee tree, sassafras and butternut crotch. If you are interested, contact Martin for location to come process it during the winter for turning or carpentry work. As reported last month, he will also be cutting from the Lancaster County Historical Society

Cabin Fever



Set up!



Shoppers thought the price was only \$30 for one of Phil's vessels but alas it was \$300!



Don recruits another young member



Tom Frev shows how easy it is.



The Top Ladies - Barbara & Joan



Phil making the sales pitch.

Cabin Fever was a great success for the club. Not only did the demonstrators have a great time showing off their skills but they also amazed the on-lookers with on-the-spot creations. These additional items along with the tops allowed the club to raised a record \$1000 for charity.

In addition most of the sellers who took advantage of the opportunity to justify their "hobby" with some income sold more than previous shows. Some spent it faster than they sold such as yours truly, but then that is why we call it a hobby.

It was a fun time and well worth the time and exposure for the club and the members who actively participated.



Tom Deneen on the lathe



Joyce! Intense concentration!



Tom and Phil have the crowd mesmerized!



Betty Deneen and Don closing the sale!

Meeting Minutes February 1, 2011

Submitted by Carol Woodbury, Secretary

The meeting was convened by new President Don Wilson at the home of John Stewart.

Guests Jeremy Vreeland, Denny Mann, and Bill Gilbert were introduced.

Treasurer's Report:

John Stewart announced the treasury balance at \$2,554. As a result of Cabin Fever sales, the club was able to make a \$1,015 donation to Olivia's House and present the \$165 commission normally due to show management to the Industrial Museum.

Monthly fund Raiser Drawing:

Gary Vreeland's lovely small orange osage bowl was won by Carol Woodbury. (The challenge now is for Carol to start turning, the pressure is on Carol.! Editor's comment.)

Other announcements:

Several announcements were made: a reminder of Totally Turning Symposium in March.

Mike Galloway has for sale 6 x 6 and 8 x 10 wood.

Mark Supik will hold classes on Feb. 12 and 13 and Jerry Kermode will demonstrate at Supik's shop Feb. 19 & 20.

Old Business:

Club shirts and jackets:

Samples of shirts and jackets from Athletic Lettering were shown. Shirts range from \$15 to \$22.25 and smock jackets from 29.50 to 32.50. There is a cost of \$10/per to put our club's logo on. The idea is for Club members to be recognizable when we demonstrate.

Cabin Fever:

Cabin Fever was a success. 149 tops were sold, 9 pens, 4 watch pendants, etc. There are 40 tops left for display next year.

Upcoming programs will be:

March – Bob Gochenauer on turning a green-wood natural edge bowl. Other ideas were tool sharpening, grain orientation and finishes.

April – Don Wilson will demonstrate pyrographics.

AAW Club Challenge:

Bill brought up the AAW Club Challenge. Each club enters a collaborative piece to be judged at annual Symposium. Bill will check into doing a tree for the Council of Churches Festival of Trees.

Wheatland wood turnings:

Martin Stolpe requested that on March 1st members bring one piece they have turned from the wood he cut at Wheatland. These items will be placed in the gift shop, their sale to benefit the property.

Tips and Tricks

Triton Respirator Replacement Batteries

Bryan Sword informed the group that Batteries Plus sells batteries for the Triton respirator for \$6.50/ea. When your filter/fan unit starts to fail it is a far better deal to replace the 5 batteries than buying a completely new unit for \$130. The service at this store was excellent as they even spot welded the original connection tabs onto the batteries for Bryan.. Batteries Plus is located 984 Loucks Rd, (Rt 30), York.

Natural Edge Bowl Bark Saver

Don Wilson mentioned that using Easy Bond super glue to coat bark will allow a natural edge bowl to be turned easier with less loss of the edge.

Bowl Cracking Prevention

Tom Deneen said that if you make the bottom of the bowl as thin as the sides, there will be less cracks as a piece ages/dries.

Mark Supik Classes

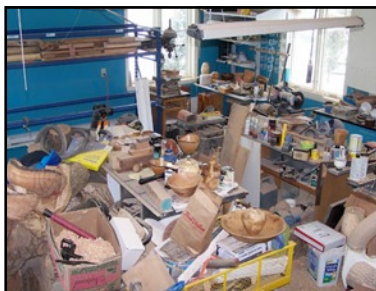
Mark Supik, from Baltimore, the demonstrator at our November meeting, is having classes as follows;

The Right Start, Spindle Turning. Saturday, March 26 or Sunday, April 10. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Material and lunch provided. Club members \$120.00.

Bowl Turning, Sunday, March 27 or Saturday April 9. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Material and lunch provided. Club members \$120.00.

Contact Nancy Supik at 410-732-8414 or e-mail Nancy at Nancy@marksupikco.com

Don's Shop Sets The Standard!



The secret to creating spectacular bowls, hollow forms, vessels, etc is not to worry about things that may get in the way. Truly what may look like chaos to one person is just a sign of uninhibited creationism in an other

person. Don's shop sets the standard for creativity. I have been to Don's shop twice for lessons. Each time some of his secrets were revealed. Dust? Organization? No worries! Those remarkable art forms just keep rolling out. Remember a clean desk or shop is a sign of a closed mind!

FROM LOG TO BOWL

Presented by Tom Deneen

Comments by Don Wilson:



Here, Tom communes with the spirit of the wood

We adjourned to John's basement to see Tom remove the end of the log he'd brought. He uses a chain saw

We adjourned to John's basement to see Tom remove the end of the log he'd brought. He uses a chain saw on a green oak log to cutdown to solid wood with no checks or cracks. Then uses a band saw to make the blank as large

as possible, missing that dark pith where cracks often start.

The circumference has to equal the depth of the bowl. Cut off the corners to attain a nice thin natural edge.

There was a discussion on how to use John's pear wood. Fruit wood moves more than other woods. It varies 1% in length and from middle to outside there can be a 4% variance for a total variance of 8% side to side, with the pith shrinking last.



Upstairs again. Tom turns fast with a lathe and just 2 tools. He reiterated that one should control a gouge with forearm, moving the whole body while

the tool is locked on hip and under arm. You should be touching the wood the whole time when doing side grain; wood/air/wood/air causes gouging, so lay the tool flat on the rest and work

continuously from the tail stock.



His tip for a good chuck hold is to spin, tighten, spin, tighten, holding only the edges, not the whole way to the end: about 1/4" short of the back.

Work looking at the ghost to visualize the rough outline of the bowl and to see where to start turning. If the wood is wet, it's got to be the same thickness all over so that as it dries it doesn't crack. (Hint: he has

done half a wet bowl, stored it in a paper bag for months, then finished the turning)

Tom is great at sharing what not to do as well as what to do. Rather than trying to directly turn from square to round, first make a parting-type cut slowly then work up from there. Stop to see how much more you want to remove, to see whether you're saving bark or not. Keep the rest as close to where you're cutting as possible so there is less leverage to fight; you'll get the best cut. Never go the whole way off the end because that breaks off end fibers, leaving a broken rough end; it's better to come back with a tool from the opposite end to smooth it.



Tom, "the faster the setting, the more tool control, the smoother the product". At 350 the tool can follow out-of-round wood, but speed up for an easier round. Tom cuts on the wing of his gouge with a push cut. He also uses a scraper "despite what people say" and can even use it for doing the whole bowl. Normally he works away from himself toward the end, moving only the handle, from a hole started with the tip of the gouge (or with drill bit) and bore down through.

He has fashioned a yardstick contraption to gauge the depth and uses the gouge wing to turn the entire interior. He says the bowl gouge and scraper do the same thing. You've got to get it up and angled down or all you'll do is burnish, not cut. Tom says that beginners often have trouble because they are pushing too hard.



Tom talked of the versatility of a bowl gouge. He has used the same 1/2" bowl gouge to make everything from a delicate bird feeder ornament (shown here), pens and bowls of all sizes.

Tips on purchasing a gouge – make sure you have plenty of steel at the bottom of the flute to avoid chatter. A 1/2" diameter or larger bowl gouge is best.

SOUTH CENTRAL PA WOODTURNERS

Show & Tell

Feb. 2011



Don Wilson

Hollow Sycamore Bottle

Spalted maple bowl with blue analine dye. June Berry



Al Herner

Natural edge bowl Sassafras



Mike Brecht

**Tall vase
Montana cottonwood**



Gary Vreeland

Maple Candle Stick

SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA WOODTURNERS

Minutes March 1, 2011

The meeting was convened by new President Don Wilson at the Jacobus Clubhouse. Six guests were introduced: Tom Hagarman, Walt Gill, Gene Jackman, Karen Holway, Bob Bierman and John McHenry, Bud Varney, and Ron Sipe.

Treasurer's Report:

In February \$30 in dues was collected, the raffle produced \$11, \$30 was returned as pro-rated remainder of Elmer Absher's dues for a total balance of \$2,565.

Club Shirts or Jackets

Order sheets were passed around for purchasing shirts or jackets with our logo.

CA Glue

Also orders were taken for CA glue (superglue) after discussion about the viscosity options and how useful this can be for cracks and for doing green natural-edge bowls. Tom added that it is fine to leave the tops off this quality glue without having it set up.

Anchor Seal

A third discussion was held on Anchor seal and 3 five-gallon buckets will be ordered to share among the members.

Club Business Cards

John Stewart handed out new club business cards with Don's name as president. Carol Woodbury's walnut bowl was won in the raffle by Don Titus.

Multi-axis turning demonstration

Members were questioned about interest in a future multi-axis turning demonstration; it may cost about \$200 for 1 ½ to 2 hour demo. The answer was affirmative.

Festival of Trees Ornaments

There was a show of hands of interest in making Christmas icicle ornaments from sea urchin shells for the Festival of Trees if it is held again this year. Don will order \$100 worth of shells to distribute amongst us.

Free Wood

Several people have wood available:

Robert Brightbill has 2 stumps and Kurt Alwine has remnants from building his house that he will sell – red oak, black walnut, ash and other hard woods.

Bryan Sword still has a Jet 1236 for sale. (Sorry Guys & Gals, it is sold!)

Tips and Tricks



Mike Carnes showed a device he constructed for the purpose of holding bowls or plates in the chuck to finish the bottom.



Phil Reed explained the tool rest he redid with Thomson rod.

Show and Tell



Jon Amos
Sassafras bowl
with knife-carved
articulation



David Neuberger
Red oak bookcase
spindles



Mike Carnes
Cherry bowl
Zebra Wood plate
in holder as
shown tips & tricks



Show and Tell



Al Herner
Sassafras box



Tom Deneen
two bowls
Oak burl and
just oak



Also Antique wool winder
maple replacement spindles and timer



Gary Vreeland



Sassafras box



Cedar box with
cherry finial



Barry Stump

Black Palm hollow form & Spalted Maple urn
finished with beeswax, mineral oil & vegetable oil



Ron Fipe
Spalted Birch
bowl
Finished with 1
coat of Deft



Don Wilson
flat hollow form

Cherry bottle & Maple Burl
from Mike Brecht with inlay and
worm holes, 6 coats of water base polyurethane buffed out

GREEN LOG INTO A NATURAL EDGE BOWL

by **Bob Gochenauer** of the Lancaster Club
Commentary by Martin Stolpe & Don Wilson



Bob explained his journey from retirement to woodturning and from dry wood (lots of dust) to green wood turning (chips, not dust). He mentioned that annually he and wife Mary Anne

have an open house the first week of November to sell their items.

He demonstrated with cherry wood from F & M, at which point Martin suggested that buyers are more likely to purchase if you have a card stating the type & provenance of the wood.



Commencing by turning to about 1" thick, Bob weighs the piece then leaves it for weeks. When continued weighing shows that the wood has stopped losing

weight, it is ready for the final turning. Bob holds the bowl gouge straight up to decrease bounce a tip he says he got from Dean. Then using the flute on an angle, he goes straight in and turns it over as he approaches the center.



Don's tips as Bob worked: Drill a little hole to bring stock up and keep in place to form a tenon for chuck. Reverse to take bottom off. Tail stock should be up for safety

reasons. You can't really go up against the edge without damaging it. Get it thinned as you go because you can't go back to work the edge after you get down into the bowl...work in steps.

If you were using dry wood, you would want to do it pretty fast so the wings don't break off. Leaving the cone for last gives stability while in only the chuck. From the curve to cone, come down, thinning, then move back and forth smoothly-outside to center/center outward. He leaves about 3/8" of wall thickness. Bob suggests that with wings like his demonstration piece, the wood is drying considerably while it's whirling around on the lathe.

Bob uses only **Thompson Lathe Tools**.



Some of the things Bob turns. He says he does about 300 of the trees a year, "Boring " he says but they sell.



Don Wilson's Award of Excellence from the York Towne Craft Guild