



# South Central PA WoodTurners

## June 2011

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### Club Web Site

www.PAWoodturners.com

### Dates to Note

**June 7**

**Jacobus Meeting House  
Turning Demo  
Sea Urchin and other  
Christmas Ornaments  
presented by various  
notorious members**

**July 5**

**Keith Holt  
Multi-axis turning**

**August 2**

**Summer Picnic  
John & Joan Stewart's**



### Thoughts from the President

*Don Wilson*

### Some Thoughts from the President

The Hands-On session is behind us and while the turn out was small the time spent was good. With the small group most everyone had a lot of time on a lathe and the opportunity to learn as much as they could absorb. The session turned into a bowl turning session because we had a number of rough turned bowl blanks courtesy of Elmer Absber.

We blew a few up in the learning process which is a part of turning bowls.

Tom Deneen demonstrated a bowl coring device that he uses to get multiple bowls out of one large hunk of wood.

The neat part about a Hands-On session is that you can see how different turners approach the same turning and you can take away what works for you. You also get to really see what is going on with the tip of the tool and then practice what you just saw. We can't get that out of watching a demonstration even with the video system.

The meeting schedule is full for the year. I will be rearranging the fall demonstrations based on a suggestion that was made by John Stewart.

With the success of this first Hands-On session we will look at doing a full day session again in the fall. That session may be a bit more focused on a specific theme. I would like to hear from the club members about ideas for that session. Some things you may want to see take quite a bit of time to do and a full day session would allow us the time.

**Happy turning.  
Don**

President Don's  
Spider Webs



### Minutes of Meeting May 3, 2011



After the usual pleasant social time from 6:00 to 6:30, President Don Wilson called the meeting to order. He

mentioned the **Graeme Priddle**

Demonstration being offered by the Harrisburg club at Bob Gochenaur's shop this weekend. Several of our members plan to attend but have not had confirmation of acceptance.

May 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 until about 12:00, a Hands-On Session is being offered to all members. Bring your projects, blanks, dull tools and enjoy working with some of our most talented members- Don, Tom, Phil, Jon, John. 4 lathes and John Stewart's sharpener will be set up for everyone's use. It is requested that people remain to help put away the equipment.

### June's Demonstration

A turning demo will be presented using the sea urchins for ornaments, etc. Also other methods for making different ornaments

### July's demonstration

Keith Holt will present a demo on multi-axis turning.

### Old Business:

**Shirts and jacket** orders are still being taken. **Anchor Seal, Super Glue and Sea Urchins** 1 gal. and 2 qts. of Anchor Seal are still available; a small amount of super glue remains.

Sea urchins have arrived and are being sold for \$.50 and \$1 depending on size.

### Festival of Trees

Bill Fordney is still trying unsuccessfully to find out if the Council of Churches will hold a Festival of Trees in 2011.

**New Business:** John Stewart passed around a “tasklight”, bendable gooseneck lamp. He mentioned that he is helping Nancy Absher sort Elmer’s equipment; there will be an Open House, Wed., May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to about 8:00 for those wishing to purchase any of his turning tools.

Charlie Stuhre brought for sale a boxed set of micrometers for metalwork measurements.

**Tips and Tricks:**

a. **Gary Vreeland** showed his Longworth adjustable chuck.



b. **Mike Brecht’s** contact still has a vacuum pump chuck available for sale.

c. **Bryan Sword** showed his homemade McNaughton-type bowl saver laser system for judging the interior depth of a bowl. This device while not as fancy as some of the commercial ones was built for about 10% of the cost.



d. **Tom Deneen** shared his secret to a nice finish - Howard Butcher Block Conditioner.

e. **Bryan Sword** reported that all he learned from a session that was suppose to be an introduction to segmented turning (Of which there was very little information presented for someone who has never done segmented design or turning, big disappointment!) at the Totally Turning Seminars was to use a bead chain to judge the aesthetics of a bowl’s catenary curve.



For those of us who are not informed of what is a catenary curve is here is a simple explanation

**Definition:** The catenary is the curve that an *idealized* hanging chain or cable assumes when supported at its ends and acted on only by its own weight. The curve is the graph of the hyperbolic cosine function, and has a U-like shape, superficially similar in appearance to a parabola (though mathematically quite different) (I knew that !)



Mike Brecht checking out one of Don’s bowls  
You’re not supposed to hold it tight, Mike!

**Demonstration: Turning a Tool Handle**



**Gary Vreeland** turned a blank while **Don Wilson** explained technique in a very helpful demonstration of how to turn your own handles and create custom turning tools.

There are several reasons for doing this:

- a. It’s cheaper than purchasing tools,
- b. You can create a longer handle than commercial tools for easier turning
- c. There’s satisfaction in using your own tools.
- d. You can use special woods to make your tools stand out.

There was discussion about various metal substances including the trade off of long-life vs. sharper cutting edge. Don uses (and showed) M2 steel which comes with a ½” shank.

Gary centered the blank and used a drill chuck in the tail stock so the steel will be centered. You can also use the drilled hole to put the tail stock cone in to center the wood for turning.

There was a **side question** - Joyce asked about drilling a flute that needs a deep hole: A lamp auger can be used specially for drilling a flute center.

While Gary turned, Don pointed out that you should not stick the roughing gouge straight in or you’ll get a large chip and possibly rip off a large splinter that can be dangerous.

Cut the tenon for the ferrule in first, marking with pencil the size of the copper band.

There was a discussion about a Bedan, a French tool used as a skew, for wasting away wood. Gary used the skew with the side down in a shearing cut with the flat spot at the tip to create the tenon, measuring the turned tenon to match the inside of the copper ring. Once the ferrule is epoxied on, it’s possible to turn the copper as well as the wood to smooth the rough edges of the metal in a nice curved connection with the wood. Hint: you can cut the tenon a little long so you can come back with a skew to do this.

Although Don suggests epoxying the steel into the drilled hole, Tom Deneen says he makes the hole a bit too small and drives the metal into it for a firm hold. Another hint was that it’s possible to heat the copper to expand it to get it on and as it cools it will shrink to a tight fit.

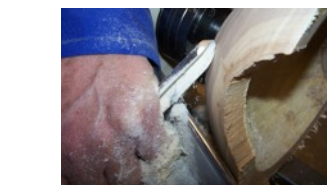
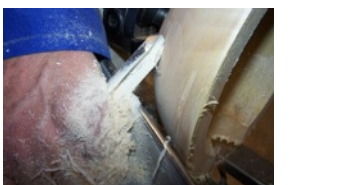
**Thanks to Don and Gary for a most helpful and practical demonstration!**



## Hands on Turning Session

As reported from our President's Thoughts the hands on turning session was very successful. Members had the experience of making chips fly and a few exploding bowl parts also. (All the more reason to use a safety mask.) Sharpening techniques were demonstrated with jigs and without.

A few candid photos just giving a hint of the fun and action.



## Graeme Priddle A Man of His Land

Graeme Priddle is a world famous artist and woodturner from the northern part of the North Island of New Zealand. He was featured in the Feb., 2001 issue of American Woodturner.

Graeme is a very friendly guy

who encouraged me to take pictures only of his good side. His work reflects both the native Maroi art of his country and the ocean and seafaring. Graeme can also be a production turner which as he says is his "fall back" when times are tight. His art sometimes is more carving and pyrography than turning as seen in some of the pictures. You can see where Don Wilson gets some of his burning technique from as Graeme admits that some of his boats take 3 weeks of pyrography before they are finished. Over all the seminar was well worth the minimal cost of \$30 to attend (including lunch). Graeme was also a great history and tourist promoter for New Zealand, so if you are planning to go look him up, he lives on Pigs Head Rd, North Island although the road sign may not be there.



Left and above the influence of an abalone shell.

Right inspired by a Maori mask.



This art reflects the influence of a Maori boat.



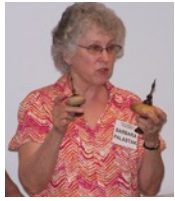
This reflects what happens when you watch too much pyrography!





**Show & Tell**

Photos by Phil Reed



**Barbara Palstak**  
2 standing ornaments  
katalox, holly,  
ambrosia maple



**Phil Reed**  
*"Life's too short to turn  
crappy wood"*  
Round-bottom bowl  
Weeping Cherry  
½ bowl spalted pin oak  
colored black, sanded,  
colored red



**Jon Amos**  
Easter eggs and mushrooms  
Beech & Juniper



**Tom Deneen**  
Bowl cherry burl  
Paint powder filler  
Butcher Block  
conditioner finish



**Mike Brecht**  
Pyrography  
of buck head on  
oak slab



**Al Herner**  
Hanging Ornament  
Walnut  
& Spalted Maple



**Barry Stump**  
Natural Edge Bowl  
Black Walnut  
Oil finish



**Don Wilson**  
Items finished after his demonstration last meeting:  
2 Maple plates (pyrography),  
Turtle bowl (branding),  
small vase (branding with black gesso)  
maple, Chinese chestnut, ambrosia maple



**Bryan Sword**  
Cherry bowls cored from same blank.  
Plus excellent examples of funnels including a natural edge one !



**Leo Deller**  
Cedar vase,  
microwaved



**John Stewart**  
Multiple bowls Sycamore



**Gary Vreeland**  
With credit to  
Don Wilson  
8 hour flat bowl

