



South Central PA WoodTurners

March 2012 Newsletter

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Club Web Site

www.PAwoodturners.com

Dates to Note

Club Meeting

April 3, Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Al Fox

Introduction to
Segmented Turning

May 23, Wednesday

Beth Ireland

All day Demo

“Turning a Bandsaw Box”
and “How to be creative
without going to Art
School”



Thoughts from the President Don Wilson

This is turning out to be an interesting year with a calendar of demos that are a bit off the beaten path. It is nice to know that there are so many ways to use our lathes to follow special interests we may have. The pattern lathe was used heavily in the cast iron industry to make the molding pieces out of wood for gears, machine bodies, etc. These were used to form the sand mold that the iron was poured into to cast the part. I can imagine the stories of making some of those original wood parts. Metal spinning was used in fine silver serving sets as well as every day utility parts. In today's world those crafts are all but extinct.

The upcoming demo on segmented wood turning is an introduction to making something larger than the piece of wood you have. It is also an introduction in looking at ways to put wood together to make the piece more attractive. The old time wood turners used segmented wood to control how the wood moved in the finished piece as well as to make really large items. Today we use segmenting to introduce colors and artistic elements to ornaments, bowls, etc..

Happy and safe turning,

Don

PS Thanks to all who have sent cards or called expressing their good wishes on my recovery. Things are progressing well, and I will be turning again soon.

March Minutes

Submitted by Carol Woodbury

New Visitor: President Don Wilson asked visitor Howard Younger to introduce himself.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer John Stewart announced \$2,075 in the Treasury.

Beth Ireland Demo: Money should be turned in soon for the Beth Ireland demonstration. A sign up sheet was passed around.

Demos by other Clubs:

Harrisburg Club: David Ellsworth will be at the Harrisburg club April 26th. Don will let us know if they will have room for non-members to be invited.

Cumberland Valley Club: Mark Sfirri will be demonstrating all day Oct. 13 at the Cumberland Valley Club. To learn more about Mark follow this link:
<http://www.yankeewoodturningsymposium.org/Sfirri.html>

CA glue: The club has CA glue for purchase.

Catalpa Wood: Martin Stolpe thanked Don Wilson and John Bennett for donating pieces for the fundraiser benefiting the PA Forestry

Association. He has available a huge piece of 50-year old ready-to-turn Catalpa which stood 80' tall in Maryland. He warned that catalpa needs extra sharp tools. Catalpa wood has a shimmery chatoyance that makes it attractive. (Chatoyance-certain finishes will cause the wood grain to achieve a striking three-dimensional appearance.)

White Ash: Tom Hagarman has some white ash available (still green) and Jon Amos has ambrosia maple available.

Next Meeting: April 3. Al Fox will be here to give an Introduction to Segmented Turning. He will use boards and Don suggested that this is for beginners who don't yet want to deal with gluing lots of little blocks of wood. It will be a good introduction into segmented turning.



METAL SPINNING DEMO

by Barry Stump



“What does metal spinning have to do with wood?”, you might ask. After Barry Stump’s demonstration, our members can answer. Metal Spinning requires a wooden form...and watching Barry we all learned similarities and differences in metal and wood turning.

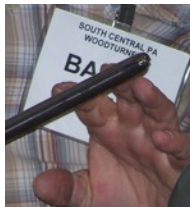
METALS:

Commercial metal spinning was brought to America in the 1840’s. It can be done on most lathes. Easy to spin metals include gold, silver, pewter and some aluminum alloys. For instance 11000-0 or 2014 aluminum used for aircraft and copper both will elongate (stretch) 60% through spinning. Also, aluminum doubles its tensile strength when spun.

The more you work metal, the harder it becomes. It must then be annealed to work it more. To anneal metal, it must be heated to 600°. In most metals you can see them change color, but you can’t see a change in aluminum. You can use white pine to write on aluminum and that gives you a way to see when it’s exactly the right heat. Always cool aluminum gradually; copper, brass and other metals can be heated to 1000 degrees, until it looks cherry red, and then can be dumped into water to cool.

TOOLS NEEDED:

Equipment required for metal spinning: lathe with thrust (not ball) bearings, carbide tipped tool, lubricant like axle grease or tallow, wooden stick, special tool rest, and wood forms. Blanks of aluminum can be bought through Penn State Industries.



Like any other activity, practice makes perfect !

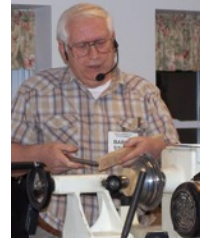


Barry showed his practice bowls and demonstrated spinning a small bowl from a blank. He screws an inside form onto the head stock, places a flat blank, then small wood piece to hold it on and then brings up the tailstock. To center the blank, start the lathe and push a piece of wood at 90° angle and gently push as it slowly turns.

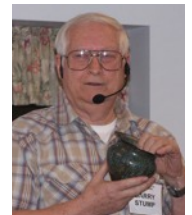


THE STEPS:

1. Lubricate – this is very important and must be constantly renewed.
2. Get blank set right on form.
3. Use left hand on fulcrum pin.
4. Hold your tool below center and bring it outward to set the blank onto the form.
5. Rock your body and use leverage against tool rest pins, pulling in to pull the metal back along the form. You’re using your body weight to force the metal back against the form.
6. “Galling” is dragging of the metal if you haven’t got it lubricated enough.
7. Finish by trimming it with steel tool to “true” it. Then buff it, removing the lubricant.



Proficiency comes from practice and you will eventually learn metal differences just like you learn how to work each wood type. Barry showed examples: the spun top of a square lantern; a plane hubcap; a failed copper bowl; a copper flared urn which he gave a patina (polish, dip in vinegar, put into tent with ammonia fumes, lacquer to seal patina); copper pitcher (handle made from carved wooden form then poured copper).



He discussed how to spin complex pieces by making a diagram and using a center hole to remove the form pieces. If you put paper between pieces, you can more easily separate them

There is a formula to calculate the correct size of the blank disk in order to get the finished product size you want. Be aware: metal stretches about double in height. Use emery cloth, not steel wool. In order to create a rolled top edge, you need a good crease to begin with, then all in only one turning quickly roll the bead tightly with a steel pulley tool; this adds strength and rigidity.

A DVD shown after Barry’s demonstration showed us what he meant by the special tool rest with 8 holes and metal pegs or pins placed in it--the pins give you leverage. The DVD is meant to sell kits, so we saw the spoon shape and flat shape tools, rolled cloth to apply lubricant, “follow” block, deburring tool, scotch bright pad, mandrel, and special tool rest.

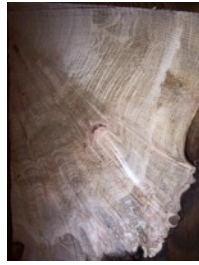
That 1983 class required for his education at Millersville must have “stuck”, because Barry was able to demonstrate and explain the techniques so we all could easily understand.

Many thanks for stepping up to the plate lathe, Barry.

SHOW AND TELL:

Don Wilson Burl Blank

Don explained the growth pattern of a burl and how/where to go about cutting and turning burl.



Huge Bradford Pear Bowl with Grape Vine Branding

Tom Deneen

His latest bowl
Cherry burl

His first bowl
Cherry burl
(the large one)
Made with a Craftsman turning set., he says.



Al Herner

Photo of a table he made from pine or spruce skids and turned legs. He sprayed a flat black paint to accomplish the look of leather.



Gary Vreeland

Natural-edge bowl
Cherry burl
Polyurethane finish



Phil Reed
Spalted, Punky
Maple Vase

Phil says it absorbed a 1/2 jar of finish



Dave Newburger

Turned legs for a reproduction
18th c. French desk
Aged Cherry
Dave showed his prototype and 2 of the 4 final legs.
He mentioned that joinery must be done before turning



Bill Fordney

Candle stick
Ash with cherry candle



Yew Goblet

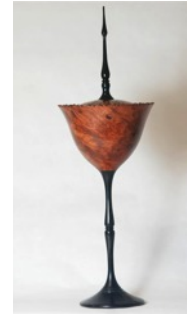
Red Mulberry Bowl

Bill said "it was a learning experience filling cracks with turquoise."



Don Wilson

Tall, lidded box
Red Gum Burl,
Ebony Finial
Birds eye maple dyed
(With raffle tickets in Don's hand we all thought it was the next raffle item until he said his spouse said "we are keeping this one.")



Tom Frey

Dyed
Maple bowl



Bryan Sword

Nested Cherry
bowl set

Large bowl 15.25 x 14.5" x 9"
Medium bowl 11" x 7"
Small bowl 8" x 3.5"

Made for daughter's 20th anniversary.

Bryan says "the large bowl was made oval on purpose. Wood does move, you know!."

