



# South Central PA WoodTurners

August/September 2013 Newsletter

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## Club Web Site

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*Thoughts  
from  
President  
Don Wilson*

I see a very busy time for the club in the near future. We have the "Festival of Trees" coming up very fast. We need the ornaments/items for the tree by the October meeting. If you didn't reply to the email about how many ornaments you will contribute, you still have the opportunity to let us know at the September meeting. It will be helpful to have a few more people contribute.

We also have the Farm Show event to keep on our radar for early January. In January we usually don't have a regular meeting due to possible weather interference. We will be communicating by email and at the December party. We will need to know who will volunteer to help out at the show and who will contribute turned items for display for the week of the show.

Of course this is the busy season for craft shows for those who participate. And all of us are probably making gifts for the holiday season coming up.

Todd White is demonstrating making a "three legged stool" for the September meeting. Todd makes quite a bit of furniture and has a great finish on his products. This demonstration should prove interesting to all. I'm looking forward to it.

Happy turning.  
Don

## August Minutes

Submitted by Carol Woodbury

### Guests

President **Don Wilson** asked 2 guests to introduce themselves: Axel Waldkirch and Jack Stambaugh.

### Treasury Report

The treasury balance is at \$1,939.21.

### Raffle winner



**Mike Carnes'** poplar bowl was won in the raffle by **Bill Fordney**.

### Show and Tell Winner

The \$10 certificate was won by **Leo Deller**.

### CA Glue & Anchor Seal

We have CA glue for sale and Don asked if there is interest in Anchor Seal. Five members indicated they were interested in 1 gallon each.

### Club CDs, Videos, Books available

**Dave Hunter** has indexed the woodturning videos, CDs, and books in the Club's library. He has created a sign-out sheet for borrowers. He urged members to loan their personal copies to the library so that others can borrow and view them. He promised to keep them safe.

### Pennsylvania Woods

**Wayne Bender**, "Mr. Wood" will join us at a fall meeting to discuss his expectations for our part in the display "**Promoting Pennsylvania Woods**" at the Farm Show. He would also like volunteers for short shifts manning the booth. (Admission will be free for volunteers).

### Chesapeake Turners Demonstration

**Cindy Drozda** will be with the Chesapeake Turners Oct. 16, 2013. She specializes in turning finials and will present a Wednesday evening demonstration

## Dates to Note

### Club Meetings

Tuesday Sept. 3

Social 6 - 6:30 PM  
Meeting 6:30 PM

*Turning a  
three legged stool  
by Todd White*

Tuesday October 1

*"Efficiencies in turning"*  
Larry Miller  
and Bill Fordney

## **SHOW AND TELL**

Photos by Phil Reed



### **Leo Deller**

Lamp and shade  
Cedar and unknown

### **Bill Fordney**

Bowl made from the  
"last known elm in  
Gettysburg"



### **Barb Palastak**

Lidded maple box  
with katalox knob



### **Phil Reed**

Large bowl  
Figured maple, cracks  
filled with brass and  
coffee grounds!



### **Barry Stump**

2 similar pots  
Honey locust  
(1 with heartwood on the  
top; 1 with heartwood on  
bottom).



Finials of black locust



### **Bryan Sword** -Yellow birch mushroom box

Because of the oblong shape, under side of top  
couldn't be completely hollowed by turning. So it was  
carved out to look like gills of a mushroom.  
Made for YMCA Camp Hi-Rock auction, Mt. Washington, MA



### **Jack Kapp**

Vase  
16 layers of plywood,  
a few layers of Baltic birch  
plywood included

### **Dave Hunter**

Wall hanging with flame of  
cracked maple crotch from  
Martin



**Mike Carnes**  
Poplar bowl



### **Dean Swaggert**

Segmented sculpture  
Tamboti

...he says he sorta got carried away with it !

### **Tip**

#### ***Cleaning sand paper***

**John Stewart** cleans his sandpaper with both the  
bristle side and the wire side of a filecard cleaning  
brush.

Others suggested a rubber block and using Abranet  
instead of sandpaper.

Don says Abranet sands better than paper on green  
wood, and can be cleaned with just a flick.

## **DON ON THE BOWL GOUGE**

Acknowledged: **David Ellsworth** is the Father of the Bowl Gouge as used in the US. He traveled post-college in Europe and then introduced the Irish sharpening grind to the US. Don utilized drawings to explain the Irish grind and the adaptations Don himself uses for his own bowl gouge. Ellsworth's grind is turned in more; the edge is hidden to you as you work on the inside of a bowl. The reasoning of both men is that the edge doing the cutting needs to be supported by thicker metal and is curved in. Although a straight grind touches a larger area, the Irish grind is less grabby. Don also does a secondary bevel at the base of the edge in order to avoid compressing the wood and leaving a mark that can't be sanded away.

Don's gouge is used as a roughing tool, as a safety skew, as a scraper, and as a gouge. He can do just about anything with it and demonstrated on 4 bowl blanks. (Joyce McCormick filmed this demonstration so that anyone wishing to borrow the video can watch Don turning.) He explained his methods on each bowl.

### **Demo bowl 1**

- \* Start on the bevel and rolling the gouge in order to pick up the cut.
- \* Use gouge as roughing tool and start at the base, working up and watching the ghost as you round a chunk of wood.
- \* While forming a 3/8" tenon, also form bottom of bowl, with bottom quarter of tool.
- \* Find square spots by gently laying back of gouge against piece and it will bounce.
- \* Use an actual skew (his are ground curved, not flat) to clean up tenon on bottom.
- \* Work inside from gently made center hole, turning into it by using the side grind of the tool.
- \* End chatter by turning flute towards yourself and/or avoid tool from hanging too far over the tool rest by moving the tool rest in closer.
- \* Keep hand on rest steadily and pivot handle
- \* use your body, not your arms.

### **Demo bowl 2**, tree of heaven, soft wood:

- \* Cut with bevel about 10 o'clock for nice wide cut, on left front corner & across any hole.
- \* Create concave bowl with smaller gouge, riding on the bevel tip.

### **Demo bowl 3**

- \* To get rid of any high spot, begin from a lower line and work up and past it to smooth.
- \* Ride with side wing of gouge high, at a 45 or higher degree angle with arm and handle lower than tool rest
- \* Using the bowl gouge, Don calls his "safety skew", it's important to put the bevel down and then turn it to begin the cut - don't try to start cutting before you lay the gouge down.
- \* To scrape, his tool is horizontal and cutting on the lower edge.
- \* It helps if you can teach yourself to turn left handed; this comes in handy for hard to reach angles.

### **Demo bowl 4**

- \* Usually the bottom is the side grain and a scrapper or skew is fine.
- \* As soon as you take some wood out of the bowl, the top will go oval.
- \* Use gouge on curve with nose of bevel near the edge and gradually pivot as you're going in.
- \* While going in, shape the inside to match the outside form.
- \* If you hear chatter from using the nose, rotate the tool back a little to stop the chatter.
- \* Start with blade upright, then roll it in, cutting on the side.
- \* For thin bowl, creating steps going inward, the rim is supported by thicker wood longer. Don uses his fingers to gage the thickness of the wood to keep the thickness consistent throughout the sidewall.
- \* Matching the steps thickness can be accomplished by using a high angle scraping and gently scrape any ridges that form between steps.
- \* Turning from middle out, you are pushing hard against the outside of the bowl and have more of chance to pull the bowl out of the chuck.
- \* When removing tenon, cut along surface of flat bottom, leaving the tenon very small against the tail stock and hand turn the lathe for the final slice.

Questions included how Don uses a "steady rest". Don is able to turn a deep hollowform, and when he does he uses this 3-wheel support at the lowest spot. This supports the center line. His wheels are placed asymmetrically.

**Everyone learned something, Don. Thank you.**