



# South Central PA WoodTurners

## May 2013 Newsletter

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*Thoughts  
from  
President  
Don Wilson*

It is definitely summer with warm weather and the grass growing like crazy. I know that the great outdoors calls many of us to the detriment of having time for wood turning. Shops without air conditioning also contribute to doing something else.

It is time to think about the fall craft show schedule, if you are one who sells at those events. Saying that, we will **not be demonstrating** on Beaver Street at the York Art Fest this year. The city is not allowing the merchants on Beaver Street to host the activities this year.

I want to remind everyone that the date for the picnic this year has changed to the second Tuesday in July. The Stewarts will be our hosts again this year, and we will be communicating with you prior to the picnic.

Remember that Martin Stolpe would be happy to have you work with him on a Saturday morning and take home some wood of your choice if you would like to have some fresh, green wood. If you are interested please contact Martin directly to make arrangements. Evenings are a good time to catch him home as he is a busy man.

I will be inquiring about a possible "Hands-On" session at the June meeting. Let me know your interests.

Our June demonstrator is Bob Robertson from the Cumberland Valley Woodturners who will be demonstrating making a "salt box". We haven't done a project demonstration in quite a while so this will be a pleasant change. Come see and learn about making a salt box. Perhaps your house needs one.

Happy and safe turning,  
Don

### Minutes May 7, 2013

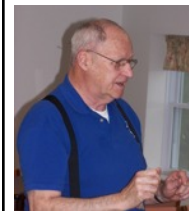
Submitted by Carol Woodbury

President Don Wilson presided.

Four guests were invited to introduce themselves:

Lance Bryson, Jim Lane, Laddand Schlenker.

Treasurer's Report.



John Stewart was happy to announce that we now have \$2,576 in the bank.

### Malcolm Murray Donation

We have received a thank you from First Baptist Church for our donation of \$50 in **Malcolm Murray's** memory.

### Salvation Army Donation

A donation of \$778.85 from profits at Cabin Fever was made to the Salvation Army.

John urged us to begin turning items now for next April's show.

### Club Insurance

The insurance certificates are now in hand; we are covered for meetings and for classes at the Yorktown Craft Guild.

### AAW Annual Meeting

We were reminded of the Annual National Meeting in Tampa.

### Raffle & Show and Tell Winners

**Bryan Sword's** sea urchin birdhouse ornament was won by John Stewart in the raffle.



**Jack Kapp** won the gift certificate for Show and Tell.

### Dates to Note

#### Club Meeting

Tuesday June 4

Social 6 - 6:30 PM

Meeting 6:30 PM

*Turning a Salt Box*

*by Bob Robinson*

#### July 9 Take Notice!

It is the second Tuesday, not the first.

**Summer potluck at the Stewarts!**

**SHOW AND TELL**

**Clark Bixler**

Laminated plywood block as part of a segmented wood turning challenge.



*Clark asked for input on what kind of finish to use. Since there is already glue and dye involved, members suggested wax or polyurethane.*



**Bill Fordney**

Captive ring cedar goblet and beech bowl

*To solve the rough interior problem, Tom suggested using mineral oil to raise the grain before sanding.*



**Barry Stump**

Hard dry oak burl bowl



**Jack Kapp**

Redbud bowl and 2 beautiful redbud tops



**Leo Deller**

Natural edge beech vase



**Phil Reed** Hawaiian kalabash bowl Lilac tree



**Mike Murphy**  
Zebra wood bowl  
2 pieces glued together



**Jean-Luis Jujeau**  
Spinning wheel for identification  
Al Herner helped identify it as being American, ca 1850's



**Al Herner**  
2 chestnut flat bowls  
oil finish

**Tip**

Al Herner showed a small razor blade holder. He grinds the blades to differing radii/concave forms to use for scraping the interiors of bowls. Nifty.



## Tom Deneen on Turning Green



Tom discussed the joys and pitfalls of turning green wood. The obvious pitfalls are that the wood dries unevenly which causes warping and cracks or splits. Just-cut trees contain about 80% moisture. Drying down to 30% removes all the "free" water; the rest is in the cells themselves. This is about where you can turn well. Dry

wood is at 10% or lower. However, natural humidity can also "un-dry" a piece and cause problems later.

Tom's general practice is to leave the turned blank at no smaller than 10% of its original size. Although, if you can manage to create a piece evenly under 1/4" thickness, foot included, the moisture will spin out and dry evenly. For the majority of us, he extolled the virtues of using brown paper bags, microwaves, and cardboard boxes for drying partially turned blanks. Paper bags for smaller objects or boxes for larger ones are perfect to draw out moisture evenly and slowly over a long period of time - sometimes 8 months or more. Only for a rush job does he fall back on a microwave. To test for dryness, Bob Kochenaur weighs the piece inside the bag, then keeps weighing it until it stops dropping in weight.

Tom brought several examples to show. One large bowl blank, left thick, was out of round and he will have to compensate. One burl he had halved, using one half for 2 nice bowls which he turned and then dried, and leaving the other half unturned to dry naturally, which caused cracks.

### Tips:

- 1) Never let air go across a bowl blank; it will dry it unevenly.
- 2) Never stack items when drying; mold or fungus will develop because the moisture can't escape evenly.
- 3) There is no use coating the piece with anything before drying. Although it's not a perfect solution, latex house paint works. Double-coated, does add some stability.
- 4) Don't attempt making anything with the pith in the bowl, especially apple or cherry piths. When cutting logs for blanks, remove the pith by cutting lengthwise 1/2" on either side of pith to form two blanks. Cut log ends off that are cracking.
- 5) To test for potential cracking, slice a little and if it bends instead of cracking, you're good.
- 6) Don't deal with wood with bark inclusion.
- 7) On end grain bowls or hollow forms, once done drill the pith out and plug. This will help prevent cracking.

He mentioned some of John Jordan's tricks such as putting green wood in the freezer so it doesn't lose moisture. Using compressed air to blow free water out of a hollow form as a method of drying.

This was a neat segue into showing John Jordan's DVD "**Aesthetics and Properties of Wood**".

Miscellaneous thoughts from the DVD

- \* Poplar and cedar were used for homes because termites don't like them.
- \* Chairs were made of green wood because the socket would dry and tighten around the artificially dried tenon end- i.e. Windsor chair. This would make a secure joint.
- \* Think! Don't let the wood dictate the outcome. Think about it, plan, and take charge of the design!
- \* Why turn green? Turns easily, no dust, tools stay cool, less expensive (because usually it's free), no other way to get bright, clear colors from the wood
- \* Drawbacks of turning green? Cracking, checking, and urgency; you want to turn it right away and begin drying immediately because uneven loss of moisture causes movement.
- \* He drew an example of a wedge of wood - the exterior (bark side) dries down to 8%, the wedge slice with grain exposed dries to 4% and the length of the piece doesn't shrink at all.

There were two book recommendations this evening: **Turning Green Wood**, by O'Donnell, and **Understanding Wood**, by Bruce Hoadley. The website of **Forest Products Labs of Madison, WI** was also recommended. Additionally, there was an article in *American Woodturners's* Spring 1998 issue about John Jordan's methods.

**The wood may be green, but not so Deneen.**

**Thanks for sharing, Tom.**

## FOR SALE



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See Bryan Sword 817 5407