



# South Central PA WoodTurners

## September / October 2013 Newsletter

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### Dates to Note

#### Club Meetings

**Tuesday Oct 8, 12013**  
**Social 6 - 6:30 PM**  
**Meeting 6:30 PM**

“Efficiencies in turning”  
Larry Miller  
and Bill Fordney

#### November 5

“Turning a two piece  
lamp base”  
Don Wilson



*Thoughts*  
From  
*President*  
Don Wilson

I'm going to wander off into the territory of the **Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen** for a moment. This is an organization that educates, supports and promotes crafts of all sorts.

Woodturning is considered a craft, an old craft that is being lost due to replacement by mechanized systems. In September I applied for “Juried Status” at the Guild and my work was accepted. This doesn't get me anything except some personal recognition and perhaps an opportunity to get into a higher level craft show. There are two “juried” statuses:

1. Most commonly one gets “juried” by submitting photos so organizers can see if your work is acceptable for the show they wish to promote. This lets the organizers accept or reject craftsmen for the show.
2. Is the personal “Juried” status and has nothing to do with craft shows up front.

This is a review of one's work by a panel that accepts or rejects your work based on the craftsmanship in the submitted pieces. I submitted 6 pieces, most of which you have already seen. If you have any interest in doing this I would be happy to talk with you.

I have received a box full of brochures from **Wayne Bender** about the invasive bugs, etc.. One of the brochures is about invasive plants. One of the plants is called “mile a minute” and it is not Kudzu. I'll have the brochures at the meeting for all who are interested.

### Thoughts - continued

There is an opportunity to apply for a scholarship to **Arrowmont or the John C. Campbell Folk School** that will be in the amount of \$500.00 or a little more. This would pay for a class but the person would have to pay his/her room and board. It needs to be someone that the club membership votes on to receive the scholarship and the club submits the application for approval. I know the Leo has been to one of the training sessions. If there is anyone who would be interested in this and can handle their share of the cost, please speak up at this next meeting.

**Happy turning, Don**

### September 3, 2013 Minutes

*Submitted by Carol Woodbury*

The meeting opened with a very



informative talk by **Wayne Bender** of the PA Dept. of Agriculture on behalf of the Hardwoods Council. Our club members are invited to be the

featured woodturners at the Jan. 3 - 13 2014, Farm Show. The club voted to participate. We will have one case to show turned work from 10 - 25 members. All must be turned from Pennsylvania wood. The case has 4 adjustable top-lit shelves of 14" x 4". Set-up is Jan. 3 and volunteers for 4 hour shifts at the case will get free parking stickers. He suggested having brochures on our club available, since the Farm Show gets about 500,000 visitors a year. This year's theme is "American Hardwood, Treasured for Generations" and the PA Woodmobile will be on site for student education.

**Minutes -Continued**

**Mr. Bender** warned of the walnut twig beetle, a tiny insect which is infesting all West Coast walnut and has caused Bucks County wood to be quarantined as well. It bores under the bark and its jaws carry disease. First signs of the disease are dying tops of walnut trees.

**Treasury Report**

*Given by John Stewart*

The Treasury was reported at \$1990.00.

**Guests**

Anthony Greer and Mark Coons were guests this evening.

**Raffle Winner**

Bill Fordney won back his own bowl in the raffle.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Festival of Trees Ornaments**

Deadline for Christmas ornaments is the October meeting, because decorating day at the Festival of Trees is October 28th.

**Pens for The Troops:**

Several members raised their hands to turn pens for Turn for The Troops, Sept. 28 and 29.



**The Wood Man - Martin Stolpe** brought 4' logs of aspen from Yellowstone and 1 log of Lodgepole pine. He noted that commercial campsites no longer allow campers to bring along their own firewood because of the quarantined woods. He also said the Asian Longhorn beetle is devastating the Rockies right now.

**Tips & Tricks:**

Tom Deneen brought his home-made jam chuck. He threaded it so that it expands when the rod is screwed up through it.



**SHOW AND TELL**

Photos by Phil Reed

**Barry Stump**

Pithy beech bowl

Smoothed for cutting with mix of 1 pt bees wax, 2 pts mineral oil, 1 pt vegetable oil

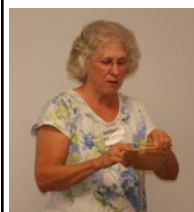


**Tom Deneen**

Honey locust bowls

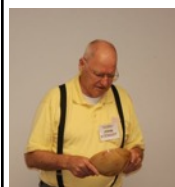
**Bill Fordney**

Walnut bowl



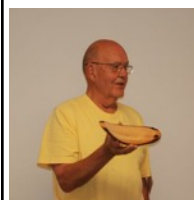
**Barb Palastak**

Rice bowl  
Tree of Paradise

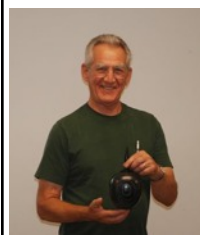


**John Stewart**

Box elder bowl  
(wedding gift to granddaughter)



**Leo T. Deller**  
lidded bowl  
Stained yellow pine  
Wing bowlcut  
fast at 2000 rpm



**Phil Reed**  
Black dyed ash  
hollow form  
African blackwood  
finial



**David Newburger**

Femisphere - Oak  
Streptohedron  
Poplar



Ideas from *Woodturners* magazine

## Todd White on Stools

**Plan, Plan, Plan!** – that was a recurring theme of Todd’s demonstration. The best way to avoid problems later is to plan ahead - lay out the height, splay, angles, tenon holes, grain direction and label the parts. This he has learned through 30 years of turning and a few mistakes.



**Wood Selection:** His wood is air dried and usually a mix for beauty i.e. walnut & tiger maple, walnut & cherry, cherry & tiger maple.

**4 Legged vs 3 legged:** He discussed pros and cons of 4-legged vs 3-legged stools. 4-legged may look better for indoor use, but 3-legged are more stable and suited for uneven outdoor surfaces. His heights are usually 16” – 18” measured off the top. Stability is also gained via the splay. 14” is right for a 12 ½” seat. The taller the stool, the lesser the angle of the splay.



**Stool Seat:** First Todd planes down the seat to about 1 ½ or 1 ¼”. The top is first marked where the tenon is planned to come through the seat. He has planned his splay and drills matching holes for the leg to come up through – 1” makes

the tenon stronger than 7/8” because you then will force the leg up through. He reminded us that the grain will cause the seat to cup either concave or convex, so plan ahead on that.

**Legs:** The legs are straight-grain wood. He lays out the holes in the legs and drills the stretcher holes while the leg is still square with a drill press using the angle table. He then rough turns the leg, turns the top 1” for the tenon, roughing it round, and uses his story board to turn equal legs.



The tenon is inserted through the seat then cut flat and sanded smooth. The tenon is 1” diameter, the shoulder area is 1 ¼” tapering toward middle of the leg to 1 ½” tapering down to the foot at 1 ¼”. Todd uses a 6” orbital sander for the legs, saying the larger size makes it much easier to avoid a wavering leg profile than sanding by hand held sanding paper.

**Sanding Speed:** Lathe speed is probably about 2100 rpm for the spindle with a hole in it. You need speed for sanding or you will end up with a gully at the stretcher hole. If he is doing a tall stool, he will use a “steady rest” to keep the piece from whipping.



**Leg fitting:** Todd showed how the legs then fit into the seat. He uses flat board scraps tacked into a triangular support system to hold the legs in place to measure for the length of the stretchers’ dowels. This system supports the splay, so you end up with equal distances between the legs.

**Seat Grain and Leveling:** He mentioned that you end up with the seat grain running one way and have to be aware that when you force the legs and wedges into it, you are putting force on the grain that might **split** the seat. If you have planned well, your leg holes will have been drilled in the strongest positions. He always orients the wedge 90° to the grain for added strength. **Glue at the end just keeps the leg from turning!**

He sits the stool up on blocks to mark how to cut/sand them to length so they don’t rock.



**Label the parts!** He reiterated the importance of labeling parts. You can’t wing it because for a 4-legged stool you are doing 2 pairs of legs that must match. On a 3-legged one the legs is pretty much interchangeable.

**The Finish:** Finish is generally raw linseed oil for outdoor furniture. Indoor furniture gets a mix of 1 part spar varnish, 3 parts turpentine, and 1 part boiled linseed oil. He puts this on before putting the stretchers in, then sands it off, then puts it on, waits 15 minutes, wipes excess off and dries for a day. The examples he brought with him were beautiful, and now we know why milkmaids choose 3-legged stools! And certainly if they choose one of Todd’s, their base is not only pretty but also solid indeed.

**Thank you, Todd, for an interesting evening!**