



South Central PA WoodTurners

May-June 2014 Newsletter

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Club Web Site

www.PAwoodturners.com

Dates to Note

Club Meeting

July Picnic

Tuesday July 1, 2014

Social 5:30- 6:30 PM

Picnic- 6:30 PM

August Meeting

Tuesday August 5, 2014

Social 6:00- 6:30 PM

Demo

The exciting world of

Spiral finials

Presented by

the one and only

Phil Reed



*Thoughts
from
President
Don Wilson*

At the June meeting we decided to send money to **Farm & Natural Lands Trust** and **Access York** from the money we raised for "Charity" at Cabin Fever, the Home Builders Show and the Fox Chapel Open House. I received a thank you from FNLTL, and thought it would be good to pass along a recent newsletter of theirs so everyone could see what they do in our backyard. In most cases the FNLTL doesn't own the property outright but oversees and acts as conservation stewards of the land that is in the trust. It is a way of preserving the land for conservation without burdening a conservation group with raising the money to purchase land that provides habitat for wildlife and plants.

I have a daughter who is wildlife biologist in the state of Washington who oversees the Conboy Lake Wildlife Refuge in the middle of the state near Glenwood, Washington. We were out to visit her just after the June meeting and were able to see Sandhill cranes and herds of elk that were on the refuge. The cranes are an endangered species along with the Oregon spotted frog and the Marduke Skipper which are all on the refuge. I mention this because she got started as a little girl going canoeing with me on Muddy Creek and hiking in the hills of southern York county. To read about the rare Magnolia trees in the FNLTL newsletter was news to me.

We are blessed with an abundance of trees in this part of the state that do not grow in other parts of the state. Pennsylvania is a great place for a woodturner to live.

Happy Turning,
Don

Club Picnic

Tuesday, July 1
at John and Joan Stewart's

3088 E. Prospect Rd. York

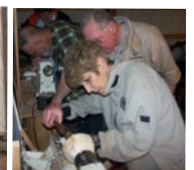
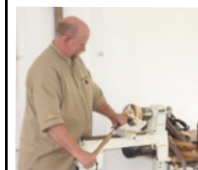
(Look for the Stewart's Business Machines sign.)

The main course is provided (BBQ hickory smoked chicken); the rest is potluck. Last year we had an over abundance of broccoli salad, which was definitely healthy! But how about a little more variety like some potatoes salad or baked beans or potato casserole or what ever, but don't forget the broccoli salad and other side dishes. Plus we can't forget the desserts, with all that salad we need to balance the meal with some really fattening desserts. Just a thought from the editor.

Fox Chapel Woodworking Open House



Club members demonstrated at the *The Fox Chapel Open House* at the "Steam Up" weekend held at the Rough and Tumble museum near Lancaster, PA.. Although the facilities were a bit rough there was much interest in the wood turning and other demos. Many attendees were happy to try their hand at turning a pen or a bowl.



May Demo - Turning Goblets

Demonstration by Bryan Sword & Don Wilson
(with Don Wilson doing the HARD work)



Bryan introduced the subject by recommending the book **“Turning Green Wood”** by Michael O’Donnell. He explained several design drawings and discussed his general approach to making goblets: make blank 8 ¼ - 8 ½ “ long; use

green wood with thin bark like cherry or maple, keep pith at least ¼” off center because you don’t want the pith running down the stem; mark ahead in chalk; for natural edge, leave 1” at top and 1” at bottom.

Bryan’s steps:

- 1 Draw design on blank
- 2 Hollow it, sand and finish inside
- 3 Turn outside of goblet to stem
- 4 Check thinness with a light
- 5 Put tissue paper in bowl to separate it from the wood jam chuck used to hold it steady while turning stem.

Don’s turning of a goblet:

Don starts with bowl gouge or suggests spindle gouge. He starts at the top center and when turning with no support, pushes from outside in toward center. (From center to outside causes too much pressure for an unsupported thin edge.) He turns at about 1900 for easier spindle-type work.



Turning differently from Bryan, Don shapes the outside of the bowl next. You don’t need a lot of pressure on the tail stock; it’s just to steady it. His gouges are sharpened on

their sides so that he can do a shaping cut on the side, well back on the side of the tool.

A detail spindle gouge creates a bead along the stem.



A 3/8” round skew is used for finishing stem detail. Don finished with Mahoney’s Walnut Oil for a nice mellow finished look. This has the added benefit of drying quickly.

Tom acts as a steady rest to hold the stem as Don finishes the goblet.

He then began parting with his



2-pronged skew. He freed the bowl to sand and oil the edge, then parted it off the base. At home, he would use his disc sander to smooth the bottom of the base.

The finished product? BEAUTIFUL!

Thanks to both of you, Bryan and Don



May Show and Tell

Photos by Phil Reed

Don Wilson
Small yew vase



Barry Stump

Yew bowl with lid



Tom Deneen
Natural edge cherry bowl with bark



Bryan Sword
Bark-less natural edge cherry bowl



Dave Hunter - Cherry burl bowls



Dexter Carlin
Multi-axis goblet
Cherry burl bowl



The club’s top man
Phil Reed

Maple and cherry tops



Martin Stolpe
showing large bowl by
Bob Gochnauer
Spalted beech



May 2014 Club Minutes

Submitted by our Secretary Carol Woodbury

Central PA Symposium

Don Wilson opened discussion on the proposed Central PA Symposium, (see April Newsletter) and Bob Nicky's request for our participation and money. There was a general consensus that it is not a good idea at this time, perhaps in 5 more years

Concerns voiced included:

1. Down economy is hurting established symposiums, even AAW is showing a loss the last 5 years.
2. According to accountant Bill Fordney getting a 501C3 is extremely difficult and would take several years due to backlog of requests.
3. Symposiums recently have not been able to offer major names in turning; a start-up symposium presumably could afford only local turners and thus not attract attendees.
4. Advertising alone might cost more than the \$1000 proposed start-up costs.
5. The time and commitment might be too much for a small club like ours.

It was agreed that Don Wilson will volunteer to sit on the committee to keep abreast of the plans and offer good counsel, but no money will be promised and no other action taken at this time.

Instead, the Club will participate at Fox Chapel's Symposium and members expect to find that this is a better venue to develop for the future. Tom Deneen and Mike Galloway will be teaching and the show includes several other wood-oriented disciplines.

Guests - Ron and JoAnne, retired and woodturning beginners and Bill Grey also a beginner.

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer **John Stewart** reports \$3,325.35 in the treasury. Of that amount, \$894.25 is designated to the Charity Fund, leaving a balance of \$2,431.10 in the club coffers.

Dust collector available

Phil Reed is offering a Grizzly dust collector with 4" hose for \$50.

Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees may be taken up by another organization, so Don suggested we keep in mind making more ornaments.

June 3, 2014 Club Minutes

President **Don Wilson** presided.

Guests

Guests were introduced: John Schein, a non-turner, and Tom Brendel, a turner from Mt. Joy. Tom showed 2 stunning bracelets.

Treasurer's Report

The treasury holds \$2,568.10 (Club money) and \$1,278.28 (designated for charity).

Charity fund

Bryan Sword moved and **Dave Neuberger** seconded the motion to split the charity funds between Access York and the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County. Motion passed.

Raffles Results

The raffle piece donated by **John Stewart** was won back by him.

Expect to see it again in July, folks!



Phil Reed (at last!) won the gift certificate for Show and Tell. (So Phil, no more complaining that the raffle is fixed.)

Old Business

Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees is being taken over by the Food Pantry on Princess Street, so ornaments are again needed from our members for a tree.

President elect needed!

Don is hoping that someone will step up to take over as president. All clubs need volunteers in order to keep going. **Please help!**

TIPS AND TRICKS:

Charlie Stuhre showed the nylon bushings he uses to hold pen parts for finishing with CA glue. They keep the glue away from the mandrel. He finished his example with Micromesh sandpaper up to 12,000 grit and blue rouge to get a highly polished look.



June Demo - Bottle Stoppers

Presented by our guest demonstrator Ruth Niles



Ruth Niles entertained us with her wit and knowledge as she showed the bottle stoppers she is currently making. She urged us to think creatively and not simply put a knob on top of the steel stopper. The buyer's hand has to grab it and pull, so it is also important to

consider the ease of use as you design.

She brought ducks, ski hats, door knobs, multi-axle, short and tall stoppers. She explained how she began turning to make a living, and the changes she developed as she went along.



Stoppers: For instance, the stoppers available through Penn State were chrome which can come off with use, so she had stainless steel ones made.

Specialized Mandrel: She needed a mandrel and perfected the Swiss Army Knife of Mandrels- it is multi-use. Ruth says she is a lazy turner. In reality, she is a visionary, redesigning anything she finds unsatisfactory. Before designing her mandrel, she had fashioned a wooden piece with a screw to fit into the chuck. This enabled her to screw in the blank, finish the top, remove the piece still screwed in and sit it on the table to dry – never touching the piece with her fingers.



Turning detail: Over time, she has learned to **recess the metal contact area** a little. The advantages of this are two-fold: over time wood moves and if you try to have an exact visual fit, it will begin to look poorly turned. With her innovation of a slight wood overlap, wood movement is not noticed and there is no little crack between parts in which bacteria can form.

Marketing: Citing her website often, Ruth urged us to look at the section on marketing. It's full of suggestions from viewers and full of the kind of advice that you never think of and then say, "Of course, why didn't I think of that!" For example, include a small log with drilled hole as a base to feature a stopper at a show and then give it to the buyer, so that the stopper can be displayed on a counter or bar when not in use. Also, make stoppers appropriate for olive oil bottles, bath salts bottles, etc. not just for wine bottles.

Demonstration: Ruth turned an over-the-neck stopper for us. The metal part is hidden within the wood in this ski cap shape, and the wood then covers the top of the bottle neck. She cheated a little with a 1 3/8" forstner bit; the metal is 1 1/2". She puts a blue mark on the drill bit so when she's turning she



can tell where the metal threads end. After drilling the interior of the "cap", she sands inside to remove burn marks and make it smooth. Then she does a rim to define the cap and leaves a pom-pom on the top.



Ruth Niles - continued

Asked her wood preference, Ruth replied 'Lignum Vitae' which is pretty, needs no sanding or finish and is like butter to turn. As to tool preference, it seems she generally uses 2 tools: her Doug Thompson 1/4" detail gouge and skew. Although she admits to doing a lot of turning with a parting tool!



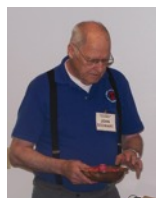
Directions for turning bottle stoppers can be found on her website. She mentioned a few tips. If you are making an over-the-neck, you don't use a threaded metal stopper. A 3/8" drill bit reams out the threads if necessary. Always glue the two pieces, whether you're using a threaded metal or not – her choice is Titebond II glue. CA glue breaks down in time from being in a refrigerator and being washed. Her favorite finish is Butcher Block Conditioner. You can use Carnuba car wax, Pledge or simply the oils from your hand as you use the piece over time.



Website: www.nilesbottlestoppers.com
email: ruthmiles@gmail.com

**We had a lovely evening, Ruth.
Thank you for coming and sharing with us.**

SHOW AND TELL - Photos by Phil Reed



John Stewart

Ambrosia maple bowls



Pink stopper tops
Dymondwood



Tom Deneen
Three nested
natural edge bowls
made from
outrageously
expensive mesquite burl.



Tom demonstrated and had a booth at the Fox Chapel Wood Symposium. His only vice these days, he says, is tools. He spent his earnings on a set of power carving tools, the Arborteck Turboplane, and experimented with them on these bowls.
(Tom expects to win the contest of whoever dies with the most tools -WINS!)

More SHOW AND TELL



Dave Hunter

Dave Zepp's Hickory bowl



Dave gives a critical eye to his own bowl



Phil Reed

Amboyna burl box



Phil is thinking, "I am going to win the gift certificate with this thing or else!" **And He Did!**



Don Barrett

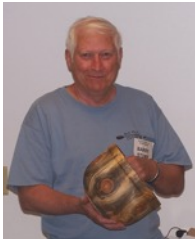


Segmented bowl made of walnut, birch and oak pieces cut with a band saw.



Fountain pen
Spalted hackberry

Fountain pen
Beech and acrylic



Barry Stump
large pine bowl



Karen Holway

English walnut vase



using Don's laser boring bar

Pictures not used, but meaningful

