



South Central PA WoodTurners

Member of the American Woodturners Association

May - June 2016 Newsletter

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Club Web Site

www.PAwoodturners.com

Dates to Note

Regular club meetings held on
the first Tuesday of each month
@ 6 pm @ Meeting House,
Water St., Jacobus

July 2, 2016

8:30 AM

Ellsworth Demonstration

639 N Franklin St,
York, PA 17403

July 5, 2016

Club Picnic

John & Joan Stewart's
3088 East Prospect Road
York, PA

August 2, 2016

Bill Fordney
Chess Sets

President's Column

by Dave Neuburger



Summer is finally here. I relax this afternoon. As I sit on my front porch writing this column I think about the amazing world that surrounds us. A powerful thunderstorm just passed over my house and I enjoyed watching it. The wind picked up and the trees swayed crazily for a short while and then went back to their quiet repose. They have adapted to the climate here over the eons. But just in the 32 years that I have lived here I have seen my personal forest change. Gypsy moths were in full explosive growth when we moved here and all the oak trees across the street had succumbed to it. Now I have poplars to look at. The ash trees are at risk from the ash borers. On a recent hike in the New Jersey Poconos, the hemlock woolly adelgid is threatening whole forests and ecosystems that depend on those trees. The world has always been changing but usually at a pace too slow to measure. In our lifetime the changes are faster and more drastic. But where things die there is an opening for a different specie to pick up the available niche. Even as trees die, there is life. The dead oak, 30 yards from me, has woodpecker holes in it and squirrels who live in it as well. The birds nest in the branches. They are singing again now that the rain has stopped and the sun has come out. The dead walnut tree that has fallen across the creek in my lower field is a great place for me to spy on the great blue heron who perches while searching for food. And of course the trees provide me with the raw materials for my turnings.

When I was young I wrote an essay about my favorite color. It was green. Enjoy your summer and make sure to take an opportunity every now and then to sit and muse.

President Dave

Our Accountant's Report

Bill Fordney has traced all the receipts to the bank statements and examined the backup for all disbursements for the year 2015. He reports that everything is in order and the bank account was reconciled at December 31, 2015.

(He only questioned some receipts from John's trip to the Caribbean, but John said it was for club exotic wood and supplies, so all is good!)

Fox Chapel Wood Show

A note from our esteemed member and all around good guy, John Stewart on the happenings at the Fox Chapel Wood Show.

I believe we all had a good time at the Fox Chapel Wood Show over at Kinzers.

From our charity table we raised \$469.00. Half of that amount will go to the SCPWT Education Fund and the other half will go to local charities. I have not figured which half will go to which group.

At this time we have \$896.63 in the SCPWT Education Fund and \$678.12 in the local Charity Fund

When we have raised enough money in the SCPWT fund, we are planning to buy a new lathe for our demonstrations at our Club House.

We could use more items for the charity table that we want to include at future off-site demo events we participate in. If you would like to donate something we can sell, please bring it to any meeting.

President's "Unique" Bowl Challenge



Bring to the July 5th picnic a bowl, any size, with some unique feature to it. Be able to explain why it is "unique". Dave hopes these will be donated to the club for charity sale at future events.

Woodturner's Minutes May 3, 2016

Submitted by our talented Secretary Carol Woodbury

Pres. Dave called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Guests Three guests introduced themselves: David Kuraliski, retired industrial arts teacher; Mike Thomas, turner of pipes and plates; and Mike Boyer, a turner coming back to it after 60 years. All three had learned of the club at the York Garden Show

Martin Stolpe brought apple wood for the member who requested some.



Treasury Report The Treasury holds \$3,588.71 of this \$2,205 is reserved for charity and the education fund. About \$800 is prepayment for the Ellsworth demonstration on July 2nd.

Ellsworth Demonstration Dave explained the all day demo and that Ellsworth was a founding member of the AAUW. Those interested were urged to make their reservation and payment. Barry Stump is willing to lend his lathe that day. A full lunch will be provided.

Club Shirts John Stewart will be ordering club shirts. He was wearing an example in L; Phil Reed was wearing one in M. The price will depend on ordering with or without a logo, with short or long sleeves, or ordering the turning jacket.

Raffle Winner New member Bob States' beautiful mortar and pestle of purple heart and maple was won in the raffle by Barry Stump.



AAW Membership Dave put in a plug for the new members to join the AAW; there are many individual perks and the AAW also benefits our club, eg. we get our club insurance through them.

Audio-visual equipment Charlie Stuhre is not always available, so Bill Krofft will be his back-up.

Old Business The hands-on session in April was judged worthwhile and the Franklin Street location fine twelve people attended.

New Business Dave is working on potential exchange dates with the Lancaster Club.

Wood Auction Alan Fauth mentioned that the auction went well. He got a lot of wood blanks.



FOR SALE! Bryan Sword has a pair of dirty but almost new Oneway Jumbo Jaws for \$50.

May Show and Tell



Tom Deneen
Cork bark elm ball



Maple Bowl

Bill Krofft
Cherry Plates

Bottle Stopper



Leo T. Deller
Urn
Bloodwood and maple



Spruce three bowl set



Mark Coons
Wide rim shallow maple bowl

Dave Neuburger

Mulberry weed pots



Barry Stump
Hawthorn small bowl

Phil Reed
Ziricote threaded box



Editor's Note: Many thanks to Carol Woodbury for her work as our note taker. Carol doesn't even turn wood, but continues to volunteer as our secretary. We all owe her a thank you!

EVALUATIONS

By our esteemed turners Phil Reed and Don Wilson
The evening's demonstration involved Evaluations of members turnings.



Phil Reed and Don Wilson looked at turnings brought in by members and guests and offered constructive criticism.

Avoid Straight Lines! Don began by reminding us that the eye picks up straight lines and beginners tend to build in straight sides. Getting curves is next, and he showed us the ball-chain method for judging exterior curves. He held a chain by the ends to let it flow into a lovely curve and to demonstrate what happens when you flatten the end – a flat end makes it look like the piece is

coming out of the table.

You want to continue the curve so that it appears to be sitting ON the table. Throughout the evening, he pointed out FLAT areas on turnings which made a piece look amateur; whereas, a professional, pleasing piece will never have any flat areas, but rather a lovely profile created by being continuously curved.



The Golden Rule He also mentioned the *Golden Rule of Thirds*. The area of interest of a photo should be at the connections of 1/3rd lines and likewise the bulb of a hollow form should be at the lower 1/3rd or 5/8th height for it to look professional. The diameter of the bottom of a bowl should be 1/3rd the diameter of the top of the bowl.

Beginner bowl shapes and Mistakes Phil and Don discussed ball wobbles, dog dishes, bowls set with a foot, shape and foot of segmented turnings, reamers, threading, plates, and bowls. They suggested the use of heavy double-faced tape for plate turning, being sure that a bowl is consistently thin all the way from top to bottom, finishing the bottom of a piece concave with a small lip for stability, and not making lids too tight.

Tools Easywood tools were suggested for hollowing a curve. A spindle gouge cannot be used for a bead if you are going endgrain/sidegrain/endgrain. A bowl gouge coming in from each direction keeps your line going, leaving some block, then worked around gently with a skew so it doesn't flip on you.

Displaying Work Don's tip is to place it so that a horizontal feature or a darker area is at the bottom with lighter at top because we are used to nature being that way.

Many good ideas and helpful hints were doled out this evening. Thanks to our two professional-grade members.

June 2016 Minutes

Once again submitted by Secretary Carol Woodbury

The Woodturner's meeting was called to order by President Dave Neuburger.

New member!!! Charlie Marley was introduced. He is new to turning and hopes to make it his hobby when he retires in 2 years.

Treasury Report The treasury holds \$4,726.17 of which \$1,574 is allotted for Charity and/or the Education Fund. This includes \$470 gathered for Charity at the Fox Chapel Show.

Wood Show Reactions Dave took an informal survey on reactions to recent events: Negative response to the Baltimore Show; lukewarm response to Lebanon Cabin Fever; Positive response to the Builder's Show; disappointment with Fox Chapel's support (bad blanks provided, etc.).

Raffle Barry Stump provided the raffle prize, an acorn box; this was won by Jim Morrison.

Speaker Request We have received a request to send someone to speak about turning for 15 minutes at the Stewartstown Lions Club on October 4, 2016.

Ellsworth Demo The Ellsworth Demonstration is now filled to capacity. At 8:30 there will be donuts and the demo will begin at 9:00. \$125 will be paid to the Guild for the use of the facility. The Guild has 26 chairs, John Stewart will provide the rest. Barry S. will provide wood blanks and a large pad of paper.

Old Business Roy Johnson, Lancaster Club, is not organized enough to provide a date yet for their club to join us. We will travel to Thaddeus Stevens School to join them in the future.

Tips and Tricks Tom Deneen shared ring inserts bought in bulk for \$2.97 each from Woodworkers Emporium. These ring inserts are also available from "The bangle guy" at a much higher price.

President's Challenge Dave presented the President's Challenge: bring to the July 5th picnic a bowl, any size, with some unique feature to it. He hopes these will be donated to the club for sale for Charity at the next events.

Show and Tell winner Phil Reed unbelievably won the coveted Craft Supply Gift Certificate for the show and tell.

Show and Tell



John Stewart

Lidded box
ambrosia, maple, ebony

Leo Deller

Segmented urn
maple, walnut, rosewood



Phil Reed

Threaded box
Imbuya (Brazilian walnut)
and maple burl

David Neuburger

Base for glass candle holder
cherry



Tom Deneen

Rings
cherry burl, mesquite
Lazy Susan
poplar



June 2016 Meeting

COLOR by Don Wilson

Dye and Stain Don brought two red goblets to show differing methods of finishing with dye. Asked the difference between dying and staining, he defined stain as sitting on top of the wood and having pigment in it, whereas dye doesn't have pigment, soaks well into the wood itself and shows off the grain because it penetrates the fibers. He favors Transtint, a metal acid dye, although Fiebings Dye, used by leather workers, is also good with wood. Commercially, dye is sometimes used both over and under a stain to enhance the effect.

Member Walt Whiteley added that he uses Potassium Dichromate to give an old mellow look on cherry and pigment stains. He and Don both mix with water. Don demonstrated on a sycamore bowl, mixing a couple of drops of concentrate with about 1/4 cup water and rubbing it on with shop paper towel pieces.

Colors You can layer colors for effect. You can mix Transtint with any water-based or lacquer product. For example, you can create and spray any colored water-based product you want.

Sanding and Finishing Don doesn't sand superfine until he gets to the finishes. The piece he showed was sanded to about 220. A natural edge bowl he brought was sanded to 320; this one was "crappy wood" which he dyed red then brown. His favorite is honey amber dye which makes maple show beautifully. For finishing, use antique oil or an oil based urethane – the first coat will look awful but just let it soak in. By the 3rd or 4th coat, it will show better and better.

Don always makes us think in new directions. Thanks Don for a colorful talk.

Note

Potassium Dichromate is also known as Potassium Bichromate or Bichromate of Potash. It is a bright orange-red solid that is dissolved in water and used to stain woods. To make a stock solution dissolve 2 ounces in a pint of water. To use as a mordant, dilute with water. It is most effective in staining woods that are high in tannin such as oak, mahogany and walnut. The color it produces depends on the wood, but it is generally red to brown in color. It will also stain woods that are low in tannin if you pre-stain with tannic acid solution. It is the best known and most used of the common mordants. It is used extensively as a mordant for the natural dyes and to give better penetration to water soluble aniline dyes.

Use this chemical with caution as it is poisonous.

MORE WOODTURNING MAGAZINE

The following articles are provided by More Woodturning Magazine. Please visit their web site:
www.morewoodturningmagazine.com

A “Sound” Idea!

by Bob Heltman, CMW, AAW

God Bless the Irish, and especially the March 2008 Journal of the Irish Woodturners’ Guild, and even more to the point the work and article “Sounding Bowls” by Tobias Kaye. Tobias has been putting phosphor bronze guitar strings across wood bowls, making them into a sort of musical instrument, for over 20 years. Actually, his bowls have been bought on 4 continents and used in hospitals, clinics, care homes, special education settings, and for private meditation. Plucking sounds warm the heart! See his website: www.sounding-bowls.com

I got so excited I just had to try making one. Since my musical talent approaches zero, I visited my local Tempo music store, described my general plan, and bought 3 different strings. They gave me two violin tuning pegs, but I planned to make my own. It also struck me that using pegs is a bit ancient and maybe there was another way. Next I visited my Hobby House store, figuring that some of the small rigging devices used in model airplanes might work. As you can see from the picture below, Photo 1, this amounted to quite an assortment of wiring, small (2-56) nuts and bolts, threaded couplers, blind nuts, swivels, rods, tubes, etc. The kit on the left was mine



Photo 1. Assortment of things needed to convert the bowl into a sounding bowl.

Back in my shop/studio I found a damaged walnut bowl about 7” dia. x 3” deep, and finished it with a thin spray of lacquer. Next I turned 2 pegs out of purpleheart. At the one end, with grain running in the direction of the strings, I drilled small holes just below the rim through which the strings would be threaded. Tobias uses copper tubing to line these holes, saying it gives a brighter tone and stops the strings from cutting into the wood. The first string went in the center; one end of each string comes with a stop-ball to hold it in place.



Tobias holds the ends in place with small turned wooden pegs like on an old fashioned Spanish guitar, after first removing the stop ball, purely for an improved appearance. I used a blind nut in a hole opposite and turned in a long screw. Clipping the string to length I crimped its cut end into a small electrical

connector, turned up the end and placed it behind a nut at the screws end. With heart pounding I slowly tightened the screw, using pliers to keep the nut and connector in place, and plucked the string until it was tight and produced a pleasant sound. IT WORKED and the bowl resonated wonderfully. (A pretty knob could be turned and glued over the screw.) This method worked like a charm, kept its tune, and was easy to adjust. It could be quite well hidden under a recessed rim.

Tobias tells me it would sound even better if I perfected the spiral section curve that he uses to give the richest resonance. His kit contains instructions on shaping this curve. You might invent other methods for holding and tuning strings. Tobias uses specially made stainless steel threaded pins like you might find on a dulcimer, but with knurled tops for wooden thumb grips rather than key turned square heads. Again, he says that this is a visual issue, feeling that his pieces should look as beautiful as they sound. (These special pins are available from Tobias as part of a kit that includes step-by-step instructions and the fine copper tubing mentioned above.)

On thin walled bowls, threaded couplers or rigging couplers soldered to the string wire, etc. might work too. BUT, be careful as “too thin” could mean breaking the bowl as strings are tightened. You can Google “violin making” and the like for more ideas.

While a violin peg has a 2 degree taper, I simply drilled the peg holes and twisted the rotating drill to make a tapered hole fitting my pegs. In these cases the strings ran over the bowl’s rim into small holes in the pegs. Again, tightening and plucking gave me 3 different and pleasing notes. They do calm the soul and relax a person!

Visit Tobias’ websites for more information on copyrights, to contact him for a kit, etc. You can make a better sounding bowl than this first fast try of mine! Have fun and improve your meditating. (It is OK to make a bowl for yourself, but not to sell. Give credit to Tobias Kaye and send commercial business his way like a good sport.)

With permission of Tobias Kaye, the World Master of Sounding Bowls, here are photos of some of his remarkable pieces of work with captions supplied by Tobias.



This Holly Sounding Bowl, about 10” diameter by maybe 4.1/2” has red and green pegs to reflect the leaf and berry color of the tree. A wider fan would have given a better tuning but the shape arising as the wet wood dried is very pleasing to me, Tobias Kaye.

NORTH to ALASKA!



Wild grain gives a better resonance as well as better looks. This one in Ash shows the carved underside that is randomly rippled by hand leaving five little feet. 9"x2"



The strings pass over the wall at one end only in the simpler models. The steel tuning pins have maple thumb heads fitted shaped and stained so that the tuning system is part of the overall sculpture of the piece.



Hard maples gives a good tone this rippled one (Acer PseudoPlatanus) is about 13" across x 2.3/8ths dee . The seven strings are tuned to a pentatonic scale and go through the wall in copper tubes at both ends.

It is fitting to close with the following feedback from just one of Tobias' many purchaser/users:
"The (multiply handicapped) children I work with can respond to the Sounding Bowl and even initiate musical sounds in a way that is impossible with nearly any other instrument. When I first got the Sounding Bowl one of the boys who had not responded to anything else before spent the entire session touching, feeling then playing the Sounding Bowl." - Julie H. music therapist, Warwickshire. Using a 12 string cross strung style. - Julie H. music therapist, Warwickshire. Using a 12 string cross strung style.



As some members may know my wife of 50+ years and I took an anniversary tour of the interior of Alaska and the Yukon. In doing so we, of course, were exposed to at least a million "gift" shops along the way. There were

many things to buy (which we resisted except for the grand kids gifts) but of interest were the various wood turnings by local "artists".

So here is a sampling of turnings and all I can say is "Lets sell our stuff in Alaska"! I don't know if any would pass Phil's or Don's critique but then it is made in Alaska or the Yukon where everything is at least 50 to 75% more than the lower 48.



But MAN!
They sure do have some burls!