



South Central PA WoodTurners

Member of the American Woodturners Association

May 2017 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 at 6 pm at
Club House.

June 6, 2017

Bob Robinson
will demonstrate
"Gluing Up Wood"

July 11, 2017

Club "Pot Luck" Picnic
at the
Stewart's
3088 E. Prospect Rd, York

October 27-29

Mid-Atlantic Woodturners
Assoc. Symposium

Nov. 16, 2017

**Club Demo at Farm
Land Trust Hoedown**

Club house located at
22 Park St, Jacobus, PA 17407
There is no sign for Park St. off of
W. Water St.

President's Column

by Dave Neuburger

June 1, 2017

The recent club demo presented by Mark Sfirri was a wonderful experience for me. Not only did I get to enjoy the demonstration, but I had the fun part of hosting him the evening before the presentation. It is one of the best perks of being your club president. Over the past few years I've also gotten to meet and host David Ellsworth and Mike Sorge. What do they and all of the other professional demonstrators have in common? They all have their unique place in woodturning because of some idea or concept that they have nurtured and become associated with. Who will ever look at any type of strangely turned baseball bat and not think of Mark. If you see a thin walled vessel with a small opening and natural dried shape you will think of Ellsworth.

For the rest of us who turn for a hobby and maybe sell some items, we enjoy the variety of forms that woodturning can take. I enjoy turning bowls, weed pots, and especially turnings for furniture that I make. But I can't say that I've developed my "own voice". That is something that I would like to work on over the coming years. I had been trying to figure out what and how I could accomplish that. And just this past month, I think I may have found an answer.

For the past twenty years I have enjoyed chip carving, an old Swiss folk art that utilizes a 6" knife to make geometric and freeform patterns in soft woods such as basswood. I was trained at the Olde Mille Cabinet Shoppe in York by Wayne Barton who is the world's top chip carver.



I have enjoyed my continued friendship with him over these years and recently had him stay with me while he was teaching a class in Maryland. He seemed to enjoy my refurbished guest bathroom and the mirror in particular. I was quite surprised and pleased when he asked permission to publish it the the National Woodcarvers Association magazine. (See page 5)

There have been others who have turned items and chip carved them, but I'm going to see if there isn't some way I can join the two arts and come up with something new. That is what exploration is all about, building on the past to create a new future. Wish me luck, and I hope you too will find your own voice.

President Dave

Sfirri Demo Lessons Applied!

Email correspondence between George Rosenwasser and Mark Sfirri after the off-center turning exhibition by Mark at our May 20 professional demonstration.



To: Mark Sfirri

Thanks for giving me the tools to make the best surprise Father's day gift for my baseball loving son-in-law that he could get! Thanks for organizing and Mark, thanks for teaching.
Best, George

From: Mark Sfirri

George,

Well done! The next one I would scale down the ball size to fit the bat size, other than that, it is a good replication.

Best, Mark

Woodturner Minutes May, 2017

Submitted by our Secretary Carol Woodbury

September meeting demonstrator

President Dave Neuburger plans to ask Bob Rosand to demonstrate at a regular meeting in September if he is available.

June meeting demonstrator

Bob Robinson from the Chambersburg Club will demonstrate "Gluing Up Wood" at our June meeting.

Club Demo at Farm Land Trust Hoedown

The Farm Land Trust Hoedown to be held Thursday November 16th 6-9 pm will allow us to demonstrate and also sell. In support of the FLT 50% of the proceeds will go to the Farm Land Trust and 50% to us. (Meaning of "us" to be decided by club at a later date.)

Bee Keepers Honey Exchange

A show of hands indicated support for the idea of turning any type piece in exchange for honey from the **Beekeeper's Club**. Exchange to take place in late July or August.

Treasury Report

Our trusted treasurer, **John Stewart**, reported the treasury holds \$3484, plus \$2041 for the Education Fund/Charity, making a total of \$5526.42.

Wood, Wood, Wood!

Martin Stolpe ran across some English walnut and also has red elm (interlocking grain) from Wheatland.

Club Meeting Public Notices

John Henty and **Karen Hollway** are to follow-up on the ads which should be in every Merchandiser.

Just in! Pre Notice

President's Challenge



President Dave is announcing the next President's Challenge which will be for the July summer party. The challenge is to turn any item that can be exchanged for honey this summer when I do the exchange with the York County Beekeepers. Members will not have to go to the beekeeper meeting for the exchange and you will get 2 lbs of honey in exchange for your turning (assuming a beekeeper wants it). The club will also give additional prizes for each item entered. So have fun turning something that you are willing to barter away. You can enter as many pieces as you like.

The Wonderful World of Show and Tell

Photos by Phil Reed



Phil Reed

Threaded cherry box
with burl inset



Phil Reed

Small cherry plate



Kirk Kapp

Earring holder
with a dyed
sycamore base
and ash
mushroom



Tom Deneen

Cherry burl
wall plaque



Clark Bixler

Square-to-round osage orange bowl
Clark's bowl was won in the
"Win One, Bring One Raffle"
by **John Stewart**



May Demo **MARBLING**

Presented by Keith Lauderback

Keith gave a little personal background and then a very interesting demonstration on marbling.



Marbling is a process developed ages ago in China. They floated black pigments in water and used rice paper. The Turks in the 1500's developed the use of alum, a medium of thick material that they could just drop pigment on. The pigment would just sit there in place, ready for use.

Many items can be marbled: inlay, pieces for a flat box, paper, knobs, etc. Keith's signature pieces are family Christmas ornaments with the ball element marbled in a different color combination every year. In every wood-related endeavor, Keith tries to utilize historical wood and documents it for the eventual owner.



You can see his hand-out for a glossary and suggested steps in the process. I will simply add asides in this report.

Use acrylic water-based inks from a craft store or Marbleart.com. They can be thinned if necessary with water, although store-bought inks are already the correct mix. Unlike James Bond, to mix you should stir, not shake. The medium to float pigments on top of is a



solution of 2 tablespoons + 2 teaspoons carrageenan to 1 gallon distilled water mixed in blender.

If using oil-based system, you don't have to do anything to the base of what you're marbling. If using water-based system, you need a binder (mordant) to coat the surface of your piece, an aluminum sulfate solution of 1 tsp. to 1 cup water.

Do practice first, perhaps on a piece of paper. Pour water/carrageenan blend into an aluminum pan. Your container should be twice the diameter & twice the depth of the piece you are marbling. You will use small containers, eye dropper, popcycle sticks to drip color onto the blend; they should float on top of the surface.



Then "rake" the colors to create pattern. A "rake" can be made from any pronged device or simply driving finishing nails in a rake pattern in wood. Blowing on floating colors will distribute them further if you want. **Tip: if using black or red, drip those colors first.**

The actual marbling must be done by gently rolling the object across the pattern. Drizzle water over it then to rinse any remaining solution off and set it out to dry. If you need to mask part of your object, paint some rubber cement on the area to be kept free of color. On wood, you have a second chance to reroll it. With paper there is no second chance.



To reuse the solution itself, a piece of newspaper gently swiped across it will remove the prior colors.

Keith's hints:

- *For Christmas ornaments put corks into each end hole of the orb to allow you to hold it and rotate it in the dye.



- *To alleviate any line caused at the start/stop point, you can over-marble, even masking what's already marbled.

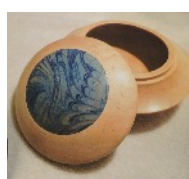
- *Don't try marbling wood if the temperature is high and humidity is over 50%.

- *A close-grained wood and lighter woods are best.

- *Finish is 6 coats of lacquer or Bona (a floor finisher) put on with a foam brush, delicately sanded with 600 wet grit. After several days, its as hard as rock and can be buffed.

Afterward, anyone who wanted to, was invited to marble some blank knobs.

A delightful evening all 'round! Thank you, Keith.



May 20, Mark Sfirri Multi-axis Turning Demo



For those of you who missed this demo, you missed one of the best! Sfirri is not only unique in his turnings, but also an excellent instructor and entertaining to boot! Mark was trained as a furniture designer, but took up woodturning as part of that endeavor. He told the story of his turning a bowl which he considered a masterful design and having his instructor at the time pass by and casually say "nice bowl" and just kept on going. That caused him to rethink his ideas on on what to turn.



His multi-axis candle stick is what got him invited to his first AAW conference. He not only demonstrated turning that item but also three other creations.

A few tips from Mark were :

*Sharpen tools at 30-32 degrees, even the roughing gouge. Spindle gouges have a finger nail grind.

*Uses a 1 1/4" roughing gouge.

*Make small samples of what you wish to turn, then scale up.

*When making beads

and coves, use a small piece of flexible plastic to melt against one side of bead/cove to use as template for other side. (Mark says he uses a no trespassing sign ,taken from neighbor's property.)



*Use cup centers at both ends of the piece.

*Set lathe at your standing height. Long periods of bending over kills the back!

*He even sets his sharpening grinder at eye level so he can see the grind.

*Turning blind - Watch the profile of the piece, not the tool. Use a white or black background, depending on wood, so you can see it better.

* Glue up with paper from a paper bag as separator.

*Parallel offset for most radical turning.

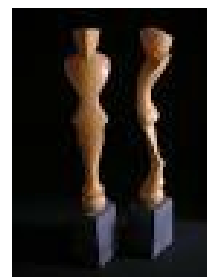
*Raise grain of wood at 220 grit sand with distilled water.

There were many more tips through out the demo, but you had to be there to appreciate their context.

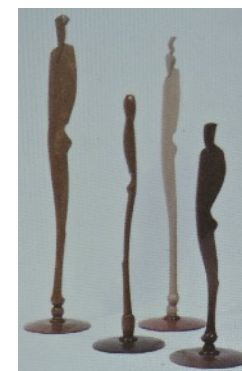


At the end of the session Mark donated the figure form he made for auction to raise funds for the club. Dr. George Rosenwasser won the auction . The figure was similar to the example on right but was complete with head.

Examples of Mark's work.



Mark has made figures over 6' tall



Grüße von dem Kerbschnitzer

By WAYNE BARTON, PARK RIDGE, ILL.

I'VE always enjoyed Pennsylvania. Perhaps because its mountains and rolling hills are reminiscent of Switzerland. Recently my travels found me once again in the charming field and woodland area of Seven Valleys, Pa., to visit dear friends, David and Marilyn Neuburger. Their charming log home is filled with Dave's craftsmanship. Besides being a highly skilled furniture maker, he is a superb woodcarver with original design concepts for chip carving.

It's always a combination of joy and anticipation to see Dave's new creations. Just like my last visit, this trip certainly didn't disappoint. One new item really caught my eye because of its creativity, originality, and exquisite execution. While the style harkens to an earlier period in time, the design is all Dave.

The mirror and frame together shown here measure 18"x 23" with the frame alone measuring 1 1/2". The details are well worth mentioning for it's the combination of elements that makes this piece so compelling.

The first thing one notices about the mirror is the two complementary geometric shapes of rectangle and oval. Secondly, the frame and center wood are different species and color. The frame all around is made of two pieces of cherry, one superimposed upon the other. The lower is textured by a series of grooves while the upper exposes the lower with a series of triangular cutouts arranged in a sawtooth fashion — a simple yet very clever way to create a frame.

The center wood that carries the oval is basswood. The delicate, free-form floral chip carved design surrounding the oval succeeds on several levels. Notice that, if the project were quartered, you would find the same floral design in each quarter, only in a different position. This balances well. The floral design itself is a balanced combination of leaves and flowers on each stem. Note also the small diamonds at midpoint on each side with the same triangular chips which

(Continued)

Grüße von dem Kerbschnitzer (Continued)

refer back to the frame design.

The whole project has a fresh feel to it. Each time I looked into this mirror, my countenance appeared to be surrounded by a garden which always solicited a smile.

After seeing this truly delightful piece, I'm looking forward to my next visit with Dave and Marilyn Neuburger in Seven Valleys, Pa., to see what Dave's been up to. ■



Wayne Barton

On Finding and Donating Wood by Bob Heltman

Some months ago, I wrote an article about how to find wood. This was to help folks new to woodturning. Often, they get a lathe, tools, etc. and then wonder "where do I get wood?" I'll review that, but herein want to mostly address the more experienced woodturner who wakes up buried in more wood than he can turn in the future, even if he lives on into eternity. I've been both without and with too much wood, so I can comment in expert fashion.

The newbie to woodturning can get wood by a number of methods. Go to a local store selling hardwoods, a craft store, lumber yard, etc. This, however, costs money. Better, look around your area for fallen trees, damaged trees about to fall, etc. Talk to the owner. Talk to a tree service company. Look for a "stump dump" where tree surgeons take parts of trees. Keep your eye on the weather --remember, a hurricane, tornado, or other high wind is the woodturner's friend. However, be considerate and don't visit a damaged area when the EMS squad or ambulance is there...I mean for goodness sake, curb yourself a bit. Have a chainsaw handy at all times though. Helping a neighbor remove a tree is a service rendered...and you get the wood! In some places, talk to your US Forest Service and get their advice. Look in the paper. As you drive around, look for fallen trees, an old apple orchard being uprooted, etc. Opportunity favors the prepared mind. And, of course, join your nearest woodturning club and let your need be known.

As you get into the woodturning game you will hear of burls and strange sounding woods. Subscribe to *More Woodturning Magazine*, the AAW Journal, etc. and look in the ads section. If all else fails, wear torn and shoddy clothes, stand on a high traffic street corner, put a sad and downcast look on your face, and wear a cardboard sign around your neck that says, "Have Lathe, Need wood." You'll get all the attention you need.

Now, let's move forward in time 1 to 3 years. What happens is that word gets around that you turn wood and you'll get calls from friends, neighbors, even strangers, asking if you are interested in taking down or cutting up a tree they have. From time to time you'll connect and acquire a large supply of maple, cherry, ash, oak, dogwood, sourwood, hickory, pecan, boxelder, and so on. And you'll have a very large pile of wood, or several such piles. At first this is high-status and you'll feel elegant and proud. "Yes, yes" you'll humbly say, "I'm kinda pretty much devoted to woodturning some." If you turn a good bit, you'll stay familiar with what type of wood is in what part of the pile or has its own pile. And, you'll develop expertise in looking at a piece of a tree and correctly identifying it. Smugness will set in...as will bugs and rot if you leave the woodpile outside, on the ground, uncovered.

As the untouched wood ages, it can lose bark, gather fungus, and you get a little uncertain as to what kind of wood it is. You'll say things like, "I should have painted the cut ends to avoid cracking." And, "Well, if I cut off two inches from the cracked ends I'll still have enough left for a good bowl." If this also happened a few years earlier, you will subconsciously remember, on your next fallen tree wood gathering trip, to

cut pieces a little longer just in case you don't get to paint the ends right away. This leads to an even larger woodpile.

Some woods decay faster than others...poplar and apple come to mind along with sapwood of oak, I have to confess. Several years ago, I just had to get rid of a lot of decayed apple I had laboriously gathered a couple years earlier. Guilt ridden, I had trouble sleeping for a night or two, although some guilt can be suppressed with a sufficient absorbing of adult beverages, I'm told. Actually, I had to get rid of a whole bottom row of cut wood that was stored on the ground. Being a part-time turner, I go for extended periods of time between my woodturning sessions.

Recently I had gotten myself into another situation where I just had to admit I had far more wood than I was likely to turn, and noticed some of it was starting to get too split, decayed, or bug ridden. What to do...You could run an ad and sell the surplus to other woodturners. Or add to your firewood pile (just the bad pieces of course). Or donate it to your woodturning club's annual fund raising auction (but this may mean hauling a lot of wood to one or more club meetings). Being in the world's finest and largest woodturning club (allow a bit of pride, OK?), the Carolina Mountain Woodturners, where we have email and a website, our Internet expert broadcast the following email from me: "I have accumulated more wood blanks than I can turn. New Spalted Maple logs 12" diameter, sassafras ditto, butternut, odd pieces of walnut, chunks of various others. I'd like a CMW member, probably in the Hendersonville area, to come by and take some. A donation to CMW would be a nice gesture on the recipient's part and save me hauling pieces to the September auction. Glad to get a few chunks of osage orange in trade. Call first (my phone #) and will provide detailed directions." Within a day or two I received seven calls/emails, leading to visits and the removal of all the wood I wanted to have moved out. Each visit was very pleasant and allowed club members to see my shop and get their wood. We also greatly enjoyed each other's company and had nice chats. One interesting couple lives six months in Florida and six here in Hendersonville, NC. They needed wood while HERE! Makes sense. Each grand person promised to give money to our club, and this approach saved my aging body from having to load, transport at high gas cost expense, and unload a LOT of wood for our annual club's money raising auction.

There is still a bit of butternut to be retrieved by an out of town member, but the outside storage area is in great shape once again. I can either load in more wood or not. And, the decayed bark under one of the piles made great mulch for the flower garden. It is good to have a happy wife.

What remains is my inside wood on the floor of my basement shop studio. Now, yes, I allowed some of it to escape too, but at this point I can get to my smaller and second table top lathe which got blocked off for months by the inside wood blanks. The current condition allows me to throw out some rugs on which some wood sat and left its fungus marks. The floor can be seen once again. There were a lot of wood chips to vacuum up, dust, and even a few dead bugs. Such is woodturning. I have to go now, the phone is ringing...oh, it was my neighbor Dan, with the portable sawmill. He is slabbing a maple tree trunk and wondered if I wanted a piece near the root area as it is somewhat spalted and has real curly grain. I'd better go take a look.