



NEWSLETTER

April 15, 1993

Number 2

NEWS OF THE DAY:

- * The Woodturners of St. Louis Club has received a Charter from the American Association of Woodturners (AAW)
- * IRS has assigned an Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- * Missouri has approved the Club as being a not-for-profit organization
- * The Club has a bank account in Commerce Bank
- * Dues have been collected from about 33 members
- * AAW is considering St. Louis and Denver as potential sites for the 1994 Symposium. Selection anticipated in late April.
- * Rich Weitzman presented a \$50 check to the Club on behalf of a presentation to the St. Louis Woodworker's Guild by Bob Schmitz, Dave Skinner and Ken Schaefer.
- * Woodcraft donated 4 spalted turning blocks which were given to four in attendance at the March 28 meeting.
- * May 2 is a tool sale. Flyer enclosed. Includes a Klien 24" bed lathe.
- * Election of officers at March 28 meeting: Ken Schaefer, president; Dave Skinner, vice-president; Virginia Toone, Secretary/treasurer.

COMING MEETINGS:

- April 25 - Leonard Hartline, Professional woodturner - spindle turning and making mushrooms
- May 23 - Bob Schmitz and Ken Schaefer - bracelets and napkin rings using segmented technique and continuous members
- June 27 - Todd Kinnikin and Ken Schaefer - inside/outside turnings
- July 25 - Tom Tyler - Salad tongs
- August 22 (need a volunteer) - perfume and bottle stoppers

LAST MEETING

The March 28 program was superb and was presented by Herb Bilgram and Gary Johnson. Although end results were dissimilar, each started with a single flat piece of wood and ended with a bowl!

Herb described and demonstrated use of a Ring Master unit. Starting with a 3/4" thick piece of wood about 8" diameter, he cut beveled edge rings from the board. Using the solid center piece, he stacked the rings over one another, lined up the colors and glued the total together. When dry, he put it on his lathe using the same 1/2" dia. hole that held the wood on the Ring Master unit. For finishing, he does not use tools because of possible catching and subsequent ruination but he sands the inside and outside of the bowl. He eventually plugs the hole with the same material as the base and adds green felt for a cushion cover. As Herb stated, Ring Master units create very little shavings or dust and use wood efficiently. Also, the finished bowl is made in about 40 minutes and allows unlimited designs through use of glued up blanks and arrangement of the rings.

Herb also showed how glued up different colors of wood into square stock which, when turned, produced varied surface designs and patterns. One of his secrets to having no surface irregularities develop is to let the glue dry much longer than is recommended by the manufacturer. In some cases, he has waited as long as 3-4 months between glueing and turning.

Gary Johnson specializes in bowls with patterns reflecting Hopi Indian designs. To get the desired results, he uses layout paper made especially for this work including a top view having 48 spaces and a side view with the number of horizontal lines superimposed on a bowl shape as he plans to simulate in the final product. He starts with many sandwich pieces of wood that are planned and cut so that no end grain occurs on the outside of the bowl. He prefers to assemble the 48 pieces with epoxy because it provides a longer working period than other adhesives. He leaves the center joint dry and then clamps the total using radiator type band clamps. When dry, he separates the two sections, sands the surfaces flat on plate sander and then saws rings on the band saw with the table tilted slightly. To allow variation in pattern, Gary cuts rings for two bowls and then interchanges the rings as he develops the final pattern. Rings are glued together using plastic resin glue similar to Weldwood Dap. For a finish, Gary uses one coat of Deft, two coats of tung oil and finishes with a coat of wax.

When Herb and Gary were finished with their fascinating and exhausting presentations, it seems that everyone had had sufficient turning information for the afternoon and left without a hands-on period taking place. Congratulations to both Herb and Gary for sharing their techniques and secrets with the group!

Our meetings are organized to cover announcements, then a demonstration and last, a hands-on period when any member can use one of the four lathes. Previously, the last portion had no specific item to make so we are going to try a slight variation. When feasible, whatever is made during the demo period will also be made in the hands-on period. In April, mushrooms are to be made. In May, napkin rings or bracelets will be made. Obviously, this cannot be followed when complicated segmented bowl making is the demonstration subject--only when a simple and short duration item is involved. If the idea doesn't work to everyone's satisfaction, it will be discarded so, let Ken Schaefer know if you are satisfied with the approach.

N E X T M E E T I N G

Fletcher Hartline, Professional Woodturner and instructor at Woodcraft, will demonstrate spindle turning and making of small items such as mushrooms. Fletcher has considerable experience in coaching others in turning techniques and procedures. Following his presentation, members will be invited to try their hand at spindle turning and making of mushrooms on one of the four lathes that are available at Woodcraft.

April 25, Sunday, Woodcraft Store, 1 PM to 4 PM

(Bring a guest or friend!)