



NEWSLETTER

A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

October 11, 1993

Number 8

The Woodturners of St. Louis Newsletter is published monthly and mailed to the Chapter members and to other selected woodturners.

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Meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of each Month at Woodcraft Supply 12511 Olive Street Road, (Dierberg Center)

1 PM to 4 PM

(Bring a guest or friend)

LAST MEETING

Binh Pho held the attention of 17 turners who attended the September 26 meeting for a full hour explaining and showing how he made collector's kaleidoscopes. As he said, each unit has two parts, the object case and the body.

For the body, he usually glues several pieces together to get a color and grain pattern that will enhance the tubular body shape. The inside of the body is usually a 1" square hole that will hold the mirrors.

An end cap is made with a 3/8" diameter sighting hole.

Because it is more lasting to have printed instructions on the construction of a kaleidoscope, Binh distributed copies of several articles on the subject. Although these gave critical dimensions for fabrication, Binh added some cautions and suggestions that he has found helpful.

To get infinite variations in the patterns, install mirrors at 30-60 degree angles rather than 45 degree as shown in the hand-outs. Always install the mirrors in a dust free room. It is not possible to remove dust later. Use Weld-Bond to secure mirror in the angles selected because it dries colorless.

Kits are available from Craft Supply and other sources. Follow dimensional requirements of kit. Do not glue mirror in barrel--leave it loose.

To secure the body and object together, Binh uses four small bullet catches.

Binh's ingenuity, excellent craftsmanship and communicative ability made the presentation one of the best the club has had.

NEXT MEETING - October 24, 1993 - Sunday

Tom Tyler - "Chatterwork on the lathe"

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - Woodcraft Store

NEXT MEETING

Tom Tyler has offered to conduct a program on "chatter" finishes on October 24. For those who have not seen examples of this surface texture, this program should open up new opportunities for end grain finishes. Tom recently bought a Bonnie Klien miniature lathe together with some tapes showing how she achieves the many chatter patterns.

Very little is written or printed on chatter finishes. If one had a 19th-century Holtzapffel lathe and knew how to use it, perhaps a predesigned pattern might be possible to implement. As it is, one can buy a chatter tool and several tips at Woodcraft and experiment. Using such a tool on hard wood end grain, all I achieved was a fuzzy surface. In fact, as the wood got shorter, the more I realized that there was something wrong in my approach so I decided to wait for Tom's presentation.

In addition to chatter patterns in end grain, Stephen Paulsen wrote an article in the November 1984 Fine Woodworking magazine about chatter finishes on spindle turnings. He makes stoppers for glass-lined wooden scent bottles and is able to turn the spindle so slender that it flexes as it spins. Tool pressure pushes the spindle into an elliptical rather than a circular path and the flexing wood vibrates against a tool edge leaving interesting surface patterns.

If you have never tried chatterwork and want to learn about this means of adding decoration and interest to a turning, plan to come on the 24th. If you already have experience and know how to chatter, please come and assist Tom. If you have some examples of your chatter work or any other chatter work, please bring them. If you have a chatter tool, bring that for use during the hands-on period. For whatever reason you come, join Tom as he chatters away.

Membership

The club has retained its original founding members and has added several during this first year. The total now stands at 32 and average attendance at monthly meetings hovers around 20. For a woodworking club, that performance is unusually good.

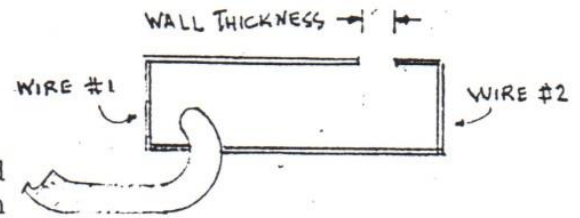
As new members come, we should welcome them and help them achieve what they wanted to learn when joining. Last meeting, Richard Hong joined. Please introduce yourself to Richard and share your secrets and practices with him.

THANKS

Woodturners of St. Louis club continues to exist and meet partially because Woodcraft Stores provides a free, heated, lighted, and clean place to meet. You come, you buy, they prosper. BUT, the fact remains that we get a free meeting place plus a monthly door prize. Please thank them periodically for allowing us the use of their meeting space.

AAW SYMPOSIUM SECRETS

A high-tech tool by Bob Rosand does away with the double ended calipers. He makes two identical dimension wires as illustrated and then holds two ends against the wood item and reads the wall thickness on the other two ends.



Bob strives for efficient turning methods. He wants to stop the lathe frequently when making Christmas Ornaments but does not want to turn off the motor. He has devised a foot treadle which, when depressed, pulls on a cable that is attached to the motor. The cable rotates the motor so that the pulley spins on the belt and allows the turning to stop. When released, the motor pivots into original position and applies the desired tightening of the belt.

When finishing ornaments, Bob sands at slow (not high) speed and puts a foam pad under the sand paper. To seal the grain, he applies 1/2 sanding sealer and 1/2 turpentine. The final finish is Deft.

AAW demonstrators all had secrets or personal techniques. Our St. Louis turners similarly have such secrets. When you are turning and realize that what you are doing may be different from how others might approach the work, make a note of the subject and let me include it in a newsletter.

ALAN LACER SEMINAR

Woodcraft has set a limit of 35 for Alan's presentation on Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12. Currently, there are 10 registrants. If you want to save time and money by attending a local presentation by the President of the American Woodturners Association, this is the event to attend. The formal announcement has not been distributed by Woodcraft but is expected within the next few weeks. It would be unfortunate if the class was filled while some of the club members were still considering registering. Better sign up soon. Alan will present a varied program including spindle and bowl turning, slides and many other topics. He is a specialist in use of skews and will demonstrate that tool's performance.

NOVEMBER 28 MEETING

It was agreed by those at the September meeting that the Club should schedule a November meeting even though Alan Lacer's seminar is two weeks later. Because of the proximity to Christmas season, it was also agreed that the meeting would be devoted to Christmas ornaments or decorations. Most turners have made ornaments and this is an opportunity to "show and tell" about a particular item. The meeting should have a chairman and one will be sought during the October meeting. Rather than having one person do all the demonstration as occurs in most of the Club's meetings, it would seem better if five or six took the floor and demonstrated or discussed how they made ornaments. However the program is arranged, it is desirable if many many ornaments be brought to the meeting. Please start early on your ideas and turning so you can share experiences with others on the 28th.

SHOW AND TELL

Bringing turned items and discussing techniques and problems is a high light of each meeting. Not only does it show the wide variety of work that members do but it allows a question/answer period that no formal program could duplicate. Please keep bringing your work for others to see and appreciate.

In September, Leonard Hartline showed a multi-center inside-out turning made from spalted wood. He uses Deft to harden very soft grain. When turning spalted wood, he uses a mask.

Gary Johnson brought one of his segmented bowls that was small and was the third bowl obtained from a flat board. As Gary previously described, he sets his band saw table on an angle and cuts circles from the board prior to glueing into a bowl shape. This is similar to a Ring Master but Gary duplicates that unit's performance with a normal band saw. Gary also showed pictures of the new lathe he has which is a beautiful piece of machinery.

Bob Schmitz showed two objects made from 4" diameter x 2" high blocks that he had left after a monthly meeting on the subject of what can one make from that size piece. Bob also showed an inside-out high turning that he had started several months ago. A spalted bowl made from some fire wood had problems with soft areas which he sealed with glue as compared with Leonard's use of Deft. The problem Bob had with glue was that sandpaper became clogged during the finishing stage. Bob's thumb lost a battle with his circular saw but the healing is progressing satisfactorily and the bandage should be off soon.

My bad note taking caused me to miss the turner's name who brought some turned hair pins he had made for his daughter. The shapes and finish were excellent. Sorry about my error but accept my apology. Please bring some more of your work.

Each meeting should have a Show and Tell period and members should feel free to bring whatever they have made--no matter how small or large.

ELECTIONS

The Club By-Laws are short and simple. No procedure is stipulated for election of officers. Unless a member objects, the following is suggested because other similar organizations use this procedure. During the October meeting, nominations will be requested from the floor for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The November newsletter will list the nominations and a written ballot will be distributed to members attending the November meeting. Term of office is also not included in the By-Laws so it could be assumed that the term coincides with the calendar year.

For 1993, Virginia Toone has served as Secretary and Treasurer. It is not a very demanding job because we have no Board Meetings and therefore do not need minutes and, even though we have a checking account, there has been no need to write any checks. Expenses include printing and stamps and, until we changed banks, a monthly bank charge. Reimbursement for this type of expense will occur before the end of the year.

Some clubs have a Program Committee but the members of this club have generated sufficient number of subjects and have volunteered to chair the programs that a formal committee has not been needed. This condition may change and then a committee will be needed. Committees usually have meetings which require devoting time to non-woodturning subjects. So, as long as members suggest meeting subjects and are willing to organize and present the meeting, the entire club is the program committee!

The offices of President and Vice-President, like the Secretary/Treasurer, do not require a lot of time. Someone has to chair the monthly meetings and handle questions and that has been directed to the President or Vice-Pres.

Probably the most time consuming task is this newsletter and that should be assigned to someone with sufficient time to write and print it for mailing by the Secretary. Club members should give some thought to an editor for 1994.

SELL OR SWAP

Many tools and wood used by woodturners are unique to that craft. It may occur that a member has more of something than he needs and would like to sell it or swap for something else. Although not a wide distribution, this newsletter goes to a selected list of about 35. If you have anything you want to dispose of or get, space is always available for a listing.

Here's a start: Prior to the club being formed and prior to Woodcraft having 3-4 lathes for use in the store, Ken Schaefer purchased two used lathes for \$75 each. They are not fancy pieces of equipment but they have been used during the hands-on period and turned work can be produced on them. Woodcraft has graciously stored them for more than a year and would like to use the space for more important items. Ken will sell each for what he paid--\$75. Any takers?

What do you have that is no longer needed and you want to sell? Write the description and send it in.



430 Bryan Ave. — Kirkwood, Missouri 63122

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - WOODTURNERS of St. Louis

Name _____ Date _____
(Please print)

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Occupation _____

Mail this application with your check for \$15.00 for one year's dues to:
Woodturners of St. Louis, 430 Bryan Ave., Kirkwood, MO 63122

Mail your check for membership in the American Association of Woodturners
directly to the AAW, 667 Harriet Avenue, Shoreview, MN 55126