



A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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Number 11

NEW YEAR

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

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Happy new year to everyone with best wishes for a happy and healthy new turning year. 1993 was the start of the Woodturners of St. Louis club and, judging from attendance and interest, the club will continue to be healthy through 1994.

Interesting and useful programs are important to keeping a group together. With such a wide range of experience and available time as seems to exist within the membership, program subject selection is difficult. Although no major criticism has occurred with programs in 1993, the executive committee is looking for subjects that will interest the majority and solicits your suggestions. Retaining the two-part type of program where the first portion is a demonstration and the second is a hands-on period is planned to be repeated in 1994. In some 1993 cases, the demonstration portion turned out to be so interesting and took so much more time than planned that the hands-on period did not materialize. Having a hard and fast plan is less important than having a subject of sufficient interest that it occupies the whole afternoon.

Woodcraft has extended their invitation to the Club for use of the meeting space for 1994 except for March when a conflict occurs. Ideas are needed to visit a professional shop for the March meeting. Discussion on this will occur at the January meeting. Please don't forget to thank Woodcraft periodically for letting us use their space.

NEXT MEETING

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

1PM to 4PM

(Bring a guest of friend!)

January 23, 1994 - Sunday - 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM - Woodcraft Supply

Having just announced that the two-part format for meetings will continue, January will be the first exception - it will be a hands-on meeting without any demonstration.

During the Alan Lacer seminar, the making of a hook tool for finishing the bottom of end grain vessels was discussed and demonstrated. At the end of that meeting, several chapter members in attendance agreed that they would like to have such a tool and would help assemble materials and tools to make one in January.

For those who were not at the seminar on Sunday or who did not read the article in the December 1993 issue of AMERICAN WOODTURNER magazine, the article is reproduced below.

Creating a Hook Tool

For the past several years, Alan Lacer, has been demonstrating the use of hook tools and his method of making them. Lacer says he learned to make hook tools from Del Stubbs, who learned from Søren Berger. Here is Lacer's method, as I understand it.

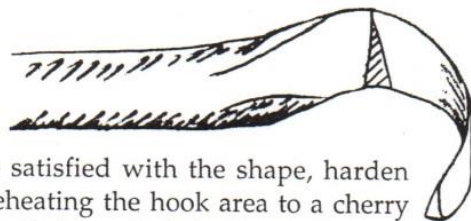
—W.L.S.

A SERVICEABLE HOOK TOOL can be produced with the equipment available in most woodturning studios or, if necessary, at the local metal working shop. The steps are to cut the blank, grind a flat, bend and harden the hook, clean and temper the metal, sharpen the tool, and mount the tool in a turned handle.

Cut the tool blank from oil-quenching or water-quenching steel drill rod stock about 12 inches long. Stock $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness will produce a small-diameter hook, and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch stock will yield a rather hefty tool for making deep cuts in larger vessels. Use whatever is on hand or buy a piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch stock to produce a medium-sized hook tool.

Grind two flats on the end of the rod about 2 inches long so that in cross section the end tapers like a wedge. Grind the profile to a rounded end, like a butter knife. Don't worry about overheating and bluing the steel during grinding because the drill rod stock is annealed and will be tempered after bending and hardening. File the inside surface smooth.

Heat the end of the blank with a butane torch attachment on a cylinder of MAPP gas, which burns hotter than propane or butane. When the tip is cherry red, use an old needlenose pliers to bend the hook to the desired shape. The preferred shape is the same as the inside flute of a bowl gouge, whatever size you wish.



Once you are satisfied with the shape, harden the steel by reheating the hook area to a cherry red and immediately stir it in the quenching medium, either oil or water. For oil-quenching steel, olive oil is safer than motor oil, as it has a higher flash point. Test the hardness with a file; it should skate across the hardened area and bite into the unhardened area. Clean off the oxidation with soap and water and fine-grit wet/dry sandpaper. The cleaner the tool, the easier it will be to see the colors during tempering.

Tempering the hook is tricky for anyone, experienced or not. It is critical in establishing a durable cutting edge. Perhaps the easiest method is to place several tools you have made in a 475° to 520° oven until the steel is evenly heated (about one hour), then allow the steel to cool to room temperature. Alternatively, heat the tool shank 3 to 4 inches away from hook, allowing the heat to run up into the blade. Go slowly. Watch the colors develop and when they begin to change from a deep straw to bronze, quench immediately. If you heat too much and the color turns to blue or purple, the cutting edge has lost its temper, and you must start over with rehardening.

Sharpen the tool on the outside cautiously or with a slow-speed grinder (1500 rpm) and a medium (60-grit) wheel, taking care not to grind away the shape. The inside (flute) edge can then be honed with a slipstone. During use, touch up the sharpness with slipstones to prolong the life of the tool.

Mount the tool in a handle that has been spindle-turned to a comfortable shape. Length should be at least that of the tool shaft.

To produce 25-30 hook tools during an afternoon will require everyone's involvement. First, we need materials and equipment. Here's what was agreed upon after the seminar.

3/8" x 9" oil-quenching steel drill rod
30 pieces - Rick Taylor - cost to be shared.

4-5 matt-gas torches or equiv. - Rick Taylor.

Grinders - Woodcraft (1), Bob Schmitz (1)
Ken Schaefer (1) - need two more - type of stone immaterial - steel will get blue anyway - a coarse wheel will save time

Wood for handles, wet-dry sandpaper, copper ferrules for handles, elect. tape, slip stone, 3/8" drill and a *Heat Hinder* file - Ken Schaefer

Olive oil and can for quenching steel - Dave Skinner

Everyone else, please bring your own gloves for holding hot metal and pliers for holding rod when it is ready for bending. Anticipate a 1/2-5/8" bend radius.

It should be an interesting afternoon and everyone should go home with a new hook tool--with or without handle. Don't wear formal attire. We will be working.

1994 DUES

The Club's fiscal year is identical with the calendar year so \$15 yearly dues are now due. Please have a check to Woodturners of St. Louis or \$15 cash at the January meeting and give to Virginia Toone. The officers have agreed not to increase dues this year because \$15 is adequate for printing and postage and no other expenses have been incurred. To send out delinquent dues notices will cost postage so please see Virginia in January.

For members who joined after November 1 of last year, your 1994 dues are paid.

HARDWOOD TREE SEEDLINGS

After a show of hands at the November meeting, 1000 tree seedlings were ordered for delivery at the proper planting time in 1994 spring. The first mailing from AAW on this program said nothing about the trees having to be planted on public lands but that has now been made clear. The National Tree Trust who furnishes the seedlings stipulates public lands because there the mature trees would be best protected and less likely to be commercially harvested. Public areas were described as public parks; city, county, state and national preservation areas, schools, churches, community centers, rights-of ways, riparian areas and reclamation sites.

What these restrictions do to our order for 1000 seedlings will be reviewed in January meeting. AAW suggests we work with the local forestry groups to help plus with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, local garden clubs, Jaycees, Optimists clubs, Audubon clubs, 4-H clubs, local schools, Rotarians, etc. Apparently, AAW Chairman has received promising reactions from other clubs indicating that they will be the promoters of planting the seedlings as well as actually doing some of the planting.

ALAN LACER SEMINAR

Alan is a professional woodturner from Oklahoma who conducted a two-day seminar at Woodcraft in December. His article in a recent AMERICAN WOODTURNER magazine said that seldom is one person a good turner, good demonstrator as well as a good instructor. After listening to him for two days, his article seems to apply to others but not to himself. Technically, Alan is an excellent turner. From slides of his work, he is also a good designer. As a demonstrator he was excellent and his instructions were clear and practical. St. Louis was fortunate to have selected Alan to conduct the sessions and probably should book him now for a similar period in late 1994.

From notes taken during the two days, it is difficult to determine what subjects to include here but the following are some of his suggestions and comments.

Don't use plywood as a waste block.

Hot stuff is good glue for mounting to block

Use square head screws for better grip.

Double sided tape is OK on dry wood only.

Pith is no problem on tree that died in place

Catalpa pith is OK to keep

Shear scrapers need small burr - remove burr

from grinding wheel and then add small burr

Green wood bowl wall thickness, 10% of dia.

Whet tools with med. India oil stone - no oil

Skew is a "between centers" tool - not a

scraper but a cutting tool - grind corners

of tool to prevent grooving tool rest - use

60 grit white stone for grinding - polish

tool with med. density fiber board wheel &

stainless steel compound - always hone edge

Use dead center, cup center, in head--not

multiple spur center - safer

For grain matching in lidded box, remove

top with 18 tooth hack saw with wood turning

Etc. Etc.

For those who would like to learn under Alan at Arrowmount, he is booked there during first week of August. Write the school for details.

Alan said AAW is having 1994 symposium in Colorado and is also having mini-symposiums in many cities such as San Antonio on March 25.

OFFICIAL STATUS


In the files of most organizations exist formal documents that pertain to the existence and status of the group. Most members don't get to see these documents and some may not care that they exist. BUT, in the Woodturners of St. Louis files rest the two documents reproduced here.

The State certificate states that we are "General--Not For Profit" and that is certainly correct. How could any organization make a profit on \$15 yearly dues!

The AAW certificate establishes us as an official chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. As a reminder to all local members, we must also be members of the AAW in order to qualify as a Chapter. Interesting, Alan Lacer and Dave Hout signed our charter. Dave conducted a seminar at Woodcraft in December 1993 and was instrumental in helping us for the Club.

No. N00047683

STATE OF MISSOURI



Judith K. Moriarty
SECRETARY OF STATE


CORPORATION DIVISION
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
GENERAL NOT FOR PROFIT

WHEREAS, DUPLICATE ORIGINALS OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF
WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF
STATE, WHICH ARTICLES, IN ALL RESPECTS, COMPLY WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS OF GENERAL NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION LAW;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDITH K. MORIARTY, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE
STATE OF MISSOURI, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY
LAW, DO HEREBY CERTIFY AND DECLARE THIS ENTITY A BODY CORPORATE,
DULY ORGANIZED THIS DATE AND THAT IT IS ENTITLED TO ALL RIGHTS
AND PRIVILEGES GRANTED CORPORATIONS ORGANIZED UNDER THE
GENERAL NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION LAW.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE SET MY
HAND AND IMPRINTED THE GREAT SEAL OF
THE STATE OF MISSOURI, ON THIS, THE
15TH DAY OF MARCH, 1993.



Judith K. Moriarty
Secretary of State

\$10.00

Local Chapter

American Association of Woodturners



This is to certify that

Woodturners of St. Louis

is an official chapter in the
American Association of Woodturners.
This chapter was established

2-24-93



Alan Lacer

President

Dave Hout

Chairman, Local Chapter Committee

Date *2-24-93*

1/11/94

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