
❖ WOODTURNERS OF ST LOUIS ❖

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

May 1999

Next Meeting:

Sunday, May 23

1 - 4 PM

Woodcraft Supply

12511 Olive Street Rd.

(Dierberg Heritage

Center)

Woodturners of St Louis Officers:

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John Buehrer

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**THANK YOU TO
WOODCRAFT SUPPLY
FOR OUR MEETING
PLACE, MANY DOOR
PRIZES AND SUPPORT**

April Meeting

Our April meeting was a work party for the bird cage the chapter is making for the Chapter Collaborative Challenge to be shown at the AAW Symposium in Tacoma. It was fun for so many of our members to step in and help by turning, sanding and finishing the project. We want to come up with a good title for the project and ask members to make suggestions at the May meeting.

Come to the May meeting and sign the project before it is shipped.

Ken Schaefer Shows at Laumeier Art Show

Ken had a booth at the Laumeier Art Show on May 7-9. He was one of about 15 that showed wood at the show of 150 artists. There were only two other turners in the show. The weather was great and sales were good. Congratulations Ken on being selected for the show.

Roger Branson's Wood Words

Hickory

There are several species of hickory, the largest and best-known being pecan. The trees have compound leaves similar to walnut but with fewer leaflets. Most hickories turn a beautiful yellow in fall. Hickories are nut trees and are valuable as a source of food for wildlife.

The wood is dense and strong and has been used for wooden wagon wheels, flooring, and tool handles. Many hickory species are too small to make lumber, and end up as firewood (hickory burns very hot!) or charcoal. Hickory smoked hams and sausage have wonderful flavor.

May Meeting

We will have our usual Show and Tell session at the May 23rd meeting. We all benefit from there sharing of problems as well as ideas and successes. Bring something!

End Grain turning will be featured at the meeting. We will be looking at the various special tools and techniques for end grain cutting. If you have a favorite tool, bring it to show and for others to try out.

Vacuum Chucking On The Cheap

By John Mackinven of Auckland New Zealand (from the internet at www.artweb.co.nz/reading_room)

March 1997 - Vacuum chucking is one of those technical aids which once in place quickly becomes indispensable. And it need not be difficult or expensive to set up.

If your budget allows you probably can't do better than invest in the Berger-Vac system. But if cashflow is a problem or you enjoy tinkering why not build your own?

Given a spare vacuum cleaner (it doesn't need super suction), a headstock spindle with a central bore and some PVC waterpipe odds and ends your vacuum chuck won't cost more than a morning's work.

Mine has been in almost daily use for a year and never falters.

I don't use the outboard turning facility on my lathe so I was able to dedicate a faceplate by drilling a central hole to line up with the spindle bore. A wastewood block (similarly bored) screwed to the faceplate doubles as a handwheel and can also be marked for indexing.

Turn a recess in the wooden wheel to accept a short length of plastic pipe which will be superglued in place. The diameter depends on your method of hitching up to the vacuum cleaner hose. I managed to find an elbow that would accept the tapered nozzle of the cleaner hose at one end and fit loosely over the spinning pipe protruding from the handwheel.

There's no need for bearings - in fact you must have some vacuum leakage to prevent the motor burning out. Some vacuum cleaner hoses have an inlet valve which is handy to regulate the air intake.

A liberal smear of grease to ease the friction between the revolving and stationary pipes is enough to put you in business.

I mounted my vacuum cleaner on a shelf above and behind the lathe - it could hang from the ceiling, sit on the floor or whatever. The hose is held loosely in place with a piece of elastic - the elbow assembly can be instills uncoupled from the handwheel pipe but in practice I leave it in place even when the vacuum is not in use.

A variety of holding systems can easily be made to provide for different jobs.

The simplest depends on an inboard faceplate - again with a central hole of course -with a 300mm-plus customwood or ply disk attached. Glue a rubber, cork or foam disk to this and drill to match the spindle bore. Mark a series of concentric circles for centring workpieces.

Beware of the pressure air exerts The larger the surface area of the workpiece the firmer the grip. In fact a large bowl or platter may implode if the walls are too thin. If in doubt as to the holding ability of your chuck because of size, shape or balance of workpiece use the tailstock for security until the final delicate cuts.

To chuck natural edge bowls I have a set of sleeves in various sizes with padded rims. The sleeves locate in shallow grooves in the rubber pad and seal to the inside surface of the work. I use various diameters of plastic pipe but cardboard tube or even turned wood will suffice.

This low tech, low cost vacuum chucking method was first seen in operation in Auckland woodturner Ian Fish's workshop. Ian has been using his successfully for three years now.

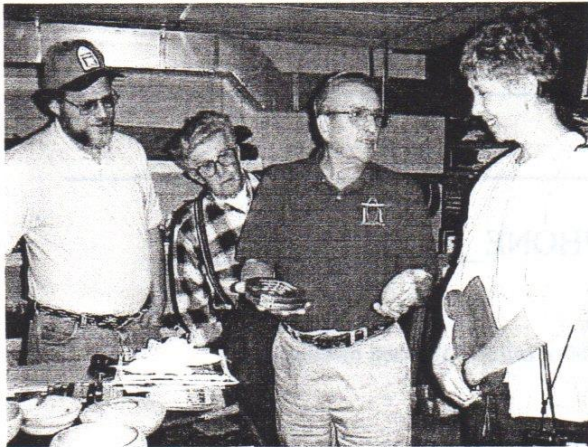
I hope this encourages people to save time and money.

John Mackinven is a full time woodturner living and working out of Auckland, New Zealand. He specialises in colour and mixed media work.

Article courtesy of the National Association of Woodturners New Zealand Inc

Turners Shop Visits

Thanks to Hans Neumann for hosting the T-OPS (Turners shOPS) visit on Saturday May 8..



Hans dicusses his craft work with some of the club members

Hans' "Shorty's Workshop" is a separate building with a large wood stroage room. He is in the process of installing a new 900 cfm dust collecting system. He does his finishing in the basement of the house were he also keeps his inventory of craft items that he sells. Thanks again, Hans for the visit and the lunch.

Visit Gary Johnson's Shop on June 5th

Gary Johnson will host our fifth T-OPS visit on Saturday June 5th from 10 AM to noon. In contrast to the large shops we have visited; this shop is small and crowded. You will also be able to tour the gallery, the photo studio, and the airplane factory.

Gary lives at 12220 Latham Ln. Bridgeton, MO. From Highway 270 take St Charles Rock Road east, at the first stop light go left on "B" also called Natural Bridge, go about 1/2 mile turn left at the stop light onto Bonfils which is between an Amoco and a Mobil station, go three blocks turn right on Latham. The house is at the end of the circle. Call 739-4791 if you get lost.

These shop visits are an opportunity to get good ideas

from other members by seeing the types of equipment, dust collection systems, arrangement of the shop and storage areas that are being used. If you would like to show your shop or would like to see someone's shop please let John Buehrer or Gary Johnson know and we will try to arrange for it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 18 - 20 **AAW 1999 Symposium** at the Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma Washington

May 27 - 29 **Utah Woodturning Symposium** - contact Kip Christensen at (801) 378-2021

July 9-11 and August 13-15 **Turning Point Workshops** at Ferris Machinery in Grain Vally, MO. (just east of Kansas City) Registration \$150 for either three day workshop or \$250 for both. 1-800-872-5489

FOR SALE:

Excalibur Scroll Saw, Model No.EX30US excellent condition - \$850

Sherline Lathe Model No. 4000 for making pens like new condition - \$250

Contact John Mulholland at 1-618-785-2377

Jet Mini Lathe, platform mounted - sets on rolling table. Like new. \$250

Contact Carl Hacker 1-618 398-3367

10" Craftsman table saw, cast iron table, one extension, 3450 RPM 1 HP motor, three blades, excellent condition- Wood stand with casters \$175

Craftsman 6" jointer, adjustable feed table, wood stand, excellent condition. No motor \$100

Call Charles Danna 314 822-7350

Woodturners of St. Louis Patches Small \$3
Large \$8 Pick one up at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

NAME _____ DATE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

Mail this application along with your check for \$20 for one years dues to:

Woodturners of St. Louis 11808 Birmington Drive Bridgeton, MO 63044 or bring to the next meeting

Applications for membership in the American Association of Woodturners are available at each chapter meeting

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

Gary Johnson, Editor
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Bridgeton, MO 63044

NEXT MEETING
May 23

Ernest Guhl (12/1/99)
12025 Kingshead Dr.
Florissant, MO 63033

