



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

January, 2005

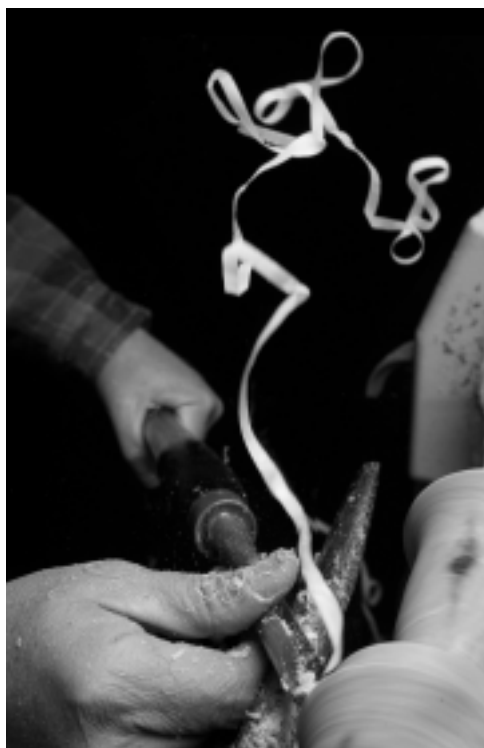


photo by Mike Marxer

NEXT MEETING

January 30, 2005 ~ 1-4pm

The January Meeting will be held
on the **5th Sunday** at
Woodcraft

12511 Olive Street Road
Creve Couer, MO 63141
(Dierbergs Heritage Place)

JANUARY CHALLENGE

*Create a piece that is not
sanded...try texturing or seeing
how smooth you can get with
shear scraping*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new year is always a time of reflection, evaluation, and new plans. Our successes and failures throughout the year define our learning experience.

A few things come to mind.... The collaborative project; our success not only at the competition, but even more so, our success as the collaborative... Flying wooden frisbees... Mario's exploding flute... Bill's Stubbies.... Bill Farny's losing brawl with a scraper handle... Rick Mosley's prolificacy... Gary H's band saw-faux pas... Parking lot wood exchanges, including Roger Branson's bottomless pick-up bed... Gary Roux's infinite wood collection... Dave McWilliams' ten minute spinning top... Challenges and exchanges... Mentors and mentorees.... All said, a fine year!

I would like to extend a special welcome and thanks to Micki Keim, our new newsletter editor. Micki, you are gracious for volunteering, we are all very appreciative. We welcome you and your husband Matt to the group!

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Jo Williams, our new Secretary. Jo has always been very helpful at our meetings and events, now she can do so with an official title. (one downside; we don't know if she'll still have time for those fabulous cookies!) Thanks Jo!

This years demos should prove interesting and diverse;

I am anxious to see Steve White's January demo. Steve is very inventive and will show us ways to accomplish ornamental techniques using readily available and inexpensive materials.

Our February meeting at the Third Degree Glass Factory will be entertaining. Glass artist Jim McKelvey will be talking to us about his approaches to shape and form. We, as turners, share similarities with this art form, and the idea behind this diversion is to gain insight through influences outside of woodturning. This meeting will include our usual business and 'show and tell'. After Jim's lecture, he will do a glassblowing demonstration.

Rick Mosley will demo in March. Rick, though relatively new to turning, has become our most prolific woodturner. His grasp of the hollow form is insightful and he is a wealth of good ideas. He will show his approaches, which include ingenious ways to make and use simple tools. Thanks Rick.

As I had mentioned in my last message, I would like to start out the year by defining the objectives of the group. While some are obvious, perhaps the less obvious ones merit some discussion and exploration. Keep this in mind, I'll call upon you for your thoughts.

I look forward to 2005, this is a great group and I have made many new friends here. I wish you all good fortune and happiness for the new year,

Michael Marxer



Ernie Guhl assembles a pen

PEN DAY AT WOODCRAFT

On November 11, 2004, woodturners and aspiring woodturners gathered at Woodcraft to make pens for our armed forces. Students from a shop class at Mascoutah Community High School came in the morning to learn and help turn. Ernie Guhl, Neil Ford, and Paul Widmer were on hand to help give guidance, as was John Buehrer, in the evening. During the day onlookers became turners, families participated, more students arrived, and all had a new found interest in woodturning. The lathes were going until 9 PM. Fifty-seven pens were turned that day.

This is an all volunteer effort, spearheaded by the members of SawMill Creek Woodworkers Forums, to provide custom, hand crafted pens to American servicemen and women overseas. The pens are being sent to U.S. Troops as a constant reminder that people back home remember and appreciate their efforts. Woodcraft, Rockler, and many woodturning clubs have sponsored events. 34,490 pens were turned in 2004! *For more information, visit www.freedompens.org.*

Woodcraft would like to express their thanks and appreciation for the support given to the project.

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

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Mascoutah High shop teacher Kevin Derezotes assists Kyle Cary while Sara Rickert waits her turn

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

The November meeting elections resulted in great leaders, who are sure to keep our club in good hands for the next year.

Mike Marxer will continue as our President

Joe Schumacher was reelected to Vice President

Stan King will remain the Treasurer

Jo Williams will become the Secretary

John Buehrer will continue as the Conference Coordinator

Micki Keim is welcomed as a new member and the new Editor



AAW 2005 Symposium

July 22-24, 2005

Overland Park, Kansas

COLLABORATIVE 2005

... Yes, it's another Animal!

Special thanks to Bob Dickherber for hosting the collaborative group this year. The first meeting was held on December 11, 2004. Dixi Smith was elected our chairman for this year's collaborative project. It was decided to create a scene which incorporates dragonflies. The group decided to research various types of dragonflies and return to the next meeting with ideas and possibly samples. The next meeting was scheduled on January 15. Look in the next issue for an update on the project.

ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

This year's annual ornament exchange brought many beautiful pieces. Many thanks to all who participated!



NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL



turning by James Otto

Garry Roux - goblets

Elaine Navarro - ebony box

James Otto - pencil holder, cherry/cocobolo lidded box

Ray Koeneman - bowl with pewter in rim

Bill Rubenstein - pecan and ash salad bowls

Rick Mosley - boxelder goblet, Bradford pear hollow form with liquid leaf soluble

copper, sycamore vase w/copper, Bradford pear tray

Herb Bilgram - 2 segmented works in progress

Mike Williams - Chechen burl bowl

Ernie Guhl - elk antler goblet

Dan Schmoker - spillikens

Gary Hinegardner - plate with apricot kernel oil, goblet, cheese spear, spun pewter bowls

Dixi Smith - spillikens

John Buehrer - spilliken, 4 cheese eaters, ash box, sake cup

Terry Eiler - bowl

Gary Johnson - wine goblet, segmented walnut/maple bowl with 973 pieces (*Hey, Gary, what is the highest*

number of pieces you have ever glued together for a turning?)

Steve White - Kalimantan nut



turning by Mike Williams

NOVEMBER DOOR PRIZES

Glen donated a grand door prize from Woodcraft for the November meeting—a slow speed bench grinder. Jo Williams was the lucky winner. **Thank you, Glen & Woodcraft!**

Walt Ahlgrim won a sassafras log

Butternut, cherry, and oak boards were also given away.

PROGRESSION IN DESIGN

by Gary Hinegardner

We have talked about different aspects of design this past year at the club meetings and I would like to share a design progression that I went through.

I always wanted a wine glass with a turned wooden stem. So, I made one, then another, and another. They all looked like the glass on the left in the photo below. They were just turned sticks glued to a wine glass without a stem. The glass on the left is a rather blocky, uninteresting turning needing improvement. The two materials just did not flow together. I thought I could blend the two by bringing the stem up the side a little and adding a hole, as in the second glass. This helped but I was not satisfied. I

tried making the stem hold the glass. I thought it began to flow, like fingers around the glass. But I was not satisfied. This long slender piece of



wood seemed to have no purpose.

I stepped back, looked, and asked, “Why do we need a stem? What function does it have.” So I cut it off. Why not take advantage of a great piece of crystal to drink

from and when not drinking, nestle it into a turned piece of wood. Something organic, something that would contrast the clear smooth lines of the crystal with the organic flow of the wood grain. The glass only needs a base when it is sitting. To me, the two pieces work together beautifully.

The end result is far from what I started out to accomplish but by “stretching,” looking outside the box, I created something I was pleased with. The end result was worth the trip.

Good luck on your own design challenges.

How To

Lead crystal snaps when being cut and may explode when unevenly heated. Get your Drummel tool out and start to cut the stem off at a narrow place. It will snap off where you start to cut. Grind and polish the stub very slowly with sand paper, about the speed of turning a very big, ugly piece of wood. I made sanding disks from turned blocks and hand held the crystal to avoid overheating. Work from 100 through 1,500 grit and the stub will blend into the rest of the glass. Take a great piece of wood, too small for most things and hollow out a perfect nest for the crystal. It needs to fit perfectly and will take several passes with the gouge. The a final result is a conversation piece, something nice to drink from, and a long way from a piece of wood glued to the bottom of a glass.

TOOLS FROM FILES? NO!

Dan Schmoker told us about someone making beautiful tools out of files.

The files are ground to the desired shape and fitted with a turned handle.

It was suggested to never do this. It is dangerous! The carbon steel is extremely brittle, waiting for an accident to happen. It is much easier and safer to buy high speed steel blanks if you want to make your own tools.

NEW CLUB IN FESTUS

A new chapter of the American Association of Woodturners, (AAW) has formed in Festus.

The meetings are open to anyone with an interest in woodturning, whether it be bowls, vases, pens, goblets, spindles or anything round to be turned on a lathe.

The first meeting was Wednesday, November 17, 2004 in Festus.

Please call Gary at (636) 937-5548 for additional information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

James Krause
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BEGINNER'S CORNER "THAT'S A WHAT?"

from Woodcraft's website: www.woodcraft.com
and Gary Johnson

Skew chisels are used to refine the surfaces produced by the gouges. Properly used, a skew chisel can take a long, long ribbon of wood from the piece the gouge has turned round. Turn as long a strip of pared wood as possible if you want to test your own skills and tools. It quickly becomes evident how the tool cleans up the surface.

Scrapers are clean-up tools. Gary: Use a scraper for final smoothing only, not for heavy shaping. I generally will use whatever tool gives the best finish depending on the wood and shape being worked—gouge, scraper, shear scraper and/or sandpaper.

Parting tools are useful in several areas that have nothing to do with their names. They do nicely in cutting deep grooves, and cleaning up the bottoms where skews may narrow things down too much. And, of course, parting tools are used for parting your finished work from its resultant scrap that remains on the lathe.

CALENDAR

January 15, 9am
Collaborative Meeting - Bob
Dickherber's home

January 30, 1-4pm
Meeting at Woodcraft. The
challenge for this meeting is to
create a piece that is
unsanded...try texturing or
seeing how smooth you can get
with shear scraping.

February 27, 1-4pm
Meeting at Third Degree Glass
Factory, 5200 Delmar, Between
Kingshighway and Union

NOVEMBER MEETING PHOTOS

Pick Up Sticks

- In this wild
and crazy
game, Dan
Schmoker
(right) shows
that he
obviously
practiced a lot!



Gary Hinegardner (above) was
close, coming in second place



Gary Johnson, Bernhard Voss and Bill Farny
(above) enjoy wine, cheese and mingling

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION --WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-Mail _____

Mail this application along with your check for \$20 for one-year's dues to:

Woodturners of St. Louis
6548 Ike Drive
Barnhart, MO 63012

or, bring it to the next Meeting.

TURNER WANTED!

A basket maker from Illinois is looking for someone to turn handles for baskets—a straight spindle. Contact Gary Johnson: 314-895-1116, gljohnson4791@sbcglobal.net

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

Micki Keim, Editor
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NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 30th

at Woodcraft!

see inside for this months challenge!

P.S. Have you paid your dues???