



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

March 2005



GLASS VS. WOOD

Who knew they were so similar...

February's meeting was held at Third Degree Glass Factory where we were exposed to an art form similar to ours, not in media but design. Like woodturning glassblowing is perfect for all of us who are impatient. The ability to start and finish a piece in a day has drawn many of us to the lathe just as glassblowing has drawn many people to the furnace.

During the demonstration Jim McKelvey explained the process with great detail. We witnessed one of their teachers, Jessica Cope, building up layers of glass on the end of a stainless steel pipe; this was called the gather. The gather was rough shaped on a metal table called a marver. Once she was done gathering glass and forming it was time to create the "basic bubble". The basic bubble is the form from which all other shapes are made. Jessica blew into the end of the pipe she covered the hole with her finger. The moisture in her breath traveled down the pipe expanding into a gas as it reached the hot metal. This expansion caused the bubble to form about three seconds after she blew into the pipe.

From this point forward it was a dance between the furnace and the bench manipulating the temperature of the glass and forming what would soon turn into a cowboy hat. The shape was formed using wet newspaper, tongs and a "block" turned out of some fruitwood, possibly cherry. It was amazing to see glass at 1800 degrees come in contact with wet newspaper or wood and not ignite it immediately. We learned the reason for that was the layer of steam that formed between the two; they never actually come in contact with one another.

They opened the end of the form and the top of the hat began to take shape. There were many trips to

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NEXT MEETING

April 3, 2005 ~ 1-4pm

Woodcraft

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



the furnace until she was happy with the top. Jessica cooled the top of the form then back to the furnace to reheat what would soon become the brim.

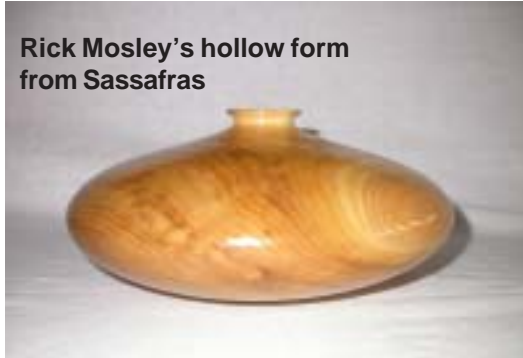
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St. Louis Wood Turners

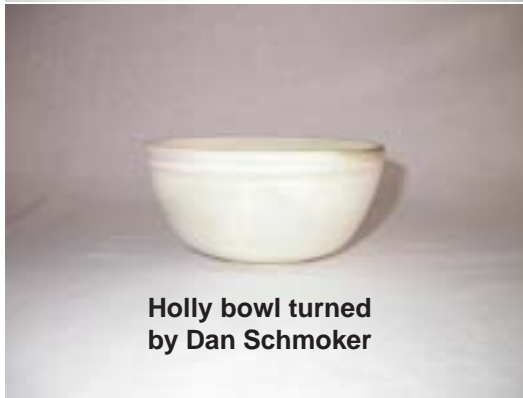
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FEBRUARY SHOW & TELL

Rick Mosley's hollow form
from Sassafras



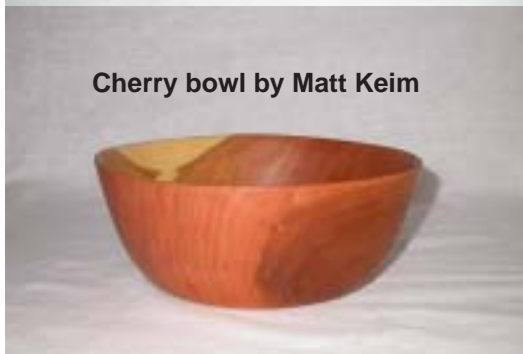
Holly bowl turned
by Dan Schmoker



Box Elder hollow form
by Bill Rubenstein



Cherry bowl by Matt Keim



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

President

Michael Marxer
314-835-9001
mikebit@swbell.net

Vice President

Joe Schumacher
636-464-8385
jfshoes@charter.net

Secretary

Jo Williams
636-375-0022
jawmaw@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Stan King
636-467-3977
skyking999@sbcglobal.net

Conference Coordinator

John Buehrer
314-423-6522

Webmaster

Bill Rubenstein
636-949-2044
wsr2@swbell.net

Web Site: <http://www.stlturners.org>

Yahoo e-group
STLWoodturners

Newsletter Editor

Micki Keim
314-791-9948
mickikeim@hotmail.com



Maple and Black box
by Micki Keim

St. Louis Wood Turners

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AAW 2005 Symposium July 22-24, 2005 Overland Park, Kansas

The 2005 Nineteenth Annual AAW Symposium in Kansas City, July 22-24. The Sheraton Overland Park has blocks of rooms reserved for the convention please call (913) 234-2100 to make your reservations. The room rate is \$99.00 per night and individual rooms reservations can be made by asking for a room in the AAW Block. The room rate is only good for the convention dates July 22-24.

AAW is also looking for volunteers to help with the symposium registration and the demos. If you are interested in volunteering please call (651) 484-9094.



COLLABORATIVE 2005

At the third collaborative meeting we got our first look at some completed parts to our project. Dixie turned a waterscape out of maple that is sure to look real. Mike brought a fishing pole turned out of bocote. We had turned dragonfly tails, heads, bodies and legs to help us get a feeling for how things will go together. The attendance at the third meeting was low due to illness, but that didn't prevent the rest of us from having a good time. The next meeting was planned for April 9th.

USING WOOD BLEACH

by Matt Keim

During February's meeting Dan Schmoker asked for information on bleaching holly. He was having trouble removing the grey stains and was going to try Oxalic acid. While browsing the internet I found some information that may be useful for Dan's situation.

TYPES OF BLEACHES

There are three general classifications of bleaches used on wood; peroxide or "two-part" bleaches, chlorine bleach and oxalic acid. Each type will work on some colors and not on others. The trick in using any bleach is selecting the correct one for the stain. Knowing beforehand what made the stain in the first place will help in selecting the correct bleach.

Peroxide Bleaches

These bleaches are sold as two-part or A/B bleaches. The two components are usually sodium hydroxide and strong hydrogen peroxide. Used by themselves they are ineffective but when mixed together, a strong oxidizing reaction is formed which is most effective in removing the natural color in wood. To a lesser degree they will lighten some pigment stains, but are ineffective on dye stains.

Chlorine Bleaches

Chlorine is a strong oxidizer that will remove or lighten most dye stains. A weak chlorine based bleach such as Clorox will work but generally takes too many applications to be effective. A much stronger solution can be made from swimming pool bleach, which is a dry

chemical called calcium hypochlorite. It is inexpensive and can be purchased from a pool supplies retailer.

Oxalic Acid

Oxalic acid is unique in that it will remove a certain type of stain formed when iron and moisture come into contact with tannic acid in the wood. Some woods like oak, cherry and mahogany naturally contain a high amount of tannic acid and a black stain is formed when the wood gets wet with tap water (tap water contains iron as a trace mineral). A wet glass or leaky vase left on these woods will produce a black ring.

Nails and screws will form black rings around the head if the wood gets wet. If tap water is used to wet unfinished oak and mahogany, small gray spots may form on the surface of the wood. Oxalic acid will remove this discoloration without affecting the natural color of the wood.

Oxalic acid is also used to lighten the graying effects of outdoor exposure. It is the ingredient in most deck "brighteners". Used on furniture that has been stripped for re-finishing, it will lighten the color and re-establish an even tone to the wood, particularly oak.

More information can be found in Jeff Jewitt's new book Complete Illustrated Guide to Finishing. The complete article on Using Wood Bleach can be found at www.woodturningonline.com under the articles section. Per the request of Jeff Jewitt, please do not contact him directly about the use of bleach, as his article is a compilation of readily available information.



Want to find out how you can get free doughnuts??? Please see Jo Williams or Stan King to get a stack of cards to sell to your family and friends.

(cont'd from cover)

GLASS VS. WOOD

In a flash with a fast twirl of the form the last two inches of glass flew out vertically and in a matter of seconds an odd glass form became a hat.

If you blinked you would have missed this unbelievable transformation. Quickly she grabbed her tongs and bent

the sides of the hat inward completing the transformation from glob of molten glass to cowboy hat. The hat was removed from the rod and placed in a cooling oven to anneal overnight. The glass hat must be slowly brought down to room temperature to prevent it from cracking. The team put on a wonderful demonstration that impressed us all.

The short amount of space in this newsletter doesn't allow me to explain everything that happened during this process. Luckily, for anyone interested, Third Degree Glass Factory is mainly a teaching facility. They welcome anyone who just wants to sit and watch the action for free or if you really get the bug they offer many classes to suit your time schedule and budget. Third Degree Glass Factory has free demonstrations as well as open houses every month. More information can be found on their website www.stlglass.com or simply by stopping in.



HAT RAFFLE



Would you like to win this beautiful glass hat? Come to our next meeting for all the details. The hat will be raffled at the April 24th meeting. Don't miss your chance to win!!!

A PURPLE HEART ...for the Purple Hearts

Chris Stratford brought forth a great idea and we hope many of you will join the efforts and make a few purple heart ink pens.

He is being deployed to Iraq in May and will be there for 4 months. Chris is a flight nurse and will be flying the wounded patients out. Most of them have purple hearts from their injuries. He suggested that many club members make purple heart pens, or any pens for that matter, for the troops and/or the wounded.

He would be more than happy to take them with him when he goes. Many things could be done with the pens... engraving "good luck", "we are thinking of you" etc...

Please contact Mike Marxer if you have any questions or would like to participate in the Purple Heart Pen Effort.



A BEGINNER'S TURN

A continued series of articles by Matt Keim

Stress Cracks! ... In case your wondering how my sycamore bowls fared in the microwave. Even though I have not experienced success with microwave drying sycamore, Ray Koeneman has encouraged me to continue trying. He has had success microwave drying using the defrost cycle for all but the last two minutes of drying with many different wood species.

In addition, I have also treated a few bowls with the detergent method which I hope to finish turn by the next meeting. I have to say, I have never seen sycamore look so yellow, the soap was blue.

As I continued to ask questions with a few fellow members I was encouraged to finish turn green and let it warp. This fit well with my impatient need to finish something quick. I have turned several bowls this way and decided I prefer the circle over the oval. Maybe that's because it's easier to draw a circle? I don't really know why but an oval bowl just looks funny.

For this reason I will probably continue my search for the best way to dry a rough turned bowl. So far I have about twenty bowls and platters rough turned and completely covered with wax. They are waiting for their one year anniversary before being reacquainted with Mr. Sorby's sharp edge.

I also have a few in paper bags, I plan on weighing them every few weeks and when they stop losing weight, I'll turn them true. As mentioned above, I haven't yet ruled out the microwave. I don't, however, have any plans for boiling my bowls, seems a little dangerous.

While creating all these rough turned bowls I have came up with what I think is another question begging to be asked. What do we do with all these wood shavings? I have produced bags and bags of shavings. I started bagging them and throwing them out, but since I am limited to what will fit in the trash can provided to me, it seemed silly to store trash in the garage waiting for room in the trash can. This really happened...three bags of trash in the garage waiting for a slow week of turning. Not to mention the land fills don't need to be overfilled with easily degradable waste.

For now, I started spreading them in my woods behind the house. It's going to start looking pretty funny when the forest floor is white from sycamore shavings. (If you haven't figured it out yet, I have a lot of sycamore, a whole tree!).

At the last collaborative meeting Ray mentioned taking them to a recycling plant. I haven't looked into this yet, but my Volkswagon Jetta wouldn't



be able to hold much at a time. Let me know what you do with your savings at our next meeting. Don't try to tell me you burn them, I've tried that too. My neighbors thought I started up a power plant because of the massive amount of smoke rising from behind my house. I thought it was never going to evaporate all the moisture. I guess the shavings didn't ignite because of the barrier of steam that formed between them and the hot coals. If you were at last months meeting you'll know where I learned that bit of information. For now, my neighbor has a pretty large mailbox; maybe I'll hide them there.

St. Louis Wood Turners

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NEW MEMBERS

Donald Pool
2853 Hwy C
Old Monroe, MO 63369
636-661-5283

Mark Zaricor
11182 Forest Haven Rd
Festus, MO 63028
636-937-2087
zippy@earthling.net

Zane Keylor
RR1 Box 59
Timewell, IL 62375
217-773-3500
dk2klor@yahoo.com

Kurt Sands
2650 Sun Meadow Dr
Wildwood, MO 63005
636-527-6486
ksands75@charter.net

Jeff Heinrich
8947 Felicia Dr
St. Louis, MO 63123
314-631-4407
jheinrich1@mac.com

Jeff Rushing
2427 Woodland Lane
Brighton, IL 62012
618-372-7233

Rochelle Stanton & Jim Duval
311 No. Lindbergh, Ste. 101
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
314-991-2559

INTO THE WOODS

Visit the William & Florence Schmidt Art Center at Southwestern Illinois College on March 24-April 29. Vessels by Michael Bauermeister and Photographs by Michael Johnson

The natural beauty of wood and the land are the inspirations for Bauermeister, a sculptor from Augusta, Missouri and Johnson, a self-taught photographer, tree farmer and saw mill operator from Mount Carroll, Illinois. The two artists had not met until the Schmidt invited them to exhibit together. For more information on the artists, visit: www.michaelbauermeister.com and www.michaeljohnsonphotography.com

JOHANNES MICHELSEN

...a weekend course

Gary Hinegardner recently attended Johannes Michelsen's class on turning wooden hats. At our last meeting, Gary brought two completed hats and a third one that did not quite work out. Everyone in attendance was impressed with these amazing turnings.

Many people have probably been contemplating purchasing the video, after his presentation. Gary learned new grinds for sharpening and a whole new approach to wood turning. His hats were made of sugar maple and yellow birch each taking approximately eight hours to make start to finish, including instruction, followed by two days in the drying press.

They were turned amazingly thin at a consistent thickness of 3/32". Great job Gary!



Gary proudly displaying his hats at the February meeting

FOR SALE

Lathe for Sale - \$500

Delta Model 46-222, 12" Swing with factory steel base. Almost 38-39" between centers. Call Kurt Sands for more information (314) 920-5668.

If you have any woodturning tools or equipment for sale, please call Micki Keim at (314) 791-9948 to list your item.

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.

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

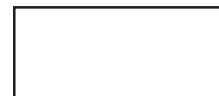
Micki Keim, Editor
2649 Forest Glen Estates Drive
Pacific, MO 63069

CALENDAR

April 3, 1-4pm
Meeting at Woodcraft
Demo - The World According
to Rick Mosley

April 9, 9am
Collaborative Meeting

April 24, 1-4pm
Meeting at Woodcraft



If you would like to continue your St. Louis Woodturners membership and continue to receive this newsletter please pay your dues by April 1st!