



# WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

July 2005

## JoHannes Michelsen Demonstration



If you missed our professional demonstration in June you missed out on a first class experience. First, thanks to the many members who contributed to putting this demo together with such a short time frame. It truly turned out to be a top notch demonstration. Dave Endres opened his business to our group

for the day and was able to provide air conditioners to keep us cool. Bill Rubenstein provided a Stubby 750 lathe for the demonstration. We were fortunate enough to have video equipment provided by Mike Marxer so everyone could see. Many members contributed to making the demo a success.

JoHannes is a very likeable guy who answered all our questions with straight forward easy to understand responses. He uses a few methods that go against what we have been taught, but it works well for him and who can argue with his finished results. I have to admit I was a little concerned about using the pressure of the tailstock and friction against a faceplate, with no screws, to hold the large blank while rough turning, but it worked.

JoHannes turned the first hat in roughly 5 hours start to finish explaining each step in detail and answering any questions we had. The whole process was amazing starting outside with the chainsaw all the way to bending the hat with a forming jig.

The first hat was raffled off to the group by JoHannes. Jo Williams was the lucky winner and we will all expect to get a good look at it during July's meeting.



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## NEXT MEETING

July 31, 2005 ~ 1-4pm

Woodcraft

2077 Congressional Drive

Maryland Heights, MO 63146

Phone: 314-993-0413

NEW LOCATION ~ see map on back

After the first hat was finished, he turned another one at full speed still answering any questions we had. This one took less than 2 hours start to finish.

This hat will be raffled off to the club members starting at our July meeting, ending when enough tickets are sold. JoHannes did admit that he was lucky to complete 3 hats a week with everything else that is entailed in running your own business.

Everyone in attendance seemed to have a great time and learned quite a bit about JoHannes' methods and unique tool grind. Some were so impressed that they could not leave without purchasing one of the Glaser gouges he sells, myself included. This was another great experience provided by the Saint Louis Wood Turners to its members.

If you missed the demonstration the club's library will have JoHannes' video available for check out.



JoHannes Unique Tool Grind

## \* JULY\*

### CHALLENGE

For the July Meeting, turn a Lidded Box. See the June issue's front page for more details if you missed John's demonstration in May.

### DEMONSTRATION

For our July meeting, Gary Johnson will be our demonstrator. He will share techniques for planning and executing a segmented turning



### RAFFLE

Currently there are 2 raffle prizes available.

**Blackwood** chances are \$1-(*only a few remain*)

Our next raffle will be a large block of **Macasur Ebony** measuring 7x6x6. Chances are \$2 each.

*Please come to our next meeting for more details!*

#### May Winners!

- Glass hat was won by Rick Mosley
- The Snakewood piece was won by Charlie Bottermuller

### GREEN END SEAL

All members of the St. Louis Woodturners have the good fortune to purchase end seal at a greatly reduced cost. Dave Endres has been gracious enough to store the clubs drum of end seal and sell to our members for only \$5 per gallon. To take advantage of this great opportunity please contact Dave. If you contact him by the Friday before a meeting he will bring the end seal to the meeting and collect your money. Otherwise you may make arrangements to pick it up from his business.

### 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 Editors

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

### TURNING FOR SALE

Anyone wanting to display vessels for sale at Krueger Pottery should bring them next meeting. Labeled, and priced. 60% goes to the turner, 40% to the store. We are looking for vessels and bowls only, so they fit in well with the pottery displays. Questions, call Mike Marxer.

### CLASSIFIEDS

Stan King has elk and deer horn for sale at \$8.00 per lb.

## A BEGINNER'S TURN

A continued series of articles by Matt Keim

So what do we do with all these shavings? Well compost piles seem to be the most popular way to dispose of shavings among our members. I have chosen to spread them around the woods, which for now is a maintenance free compost pile.

Walt has come across a way to have someone from his city come pick them up, free! He calls a number, leaves a message that he has shavings available and if someone is interested they come and take them away. Talk about easy!

Another option is to make a few less through the use of a bowl coring system. These systems look great. They reduce wasted wood by allowing you to make multiple bowls from one blank. I plan on looking at these at the upcoming symposium, maybe I'll find a deal. Whatever you decide to do whether its compost, disposal in yard waste, or give them away, just keep making them.

As a new question I hope to spend some time answering it with the help of a little mentoring.

How do you turn a good bead? I have been turning lidded boxes since our

May meeting. The first and second ones were almost duplicates of the box John turned. Then I decided to decorate the joint between the lid and the base. How about a bead at the junction? Huh, easier said than done.

I prefer to turn the outside of the lid and the base at the same time. So I turn the outside to finish thickness leaving wood for the beads. Then try to shape the beads last.

First, I tried the skew, whoa what happened! Well, now not only am I missing an important section of wood that was supposed to make a bead but I also have a gash all the way down my "finished" box.

So I turn the box a little smaller and I'm a little smarter. You don't turn beads with a skew, you use a gouge. The beads are almost finished just one smooth cut from the center to... crap! What on earth happened, the gouge shot to the left like a rocket?

So I turn the box a little smaller, rough out the bead with a scraper and get out the 100 grit sandpaper. Three boxes later all with some form of casualty and the only way I can turn a bead is by scraping. I think I better pay close attention at the symposium!



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

The collaborative project for this year's symposium entry is complete. Special thanks to Bob & Patti Dickherber for hosting this year's collaborative project meetings. Also special thanks to those who participated. Join us on July 31st at our next meeting to see our project and how we placed in the competition.

## SPALTED WOOD

### ONE MAN'S JUNK ANOTHER MAN'S PRIZE

*Re-printed with permission from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources*

Spalted wood embodies all that is curious in the natural world. It is formed by unseen organisms at a specific time and place that only it knows. It is selective in its territory and marks its boundaries with lines of demarcation that hold mystery as well as beauty. In its brief tenure it leaves artistic inspiration and timeless decay. It demonstrates the divine order of nature as well as random tendencies. It is splendid in both its complex appearance and its simple biology. It is held in esteem for its natural beauty by wood turners and craftsman and in contempt by lumberman and saw millers for its degradation.



Example of Spalted Beech

Spalting occurs in many species but most commonly in the birches, beeches and maples. Buckeye, elm, basswood, sycamore and apple spalt, but it is relatively unknown in red and white oak. Generally speaking, white woods with heartwood non-resistant to decay are good candidates for spalting. Frequently, in sugar maple the spalting lines are double, run parallel and appear somewhat concentric. The spalting process occurs at different rates for different woods and depends on climate and environmental factors.

Spalting is caused by the infections of wood with various kinds of white rot fungi.

The ideal conditions for spalting to take place are temperatures that range from 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit with a moisture content that is at or near the fiber saturation point of about 30%. The characteristic blue-black zone lines of spalted wood form when incompatible colonies of fungi come into contact with each other and lay down barriers to separate their territories. This phenomenon represents the early stages of the decay process. This incipient decay may or may not seriously weaken the wood, although a gradual softening of the wood is apparent and accompanied by a gradual change in color to grayish white. In the later stages the infected wood is of a dirty white color and becomes soft and spongy. If a piece of decayed wood with zone lines is pulled apart very carefully, the zone line will be seen as a layer or sheet of dark rubbery material.

Because spalted wood is consistently inconsistent in appearance it is in high demand within the decorative wood markets. Each piece is unique and completely different from the next. One tree may have good workable spalted wood, while the next although appearing the same will be useless. Only by working with spalted wood can one gain the knowledge necessary to succeed with and fully appreciate the challenges of this unpredictable material. One paradox of spalted wood is that as it ages it gets to a certain point where it is more attractive to the artist and less attractive to the tradesman. If the wood is found too early, it lacks character and seems bland when compared to spalted wood, but caught at the right stage of its life it is still stable and suitable for working and resists checking. The lines of spalted wood can be so intricate that it looks as though they were



# St. Louis Wood Turners



penned by an ancient calligrapher. By using a little imagination one can begin to see pictorial figures such as maps of the world, animals, birds, fish and mountains. The possibilities for spalted wood products are limited only by imagination and ingenuity.

Producing spalted wood for the home workshop certainly is attainable although it is a hit or miss proposition if you are trying to obtain a particular level or type of spaling. Under favorable conditions, the process takes only weeks or at most a few months. The key to stimulating wood to spalt is providing the fungi with the kind of moist, warm environment in which they thrive. The more taxing challenge is figuring out when to halt the process before the fungi decomposes the wood to the point that it is no longer usable. The simplest way to produce but the hardest way to control spalted wood is to put some logs into a shady woods, cover them with leaves and keep the pile moist. For better control and for spaling smaller sized material simply place the wood in plastic bags and keep moist. This allows for easier inspection and control. Fungi spores are so plentiful in the atmosphere that there is no need for inoculation and unfortunately no guarantee that the preferred spalt will occur.

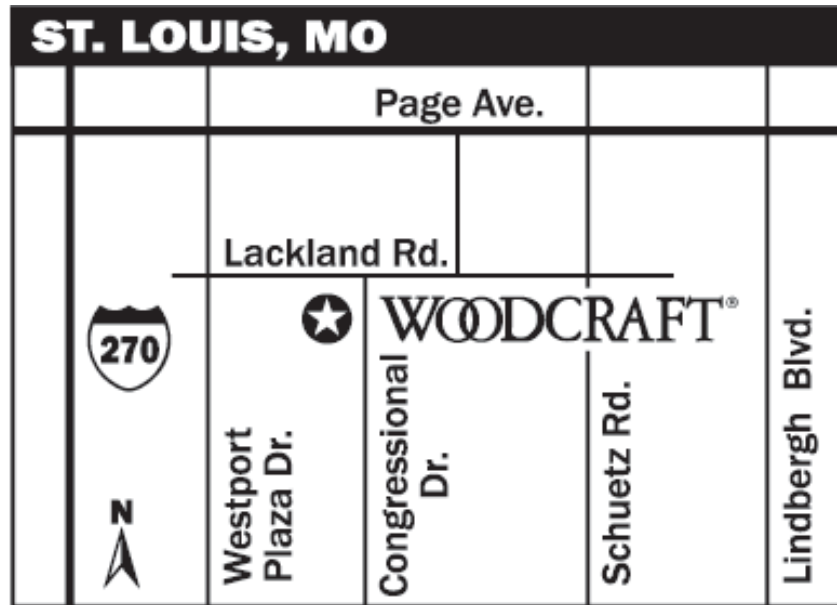
The dust created from sanding and sawing spalted wood has a toxic nature about it and has a reputation for causing respiratory problems. More specifically the mold or fungi that causes spalting to occur is what triggers the asthma like reactions that can be severe. Farmers handling moldy hay may experience similar symptoms. About two to five percent of the population can be expected to develop allergic sensitivity to one or more compounds found in wood. If you handle a lot of potentially toxic species, and work with them long enough, you increase your chances of a reaction. Among hobby woodworkers, at least one death has been reported, that of a New Orleans man in 1987. Spalted wood can also contain claustridium, the bacteria responsible for

botulism. The best defense is to have a good dust extractions system and to wear a dust mask when working with spalted or any other kind of wood.



# DIRECTIONS TO THE NEW WOODCRAFT STORE

Join us for our next meeting July 31st at Woodcraft. From I-270, exit east on Page Ave (also known as Hwy D or Route 364). Stay to the right and follow the exit signs to Lackland Road. Turn right at the light onto Lackland Road. Turn left at the first street onto Congressional Drive. From Lackland, Woodcraft is the second business on the right side of Congressional.



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

