



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

October 2006

ALAN LACER COMES TO ST. LOUIS

In September, the Woodturners of St. Louis used their AAW EOG (Educational Opportunity Grant) grant to bring Alan Lacer to town. The Demonstration was held on Saturday, September 23rd and was followed up with two workshops held on the 24th and 25th.

All days were highly attended by both members and non-members. The demonstration was very entertaining and informative for all who attended. Alan spent much of the day discussing and demonstrating the skew. This is one of those tools that takes a lot of practice and patience to learn but once mastered can be used to reduce turning and sanding time considerably. The skew is probably the most feared tool in woodturning. Often we will have a bad experience on an almost finished piece then quickly hide the tool to prevent future attempts. This is why it is so important to practice with the skew often. Alan gave us many cuts to practice and a few small projects that could be used to sharpen our skills.

Throughout the day Alan stressed the need to hone your tools. This will not only increase the life of your tools, by requiring less grinding, but will also give a better cut. Alan sold a custom made hone that was perfect for woodturners. It is diamond coated, so it will hone the more exotic steels like A11 and V15, and had three profiles perfect for woodturning tools. Many of our members purchased them during the three day event.

As part of Alan's demonstration he also went through the process of making and using a hook tool. This tool is made from O1 drill rod and is used for cutting end

grain smoothly. Alan made one from scratch in very little time and explained the process thoroughly. He even covered what the steel was going through and defined the terms annealed, hardened and tempered. 4 hook tools can be made from one \$3 piece of drill rod. Many members showed interest in getting together for a



WHAT'S INSIDE?

Alan Lacer in St. Louis.....	Cover
Annual Woodturnes Picnic.....	page 3
A Wood Story.....	page 4
Green End Seal.....	page 5
Classifieds.....	page 5
Calendar.....	page 6

NEXT MEETING

October 22, 2006 ~ 1-4pm

Woodcraft

2077 Congressional Drive

Maryland Heights, MO 63146

Phone: 314-993-0413

day of making hook tools. We will discuss this soon at an upcoming meeting.

The two workshops went all day and focused only on the skew. We had a total of 16 students between the two days with skill levels varying from beginner to advanced. Alan had no problem keeping everyone busy and spent a good amount of time covering sharpening and honing tools. The workshops did not focus on completing a specific project but instead practiced the fundamental cuts you can do with a skew.

continued on page 2



ALAN LACER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Alan proved to be an excellent demonstrator who was capable of explaining the proper way to use the skew and identify problems with our technique. He covered each topic in depth and kept us all interested throughout the day. Alan has continued to study the history of woodturning throughout the world and continues to excite turners about the past, present and future of woodturning. Hopefully our mentors can utilize his techniques and methods of teaching to assist fellow members in learning how to become better turners.



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

President

Matt Keim
314-791-9000
mkart@pavyer.com

Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Dixi Smith
636-723-5435
dsmith10@mail.win.org

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

NOVEMBER MEETING DATE CHANGE!

Be sure to attend our Wine and Cheese Social
on November 12th at WoodCraft.
Please see page 5 for more details.

2006 ANNUAL

WOODTURNERS PICNIC

On September 17th we held our annual Picnic at Spencer Creek Park in St. Peters. The picnic was to be held rain or shine and as it turned out we had both for yet another year. The day started out with heavy rain but it slowly let up and by 3pm we had sunny skies, or at least no rain. Regardless of the weather we had a great time.

The day was full of fun activities from a raffle with many prizes, to the monster contest. We had washer games and another home made game brought by Ray Koeneman which was a blast. We even had music, which eventually brought a little dancing. This was our first opportunity to use the club's new sound system and it worked great. We will be using this at upcoming meetings and demonstrations to enhance our presentations.

The monster contest was a big hit this year as many turners brought failed turnings to use. We created two groups for the contest, and had two courageous captains, Mike Marxer and Micki Keim.



Each group went in very different directions, but by the end each had created two winning creatures. Mike's team was determined to use the cheese left over from last year's collaborative project. This brought his team

to creating a mouse sitting on a cheese stool. Micki's team went in another direction creating a woman wearing a hat, with beautiful eyes. She even had fresh cut flowers.



Our creatures were by no means scary but certainly were cute.

The food was great as

always and everyone brought a dish to share. Gary Hinegardner brought his grill again and did a great job cooking. Everyone should have a grill like Gary's!

The sun eventually came out and we were able to have our wood swap which ended with unlocked cars receiving surprises and John Buehrer taking home the left overs. It was a great day even with a bit of rain. I hope everyone will thank Jo Williams and Ray Koeneman for doing so much to make this picnic another success.



A WOOD STORY

By Matt Keim

As with many turners I find myself always keeping my eyes open looking for wood I don't need. I drive 30 miles to and from work each day and have found three different routes to choose from depending on my mood. One of the routes adds 40 minutes to my drive but passes through beautiful countryside and reminds me of why I moved out in the first place. I keep a map in my mind of every burl I see in hopes that someday I will pass at the right time. I know the locations of many burls in both my town and yours.

One of these burls sits 50 feet in the air, wrapping a tree 5 feet in diameter at the base. It looks to be 3-4 feet across. I have been watching this burl for over two years. Always glancing over as I drive by to see if the last storm was strong enough.

Then it happened. I was driving to work and I couldn't believe it. The tree had been struck by lightning and appeared to have burned from the inside out. I could see holes in the tree 30 feet up on the portion standing where fire had exited. Could it be? The burl I had been watching for so long burned to ashes.

That evening, on my way home, I pulled off the highway and took a look at what was left. As I stood in front of the base I could not believe its size. The tree

forked into two sections at the ground. One section, burned but still standing, was large enough for me to walk into, although I didn't dare. The other, laying on the ground, burned hollow for at least 20 feet. I walked toward the trees top, moving the leaves aside looking and hoping that my burl was still there. It was! This was the first time I had an opportunity to see it up close. It was very unusual in shape and wrapped about a 24 inch log section. It was the largest burl I had ever seen up close, not to mention the only one I've ever had any chance of having.

Now I had to get permission to remove it. I drove up the private drive, marked no trespassing of course, looking for someone to talk to. As I reached the end of the long narrow drive I came to a house and after waiting for a minute, looking for a hidden dog to show itself, I knocked on the front door. No answer. Confident that I would somehow get permission, I drove home to pick up my saw and supplies and headed back. Unfortunately there was still no answer at the door. I left a note to the owner and went home empty handed in hopes of receiving a call.

No call came that evening or the next. I waited a few days wondering if I should try stopping by again but did not. I continued to watch it everyday as I drove by. Then the call came! The gentleman said I could take all I wanted as long as I did not block the road. At 6:05pm, 5 minutes after receiving the call, I was on my way full of excitement. It took 45 minutes to clear the way to the burl and drop the section it was connected to. It must have weighed 500 pounds. It was round and I still could not roll it over. Now I am tasked with what to do. How do I get this huge piece of wood into a VW Jetta? As usual I



Woodturners of St. Louis

A Wood Story ... (Continued from page 4)

would have to cut it into blocks, preferably less than 50 pounds, and load them into the trunk. I cut the burl from the tree, keeping the sections as large as possible. I was so excited to see what had been developing beneath the bark for years. As the burl flipped over I couldn't believe what I saw. Nothing! This burl was an imposter!

No birds eyes, no fiddleback, no clusters, I mean nothing! All that excitement and anticipation for this! This was the most plain grained "burl" I had ever seen. Why was this? Is it because it was on a Catalpa tree? Is it because it had grown to fast? These questions have no answers. Regardless, I continued cutting until I had nine large pieces cut, waxed and wrapped in plastic bags. I loaded them into the trunk until it was full, then filled the back seat and placed the last one in the front passenger seat.

On the ride home I thought about the orientation of the grain in the pieces, which was different than normal even if not figured. I began to plan how to turn it, to get the most out of what was there. Slowly I began rebuilding the excitement that had been lost, hoping to salvage a beautiful bowl from my effort. I roughed turned a bowl and to my surprise I found a bit of figure and an array of color. So the lesson of this story is don't give up, next time will be better.

GREEN END SEAL

All members of the Woodturners of St. Louis Club 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 \$15 for 2 gallons or \$10 for one gallon. To take advantage of this great opportunity please contact Dave. If you contact him before 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.

* OCTOBER *

CHALLENGE

Turn a bottle stopper for a contest. You could take home the prize for the best.

DEMONSTRATION

Miniatures, bottle stoppers and more!

* NOVEMBER *

WINE SOCIAL

Don't forget our upcoming wine and cheese social. We will once again have the annual ornament exchange which is open to all members. Last year we had many entries and expect more this year. This meeting is always a "pot luck" so bring a bottle of wine and/or your favorite appetizer or desert and don't forget your wood plate and goblet to eat and drink from.

The meeting will start at 1pm at Woodcraft on November 12th. We will have raffles, door prizes and great food. See you there!

CLASSIFIEDS

Dan Schmoker

General Lathe Model 160
1"x8tpi spindle
12" swing
4" bed gap
36" between centers
Jack shaft allows speeds of 180 –
2600 RPM (3 step pulley)
Forward and reverse motor

John Buehrer

20 watt magnetic base lamps for
sale \$25 each.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION --WOOD TURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

\$30 Individual Membership • \$40 Family Membership

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-Mail _____

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

Woodturners of St. Louis
2420 Cypress
St. Charles, MO 53301

or, bring it to the next Meeting.

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

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

CALENDAR

October 22nd, 1-4pm

Regular Meeting at Woodcraft
Demonstration = Minatures,
bottlestoppers and more.

Challenge = Bring a bottle stopper to enter
into a contest.

November 12th, 1-4pm

Wine and Cheese Social at Woodcraft

November 26th

NO MEETING

December

NO MEETING