WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

December 2006

Annual Wine and Cheese Social

Our 2006 November meeting and social went well, with many members attending. We had a brief meeting, re-elected our current officers, gave away many door prizes and exchanged ornaments. There was no demonstration but instead we had a few hours of socializing and sharing the many bottles of wine and appetizers provided by our members.

It was nice to see so many members and spouses enjoying our craft and friendships. The instant gallery showed many examples of our member's work and the ornaments for the exchange were all wonderfully turned. Both great examples of what talented members we have in our club. As a special treat we were all surprised by a song written and performed by Mike Williams. It was wonderfully written, comical and included lines specifically mentioning some of our members. Mike truly is a creative and talented musician. He even performed an encore for a few members who showed up late. Maybe we can talk him into recording it for us to listen to at a later date.

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Next Meeting

January 28th, 2007 ~ 1-4pm
Woodcraft
2077 Congressional Drive
Maryland Heights, MO 63146
Phone: 314-993-0413

We all look forward to the November meeting and this year did not let us down. Thank you all for coming and enjoying yourselves.

AAW Educational Opportunity Grants

The American Association of Woodturners has a program to assist its members in furthering their education in woodturning. This program provides financial assistance for helping you meet goals, attend a workshop, or complete a project. It is available to all members of AAW and has not received near enough applicants over the past few years. The grants received cover expenses such as tuition, registration, demonstrator's fees, travel, lodging, and meals. The full details may be found on-line at www.woodturner.org.

If you choose to submit for a grant there are four questions that must be answered in essay form. By essay I do not mean paragraph after paragraph of explanation, but the committee wants to really understand what the grant is going to do for you and the craft of woodturning in general. They are tasked with going through each application and determining who to grant money to, a difficult task indeed.

The questions are simple. But in order to write a good grant request you need to really define how you and maybe others in the turning community will benefit by your receiving a grant. If you answer the four questions with a fewer number of words than it took to write the questions, you're in trouble.

The answer to the question, "How would you use the educational grant?" can not be "to learn to turn." It is important to tell the committee exactly what you want to do. Do you want to attend an arts and crafts school for woodturning? Do you want to help start a turning program in your area? Do you want to promote woodturning to your community? What is the grant money going to be used for? You need to have a pretty clear understanding of this before you get started on the request.

The second question is "How would you/your chapter benefit from a grant". Define this as much as you can. Will a class assist you in doing something you can not do today? Do you hope to become a mentor in your chapter and this grant will help get you there? Will this grant enable you to spread woodturning to the

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public? Think hard about what this grant will mean to you and/or your chapter, what changes may occur? The grants are not given based on financial need but you can request one on that basis. You decide.

The third question is "How would you/your chapter help others to benefit". This takes us back to possible mentoring. Are you requesting money for a community project? If so expand on the benefits to the community. There are endless ways to answer this question. Just be truthful in answering the questions and the committee will consider your request with open minds.

The forth and final question is "Please give a brief itemized budget for how you intend to use the grant". Simple, create a line item for each expense you expect. This will require some research on your part and depends on what class you wish to take or how you plan to use the money.

The deadline is fast approaching so don't delay. Create a few rough drafts and have someone look them over before writing your final request. Make sure there are no errors on the request, spelling or other. Most of all let the EOG committee know who you are within your answers.

And the Winner is...

Bill was the lucky winner of the Johanes Michelsen Hat turned during a demonstration in June of 2005. Congradulations Bill!

Ernie Goul on Miniatures

At the October meeting Ernie gave us all a lesson on turning miniatures. Ernie is well known for his miniature turnings and he and his wife travel around selling them. He can even been featured in magazines for his wonderful work!

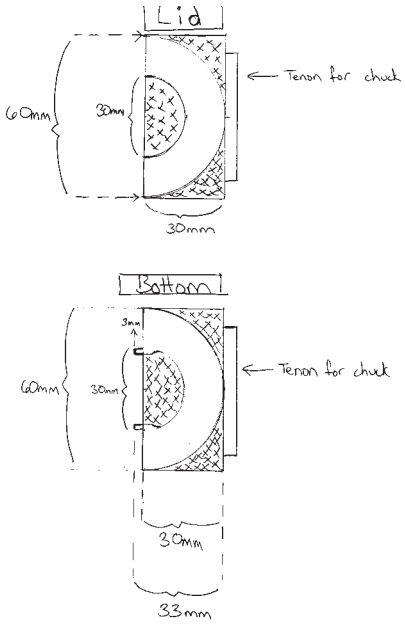
Ernie uses those little pieces of wood most of us sweep up and toss in the trash to create his little gems. When the piece gets to small to hold in the chuck he glues it to another small one and makes another vase.

We should all wish we were so good at conserving wood for future generations through such little waste.

It was a delight to see Ernie's methods and ideas on the niche market of turning miniatures.

The Drunken Box

By Matt Keim



Many of us who attended the 2006 AAW symposium in Louisville attended one of Hans Weisflog's sessions on making a drunken box. This box looks extremely difficult to turn at first glance, but after seeing the process it can be accomplished by many turners.

The key to successfully completing this box is to understand the full process before starting and to follow a plan. There are many little steps that must be completed in a certain order and correctly to end up with a well made box. There is little room for error. It is much easier to work with metric numbers since fractions and long decimals will be very confusing. I highly recommend that you have a metric vernier caliper prior to starting this project. I did not have one for my first box and had to deal with decimals like .4375. I will also recommend using a dense wood since scraping in many cases will be easier for many of us and many softer woods do not scrape well.

The basic process will be to turn a sphere box with thick walls then remount with the lid line running parallel to the bed ways and create a 45 degree bevel from center to center. Easier said than done I assure you.

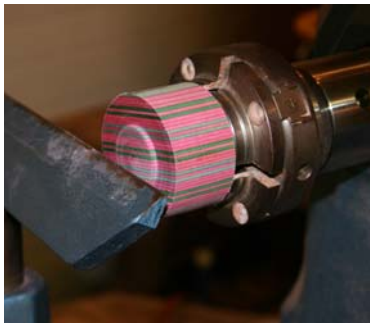
Start by selecting a blank of wood that can be turned to a 60mm cylinder mounted with the grain running parallel to the lathe bed. Yes I said 60mm not 2.36" or 2 23/64". If you don't have that metric caliper yet it will be a good $35 investment, and probably will save a few hairs on your head. Mount and turn your cylinder to 60mm. Get it as close as you can, if you go too small keep it an even number, go to 58mm if you pass 60mm so the math is easy. Once we have our cylinder we need to calculate out the next few steps so we can mark and part our box in half.

We now know our finished sphere box will be 60mm in diameter. That means our radius is 30mm. One side of our box will have a total width of 60mm and a total height of 30mm this will be the lid which will have a mortise of 3mm to snap onto the bottom. The bottom will have a width of 60mm and a height of 30mm + 3mm for the lid's tenon, so a total of 33mm (follow the drawings). The inside dimensions for the sphere box will be a hollowed sphere of 30mm diameter, radius of 15mm.

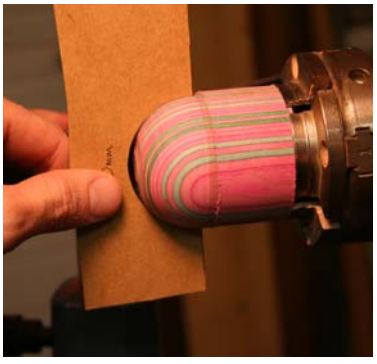
Before going any further you need to make two cardboard templates, the thin dense and stiff stuff is preferred. Make one template with half a 60mm circle, negative, and another for 30mm, positive. These will be used to check our shaping of the inside and outside of the box.

Mark out your blank with one side 30mm long, plus the tenon for the chuck. And mark the other 33mm long plus the tenon for the chuck. Don't forget to account for your parting tool since you will now part the lid from the bottom. Part them in two and install the lid in the chuck. Start by cleaning up the face of the blank. Once clean and square, drill a hole 14mm deep, final depth will be 15mm. Then use a caliper to mark out a 30mm circle on the face. You will now hollow with arcing cuts from the center hole to the outside. You want to create a perfect circle shaped

interior. A ½" round nose scraper works best. Stop often and check the circumference and shape with your positive 30mm template. Take your time as you reach the bottom of the pre-drilled hole. Continue to check against your template and check the depth with a depth gauge or caliper. Once your hollowed lid matches the template sand. Then you will create a 3mm mortise so we can snap the lid onto the bottom.



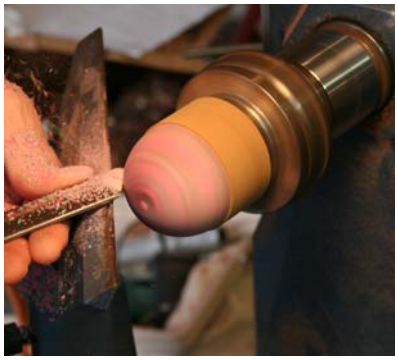
Now install the bottom into the chuck and clean up the face. Use the calipers to measure the diameter of the mortise in the lid and then mark a circle on the bottom's face for the tenon. Now that you have marked the measurement of the tenon remove the waste so you can fit the lid onto the base. Slowly trim the tenon until the lid will tightly snap on. If you go a little too far place a paper towel in between the two, to take up some slack. If you need more than 2 layers of paper towel you have gone too far and should probably start over on the tenon. This is possible since you can use the wood that is currently in the chucks tenon. Snap the lid on and shape it's outside to a 60mm sphere half. Use the negative 60mm template to check size and shape often. Once your lid matches the template it is done. Before removing take a pencil and mark dead center with a pencil as it spins. This mark will be used later.



Now hollow the base the same as the lid only the total depth will be 18mm since we have a 3mm tenon. We are still aiming for a 30mm interior sphere, so the positive 30mm template will be used again. Once done, reverse jam chuck the bottom and shape its exterior same as the lid using the 60mm template. Also mark the dead center of the bottom with a pencil for use in the next step.



You should now have a "perfect" 60mm sphere box with a 15mm wall thickness. Even if you don't, close will work for practice.

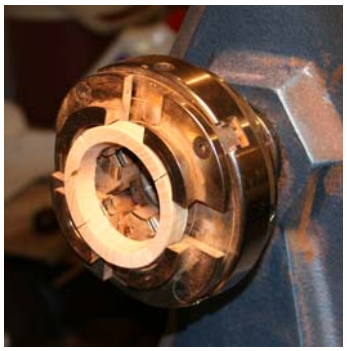
Now assemble your box with the grain aligned then rotate the lid 90 degrees from the base. This way when our box is complete we will rotate the grain back into alignment when in the drunken position.

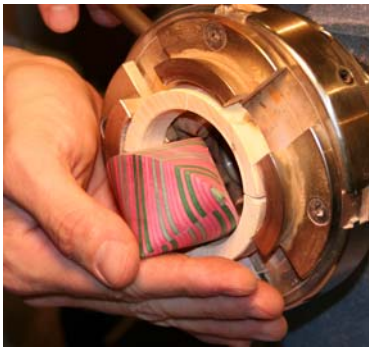
Create a jam chuck that will hold the sphere but allow access to the major diameter of the sphere. Install the sphere into the chuck with the lid line running parallel to the lathe. Use the two marks from earlier to ensure that you have the box installed square to the lathe. Use a pencil to mark a line all the way around the box passing through both marks. When you turn the lathe on, the lid line should create a dot at dead center. If the dot is actually a circle around center, stop the lathe and adjust the box until only a dot appears with the lathe running. This is your indicator for having the box properly installed into the chuck. Once that is done create a straight cut that will eventually go from the dots you drew to the dead center that shows when the lathe is running. Make multiple passes and try to make the cut as straight and accurate as possible. The goal is to create this flat area without changing the



major diameter of 60mm. Once done, remove the box and create a jam chuck to reverse the box and do the same on the other side.

This second jam chuck is a little tricky but can be made from the chuck used in the last step. Create a new mortise in the jam chuck so that the major diameter just barely sits in the groove. Now use a hand saw to make two cuts in a cross hair pattern across the face about 3mm deep, ok 1/8" will work. Then part off this cut ring at about 6mm thick. Install the ring in the chuck, mount your box into the recess and tighten the chuck. It should close in on the box and hold it firmly. If the box pops out try adjusting the mortise a bit to get a better grip. You will need access





all the way up to the major diameter so don't recess it past that point. It will seem like it is just barely grabbing the box. My first attempt at this box took four rings before one held on, so keep trying if it won't hold.

Once it holds, create that same flat cut from maximum diameter to maximum diameter. When finished remove your box and twist 90 degrees. The grain should realign and it should roll across the counter walking side to side like a drunken man.

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CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE
Oscar Mueller
Craftsman Lathe, Delta mini Lathe, misc. carpenters tools,
Old craftsman tablesaw w/ steel top
Call (314) 842-0362 for more information

20 watt magnetic base lamps for sale $25 each.
Call John Buehrer at (314) 423-6522 for more information.

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

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CALENDAR

January 28th, 1-4pm
Regular Meeting at Woodcraft

February 25th, 1-4pm
Regular Meeting at Woodcraft