



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Sept/Oct/Nov 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well my two years in office have flown by and I can't thank our members enough for their support. I am not sure I can ever give back as much as this chapter has given me. I have learned so much from our members and have accomplished more than I thought possible when I first joined. I will definitely miss standing up in front of you all next year.

Our chapter has accomplished a lot over the last two years and I know that will continue. We have seen many demonstrators, learning something new and exciting from each one. We have expanded our library to include many new DVDs and books. We have added a new sound and video system. All great additions to assist us in learning more about woodturning.

I would like to thank my officers for helping me so much as I leaned the role of president and tried to keep up with everything that was going on. Jo Williams as secretary helped keep me straight, especially when it came time to organizing professional demonstrations. Dixi Smith made sure we always had enough money to do the things we wanted, like the free Malcom Tibbetts demonstration offered to our members. Mike Marxer always assisted me as I fumbled through what I was suppose to be doing up front and provided great advice when I needed it. We also have a few nonelected members who take on responsibilities so important to our chapter. Bill Rubenstein has served as our web master for many years and has done a great job. We have added the galley portion back to the web site and I hope that the next president will assist in finding the steps needed to get many of our members turnings on-line. John Buehrer has served as conference coordinator for many years and always has great recommendations for professional demonstrators. Finally Rich Hinkebein as our librarian has excelled in his role more than any of us. I can't believe the difference he has made in organizing our library system. There have been more items checked

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NEXT MEETING

November 25th, 2007 ~ 1-4pm
Woodcraft
2077 Congressional Drive
Maryland Heights, MO 63146
Phone: 314-993-0413

out to our members since he started than we have seen in many years. Our library system is a great benefit to our members and I hope everyone takes advantage of it.

I also want to thank the many members who took the opportunity to get up front and share with us all their process of turning a project. Our monthly demonstrations are very important and without members volunteering they would not be possible.

Good luck to the officers that follow me and remember you always have a past president to call upon if you need anything. Thank you for two great years.

Matt Keim

NOVEMBER WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL

Don't forget that this coming Sunday, November 25th, is our annual wine and cheese social. At this meeting we have an ornament exchange, elect new officers and lots of fun. You are encouraged to bring a appetizer and/or wine. Many members will bring their wood plates and goblets to use. We will also set up an Instant Gallery to show off what we have been doing lately. Bring up to three pieces of your work to include if you would like to participate.

Woodturners of St. Louis

THE “MOTHER OF ALL CATCHES”

There is a moment in every woodturners life where he or she is humbled so quickly they can stand, for what seems to be an eternity, wondering what just happened. Eventually you regain focus and make a decision. It was a mistake for sure, but identifying what happened may never be determined as a result of ignorance or stubbornness. As a student to the craft we have to force ourselves in these instances to understand the events that led to this “Mother of All Catches” in hopes of preventing a repeat in the future. If we ignore this important step, making the wrong decision, of understanding what caused the catch for future prevention we will most assuredly repeat the process risking injury.

For me, this massive catch occurred while attending a class at Arrowmont. We had finally reached our final project for the week. We were to make a face grain lidded container using either a closed or open form. I chose to make a closed form about 7" in diameter with an opening about 2 ½" wide. I felt this would be relatively easy as I have completed hollow forms with holes under ¾" previously.

The wood was slightly spalted maple and as it turns out was air dried rather than kiln dried. Not the best for what we were doing but it would work. I hollowed the piece with a gouge as much as possible then switched to a tool very similar to a Sorby multi tip scraper for the rest.

I continued to hollow by means of scraping to a consistent thickness of about ½". As I came closer and closer to my final thickness of 3/16" I needed to pay more attention the quality of the cut. After all with a 2 ½" opening you could fit your whole hand inside to feel around. I wanted no tear out at all.

I had been practicing shear scraping all week with great success and began to shear scrape every cut on the inside of my form. I

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was getting much better results, and even though this cut would take much longer, it was worth the effort to achieve the quality I was after. I stopped often to observe how things were coming, measuring thickness as I went.

I found a motion that seemed to work but then on the second to last pass of the tool the wood kicked me out. Nothing major just a little push back no big deal, BANG!!!!

My eyes slowly open to see a small sliver of my form still spinning in a

circle. No pieces immediately in sight, no students running over to see what happened. I look down and see the teacher's tool bent badly. I stopped the lathe and walked to the assistant to show him the tool I destroyed still unaware that my sore hand was bleeding. The teacher and assistant couldn't believe how badly the tool bent. We then went back to the lathe, collected all the pieces and determined what happened by reassembling the form and discussing what I was doing when the catch occurred.

Determining what happened was absolutely crucial to protect myself in the future and to return my confidence so I could start a new container. Without understanding exactly what happened I may approach the next piece afraid of a reoccurrence and not focus on other important aspects of woodturning.

What we determined happened was that I hit the transition area at the maximum diameter of the piece with the cutter skewed. This presented the full bevel of the scraping tool to the wood below the transition. This caused the tool to self feed into the wood until it had nowhere to go at which point the tool bent, the piece exploded, all while pulling me towards the lathe slicing the skin off my palm by shearing it between the tool and the tool rest, like a pair of scissors, and spraining my wrist. A lot can happen in a second's time if you think about it.

We tended to my hand and I took a half hour off from turning to regain my confidence before beginning my next container. This time I created a form more open and did not attempt to shear scrape anywhere near the transition area but instead sharpened more regularly and honed the tool every few passes.

My wrist hurt for a month and even now three months later the skin has not fully healed. This was a hard way to learn and after I returned home I continued to examine the broken pieces from that day. I noticed another small spot where a smaller catch had occurred without this disastrous result. This was from that little push back I felt but ignored a few seconds before the bang. Had I asked the instructor for assistance in determining the cause of that catch I may have avoided the "Mother of All Catches" that bit me so hard.

The instructor immediately pulled the whole class together and thoroughly explained what happened. The whole class learned from my mistake and I was happy for that, as I would not wish this experience on anyone. Maybe my fellow classmates will avoid this experience all together.

I finished my second container taking it easy as my wrist hurt so badly and was able to overcome this fearful event. I think I surprised myself a bit by getting back to turning so quickly but I knew I had to. After all there was only one day left of the class.

If you find yourself fighting a cut or feeling something that is not right, stop and look at what is going on. It may keep you out of the E.R. if you do and will only help you on your journey to becoming a better turner.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION --WOODTURNERS 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
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Pacific, MO 63069

CALENDAR

November 25, 1-4pm
Regular Meeting at Woodcraft
Annual Wine and Cheese Social
Elections, Ornament Exchange

December,
No meeting

January 20, 1-4pm
Regular Meeting at Woodcraft
DATE CHANGE