

MAY KNOW
OF USED LATHES

'M'aine Wood Turners 'S'

4/97

Member AAW

President: David Lancaster (445-4758)

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Last Meeting

The March 22nd meeting began with the announcement that we have lost another member. Boyd Livesay has passed away. Bob Morrell gave a nice memorial reading.

The meeting began around 9 am with a rather light turnout of 16 members. Dave was in top form though, giving his new 3 HP Oneway a test drive. After all, every tool man needs more power! He covered bowl turning from the basics of choosing different grinds on chisels for different situations and how to orientate the bowl blank in the log. He later moved on to more advanced techniques like coring the center of a bowl to get multiple bowls from a single blank of wood and vacuum chucking. Dave roughed a 15" cherry bowl, finished an 11" cherry bowl cored from the larger one, and an artsy natural edge burl bowl. This is the second full day bowl turning demo that I've seen Dave do and I learned something new each time.

Next Meeting

April 16, 7 to 9 PM. This will be problem solver night. No problem is too simple, although a few real stumpers would liven things up too. There should also be plenty of time for Show&Tell, so bring something. It doesn't have to be a work of art, it need only provide inspiration. There will also be a wood auction. This is a good source of money for the club and is part of the reason demonstrators never cost more than pizza and soda. So bring a nice log or two.

David Ellsworth is the featured demonstrator for our May meeting, which has the unusual time of Sunday night May 18. David practically invented hollow forms as we know them today. He has produced several video tapes and has demonstrated his techniques both nationally and internationally.

John Jordan is coming October 17, 18 and 19. One day will be a regular demo open to all members. The other two days are for individual instruction. This will be hands on and limited to 6 people. The fee for this is \$225.00. Reservations are required. If you are interested talk to Dave as soon as possible.

The Carba-Tec Raffle is going well. We are more than half way to the amount of money needed to cover our costs. We are trying to keep the raffle in house so a member can win. Hopefully it will be given away at the April meeting.

New Newsletter

This is my first attempt at writing our newsletter. If I'm to succeed I'll need help. We could have a classified section to sell old tools and things but need advertisers. It would be nice to have a how to article in each issue and need authors. Who knows, maybe we could even expand to more than one page. Any and all suggestions would be welcome!

A Simple Kiln

by Joe Dallorso

The biggest advance in wood turning for me since I bought my Oneway chuck has been building a simple drying box. I saw an article in the AAW magazine that talked about drying pen blanks in an insulated box heated with light bulbs but didn't think it would work on bowl blanks. Then one of our members, the late Frank Bendl told me he dried bowls in one. I later saw someone on the internet from New Zealand mention one.

Anyway here's how I built mine. It's like a closet in my basement. Two feet square and six feet tall. Three sides are 2" foam insulation sandwiched between flake board. The ceiling is the same, the floor concrete and the door hollow core luan. It's heated with 3 100W light bulbs. It has two computer fans to circulate the air. All of which are controlled by a thermostat from Grangers. I have 3 shelves made from strapping and hardware cloth. It holds 40 good size bowls and will dry them to 6% in about 3 weeks. I've even dried a 6X6 inch block of yellow birch which I sawed in half so as to take a moisture reading from the center which was 7%. I'm still experimenting with the temperature. Frank ran his at 90 degrees and sealed tight. The guy in NZ runs his at 70 and has air holes. My first batch ran at 90 for 16 days but had a few stress cracks. I'm near the end of my second batch and have been increasing the temp gradually from 70 to 95 for about 3 weeks.

I've never had too much success air drying. It's almost impossible to air dry below 10 to 12%. Bowl rims can warp slightly, covered boxes stick or warp or come too loose. Besides depending on your electrical abilities and how many materials you can scavenge a simple kiln is quite affordable. Everyone should have one!