

Maineiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
Volume 1, Number 6, March, 2001

President's Message

Hope the last forum was of some help to the members, We will try to follow it up with an actual tool making demo at a later date. I want to be sure Burt gets a chance to show his brazing skills so a Saturday will be in order as we have done in the past.

Next up is a bowl finishing demo at Dave's house, followed by a demo by Jack V. I'm sure nobody is going to miss these two. They'll both be Saturdays so as not to miss any of the considerable skill they have to share with us.

Don't forget to bring those gavels you have turned to the next meeting and I look forward to putting at least one to good use.

Work safely,

Bob

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Club Business, February, 2001

Meeting was called to order by Club President Bob Hackett.

Bob began the meeting by thanking Peter Asselyn for his demonstration last month. Bob noted that he had already shared Peter's detergent drying technique with several other turners he knows and is looking forward to gleaning even more knowledge from future demos.

Everyone in attendance was in agreement that we have a very large body of talent in the club and one way to share this knowledge is to continue to tap our own members as demonstrators. This brought up the subject of "compensating" club members for taking their time to do club demos. Bob spoke with Jacques Vesery about his upcoming demo in April. Bob felt that given Jacques' popularity/demand on the open market for demonstrators, it was only appropriate that the club reimburse Jacques for his time and effort. Jacques appreciated the offer, however, did not feel the club needed to financially compensate him for his demo. Jacques and Bob did discuss that instead of financial compensation, it might be appropriate for the club to recognize member demonstrators with either a gift certificate from a woodturning supplier or possibly with a complimentary club membership. Club members felt this would be a good way to increase the number of members willing to demonstrate and take the burden off of just a few of the same club members. **All members are asked to think about compensation ideas and this item of business will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.**

The general subject of wintertime club meeting's was also discussed. Members note that with the winter months and the accompanying weather, it is often hard or even dangerous driving to or from meetings. Several possible changes were proposed. One change would be to do away with the January and February meetings and instead have meetings in July and August. Two disadvantages to this change would be lack of continuity during the winter and possibly even less turnout for the summer meetings due to people being away and other commitments. One alternative would be to plan on having the January and February meetings on Saturdays instead of on Wednesday evenings. This would allow for longer demos and also do away with nighttime driving issues. **Please bring ideas/suggestions/thoughts to next meeting.**

Bob also brought up the subject of the internet and woodturning. There are several good news-groups out there as well as a host of woodturning sites. Bob also has found a lot of good deals on Ebay which is an internet auction site. Possible to bid on wood, chucks, tools and a variety of other items. Can find them at www.Ebay.com. Talk to Bob about info.

Several members have approached me about a club mailing list. I will be putting one together and plan on making it up as a club directory with member's pictures, home addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc. Anyone who does not want to be in the directory, please let me know. Members who are away can, if possible, email me a digital picture at shkrtrds@ctel.net I will be asking members to let me snap a quick digital picture for the directory. If anyone has any other ideas, please let me know. Thanks in advance.

Kieran

Member News

David Lancaster reports that he will once again be demonstrating at the upcoming AAW Symposium in St. Paul, Minnesota. This will be David's fourth time as a demonstrator at one of the national symposiums. As always, the symposium is planning a rotation of some of the "World's Best Woodturning Demonstrators" and will also include an Instant Gallery, Banquet and an Auction of Tools, Wood and Fine Woodturnings.

The symposium will be July 6th-8th. Members can find out additional symposium info by visiting the AAW's web site at www.woodturner.org/sym/ or speak with David for additional details.

Remember the 2002 symposium will be in Rhode Island and the club should have a good turn out.

David's recent accident was also the subject of Ken Keoughan's article in the most recent American Woodturner. When she saw the picture of David, my youngest daughter asked if I wore face protection? My wife commented that there wasn't much danger in doing the newsletter. Is this a guy who needs a shop or what?

Demonstration, February, 2001

February's demonstration consisted of an excellent discussion and demo on tools and tool construction by our own president, Bob Hackett. Bob reports that his training is in tool making and metalworking. Although a lot has been learned by on the job experience, he recommends that anyone interested in learning more about the subject, consult several excellent texts. Several of Bob's favorites include Alexander Weygar's series on tool making. Initially there were three books, however, these have now been combined in to a single book. Bob also recommends Tool Making for Woodworking by Roy Larsen and Complete Book of Sharpening by Leonard Lee (founder of Lee Valley Tools).

Bob reviewed with us the several most common types of tool steel. The steel previously used most commonly in making tools was **carbon steel**. Although carbon steel could take a very good edge, the wear resistance of the edge was limited. The second tool steel to become popular was **HSS or High Speed Steel**. Although HSS can hold an edge much longer than carbon steel (i.e. it has better wear resistance), it is not possible to grind as good an edge on HSS. The last tool steel discussed was **Particle Steel**. The durability of the edge on particle steel tools will rival that of the HSS tools, however, once again you give up some ability with respect to the sharpness of the edge one is able to obtain.

Following a discussion on tool steel, Bob reviewed with the group the many tools he has fashioned from old or discarded tools used for other purposes. Bob has several contacts in various shops and often uses old HSS DRAPS (drilling and tapping bits) that normally would be thrown out. By grinding various profiles on these bits, Bob is able to make a whole series of specialty turning tools, each used for a specific task.

In addition to the DRAPS, Bob has also found a use for old planer blades. Bob will use the heavier, industrial planer blades and grinds these down to create a variety of scrapers. Once the scraper is shaped on the grinding wheel, Bob will hone the burr flat using a diamond stone. Bob prefers to use a **monocrystalline diamond stone** versus the polycrystalline stones. Once the burr has been burnished flat, Bob uses a commercial jig designed specifically for raising a burr on scrapers (see photo on right). The jig consists of a pivot point and a second tapered post that the scraper's face runs against. As the scraper is drawn against the tapered point, a fresh burr is raised. Bob likens this to preparing a cabinet scraper.

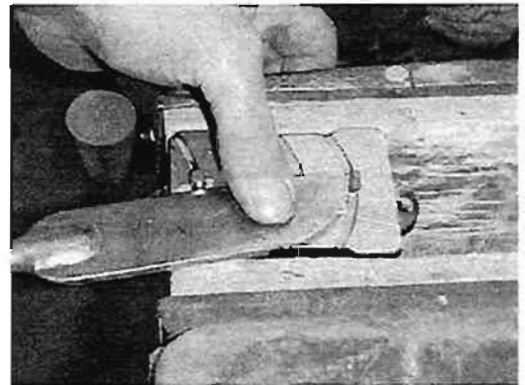
Bob reports that for his last finishing cut, he will often use a carbon steel tool. This is because as earlier noted, a carbon steel tool will allow you to produce a much sharper edge and this should translate into a finer, finishing cut.

Additional topics covered in the demo included tips on sharpening gouges. Bob noted that **HSS tools should never be quenched in water** as a means of cooling them while grinding. This process can lead to micro cracks in the steel and the result will be chipping out of the tool edge. Tools should be allowed to air cool. Some turners will actually precool tools in freezer and hopefully lessen the risk of overheating their tools.

David Lancaster reviewed use of the One-way grinding jig. Oftentimes, David will first hand grind his desired profile **and then** set the jig to this profile so he can continue to match the profile when the tool is resharpened on the grinding wheel.

Bob also recommended that members invest in a deburring wheel. This is a wheel that will both polish and remove material at the same time. This is what Bob uses to obtain the polished finishes on his homemade tool rests. He also uses it to polish the edges of all his turning tools.

Thanks Bob for a great demo and I am sure he would be happy to speak to any members regarding tools, their construction and sharpening.



Jig being used to raise a burr on a scraper

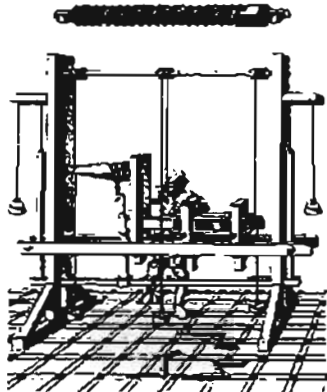
Club Membership

I am happy to report that at our last meeting, we had four new members join. The new members include Mary Bowers (Alna), Albert Fritz (Wiscasset), Donald Hunter (Wiscasset) and Amanda "Missy" Smith (Bates College, Lewiston).

I know I speak for all the current club members in welcoming our newest members to the club. We all look forward to sharing our knowledge (as limited as that might be) with the new members and strongly encourage their active participation in the club.

Remember that any club is only as good as each member is willing to make it. In order for us to continue to grow and thrive, each member must be willing to contribute more than their "club dues".

If interested in taking a more active part in the club, please speak to Bob or Peter.



Club Challenge

At last month's meeting, Bob Hackett proposed the initiation of what he refers to as a club challenge. Popular in many other woodturning clubs, this involves a challenge in which one specific piece is chosen to be made by each participating member and brought to the next month's meeting for review and judging by club members. The member's piece which is voted to be the "best", will have "won" that month's challenge. Although the exact prize for "winning" has not yet been decided, several club members suggested a gift certificate to one of the turning suppliers. Additional thoughts on this can be directed to Peter or Bob.

Seeing that Bob oftentimes finds himself in need of a gavel, he has chosen a turned gavel as this month's featured challenge project. All members are encouraged to bring their gavel to the March meeting and we will let the "judging" begin.

Hopefully the club challenge can be a regular club project. Members should submit their ideas for future club challenges. Around the holidays, challenges may include Christmas ornaments or tops/toys for kids that could then be donated/raffled off. Please let us know your ideas.

Library News

Remember that the club library has a host of books and videos available for all members to take out. Books can be checked out for free. **Videos can be checked out for a three dollar rental fee per video.** Remember to give your rental fee to Bob Morrell. In order for all members to enjoy the books and videos, please remember to bring books/videos back to the following meeting. Please contact Mark Irving with questions pertaining to the library/video rentals.

Meeting Schedule

- **March 24, 2001**

Note Well: March's meeting will be taking place the last Saturday in March and will take the place of the usual Wednesday night meeting. Saturday's meeting will take place at David Lancaster's shop and the focus will be on finish turning. Due to possible mud conditions, meet at Erskine just before 9:00 and we will carpool to David's. Bring lunch or \$5.00 to send out for lunch. Other goods such as doughnuts, chips, etc. will be greatly appreciated. Meeting will probably end around 4:00 P.M.

- **April, 2001**

Jacques Vesery has agreed to do a day long Saturday workshop. The workshop will take place at Erskine and the final details (date, time, etc.) are still being worked out.

- **May 16th, 2001**

Jeff Clapp - TBA

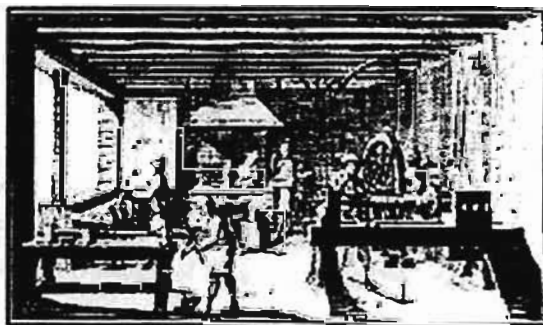
- **June 20th, 2001**

Steve Gleasner - Sphere Turning



Wood Auction

The wood auction continues to be an excellent source of revenue for the club as well as a source of one of a kind wood pieces. This month featured some old bowl blanks from the shop of Steve Gleasner as well as some beautiful pieces of hornbeam, apple and maple. The most prized piece was the large cherry burl auctioned for the mere price of \$22.00!!! We all expect to see a beautiful piece return to the show and tell table sometime in the very near future.



March, 2001 Member Profile

One of the benefits I have come to enjoy as being the editor for the monthly newsletter, is the opportunity to get out and visit individual member's shops and talk briefly with them about not only woodturning, but life in general.

This month I had the chance to spend several hours with our own Mac Ray who lives in Damariscotta. Mac and his wife Joan live in a house that was built by Mac. Walking into the house, one is immediately surrounded by Mac's incredible talent. From the custom cabinetry to the drop leaf tables with inlay to the numerous musical instruments and clocks of all shapes and sizes, Mac has made them all. Mac reports that he has been turning for approximately 35-40 years, however, has only recently gotten "serious" about it since he retired from the Postal Service four years ago. In addition to his love for woodworking of all types, Mac is also an avid and accomplished fly fisherman who can tie a homemade fly with the best of them.

Once one descends Mac's steps into his basement, you get a sense as to what seriousness means. Everywhere you look, there is a piece to capture one's attention. The shop is a warehouse of woodworking projects and turned objects in all stages of work. If anyone is offered the chance to visit Mac's shop, I would highly recommend the visit.



Mac with his Oneway 2436

Lathe: Oneway 2436

Favorite Tool: Bowl gouge with side grind.

Favorite Wood: Any wood that is free, especially cherry.

Favorite Piece: Clocks he has made.

Turning Goals: Live long enough so as to run out of wood to turn!

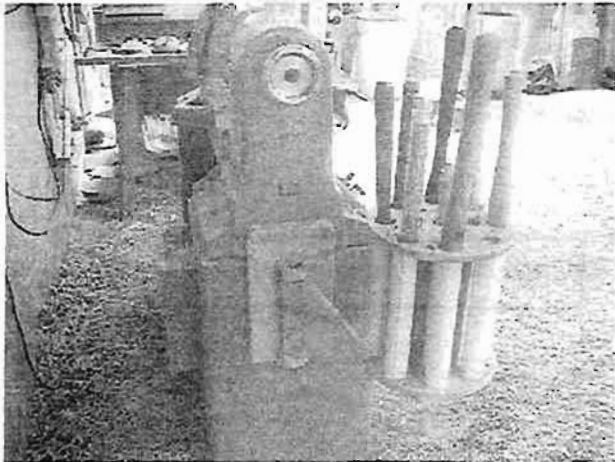
Turning Tip: Continue to turn and turn. The more time you actually spend at the lathe, the better you will become as a turner.



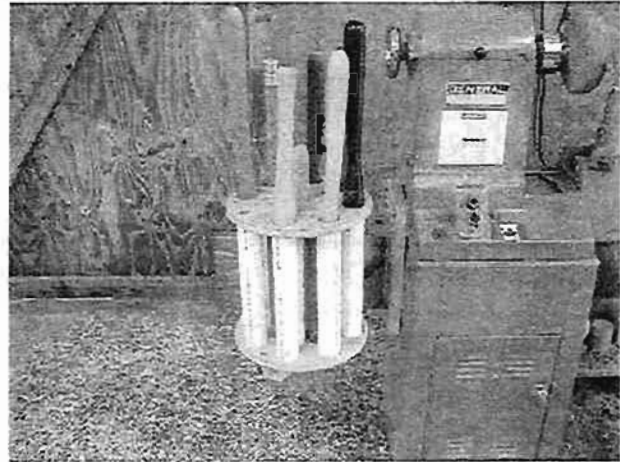
A "few" of Mac's bowls just waiting to be finished!

Turning Tip

This month's turning tip is from a woodturner friend of Mac Ray's by the name of Bartley Rhoads. Bartley has come up with an ingenious method for holding his turning tools. Bartley finds the holder keeps his chisels in a more convenient place and has designed the holder so it will swing out of the way (see photos below). He feels it is a significant improvement over the bucket on the floor which was his previous chisel holder. Mac will have to pass along the club's thanks for this contribution.



Chisel Holder, Side view



Chisel Holder, front view

Classifieds

Wanted: Cherry burls. Usually the bigger the better. Please contact Peter Asselyn at next meeting or call, 353-4206.

Your ad here. FREE!!!!
Please contact the editor for details.

Member News

Steve Gleasner's pieces are now on the internet for your viewing pleasure. His work can be found at :

[Http://www.delmano.com](http://www.delmano.com)

Look under Current Exhibitions and then go to "Small Treasures". The visit to the site is definitely worth it.

Congratulations to Steve on his work. I know what I'll be look for at next year's swap.

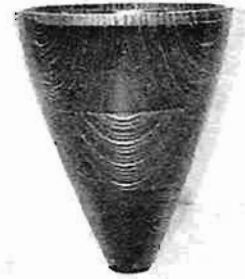
Member News

Jeff Clapp is happy to report that he is now working for SYSCO in the Portland area as a marketing associate. Although this has cut into his turning time, the new job is proving to be quite enjoyable and is in a field that Jeff has a lot first hand experience in. If anyone is in need of large catering projects, etc., please keep Jeff in mind. Somehow I don't think the demo at David's house will qualify.

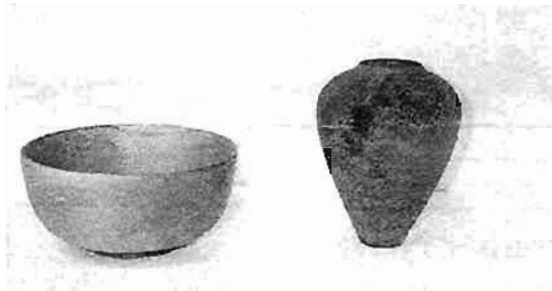
Show and Tell, February, 2001



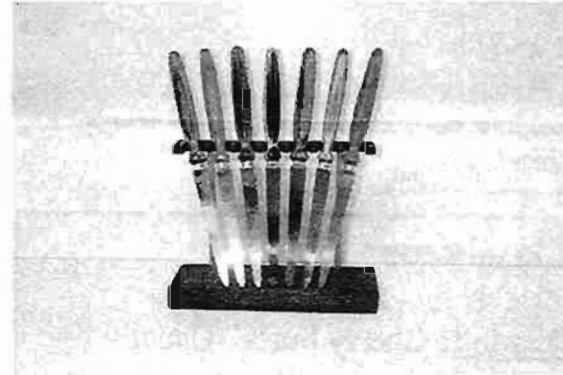
Chestnut Bowl, Bill Dana



Open Bowl, Steve Gleasner



Cherry Bowl, Ted Curtis, Apple Vase, Peter A.



Turned Letter Openers, Charlie Rogers



Turned/Painted Mushrooms, Charlie Rogers

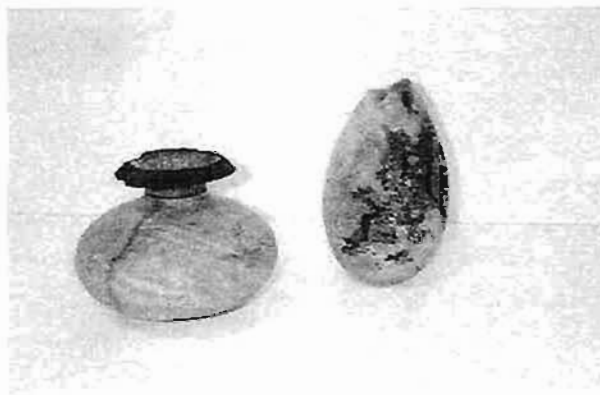


Segmented Turning, Tom Raymond

Show and Tell, February, 2001, Cont.



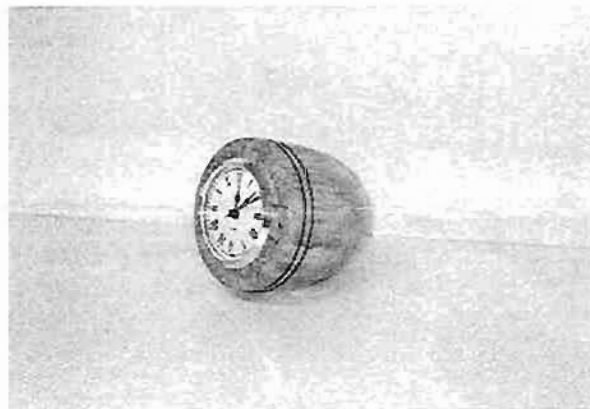
Figured Maple Bowl, Mark Irving



Turned Vessels, Mac Ray



Cherry Bowl with Carved Rim, David Lancaster



Spalted Maple Clock, Paul Lizotte



Cherry Burl Vase, Peter Asselyn



Turned, Wall Hanging, Steve Gleasner