

# Maineiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW  
Volume 1, Number 7, April/May, 2001

## President's Message

I'd like to thank both Jacques and David for the last two demos, a lot of great information was put out in both. We are fortunate in that we have a more than average amount of truly talented turners in our chapter. It's great when nationally known demonstrators are part of the crowd. Everyone benefits when they share their skills. As stated in the AAW journal you don't have to be a nationally known demonstrator or a Gallery turner to make a difference. What makes these people command such attention is their passion and commitment to their work and their ability to communicate that passion. I know that many of us are just as eager to see turning move forward and progress. Let's hone those communication skills by sharing at the meetings and supporting a new program! One of the things we are going to do in the near future is to make the collective knowledge of the members more available to members who are just starting out. I would like to call on the general membership to sign up if you are willing to give 1/2 day lessons to help new members get up to speed on a one on one basis. This is an excellent chance for the intermediate and advanced turners to hone their skills while sharing your own personal way of doing things. See me at the next meeting and as soon as we have enough participants, we'll start the ball rolling to linking the newcomers and beginners with the old hands.

Remember to bring your gavels (we only have four so far) and the baby rattles for the challenge to the next meeting.

Work safe,

Bob

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## Club Officers

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<b>Newsletter</b>	Kieran Kammerer 622-1946 shkrtrds@ctel.net	<b>Auctioneer</b>	Peter Asselyn

## Club Business, March, 2001

Meeting was called to order by Club President Bob Hackett.

Mac Ray discussed the subject of holding half-day turning workshops/classes at individual member's shops. Mac reports that a club Ed Knapp used to belong to held such classes and they were a big success. The classes provide instruction for members and also a source of revenue for the club. Members who want to take the lessons would give a \$25.00 donation to the club for each morning session they attended. Members are encouraged to give this idea some thought. If anyone would like to work on organizing such a program, please contact one of the club officers.

The topic of a club directory and members networking was once again discussed. Time permitting, Kieran will try to work on a directory. This may have to a summer or fall project. Once again, if someone else would like to lend some time in making up a directory, any and all help would be appreciated.

Joyce Hanna is looking for anyone who might be interested in giving her some lessons in spindle turning. If anyone is interested, please contact Joyce at 377-6855.

Bob Hackett brought up the idea of starting a tool lending library/program. Bob felt we all had some old tools hanging around in our shop and if we bring these in, it may allow members to try out different tools before purchasing them. If anyone is interested, please bring tools to the monthly meetings.

The topic of Winter meetings was once again discussed. It was felt that the bylaws stated no January meeting and a meeting in July to take the place of the Jan. meeting. Most members wanted to keep the Wednesday night winter meetings. Additional thoughts on this next Fall as the Winter once again looms. Several members felt that additional Saturday meetings are still a good idea. These would be held at member's shops and would help to foster creativity amongst members and allow members to overcome individual obstacles in turning. The hope is that several of these could be scheduled as time permits through out the year. These meetings would supplement and not replace the monthly, Wednesday night meeting.

Alan Bradstreet also brought up the idea of members possibly going to some of the Maine Woodworker's Association meetings. These are held on the second Wednesday of each month and take place at member's shops. Just as with our meetings, guests are welcome. Alan has learned an incredible amount by attending these meetings and has been exposed to everything from boat builders to musical instrument makers. Sometime in the future we may think of a joint meeting and possibly sharing newsletters and member lists.

Alan also mentioned that the annual Haystack clean-up would be taking place on the 29th/30th of May. Room and board is provided in exchange for helping out cleaning up the camp and getting it ready for the coming season. Alan promises a great time. If interested, please contact Alan at 688-4728.

Peter Asselyn discussed nametags. Alan will be providing some rejects from his bookmarks for the nametags. Members are also encouraged to be creative and can make their own in any style they choose.

## Newsletter News

I apologize about the lack of last month's newsletter, however, I was basing the send out time on Jacque's demo being on April 21st and not the 14th. I hope everyone was properly informed about the meeting change and that no one missed what I heard was an excellent demo.

I have to once again plead with members to get me information in a timely fashion and to please let me know ASAP if any changes have taken place. The newsletter can only be as accurate as the information supplied to me.

Given the current time constraints I am facing, I think now would be a good time to start thinking about next year's newsletter editor. In order for members to be informed over the summer, it should be in place before the last meeting.

Due to a previous commitment, I don't think I will be able to make the May meeting. If you are interested in having a newsletter for May, please volunteer to take notes/pictures and forward them on to me as soon as possible.

Kieran

## Demonstration, March, 2001

March's demonstration took place at the shop of Davis Lancaster in Weeks Mills. David's demo focused on the process of taking a green piece of wood and making a bowl through the process of double turning. David prefers to double turn his piece unless he is working with burls. In those cases, he may turn the piece all in one session.

David reports that his wood of choice to work with is cherry. He prefers his finished pieces to remain round and "Doesn't like mother nature involved much with his bowls". David prefers that his bowls have a light feel to them and always strives to have the bowls well balanced. Shape is very important to David and this is quite evident in the bowls he produces. On way David feels you can start out is to define the bowl's maximum and minimum diameters. The only thing left to do after that is to connect the two diameters with a nice, smooth curve. Obviously easy for David but much harder for most of the rest of us. David does feel that most beginners will often make the mistake of having the base of the bowl being too large. Try to strive for a smaller base. Another important design feature is to strive for a nice smooth inside curve on the bowl. With continuous practice, this should be a goal most of us can reach.

With respect to finishes, David has tried numerous ones over the years, however, has come to settle on using Waterlox. He feels this is a finish which is hard to screw-up. The bowl will be power sanded to approximately 320-400 grit and then the first coat of Waterlox will be applied. David waits one day between coats of Waterlox and does not sand between coats. Total number of coats depends upon the desired finish. Once the bowl is ready for the final finish, David uses beeswax mixed with mineral oil and applies this using unoled, **long strand** steel wool (Beeswax can be ordered by calling 1-800-BEESWAX). David will also use Scotch Brite pads on the portions of the bowls he has textured. When finishing the textured areas, make sure the bowl is turning in the same direction it was when the textured area was cut.

When David is finishing his bowls, they are held to the lathe using his "dump" pump. This is one of several vacuum pumps David has and was acquired from the dump. Pump is used in combo with several of the Oneway vacuum attachments and allows easy hook-up and removal of the bowls. If using the lathe in reverse, always make sure to lock the drum attachment onto the spindle!!!!

During the demonstration, David covered several of the aspects of rough turning a blank. David prefers to first rough out the bowl blanks on the bandsaw. Previously he would use a faceplate to attach the bowl blank, however, his method of choice now consists of a Oneway screw center. David finds the screw center faster in production work and it also allows him to get a second bowl from the blank. The blank is first predrilled and then attached to the screw center. Remember to always use your tailstock when turning pieces on a screw center!!!!

David's initial cuts consist of a pulling cut where the tools handle is in front of the tool's cutting edge. David gets a lot of control from using on of the Oneway's curved tool rests. This allows him to keep the rest close to the work piece and to diminish the amount of vibration. The two grinds David uses are the Irish grind and the straight across bowl grind. The three tool sizes he uses most are 3/8ths, 1/2 and 5/8ths. The smaller the gouge, the better the finish cut.

Once David is done with the pulling cuts, he will then switch the handle position and change to a bevel rubbing cut. If ridges are left, possible to also use a shear scraping cut. Also possible to finish with a diamond scraper.

When finish turning his bowls, David will first true up the inside of the bowl so it will fit the drum chuck better. Turn bowl around with bottom on the tailstock. Lubricate the tool rest with some beeswax/mineral oil and have at it. Use whatever tool/cutting technique feels best for you. Once outside complete, rechuck in vacuum chuck and begin the final stages of inside turning. When remounting the bowl, use tool rest as a guide to rechuck the bowl. All inside cuts are bevel rubbing cuts. Remember to ail for a nice smooth, flowing curve inside and out.

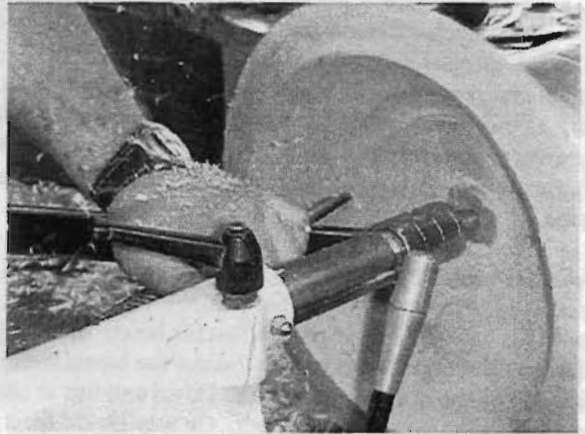
To sand, David uses pads 3" to 5" in size. Pads can be made using wood discs and closed cell neoprene (Augusta Rubber). David prefers 3M production sandpaper with the classification 255L (CW Hayden in Auburn). Always start with the right grit. Don't be too proud to use a coarser grit at the start. I you start too fine, you will never get a good finish.

David sands the outside with 5" disc, lathe off and uses a random orbital sander. Inside is power sanded with 3" pad/electric drill and lathe is off.

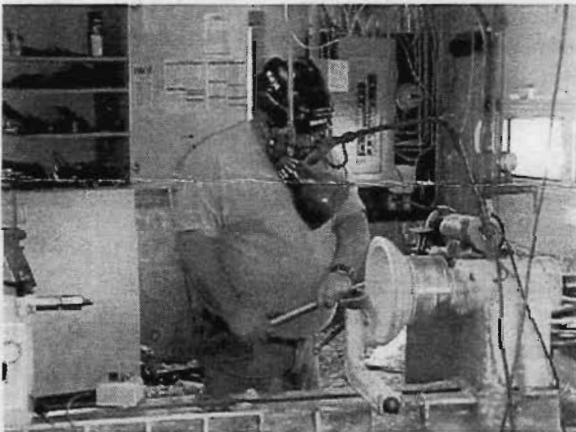
Demonstration, March, 2001, Cont.



David finishing the inside of a bowl.



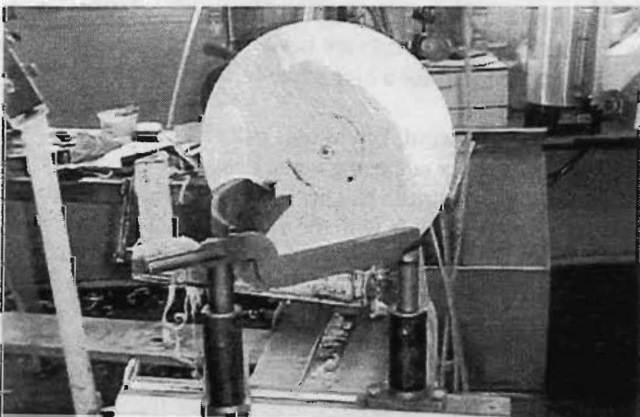
Inside shape being further refined.



David refining the edge of a bowl.



A batch of bowls waiting for final turning.



New Oneway coring system being demonstrated. David finds it easy to setup and much less fatiguing than the McNaughton system. See David for info/details.

## Demonstration, April, 2001

Jacques is a New Jersey native who moved to Maine 10 years ago and started his career building furniture until he found out that bowl turning was more profitable at one of the shows where he displayed his pieces.

Most of his work is textured hollow forms. He used to turn all dry wood and now only turns wet or green wood. He prefers Maine cherry less than furniture grade for his hollow forms. They are turned into the end grain.

His billets are taken near the sapwood of the tree unless its a large piece then the pith is in the center. Selection is based on minimum warpage. He then cuts the billet round on the band saw.

His new lathe is a Stubby made in Australia. He uses mostly a 1/4" and a 1/2" gouge with a very long side grind for most of his work.

The O.D. of his billet is turned between centers at about 600 rpm. He roughs out with a 1" spindle gouge. He sets the tailstock lock just with a light torque. He wears a dust mask and safety glasses while turning. He is agile turning either right or left handed and this is a great advantage for comfort he claims.

His chuck is an Axminster with very wide jaws which gives it the best holding power. He relies less on the tennon holding power for the chuck than he does on the face of the billet having good contact with the face of the jaws. And the tennon should not bottom in the chuck.

Many of his scrapers are made of high speed steel which he grinds to suit his applications. Many are shortened intentionally to minimize shaft vibration. His tool rest is always located below the centerline of the piece.

He only hones skew chisels. most of his grinds are with an 80 or 100 grit wheel. A 1/2" wood drill with a file handle is used for the initial bore before starting to core out with the gouge. His entrance hole is opened to slightly over an inch. His core is done with the 1/2" gouge with the flutes straight up, generating curls which gives the best finish. He uses a vacuum cleaner or a bent

spoon to clean out the chips. Angles tools, scraper and cutter are used to clean out under the rim.

Jacques said that your fingers are a good gauge when you have experience, he also uses a French caliper. They are available at Lee Valley tools. He leaves more thickness in the lower quarter of the vessel. He said that the inside surface of hollow forms are not that important to collectors. Its the outside that sells the piece.

After coring out the inside, he reverses the piece and sets up the opening on a maple cone and the bottom on the tailstock center. He has a radio antenna he devised as a depth gauge for knowing where the inside bottom is when turning the outside.

The vessel has to be dried before carving feathers on it. He also retrues the foot of the bowl after carving using the cone again. He carves a concave shape for a base or foot. the nub that's left should be below the foot so it can stand on its base upright for drying.

Slide show before lunch:

About 50 slides were shown of his work which was most impressive. Jacques had slides of scrimshaw he did before he got into turning. He also mentioned that he doesn't like doing salad bowls. The feathers on his bowls face down and the leaves face up. The slide presentation was super.

Carving after lunch:

Jacques mentioned that the club should have a video camera so that we all could see the intricate work in progress from our seats. He likes to carve a piece when its wet, so he puts the piece in a bath or sprays it with concentrated lemon juice. And he has used a fabric softener bath before carving. He said maple will stain fast when drying.

A flexible shaft reciprocating carver

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Demonstration, April, 2001, Cont.

*(Continued from page 5)*

attached to a variable speed Dremel tool was used. A Ryobi carver works well also but is harder to handle because of size. Ryobi discontinued this tool although it one worth owning. The Dremel is set at half speed when carving. And the carve should be downhill on the vessel pushing the fibers down. The cutters that come with the tool are of poor quality so one has to invest in cutters from Flexcut.

Using the different tools, he demonstrated feather carving. The maximum diameter area of the vessel is the hardest section to carve as it tend to rip and tear.

### Micro wave drying:

Place the piece in the micro wave and dry for 40 seconds to a minute on high power; let it cool and repeat the process. Check the end grain for hairline cracks. Use superglue in any small cracks. Also spray multiple cracks with the lemon juice spray. The larger the piece, the more susceptible it is to cracking. I asked how do you know when its dry? He said " place your eyeglasses over the opening after taking it out of the microwave and if they fog, its not dry yet.

Next he demonstrated the method of grinding the feather shapes. Afterwards he softened the lines with a 1" drum sander. A wood burner was used to outline the feather. The burner was made by Excaliber and can be purchased from Woodcraft. He lays out he barbells on the feather with a pencil before burning. There are left and right feathers. the same as on a bird. While burning, a fan is used to blow the smoke away from the face.

On the next piece he used a Fordham micro motor tool for grinding the feather outline. This tool runs at 45,000 RPM. It was used also to round the edges of the quill.

### Coloring:

He uses a bent paintbrush about 3/4" wide with acrylic ink . The paint is dusted on very lightly. Air brush flat paint is good also. He sometimes sprays a piece with flat lacquer after painting. At times he uses cheap black flat spray paint on chip carving. A tooth brush with India ink can be used to finish feathers. You can add a small amount of metallic tones in the ink. You should use opaque or translucent paints. He has used shoe polish and shoe dyes in the past. David Lancaster has used milk paint.

### The Rim:

A piece if maple burl was super glued on a conical piece to turn the rim. This is normally side grain or a burl. He used the ID prongs of his caliper to mark the outline or size reference of the vessel opening on the rim for a guide when turning. He eyeballs the rim and the vessel for appearance and rim shape.. Sanding is done with 220 and then 320 grit only. The rim is finished with shellac cut 50/50 with 25% mineral oil and 25% alcohol, applied with toilet paper. It is fast and easy.

### Gouge grinding:

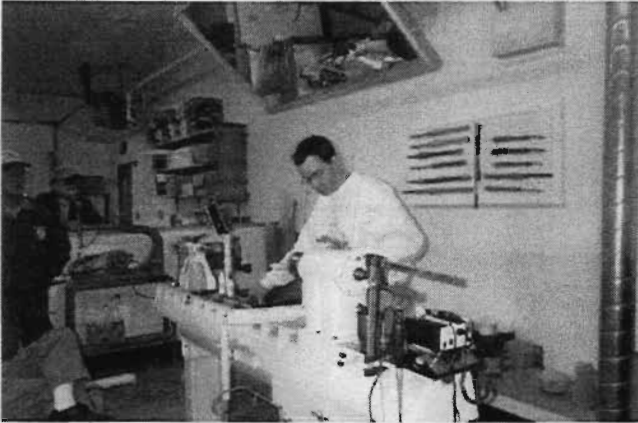
Hold the gouge flutes up side down and grind the flute opening curved and about 1.5 inches long almost to the bottom of the flute; then looking over the top, grind the edges free hand to a sharp knife edge. It looks easy until you try it. A grinding steady rest is not used.

### Summary:

What a great day of learning. We are fortunate to have members of this caliber in the Maine Woodturners group. I have attended many sessions such as this and paid dearly for them and they were no where as good.

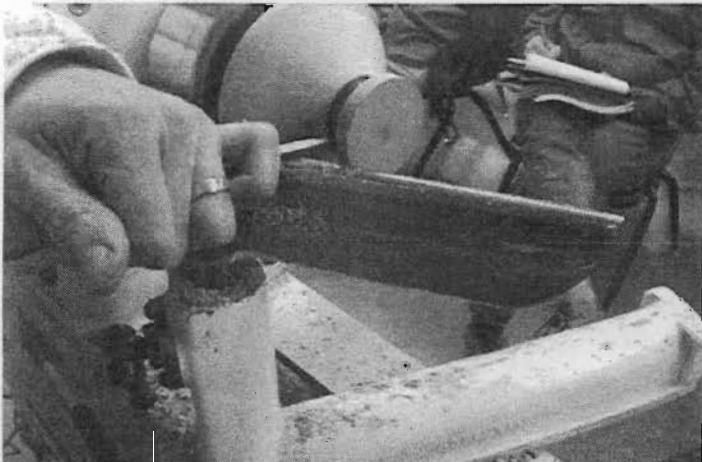
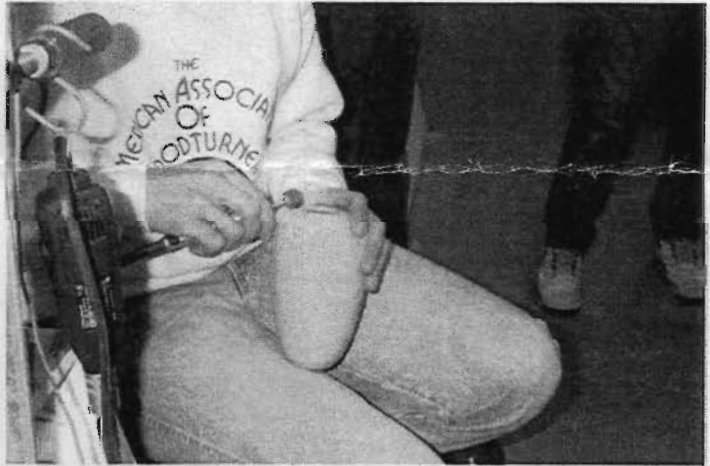
Tom Raymond

Demonstration, April, 2001, Cont.



Jacques demonstrating at lathe.

Jacques adding some texturing to a vessel with rotary tool. He makes it look so easy



Jacques obviously has "tamed the skew" chisel.

Gallery of Jacques' Works



Phlight of Phancy

Crossing to the Unknown



Grouping





## Meeting Schedule

- **May 16th, 2001**  
Jeff Clapp - TBA
- **June 20th, 2001**  
Steve Gleasner - Sphere Turning

Additional meetings to be announced?

## Wood Auction

I anticipate that there will be a wood auction at this coming meeting. Make sure to bring any pieces to contribute to the auction and a supply of money so you can be well stocked with turning timber for the coming months.

## Member News

Happy to report that Steve and his wife Illya are the proud parents of a 9lb. 8oz. baby boy. William Clark Gleasner was born on 04/25/01. All our best to the Gleasners and I am sure Steve will be laden with new baby pictures at the next meeting.



A definite future turner. Look at those biceps.

## Club Challenge

There were several beautiful gavels on display at David's shop back in March. Make sure you bring your gavels to the next meeting along with your turned baby rattles. We know who will use the gavel but it still is not clear who will be the recipient of the turned rattle. Any ideas????