

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

Vol. 2, Number 9, June 2003

President's Message (from V-P Mark Irving)

The May meeting was held at Erskine Academy. I estimate we had 36 people or more show up. It's great to see so much interest in woodturning. I've been coming here for about 5 years now, and it seems as if we are getting new people by leaps and bounds the last couple of years. Hopefully our membership will continue to grow, helped along with the new program at Round Top which Ken spoke about at the meeting.

I want to thank Kieran for all the work he's done in creating a terrific newsletter. I know it's a lot of work and it's hard to find someone to dedicate the time it takes to put out the newsletter, so thank you Sandy for volunteering.

Mac put on a great demo, as he always does. It's good to see all the different things such as carving and painting that you can do to the wood along with turning. Thanks Mac.

I forgot to mention one thing. One of our members, Joe Larrabee, died some time ago and his widow would like to sell many of the bowl blanks he purchased and never turned. Charlie Rogers would like to bring them to the June workshop to sell. This isn't to benefit the club; the money would go to his widow. But there are around 40-45 blanks in size from 6x6x2 up to about 20x20x5. She would just like a fair price for them. One possibility: maybe the club could buy the whole lot and we'll auction them off.

The next meeting will be a tool making session on Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. Usually, we contribute \$5 and purchase lunch from Subway. These sessions always are valuable because people go home with useful homemade tools costing much less than purchased tools. And they work just as well. Hope to see you all there.

Keep the bevel rubbing, Mark

Club Officers

President	Peter Asselyn 353-4206 peterasselyn@gwi.net
Vice-Pres.	Mark Irving 443-2337 irvings@javanet.com
Treasurer	Burt Truman 622-6772 trumbu@adelphia.net
Librarian	Jeff Raymond jeffraymond@prontomail.com
Secretary	Tom Raymond 563-6813 trdamar@tidewater.net
Newsletter	Sandy Gregor 778-3717

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Club votes to donate \$1,000 to Round Top woodturning program. See page 2.

Secretary's Minutes... May 21, 2003



The May meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy on May 21, 2003.

In the absence of President Peter Asselyn, Vice President Mark Irving presided over the meeting. Thirty-six members and guests were present.

Mac Ray was announced as the demonstrator at this meeting.

Old Business:

Ken Keoughan spoke about the progress in getting a turning shop organized at Round Top Center for the Arts in Damariscotta. Our involvement with this program would be a donation and supplying Instructors from the club to teach woodturning in the future. The courses would be for 8 weeks and 3 hours per class. The curriculum was discussed. It is planned that there would be 5 One Way lathes. Jacques Vesery is on the Board of Directors at Round Top. Ken suggested a donation of \$1000 from the club.

Bruce McCreedy feels that there is a need for training in this area. Ken advised that there are plans to open this shop in September.

It was voted on by the membership and seconded to donate \$1000 to Round Top.

The Bylaws indicate that a person must be a member of AAW to belong to Maine Woodturners. Currently we have 25 members that belong. The AAW membership is \$35. There is insurance supplied by AAW, the details of which were not known at this time.

Someone needs to read the policy and advise the membership.

New Business:

Burt Truman advised that our newsletter is costing from \$45 to \$50 per month. Also that we have 57 paid up members.

Sandy Gregor has taken over the Newsletter from Kieran Kammerer. Her E-mail at home is

Ken says that private donations to the Round Top program will also be welcome. Checks should be made to the Round Top Center for the Arts, with the memo "woodturning", and sent to: Ken Keoughan PO Box 190

sgregor@exploremaine.com should you want to enter anything in the newsletter.

Ken Keoughan advised that there is a woodturner Symposium in Albany in Oct. He may be able to get a demonstrator at that time if we wish to get a second one for this year.

Bruce Hoover is scheduled for the September meeting.

Mac Ray started his demonstration at 7:30. He first turned a small vessel or hollow form of green spalted maple. Next he showed how to paint the rim of a mesquite bowl and did some carving with a reciprocating Ryobi chisel. He also demonstrated burning a design on the edge of a bowl and how to burn rings with a wire. Burt Truman made a video of Mack's demonstration.

Mark Irving was forced to being the Auctioneer due to lack of volunteers for the Wood Auction. The auction brought in \$6 and Video rentals \$9.

Show and Tell was last, then the meeting ended at 9:05.

Web Wanderings - Go to...

<http://www.customwooddesign.com>

This website belongs to Howard Lewin, a California professional woodworker and writer who loves to work with green wood, which he thinks is just more fun.

"Green wood gives the artist more latitude as to size, shape, grain direction, and cost of materials. Natural edges and the double bull's eye of the heart wood on the sides of a vessel are examples of this....Trying to control this phenomenon is fascinating, wondrous, and not always successful."

Lewin also is an enthusiast for turning dyed veneer blanks. Examples of his work and several of Lewin's articles are posted on the site. For a complete article on working green wood, click on the Articles link on the site's home page and scroll down to "[Turning Green Wood](#)" *Fine-WoodWorking, February 2001*

Editor's column...

Thanks to Kieran Kammerer for the time and effort he put into producing an excellent newsletter for the last several years. I've been a member for less than a year, but the newsletter fast became an important way of being in touch.

I plan to continue the tradition Kieran set with Mac Ray's help of featuring in the newsletter photos of club members' work and reports of the excellent demos we host. I also plan to introduce another idea of Kieran's of using small articles from the Internet to broaden the tips and turning advice we share.

But I'd also like to add that this newsletter is *yours*, and I would rather include advice and experience from members. If you have an idea to share, or a question or a problem to solve, call or email me. I'll put it in the newsletter and we'll learn from your experience or try to get some answers!

Sandy Gregor

Mainiac Woodturner Editor Emeritus Kieran Kammerer examines a buffing wheel at Mac Ray's May demonstration. Thanks to Kieran for all his work on new-



No summer meetings...

Club meetings are suspended for the summer months—next regular meeting, after the tool making workshop Sat. June 14, will be Bruce Hoover's demo in Sept. See back page for details.

From "Universal Truths of Woodturning"

Tip #14. Getting HSS to turn blue or even red-hot while grinding is not a problem. But, if you do, let it cool in the air. Don't shock it by submerging it in cold water because that can start micro-cracks in the thin cutting edge.

Tip #15 Getting carbon steel hot enough to turn blue can be a problem. That temperature allows the carbon to move around in the steel and it loses its temper. All is not lost when this happens, just get it hot again, immediately dip it in cold water, and then grind away the blue steel, keeping it cool this time with frequent dipping in cold water.

From Woodcentral.com
By Russ Fairfield
Russ's personal site is
Woodturnerruss.com

October 25-26, 2003: "Totally Turning" Symposium

The Adirondack Woodturners Association will sponsor the first "Totally Turning Symposium" at the Sage College Campus in Albany. Alan Lacer, Binh Pho and Stuart Mortimer will be featured as well as many regional turners. Two days of woodturning demonstrations (42 to choose from), an instant gallery, and a vendor's area.

To register before June 15, 2003, send a completed registration form and a check for \$60 plus \$6.50 for lunch each day.

To register after June 15, 2003, send a completed registration form and a check for \$75 plus a \$6.50 for lunch each day

Checks and registration forms should be mailed to:

Totally Turning
Attn: Eric Mead
P.O. Box 14144
Albany, NY 12212

Mac Ray Demo May 21...

A Little Bit of Everything

Mac Ray's demonstration at the May meeting could have been called **Marathon Man**.

He undertook to illustrate and explain the methods for several techniques, including power carving, painting and carving, burning a design with a wire, and hollow turning.

Mac is a full time turner who shows his work at the Thomas Moser gallery in Freeport, and the Stable Gallery in Damariscotta.

His work is fre-



Spalted maple vessel, walnut and cherry trim by Mac

quently enhanced by other woodworking methods. Mac's southwest form hollow turnings often are segmented with two or three species of wood, and many of his pieces are carved. He prefers to use an inexpensive Ryobi carver (now unavailable except possibly at yard sales) and tends to concentrate on smaller forms, although he turns full-size salad bowls as well.



Cherry bowl with woodburning design by Mac Ray.

Mac regularly uses a wide variety of woods, demonstrating on mesquite, spalted maple,



Mac shaping a southwest style vessel prior to hollowing.



Measuring in preparation for carving.

and cherry. He rough turns his hollow forms, kiln dries them, and leaves them a year or two before finish turning them. According to Mac, they lie casually around on the shop floor until one catches his eye and inspires a finished piece.

Texturing the outer surface of a small bowl, Mac pointed out that adjustments needed to be made for the curved surface in the design. Indexing straight lines carved top to bottom would leave wider spaces at the top of the form. Mac says the carved lines should be varied in length and width to

break the pattern. As he moved into another part of the demo, Mac transferred the piece to the smaller lathe and invited club members to have a hand at power carving.



Mac demonstrated turning a platter intended to have a painted and carved rim echoing the work of Al Stirt of Vermont. Like Stirt, he uses



Bob Burgess of Jay closely examines a sample of Mac's fin-

ished piece similar to the one turned at the demonstration. A variety of tools were employed in the hollow turning segment. One was the armbrace tool Sorby makes, borrowed from the original Dennis Stewart design. Mac noted that his Sorby tool wobbled, and advocated investing in the more expensive Stewart system if anyone was thinking of making that purchase.

black acrylic gesso for the paint, available at art supply stores. He applied the paint while the mesquite piece was on the lathe using a foam brush. The piece would be ready for carving as soon as the gesso dries. He may, on the other hand, use the band of black paint for contrast without carving, as in the photo of this finished piece similar to the one turned at the demonstration.

A variety of tools were employed in the hollow turning segment. One was the armbrace tool Sorby makes, borrowed from the original Dennis Stewart design. Mac noted that his Sorby tool wobbled, and advocated investing in the more expensive Stewart system if anyone was thinking of making that purchase.



Three dozen members of the club provided Mac with an attentive audience.

Treasurer's report

Starting balance	\$3946.42
Income:	
Dues	120.00
Misc	45.22
Total (+)	\$165.22
Expense:	
News	49.40
Misc	38.87
Total (-)	88.27
Balance-----	\$4023.37

I sent out a notice to former members and 4 of them reinstated. Don't forget to either bring a lunch to the June, Saturday, meeting or you can order from Subway. We will have order slips available and will be making a run to the local Subway Shop.

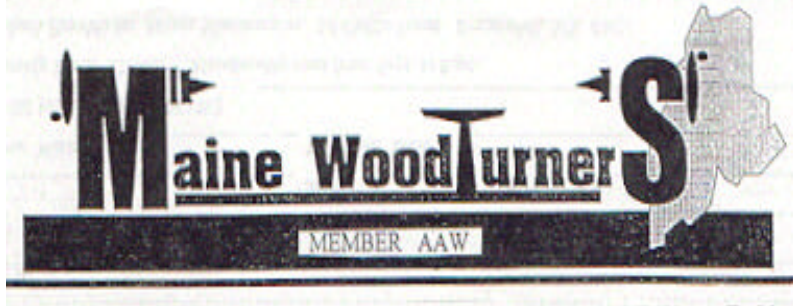
Classified Ads

Free to members!

Turning Classes: Offering one on one turning instruction in my own shop located in Durham. Fully insured. I provide use of Oneway lathe and all turning tools/wood. For more info/rates/availability, please contact Peter Asselyn at 353-4206.

Turning Classes: David Lancaster is thinking of doing some turning lessons in his shop in Weeks Mills. Those interested, please contact David at 445-4758 for prices, availability, etc.

For Sale: Small fans for use in home made kilns. \$9.50 per fan. Please contact Gary Swinton at the next meeting.



June 2003 Issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Next club events:

Toolmaking workshop, Saturday June 14
9 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. - \$5 for Subway lunch
Erskine Academy, South China

September meeting

Bruce Hoover will be doing two-day demo in September at Erskine Academy. The first day will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 20 covering two topics: Shop tips and organization, and Innovative sanding techniques. Sunday September 21 at 10 a.m. he will hold a hands-on workshop covering all the sanding techniques he demonstrated on Saturday. Plan at least six hours for the Sunday event.

Cost to members is \$25 to cover both sessions, \$30 to non-members.

Hoover demonstrated on both of these topics at the Providence Symposium this past summer. He devotes full time to woodturning and is a contributor to American Woodturner magazine.

The next regular club meeting