

# Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW  
Vol. 3, Number 2, October 2003

## Coming Up October 15 - 7 p.m.: Mark Irving Demonstrates Natural Edge Bowls

Mark Irving started serious (hobby) woodturning after meeting bowl turner Joe Dalorso at the Bath Heritage Days Craft sale about 5 years ago. From Joe he learned about the Maine Woodturners and joined a short time later. Mark says, "I am self taught, learning most stuff from the demos at the meeting, reading books, and trying things out at home. It's been an interesting and rewarding 5 years."

Check out some of Mark's turnings at <http://users.rcn.com/irvings.javanet/woodturning.htm>.

Mark first got introduced to woodturning while earning an Associate Degree in Building Construction at Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute (SMVTI, now SMTTC) While working in the carpentry shop at Bath Iron Works, he was asked to make some plugs for the ends of pipe. (He currently works in computers at the Computer Sciences Corporation, which does work for BIW.)

"Just watching the wood turn and the shavings go over my shoulder was fun," Mark remembers. Marriage and two children put a crimp in the woodturning career, but after joining the club, he sold the old Craftsman lathe and bought the larger Jet lathe. While Mark is sometimes known to grumble that "It's not a Oneway," he produces some pretty nice work on it.



### Club Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Peter Asselyn</b>	353-4206 peterasselyn@gwi.net
<b>Vice-Pres.</b>	<b>Mark Irving</b>	443-2337 irvings@javanet.com
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<b>Librarian</b>	<b>Jeff Raymond</b>	jeffraymond@ prontomail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Tom Raymond</b>	563-6813 trdamar@tidewater.net
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Sandy Gregor</b>	778-3717

### When you turn...

- ? Do you use silicon spray on your tool rest to make your tools glide more easily?
- ? Put PVC pipe on the tenon of your cup or jam chuck to make it turn true each time you re-use it?
- ? Use a swivel on your hose to make your air gun more manageable?
- ? Use Velcro One-Wrap (hook on one side, loop on the other, so it sticks to itself) to tie things up?
- ? Make circles for cutting bowl blanks out of easily replaceable brown cardboard?

**These and many other turning tips came from Bruce Hoover's demonstration weekend, Sept. 27 and 28. Wow! What a great weekend! See pages 3 - 5.**

## Secretary's minutes September 28, 2003



The September meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy on Saturday the 27th. In absence of President Peter Asselyn, Vice President Mark Irving presided over the meeting, which started at 10:40 a.m. There were 15 members and guests present.

### **Old Business:**

Ken Keoughan spoke about the progress of starting a wood turning training shop at Round Top Center for the Arts in Damariscotta. This club donated \$1000 toward this venture. He said that American Woodturners also donated \$1000. The donations so far have reached \$3000. He said this money would support 2 lathes. They requested \$10,000 from the Maine Community Foundation but they won't fund equipment so it was turned down. It was also a bad year for obtaining a grant.

He said the Center for Fine Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport is also planning to start a turning program and have spoken to him and Jacques about their plans.

Mark advised that the club had agreed to buy 45 bowl blanks for \$150 from Charles Rogers at a previous meeting and that has yet to be executed. The plan was to auction off these blanks at a future meeting to raise funds for the club Treasury.

### **New Business:**

Mark advised that the dues are \$30 dollars per member this year.

Burt Truman collected dues for the demonstration and lunch for today. Ken Keoughan handled the lunches on Sunday.

Mark advised that we need demonstrators for the coming meetings and asked for volunteers.

Bruce Hoover and his spouse Jan, who come from Virginia, were introduced to the attendees by Mark. Bruce was the demonstrator for the two days. The subject was "Sanding and Shop Organization."

Mark became the Auctioneer for the wood auction and two pieces of ambrosia maple donated by Bruce Hoover brought in \$32.

The business meeting ended at 11 a.m. and was followed by the demonstration.

**Tom Raymond, Secretary**

## Vice President's Message

Two days of Bruce Hoover was well worth it. I never thought a demo on sanding could be as good as it was. Though it was not supposed to be a demo on turning techniques, Bruce started by showing us some turning techniques to produce a better surface from the tool. The better the surface produced from the tool, the easier sanding is.

After that, Bruce showed us many different techniques and tools for many different difficult areas on turnings. Including a random orbit sander for details that are hard to sand. And then there was the glove with the velcro hooks on the fingers. These look to be very useful. Bob Biette, turn your lathe off when using this!

I took about 65 pictures on Saturday and will put a CD with the pictures in the library for anyone wanting to view them. If you'd like a copy, please let me know and I'll burn a copy for you.

Sunday was a hands on day. Bruce helped us learn some of his sanding techniques first hand.

I'd like to thank Ken for putting up Bruce and his wife Janet. And thanks to all the rest who made this demo work.

See you next month. 'Til then...

## 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.

**For Sale: Model # 25 Oliver** Pattern Makers Wood Turning Lathe. Excellent Condition 3 HP - 3 Phase -With Phase Converter 28" wide, 10'-6" long, 4'-7" high +- Approximate weight 3000 lbs Price \$7000 E-mail ejmwq@aol.com Ed Mackey Home phone 617-472-6558 Quincy MA

# Sanding Techniques and Shop Tips...

## A Fantastic Weekend with Bruce Hoover

All photos thanks to Mark Irving

By Sandy Gregor

Bruce Hoover is one innovative turner.

He can make the chips fly with the best of them, but he really came to Maine to show us how to make dust, and for that matter, to make as little as possible every time we sand our turnings. And he had enough labor-saving, organizing, and improve-your-turning ideas to keep most of us mortal turners busy in our shops for weeks.

Because they were hosting Hurricane Isabel as an unexpected guest the week before, Bruce and his wife Janet had to delay their trip to Maine. The re-scheduled workshop drew fewer participants than the club had hoped, but it also meant that everyone who came got a chance for one-on-one work during the “hands on” part of the workshop on Sunday. Bruce proved to many of us that our “problem” bowls were not a problem if we just learned how to improve our technique.

Sanding, Bruce emphasized, cannot be any better than the turning you did beneath. As a result, the technique most practiced in the hands-on workshop was sheer scraping.

For sheer scraping, Bruce chose a side-grind bowl gouge.



**Bruce brought an impressive array of tools and gadgets, many of them shop-made, to make turning easier.**



**Bruce Hoover is known for his hollow vessels. He works in many kinds of wood both native and exotic to his home state of Virginia, and here is roughing a vessel from native Ambrosia Maple. (Ambrosia Maple is the same as our red maple, but it obtains unusual patterns of coloration from a fungus introduced by the Ambrosia beetle.)**

“You do not need to ride the bevel, but you can,” he said. “The more you rotate the flute toward the wood, the greater the chance of a catch.”

He used both a curved edge Richard Raffan design and a dual angle Ray Key tool as scrapers, but the scrapers were only used for a final finish. The main job was accomplished with the gouge.

The gouge held at a horizontal angle to the tool rest produces an aggressive cut, Bruce said, and a vertical angle is more of a finish cut. To refine the inside of a bowl, Bruce showed learners (by actually placing his hands over theirs at the lathe) how to cut with the tool held horizontally using the bevel at the tip of the tool.

The scrapers were also turned with blade held nearly vertically for a fine finish cut.

Hoover uses a power sander much of the time with Velcro disks held on 2, 3 or 5 inch mandrels. He varies from a medium to a soft pad on the mandrel by whether he needs to sand more or less aggressively.



## Bruce Hoover Demo continued...



**Very fine shavings come off the tool when sheer scraping is done.**

Hoover's major point with power sanding is to do it slowly. Both the lathe and the drill should be running at quite slow speeds. He favors a Sioux drill, and uses a clever speed governor made of a wedge of wood held with a rubber band beneath the power control lever. That way, the drill cannot be made to run at the faster speeds, because when it is depressed it hits the block of wood.

Another important point about sanding is not to use worn discs. Replace disks frequently, and don't try to save money by taking them beyond their useful life, he warned.

"A worn-out 150 grit is not 220 grit," Hoover said. "It's worn-out 150."



**Hoover reaches under the lip of a thin cut (1/16") hollow vessel with a 5-inch mandrel and a soft pad.**

Still, it may be useful to clean sanding disks while working on wet wood because they clog before they are worn. Hoover said to use crepe rubber, and air hose, or a cabinet scraper for that purpose.

Hoover also uses a cabinet scraper for a final finish before sanding.

Hoover is a strong advocate of using an inertia sander, driven by the spinning of the piece on the lathe. While he sells a die grinder as a convenient handle, he also showed how simple handles could be made by drilling a hole in the side at one end of the handle to take a mandrel, and using paste wax to help it spin freely.

Self-powered sanding is such a favored technique at the Hoover shop in Virginia that Bruce



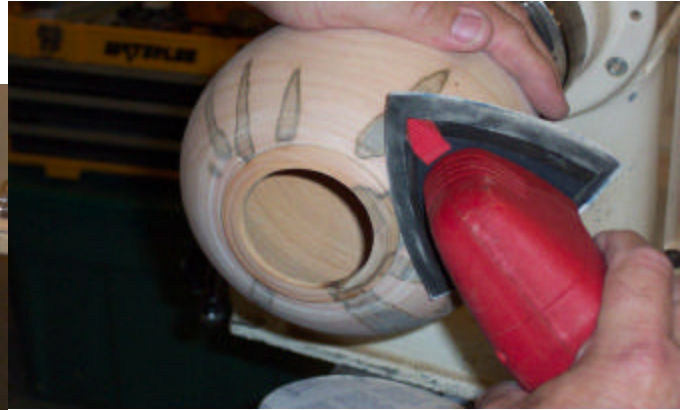
**Using a cabinet scraper for a final tool finish.**

and his wife of 28 years, Janet, who is also a professional turner, have "his and her" sets of mandrels, each with its separate grit of sandpaper, lined up in holders waiting to be used.

More turning tips from Bruce Hoover:

- ? Be sure you have good lighting to check the flaws in your cutting. Use a mechanic's inspection light to show up the inside surfaces of vessels.
- ? Brush or blow off dust between grits to save the next grit from clogging.
- ? Sanding sealers are a useful surface preparation.
- ? Paint your floor white to reflect more light in the shop.

Bruce Hoover Demo continued...



Bruce uses a detail sander to keep edges

Bruce uses a carving tool with a cylindrical sanding attachment to get inside curves. Note that the sanding is done off the lathe, using a convenient “table” made from a piece of plywood covered with scrap carpet. The plywood also has a lengthwise piece of wood bolted underneath. That slips between the lathe bed and also swivels for convenience.

- ? Use small pieces of 3M Sanding Sponge as a “backer,” grit side toward sandpaper, when hand sanding with the lathe running.
- ? Remove all your tool marks with the first grit. Remove all sanding marks from previous grits with the next grit. Work on problem spots with the lathe off, turning the piece by hand.
- ? Avoid “blotching” when making repairs with CA glue by spraying accelerator to surface first, or use sanding sealer.

**Bruce Hoover** was a great demonstrator. He never seemed to run out of new things to tell us, and was patient and generous to each person who attended. Everyone learned a lot.

Many thanks to the executive committee for choosing Bruce to demonstrate, and for putting this together. Thanks also to David Lancaster for coming in Sunday and giving his time to coaching.

### Member Notes:

Two nationally known Maine turners and club members, **Stephen Gleasner** (known for his colorful plied wood vessels) and **Jacques Vesery** (known for his finely carved turnings), are amongst the artists featured

## Show and Tell

### A great way to learn from each other

One of the best ways we learn is from looking at each other’s work. That’s what Show and Tell at the monthly meeting is all about. Everybody needs YOU to bring something.

“We all learn more from beginners,” Ken Keoughan says. That’s because beginners are still seeking the method that works for them.

‘Nuff murmuring that you are not good enough. Anyone who picks up a chisel or a gouge is good enough to tell what happened to them, for good or bad, when they did. Mark Irving, an accomplished turner, had the courage last year to bring in a very nice exploded bowl for everyone to see—and learn from.

So come to the next meeting, and bring something with you. Be prepared to talk about what wood you used, why you chose that wood, what problems you encountered, the finish you used, what your original goal was and what the actual result was that you ended up with. And ask questions!

There is bring-back raffle at every meeting (buy a ticket. If you win, you bring something back for the next raffle.) Wood auctions are where members bring pieces of wood to donate and they are auctioned to benefit the club. And please be thinking how you might be of service to our group, there is much work to do if we want our group to stay healthy and growing.

Also, as of press time Stephen is anticipating an article about him and his work in the Oct. 5 Maine Sunday Tele-



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## *Coming Events:*

### **October 15: Mark Irving on Natural Edge Bowls**

**November 19:** Ken Keoughan (Ken is a contributing editor of American Woodturner magazine)

**December 17:** Annual Christmas Party and gift swap

**January 21:** David Lancaster (David is nationally known demonstrator and professional turner)

**February 18:** Stephen Gleasner on Ring Bowls – and wood auction (Stephen is a nationally known demonstrator and club member)

**March 17:** Bob Biette on Green Bowls (Bob is a club member)

**April 21:** Mike Chase on Things With Rings - and wood auction (Mike is a club member)

**May 19:** Gary Swinton doing a pen making demo—and election of officers

All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at Erskine Academy in  
South China, Maine.

The club always welcomes new  
members. To join, send \$30 to:

Burt Truman

Maine Woodturners Treasurer

85 Second St.

Hallowell, ME 04347

*Or just introduce yourself at a  
meeting and pay Burt then.*

*Become a Member of the  
Maine Woodturners!*

*Name:*

*Phone:*

*Address:*