

Mainiac Woodturner

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

Coming Up November 19 - 7 p.m.: Ken Keoughan demonstrates Three piece vessels



Ken Keoughan learned to turn ten years ago because it would set just the tone he wanted for his retirement years.

"I decided to teach myself how to play, because adults don't know how to play," he said recently.

He saw woodturning at sidewalk art shows and became fascinated. Woodturning reminded him of the kind of concentrated, absorbing play he did as a kid when misfortune found him sick a lot and he spent hours putting together airplane and railroad models.

"I could get absorbed and miss a meal," he remembers.

And while turning absorbs him, Ken is better known for his communication skills. He is the eyes through which many of us see the modern art of woodturning.

When he first began, Ken decided to offer American Woodturner, the excellent magazine that comes with your membership in the American Association of Woodturners, a few profiles of well known woodturners from his two geographical bases. He wrote about our own Dave Lancaster in Maine, and Arthur Jones in Florida. Both pieces were well received. When the editors found out that they could have Ken's work for each issue if they put him on staff, his writing took off.

Ken's demonstration at the November meeting will be of a three piece vase he turns, usually from two compatible woods. The center is hollowed and attached to a pre-turned foot and a narrow, drilled neck.

The meeting will be held Wed. Nov. 19 at Erskine Academy in South China at 7 p.m.

Don't miss it.

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
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Secretary's minutes By Tom Raymond



Tom Raymond missed his first meeting in three years, and so has no minutes to report. But rumor has it, he is busy turning, and will have something to show at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report By Burt Truman

Sept. Balance	\$2522.91
Income: Dues	\$ 630.00
Misc.	\$ 67.50
Sub Total	\$3220.41
Expense:	
Erskine Academy	\$ 300.00
Larrabee Bowls	\$ 150.00
Donuts	\$ 12.66



Balance \$2757.75
Also 34 members have not paid dues yet and we picked up 3 new members.

Attention all members!!!!

I will have membership lists available for all PAID UP members at the next meeting along with membership cards.

Please send dues money to me early to make my job less difficult and to get your name on the list and give me time to print the cards. Thank you for your consideration.

Burt

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.

-Vice President's Message- As The Wood Turns By Mark Irving

We had a good turnout last meeting. Looked like around 30 people. Anyone count? We had at least one new member, Guy Marsden. Welcome Guy. Guy brought along some of his sculptural woodturnings for show and tell. You can also check them out on his very interesting web page; <http://www.arttec.net>. We also had lots of stuff for the show and tell.

I thought this month's demonstration went pretty well, at least from the objective perspective of the demonstrator. I hope everyone picked up something, or a least had a good time watching.

Next month we will try to auction off the wood blanks which Charlie Rogers has, so bring lots of money. There are approximately 45 of these blanks.

I'm looking forward to Ken Keoughan's demonstration next month. In the future we are trying to get John Jordan to come up for a weekend. I'm not sure of the date or cost just yet, but will get the details soon. We are also looking at a possible demo by a past president of the AAW, Alan Lacer, for a Saturday in July. He is going to be up this way and we may get him to stop by.

I'd also like to know if anyone is interested in raffling off a tool or two to the membership. Could spice things up a little. The idea of raffling off a mini lathe has been kicked around. Anyone interested? Maybe \$5 per ticket, 3 for \$10. What kind of tools would you like to take a chance on? Let me know.

I forgot to take home the butternut I bought at the auction. Anyone grab it? See you next month. 'Til then...

Keep the bevel rubbing,

Mark



Show and Tell Gets Lively

We miss Mac Ray's pictures!

Show and Tell at the October meeting was an interesting and fruitful event. Many people had things to say about the pieces they had turned that brought their experience home to listeners. The following review is merely a piecemeal, chronological report of some of what was said.

Jeff Raymond brought a number of items, including turned doves, hair pins, a drop spindle for hand turners of wool, and some of the magic wands he



produces. Many of the wands were made of Madagascar ebony, a wood he found somewhat disappointing because rather than solid black it is black streaked with brown, something he didn't discover until he polished it up.

Jeff also came upon a packing crate that yielded an interesting small piece of teak that he used in the drop spindle, reminding us that wood sources are varied.

Guy Marsden, a new member, has been turning art pieces for two years. He also brought in some interesting carrying/display cases he made from large cardboard tubes wrapped in black contact paper (ask him for the details, it's hard to describe.)

He also had found an odd source for wood – he bought a piece of catalpa on Ebay for \$15.

Another idea of Guy's was to use a piece of tagua nut for a button on a box lid. Instead of trying to turn a spigot, he drilled it (the nut is hollow anyway) and used a small walnut dowel to glue it in place.



Allen Bradstreet found a lovely but somewhat punky piece of butternut that he asked Pete Asselyn to turn for him. He displayed a lovely bowl that Pete had produced, but also a blown-apart half bowl that came out of the project. Allen transformed it into a hat which he named "Na-bowl-eon Blownapart."

Peter McCrea brought in a large, natural edge butternut bowl he'd been frustrated with until he brought it in to the workshop with **Bruce Hoover**. Bruce's patient instruction had helped him transform a troublesome, wormy piece into a lovely, well sanded bowl, which he was able to finish off at home later.



Gary Swinton brought in some

bowls made from a large, historic red maple that Pete Asselyn had shared with him. They had been cored using his new Oneway coring system, which he proceeded to endorse heartily enough to win a cheer from Dave Lancaster who sold it to him.

Burt Truman found his wood on someone's firewood pile, and he had also been robbing packing crates. Having gone up to Farmington to see Mike Chase's demo, he was eager to try turning a captive ring. Not having a tool, he made one from an old planer blade. Burt also turned a bowl with a wide rim that he colored with India ink and burnished, he said, with an old ball bearing.

Dave Stewart, who spends most of his time turning legs for piano stools out of poplar, also tried captive rings after watching Mike.

Mark Irving had a lovely vessel with a textured "Bob Rosand" finish – a series of shallow, closely spaced grooves. He created his own tool from a piece of 1/4" round, high speed steel ground to a point. The lid was neatly finished off with a purple-heart rivet on the inside to fix the top outside knob in place, an idea given him by Dave Lancaster. Dave said the rivet could be glued in so that the knob on the outside was loose, if desired.

Brian McKenna ("Mr. Unidentified"), brought in

Alder Run Woodturning: Mike Chase puts on a demo

Mike Chase's Columbus Day demonstration of woodturning technique, done in conjunction with Matt Frost of Frost Glassworks, was like everything Mike does at the lathe: well organized, attentive to detail, and showed an unwavering commitment to safety.

Mike is a Verizon linesman by day, but has a small side business selling his turnings, mainly pens and bottle stoppers. He works with Matt Frost to provide him with hand-turned bottle stoppers from lilac, cherry burl, purpleheart and other specialty woods. Mike's demo was set up next to Frost Glassworks on Route 4 north of Farmington. The weekend weather was perfect. The two craftsmen worked most of Saturday and Sunday, advertised well, and drew good crowds.

Several club members turned up at Mike's demo, and some went home and tried what they watched Mike do.

(The glassblowing demonstration was fascinating too, but that's another story.)

Mike had clearly worked hard to develop a set-up for demonstrating that would work for both him and his audience. He turned on his brand-new General mini-lathe (as many club members know, Mike is not a One-way convert: he likes his full-scale General in his home shop and advocates these machines for both quality and price.)

Congratulations Mike on a successful demo. We're sure there's a great future in front of you!
(photo courtesy Dave Stewart)



Show and Tell, Continued

a turned and carved bowl of monkey pod that had been bought for him as a gift in the Phillipines at the unbelievable price of \$29.

Ken Keoughan also brought in a transformed, formerly troublesome bowl that he had finished under the guidance of Bruce Hoover. Ken had taken it home and used 2-3 coats of sanding sealer to finish the wood, finally buffing it with a food-safe mixture of beeswax and mineral oil. The bowl was simple and elegant and Ken felt had a nice feel – and was already sold.

Chuck Hargenruder wanted to know why his beeswax finishes spotted. **Dave Lancaster** said they would as soon as they got wet. He recommended a tung oil finish like Waterlox, soaked in good. He recommended applying it when the lathe was off to prevent building up heat. Heat, he said, would dry the finish too quickly and prevent it from soaking in.

Dave Lancaster brought a very special bowl, made from a forgotten bowl blank found in the dark recesses of his shop. It was a bowl he intended to keep for his own collection, and came from a large piece of tightly curled maple he had almost ignored. He made a number of bowls from it, and sold them all – he thought. When a small blank turned up like the prodigal son he was delighted, and turned a bowl with a rounded rim inside and out, a shape that echoed the growth rings, and a foot that echoed the rim. A real keeper.

Mark Irving hits one right out of the park

Photos by Burt Truman and Sandy Gregor

One of Mark Irving's favorite pieces to turn is a natural edge bowl, face turned from an oblong piece of log. The wood is turned at least somewhat wet, and finished in one step except for turning the foot and final sanding.

A step by step demonstration of how to turn such a bowl was the subject of the October meeting, at which Mark performed a remarkable feat. He kept the attention of 30 turners throughout the demonstration, while the Red Sox were still winning (at least, they were until everyone got home.) Such is the power of the lathe!

Mark begins by mounting the wood between centers. He doesn't bother to knock off the corners because (he confessed!) his band saw blade is usually dull! But he does prepare the blank on the headstock (bark) side by chiseling out a square down to solid wood. Had he not taken that step, he said, the four-pronged drive could easily have just torn through the wood and not held. The piece of cherry Mark turned was cut a few months back, and had sat on the ground all summer. He easily peeled off the bark, and noted that he will turn both bark-on and bark-off pieces, but took it off this piece because he knew it wouldn't hold.

Mark's greatest note of caution for folks who want to try this at home is to remember that the piece they are turning is not round, and it would be very painful to get fingers caught between the tool rest and the off-balance, spinning wood.

Mark cut his blank about two inches longer than it was wide, a dimension he finds to result in a pleasing shape. It could be longer or more square. He was aiming at a finished thickness of 1/4".



"I won't be turning anything again except for the bottom, after it dries" he said.

He recommended watching the shadow of the piece. "On these things it's hard to see what you are taking off. Don't push the tool," he added.

He used a freshly sharpened detail gouge to cut the tenon at the foot. He wanted something just deep enough to fit his chuck, about 3/16". Mark had a neat, homemade tool that looked like a large wooden wrench. It was cut on one edge as wide as the largest tenon his chuck would take, and on the other end the size of the smallest tenon, so he could easily measure.

He then sanded, using a mandrel he got from Bruce Hoover. The bottom, where the bowl was continuously round, was sanded with the lathe spinning, but the wings were sanded as the bowl was stationary. He begins by using 80 grit. He is not trying to finish sand at this point, just to remove the tool marks. When it's dry, he can re-

mount it and final sand, and the paper won't clog as much.

"If I want to keep the bark on, I put mineral oil or Danish oil not on the bark but around the edge. Then I put thin Super Glue on. The reason for the oil is the keep the Super Glue from staining the wood," he said.

Mark drilled a center hole to approximately the bowl's finished depth, but only by eye. He cut the inside of the bowl in stages, so as to have support for the long wings.

"If it starts to bounce somewhat, you have a tendency to just push a little harder and that doesn't work," he said. "You have to lighten up and let the wood meet the tool. You've got to have a sharp tool. Sometimes I'll hone it."

Mark said it was important not to leave the bowl too thick on the bottom, or it might crack. With the lathe off, he feels the curve to see if it is right. He doesn't do anything particular to protect the bowl from cracking once it is turned, and has only had problems with small cracks in the foot which he plans to turn off later anyway.

When it's dry, he goes back to finish the foot by turning off the tenon. He rechucks using the tailstock to push the bowl against a foam or leather pad at the headstock end. Finally he carves off the little nub left under the tailstock and finish

sands.

Thanks Mark for a great and thorough demonstration!



Things to borrow

Most folks probably know that the club has a great collection of video tapes, books, and magazines on turning available for borrowing. The club asks \$3 for a month's video rental.

While the collection is great (videos of John Jordan, Ray Key, David Ellsworth, Richard Raffan) the selection available on any given month is not so great—that's because people are not bringing back what they borrow on a regular basis.

Please remember that a circulating library is only useful as long as it keeps circulating!

Think about what you have to give back A little bit goes a long ways

We have a great club, and it can be even greater, especially if every member commits to giving something besides their dues to keep us going.

- ? Anybody on the other end of a fax machine and willing to serve as a proofreader for the newsletter? That would be a great help.
- ? Anybody want to start a website for the club? That would be a labor of love, certainly.
- ? Mark Irving would like to know if anyone wants to take on the task of figuring out another way to organize the lending library? The file cabinet we use is stuffed and not the best way to display what we've got.
- ? Anybody want to write things for the newsletter?

Our former newsletter editor burnt out, and I'm afraid that will happen to me if I don't watch it. The newsletter is a great timesink, and keeps me away from the lathe. Besides, you folks are going to get awfully tired of my voice if I write everything. It's been a great help to get the photos taken by Burt and Mark and emailed or sent me on a CD. It would be good if people would take a turn (once or twice a year per person would distribute the workload) on doing a write-up of the demonstration or show and tell.

If you don't volunteer, I'll be asking you at the next meeting!

You would have a week to get it together after the meeting, and then email me your efforts.

Think about it. A little bit can go a long ways.

Sandy Gregor, newsletter editor

Classified Ads

Free to members!

Empire direct vent propane heater, great for a shop or home. Model DV-35-1SG with electric blower, 35,000 BTU's. Older model, but used one month, like new. \$550 (new is \$850). Sandy Gregor 778-3717

Also! I ended up with one too many steel entry doors after my remodeling project. Solid door, outside view left swing, 36 x 80, 6 5/8 vinyl jamb. Brand new, cost \$255, yours, \$220. Insulated, quality door. Sandy Gregor, 778-3717



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Coming Events:

November 19: Ken Keoughan on Three Piece Vessel

(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: