

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
Vol. 3, Number 4, December 2003

Coming Up December 17 - 7 p.m.: Christmas bash—Food, Yankee Swap, and Talk about Turning

A surprise treat for the December meeting will be slide show by Jacques Vesery about his recent trip to France as a demonstrator.

There will also be a potluck supper (plates and dinnerware provided, bring food and drink). The traditional Yankee swap yields some pretty nice woodturning gifts— if you bring something, you can participate in the swap. Spouses are encouraged to come.

The meeting will be held Wed. Dec. 17 at Erskine Academy in South China at 7 p.m.

Directions to Erskine: From Augusta, take Rt. 3 east for 12 miles. At the blinking light take a right onto Rt. 32. Go approximately 2 miles. Take a right at the end of the cemetery. The school is the first driveway on the left. The meeting is in the woodworking shop.

New column...

Member news

See page 4

...at right is Jacques Vesery's "We Will Soon Be Something But We Don't Know When" 3" x 19" D, Swiss pear, ebony, and holly with carved cherry eggs, to be in an exhibit at Colby 2004.



Club Officers

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Vice-Pres.	Mark Irving	443-2337 irvings@javanet.com
Treasurer	Burt Truman	622-6772 trumbu@adelphia.net
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Contents

Secretary's Reportpage two
Ken Keoughan's demopage three
Member newspage four
President's column, Treas. reportpage five
CA glue sale, Round Top, & Summer classes...	page six
Peter McCrea moves upstairspage seven
Upcoming eventspage eight

Secretary's minutes

The November meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy on 11-19-03. The meeting was called to order by President Peter Asselyn at 7:02 p.m. Forty-one members and guests were present. Peter announced that the dues are due and members should pay Treasurer Burt Truman.



Burt handed out a new member list and a membership card. The list indicated that there are 87 members in the club.

Sandy Gregor said she is still looking for a volunteer to write up the Show and Tell portion of the meeting.

The demonstrator for this meeting is Ken Keoughan.

Old Business: None

New Business: The bylaws state that one has to be a member of AAW to belong to Maine Woodturners. Only 37 members belong at this time. Bob Morrill pointed out that if you are an AAW member you are entitled to accident insurance. Ken Keoughan wrote the by-laws and said they can be changed, and maybe a member does not have to belong to AAW. Bob Hackett said that a member should be part of AAW because we received funds from them to buy the lathes at Erskine. David Lancaster advised that the insurance only protects a third party if an accident occurs. In other words, a spectator watching a demonstration, not the demonstrator or club members. It also has to be a club-organized event. David started the club in 1992 as a chapter of AAW. AAW membership is now at \$35/yr. and you get their magazine and a membership directory. A vote on being a member was cast and the majority voted on changing the by-laws to not having to be a member of AAW.

John Jordan may be our next guest demonstrator. Nick Cook was also mentioned.

Burt Truman sent copies of the Club newsletter to six Woodworkers Warehouse stores in Maine.

Next month is the Christmas party meeting and a pot luck supper and Yankee Swap is planned. Spouses are welcome, and if they want to participate in the swap, they should bring a gift.

Sorry folks. The Picture that was supposed to show up here is AWOL. It's probably hiding in the same place that socks hide.

Tom Raymond's candlesticks from show and Tell at the last meeting are turned—then turned inside out and turned again. Just ask him!

At 7:19 Ken Keoughan started his demo by saying that he can get a special price on CA glue for members. Next he advised that the Center For Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport would start turning classes this year. The first instructor will be Steve Gleasner from our club. They will have One-way 1640 lathes in their shop.

Ken now reports that Round Top Center for the Arts will rent 5 lathes from Peter Korn at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship.

Ken supplied a handout on how to turn a 3-part vessel before starting his demonstration. The demo ended at 8:49 p.m.

Charles Rogers was instrumental in purchasing turning wood from Mrs. Joe Larrabee after Joe passed away. The cost to the club was \$150 for the load. Jacques Vesery identified and marked each piece prior to the auction. Peter Asselyn was the auctioneer and did a fine job, as usual. It was prime wood, which brought in top dollar. The sale brought in \$715. Peter Asselyn said that Mrs. Larrabee would get a bonus after the sale is complete. There are still 2 boxes of the wood left for a future auction.

There was no Show and Tell or Bring-Back Raffle at this meeting.

Making a three-piece vessel: Ken Keoughan's Nov. Demo

Editor's note: parts of the following report were gleaned from a brief interview with Ken after the demo.

Woodturning is remarkable for its collegiality. More than that, it is remarkable as a process where the sharing and passing on of knowledge and ideas becomes as important as the turning itself.

After all, most of us are alone for long hours in our shops while we work. There is nothing but the machine, the tools, the wood, and us. We have an idea, and it creates a multitude of problems to solve. In some activities, the solutions to those problems would become industrial secrets. Not so with woodturning. When a turner finds a particularly creative solution, technique, form or approach,



Ken Keoughan with Mark Irving at the lathe... note the duct tape!

it quickly becomes everybody's property.

This is what has made woodturning such a fertile and creative field in the last twenty years. The turner who comes out of his or her shop with a new idea and adds it to the mix is enriching the compost that the next person's idea can grow from.

This tradition of passing things along stands

behind Ken Keoughan's demonstration of a three-piece vessel at the November meeting.

It began with a vessel in Ken's personal collection made by Dick Coddling. (Ken interviewed Coddling for a piece in *American Woodturner*, Spring 2003). Coddling is a skilled and creative turner of elegant - and often tri-partite - vessels.

"I was there when he turned it," Ken said about the piece he owns, and there was a touch of awe in his voice as he spoke. That piece became a model for the three-part turnings Ken brought to share at the meeting.

Another motivation for Ken's demonstration choice was to show people how a complex project could be broken down into pieces more manageable and less frustrating, and therefore meeting a major Keoughan criteria in the workshop: to have fun.

"I can hollow and turn much more comfortably if I work on a more modest piece of wood," he said, adding that "in a sense, I can triple the bed of my lathe."

By that he means he can work with greater accuracy and less risk when working on shorter parts that are later assembled.

Besides, the techniques required for this project are basic.

"If you can turn that, you can turn almost anything on a lathe," he noted.

While the shape itself varied from vessels with short necks and round bellies to tall and thin "bowling pins," the techniques are the same.

"Before I start out I usually have a plan," Ken said, pulling out his graph paper on which the pieces was sketched. "That way I can envision it more clearly and much more accurately."

The body piece Ken used for the demo was

Ken Keoughan's demo, continued

of fairly dry spalted maple. He had previously hollowed the piece and made tenons at both ends in preparation for the demonstration. Tenons at either end, he noted, gave him the option when mounting the piece to change his mind about which was top and which was bottom.

Consistent with Ken's commitment as a writer and turner to pass on ideas and experience, he drew in volunteers from the audience to help him shape the profile. It happened that Regis Philbin and his old sidekick Kathie Lee were right in the audience ready to assist. One could soon see that Regis had experience at the lathe, but Kathie Lee made the inside meet the outside of the piece around the middle, a near disaster. It may be the first vessel in the history of the Maine Woodturners that limped to the finish line bound in (what else? This is Maine, isn't it?) duct tape.

Despite this setback, Ken was able to go on demonstrating the cutting and fitting both the foot and the neck.

After the main body was shaped, the spigots for both pieces were trued and prepared for

gluing. To get the spigot perpendicular, Ken used a "fairing board," a piece of 2x4 rounded at the ends and fitted into a short, 3-inch wide 80 grit sanding belt. The fairing board was held at right angles to the piece with the lathe spinning. Then the spigot was checked with a Japanese tri-square that has a broad, flat surface.

Both the base and the neck were turned separately using vernier calipers to measure the tenon accurately. (All three pieces should be of about equal dryness when beginning this project.)

The neck and foot are generally turned from the same species, one that makes a good contrast to the body. The neck piece needs to be 2-3" longer than the finished piece will be to leave working room on either end for shaping. The pieces for this project are cut end grain, so it makes it a little more like spindle turning. Both the base and the stem are left slightly oversize on the outside, and meant to be cleaned up later.

"Don't worry about the perfect fit," Ken says. "There'll be a lot of fairing and sanding."

The plugs should be dry fit to the body first. It can help to cut the surface that will butt against the body just slightly concave (one or two degrees) to insure a snug, tight glue joint. It is better to have the fit a little loose around the tenon than it is to have it too tight, he says.

For the neck, the hole down the middle is drilled not turned, and then the bell shape on the inside top is turned.

Ken says he uses 80 grit sanding paper on the pieces "as a tool for shaping."

Glue can be cyanoacrylate or epoxy.

Ken makes these vessels as a serious form of relaxation and enjoys the finished product. He sells his work at The Stable Gallery in Damariscotta. His work has also been show at "The Work of the Hand" show at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport.

"I like the aesthetics I can develop with contrasting pieces of wood," he said. And of course, lest we forget, it's fun.

Thanks, Ken, for an informative demonstration, and thanks for all you contribute to the woodturning community and our club.

Member news

Please contact Jacques Vesery to include your news in the next issue, jvesery@tidewater.net

Stephen Gleasner [Appleton] has just returned from two successful shows on the East Coast... "The Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show" and the "16th Annual Washington Craft Show." His work was also featured in the "Weekend's Best" section of the Washington Post, Friday Nov. 21, 2003.

Guy Marsden [Woolwich] is featured in the "Woodturner's Gallery" section of the AAW "American Woodturner" magazine (winter issue) pages 42-3.

Ken Keoughan, Tom Raymond, Dick McFaul, and Jacques Vesery have work on display at the Round Top Center for the Arts in the "Annual Members Exhibit" through Jan. 1, 2004. This is an amazing show... well worth seeing (even if it is mostly paintings.)

Jacques Vesery [Damariscotta] is one of 20 artists invited for "20/20 Envision" at Colby Museum of Art and the University of New England Dec. 2004 through Feb. 2004. He is also teaching and demonstrating this spring at the following: March—Hawaiian Crafts Guild, HI; April—Arrowmont School of Arts and

President's message By Peter Asselyn

Thank you Ken for a great demo. I know I learned a trick or three. I would like to see several three-part pieces in the instant gallery in January.

The December meeting will be Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. Spouses are welcome and everyone who brings a gift will participate in the Yankee gift swap.

Please bring something for the pot luck and it will be a fun evening. We had the best wood auction this month I have ever seen. it has been decided that after all the wood has been auctioned (yes we still have more), we will give Joe's widow half of the

proceeds—so it is for a very good cause.

It looks like we may have John Jordan to demo in May. This would be a must-see demo. Dave Lancaster is setting this up.

It sounds like an exciting year coming up. Thanks,



Peter Asselyn brought this large and technically difficult piece in to Show and Tell at the November



Guy Marsden's fascinating suspended magnetism piece.

Treasurer's Report By Burt Truman

Eleven members renewed their dues at the November meeting bringing our membership up to 47 paid members and 3 Honorary members. Membership cards and member lists were sent to members not present at the Nov. meeting who had paid their dues. Post cards have been sent to 20 members of last years record urging them to stay with us. Demonstrations and demonstrators should be enough to entice anyone to remain a member or join if they are not one now.

I have also sent copies of our newsletter to all Woodworkers Warehouse stores in Maine for display. I thought it might be a good recruiting tool. Responses from at least 3 indicate that they are pleased to have them.

The wood auction (bowl blanks) brought in \$633.00. For those of you who missed out, the other half of the blanks, I understand, will be auctioned off at the December meeting. Some great

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 offers turning lessons in his shop in Weeks Mills. Those interested,



Box elder bowl by Bob Fales

Editor's note:

Sorry folks, lots of technical difficulties with the pho-

Round Top update

Last spring, the club made a donation to further the woodturning program at the Round Top Center for the Arts in Damariscotta. Ken Keoughan and Jacques Vesery have been working with the Center to design and institute the program.

“The project is definitely going forward. We have 50 percent of the funding we needed which is certainly enough to get started,” Ken said recently.

He said the project will start in March and the Center will need to recruit some instructors from the woodturning community. Instructors will be paid \$25/hour and expected to work four three-hour sessions. There will be both evening and daytime sessions. Anyone interested should contact Jacques Vesery at jvesery@tidewater.net or 563-8965.

Summer classes at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, Rockport

The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, which has a reputation as an excellent woodworking school in Rockport, has added some nationally known woodturning instructors to its schedule this coming summer.

Five-day workshops will cost about \$500, and will run from late June to mid-July. More information will be available in December. The school can be contacted at 25 Mill Street, Rockport, ME 04856, (207) 594-5611, cfc@woodschooll.org

June 21-25 is Introduction to Wood Turning with Stephen Gleasner. Stephen is one of our own – an Appleton, Maine-based former guitar-maker and turner who shows his work at the best galleries across the nation. He is known for his ele-



gant, polished, and often colorful vessels made of plywood veneer and dyes. (Stephen is demonstrating for the club at the February meeting.)

June 28-July 2 is Intermediate Woodturning with Michael Hosaluk. Hosaluk is a Canadian turner and teacher whose creativity has inspired many. He gained an early reputation with pieces turned from burls, but has gone on to use ordinary wood and paint. One writer says of him, “Hosaluk's path led him beyond the beauty of wood grain to the freedom of creative expression.”

July 5-9 is Introduction to Wood Turning with Alan Lacer. A former AAW president and frequent contributor to American Woodturner, Lacer is known for his video entitled “The Skew Chisel – The Dark Side, the Sweet Side.” He does a variety of turning, and has demonstrated in 38 states.

July 12-16 is Bowl Turning with Betty Scarpino. Scarpino has been turning for 25 years. She began as a production turner, but today is known for what she does to a turned piece of wood once she takes it off the lathe. Her creative surface treatments include carving, bleaching, and painting.

CA glue (“Superglue”) 2 oz. bottles at half-price

Ken Keoughan is willing to coordinate a group purchase of CA glue which should net considerable savings to anyone interested. If he can put together an order of 24 bottles or more, the cost will be \$4 per bottle. This is about half the usual catalog price.

There was a sign-up list for this at the last meeting, but in the general hubbub, the list got lost. Please tell Ken at the December meeting if you are interested in joining in on this order. You may buy either thin or medium viscosity glue.

Chuck Hargenrader



Getting 575 lbs. UPSTAIRS:

Peter McCrea tells how he moved in a new lathe



Having a forklift in the neighborhood was handy.

My new Oneway 1640 is in place on the *second floor* workshop of my barn. With a weight of 575 pounds, securing it in place was an interesting exercise.

After picking it up at the trucking company in Portland, a friend with a forklift in my Thomaston neighborhood unloaded the BIG box and placed it in my garage where I proceeded to dismantle the new lathe. Using a come-along hung from a sturdy A-frame, I removed the legs (after control pendant, controller box, 2 hp motor, tailstock, headstock, and tool post banjo had previously been removed) and lowered the bed (estimated weight 225-250#) onto a wheeled handcart with plywood and carpet cushioning to spare the paint-work. Only one electrical connection (motor to control box) had to be disconnected. A 5/4 piece of hardwood

(sized to fit in the ways) fitted with a large machine-screw eyebolt/washer/nut proved to be very handy at suspending the ways at its balance point when lowering the item onto the handcart.

A phone call to a few woodworker friends at the local boatyard produced enough muscle to transport the bed/cart package up the narrow flight of stairs to the second-floor shop above the garage. Reassembly was a snap although figuring how to suspend the motor (no helper here) while I inserted its fastenings took a bit of head-scratching. A webbing clamp at the motor's balance point solved the problem!

The lathe is now fully operational and I am becoming accustomed to its power and feel. I already appreciate the speed control when turning rough sections SLOWLY and value the massive #3 MT tailstock when drilling with large Forstner bits- no wobble! Having successfully disassembled and reassembled the machine, I now feel quite at home with my new supertool.



The ladder hoist at work.



Mike Chase honey jar





Dec. 2003 Issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Coming Events:

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.

Become a Member of the Maine Woodturners!

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.

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email: