

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
Vol. 3, Number 5, January 2004

Coming Up January 21 - 7 p.m.:

David Lancaster

“Once Turned Bowls”

If you want to see first-class woodturners demonstrate their skills, you can go to a national symposium. Or, you can come to a meeting of the Maine Woodturners.

Certainly our January demonstrator, David Lancaster, is among the best of the best. David is skillful, knowledgeable, fast, and highly entertaining. Holding a gouge is second



A typical hard day’s work for David in his Weeks Mills shop.

nature to him. He began working at a lathe when he was in the seventh grade. A production turner, David has produced thousands upon thousands of bowls, though in the early days he did a long stint with A. E. Sampson’s in Warren as a spindle turner. He has a broad range of information and experience, and has been demonstrating at national symposiums for years.

David has chosen as his demonstration “Once Turned Bowls,” (a.k.a. green turning). He will show how to shape a fresh log and create a finished piece in one session at the lathe. The bowl is then allowed to dry off the lathe and is sanded at a later point.

David will bring fresh blanks as well as a bowl ready to sand and finished bowls to show the whole process. He will emphasize proper use of the gouge, eliminating vibration, shear scraping, and the use of the vacuum chuck. The meeting will be held **Wed. January 21 at**

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
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MAINE WOODTURNERS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Wednesday night December 17th was a windy and rainy night therefore the attendance at Erskine Academy was thin. There were 11 members and 5 guests who came to the annual Christmas party.

President Peter Asselyn decided not to have a formal meeting. A sign-up list for CA glue was discussed and it was decided to postpone that for the next meeting because of the low attendance. Jacques Vesery advised that when the glue starts to thicken with age its time to dump it. He says a normal shelf life is about 2 years.

Burt Truman said that Round Top has cashed our \$1000 check donation for the Woodturning Center. Jacques Vesery reported that Round Top would rent five lathes from the Furniture School in Rockport to start their classes. They plan to have 4 sessions of 3 hours each for the students with 6 students per class. There are 4 members of our club that have volunteered their services as teachers. Plans are to start classes in September.

Mark Irving had brought some wood for a wood auction and that was also postponed.

We had a very nice spread on the food table and even a tablecloth. To add to the festivities, David Lancaster wore his Santa outfit and his Mrs. had a matching outfit. David explained the rules of Yankee Swap again this year.

Gary Swinton drew the lucky #1 ticket for the Yankee Swap. He ended up with a fine box by Alan Bradstreet at the end of the swap. Alan got a cherry bowl by David Lancaster.

After the Yankee Swap, Jacques Vesery showed the group a series of slides on his PC of his trip to two woodturning confer-

ences in France and England. He really enjoyed the France session which was sponsored by the Association of French Turning Art. It was held in a small town of only 600 people. He was housed in a gorgeous private home with two other demonstrators. The demonstrators only did one demonstration a day for 10 days. A two-man bicycle powered lathe was the hit of the show. The scenery was great as well as the French wine. The exhibit table was in a Catholic chapel and the work was by the demonstrators only. There were many demonstrators from the US.

The conference in England was held at a University. Jacques only had a few slides of that one and it was not up to par with the French conference. Jacques' presentation ended at 9 p.m. and the party ended.
Tom Raymond, Sec.

Workshop at Jacques Vesery's Studio in Feb.

The Maine Crafts Association is hosting "Calendar Series Workshops 2004" in several mediums. One of interest to our members, will be held on Feb. 7th, 2004: "Creating a Woodturned Vessel" with Jacques Vesery. This one day workshop will be from 9 am until 4 pm in Jacques' Studio. For more info. on this and other workshops offered contact Gael McKibbin, executive director at MCA, 207-780-1807.

Sorry folks. Another photo has
bitten the dust

One of the pieces Jacques brought
to our November meeting.

Vice President's Report ...and that shrimp dip recipe

As The Wood Turns

The Yankee swap has been renamed the 'Red Sox' swap. Well... the idea was mentioned. Though the name may be more appropriate for us New Englanders who hate the Yankees, we didn't have a motion, or a vote to officially change it. But we did have some fun for the 16 people who braved the rain and showed up. Gary Swinton was the lucky number 1 person and of course had his pick after everyone else had opened their present and finished swapping. He swapped for a nice cherry box made by Alan Bradstreet. Donna Lancaster had the last number and swapped with someone for a

book of workshops which included articles and pictures on Jacques Vesery's and Alan Bradstreet's shops (or studios). There were lots of interesting items that showed up.

There were several people who liked the shrimp dip I brought so I've included it for the newsletter. Here it is:

2 - 8 oz packages cream cheese

1 Tablespoon ketchup

2 Tablespoons mayo

2 Tablespoons diced onion

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

1 - 6 or 7 oz can tiny shrimp

Mix up the first 5 ingredients and then fold in the shrimp.

See you next month,

Keep the bevel rubbing,

Mark



Santa waiting for his cookies and milk.



Present swap time.



The Swintons enjoyed the festivities.



Report From France

Artistic Woodturning Worldwide 2003

If you missed the last meeting, here is a summary of Jacques Vesery's presentation on his trip to France.

On May 29th, 2003 the small town of Puy Saint Martin, France was transformed into a world-wide symposium on woodturning for the second time in the new millennium.

Puy St. Martin has an approximate population of 600 and is north of Provence in the Drome Valley. Forty two demonstrators from ten countries and three continents presented 80 different subjects in four days. Participants came from all over the globe as well.



Puy Saint Martin, France



David Ellsworth demonstrating in the town hall

Over 400 people representing 19 countries enjoyed a selection of some of the best woodturners in the simplicity and friendly atmosphere of a small French village.

There was no shortage of local help, with more than half the town volunteering in some fashion. Everything from set-up of tents and equipment to graciously housing demonstrators was taken care of like a well oiled machine. The two chapels were turned into galleries, the town hall was used for demos, and the park was a meeting place to sit (with a beer or glass of wine of course) and relax with friends, old and new.

The demonstrators from abroad were like a "Who's Who in Turning" - David Ellsworth



The local chapel, already with art of its own, became a gallery for modern wood-

Report From France, continued



Jacques Vesery turning tops on a Bonnie Klein lathe in the park.



Bonnie Klein demonstrating in a tent at the French symposium.

[USA], Ray Key [UK], Richard Raffan [Australia], Jean-Francois Escoulen [France, also the organizer of the event], Michael Hosaluk [Canada], and Hans Weissflog [Germany] to name a few. It was very exciting and a great honor to be a demonstrator among so many big names in the field, but the best part of this event was being able to socialize with like minds and get to know them better (and not just talk about woodturning). In many ways, the social aspect of this event was more important than the rest, as was evident in the gatherings for

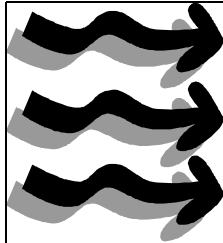
meals which included entertainment every night.... and you thought Maine was laid back.

Jacques Vesery

Web Wanderings

www.woodturningplus.com is one of the best, if not the best, site on woodturning on the Internet. It is loaded with articles and links, about technique and personalities, and styles, and anything else you could want. It seems to have a commercial purpose, but so far I have spent so much time reading articles and looking at galleries that I haven't noticed what it is. If you haven't discovered this site yet, try it as soon as possible.

Inevitably, someone had to get the web address, www.bowlturner.com It turns out it's an Ohio turner named David Peebles, a guy who started out as a rock musician. In fact, he traded a set of drums for his first lathe. Now he's addicted (like, who isn't?), and prefers turning green wood very thin. This site has a great list of links, as well as some nice gallery shots.



Some Universal Truths

o Woodturning

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Here



FROM SEA TO ODYSSEY

The theme of the AAW's next juried show is "From Sea to Odyssey," which will premiere at the 18th Annual AAW Symposium in Orlando, FL, in July 2004.

Jacques Vesery and Mark Sfirri will be the jurors for this exhibit.

AAW members—according to the website— “are invited to take a journey of transformation. Find something that will show and create a sense of vitality, emotion, and feeling from your material. Look for an aesthetic experience using all senses at your disposal—sight, touch, hearing, and smell.” More information and an entry form are available at the AAW website, www.woodturner.org, or see the next issue of the American Woodturner Magazine.

Classified Ads

Free to members!

Lathe for sale: Powermatic 90 with riser blocks that gives it a 24" swing. 36" between the centers. \$ 1,250 firm on price. Contact Stephen Gleasner

2455 Appleton Ridge Road

Appleton, Maine 04862

207-785-5410

2motors@midcoast.com

Turning Classes: Offering one-on-one turning instruction in my own shop located in Durham. Fully insured. I provide use of One-way 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, please contact David at 445-4758 for prices and times.

1. Any wood can be turned. Some is just easier than others. On a scale of 1-to-10, I have yet to find a "Zero", but I have had some that came close.
2. Don't turn bad wood. There is good wood and there is bad wood. Experience will teach us the difference. And, a high purchase price is not a measure of wood quality.
3. Some wood will crack, no matter what you do with it. Neither soap, nor bags, nor magic potions, or prayer will save it. And you will never know until after it happens.
4. Cracking in wood started long before we turn it in the lathe. How it was handled before is more important than what we do with it after it is turned.
5. There are only two kinds of people. Those who are allergic to Cocobolo and those that will be.
6. Measuring the height of the tool-rest is *not* important. Riding the bevel of the gouge on the wood is important. The tool rest has to be at whatever height makes that happen while the handle of the tool is held in a comfortable working position.
7. Learning to use a skew chisel will teach us how wood is cut, and that will make all other turning tools easier to use.
8. The walls of bowls and other vessels will become thinner and more uniform with practice, automatically. We will know when we are getting there because we "just know it" and can hear it. Cracking and other drying problems will start to disappear at the same time. Some folks will never get there, and that's OK too. There is nothing wrong with using calipers.

resident's message

By Peter Asselyn

The December meeting of the Maine Woodturners was a great time with a special guest. Santa and Mrs. Claus showed up, and Santa was jolly indeed.



Maine Crafts Association is holding a series of workshops presented by Master Craftsmen of Maine in their own workshops and Jacques is doing one Feb 7, 2004 called creating a wood vessel. If you are interested in this great opportunity contact Gael McKibbin, executive director at MCA, 207-780-1807.

Jacques also mentioned that the turning school at Round Top is still going forward although delayed slightly.

We had a discussion about super glue and whether or not the club should just buy a case and re-sell it to the members.

Everyone showed up with food and a present for the Yankee swap and I held on to some nice bowl blanks for a little while. We did not have the wood auction but decided to have it in January. Dave Lancaster will be doing a demo in January, and he told me he will be selling bowl blanks, I will be there early to get first pick.

Jacques Vesery showed us some beautiful slides of his adventure in France, it made me wish I could have gone with him.

Jacques' slides really got me thinking about the tremendous interest in woodturning. This small town in France is interested enough to host a turning event and the instant gallery was in-

credible. We are living in an exciting time for turning and each person is free to explore their work in any way they want.

Don't forget to support your newsletter and send Sandy something to share.

Peter

ember news

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

Folks: your news is important. Please keep Jacques informed!

Steve Gleasner and Jacques Vesery will be demonstrating at next 18th Annual AAW Symposium in Orlando, Florida July 23-25, 2004 at the Caribe Royale Hotel.



Sometimes woodturners do other things besides turn wood. Here's our Prez, Pete Asselyn, with a little plane he built "just for fun."



Jan. 2004 Issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Coming Events:

January 21: “Once Turned Bowls” with David Lancaster

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. 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

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:

Email: