

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
Vol. 3, Number 6, February 2004

Coming Up February 18 - 7 p.m.: Stephen Gleasner

Ring bowls—what’s that?

It’s a kind of segmented turning where you don’t need a fancy tool set-up. Your lathe and an ordinary parting tool will do, using wood from the lumberyard.

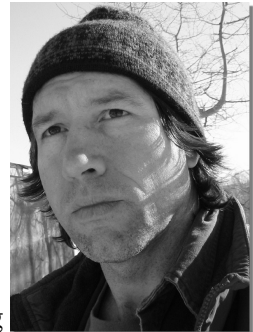


Between the Lines
2003
Plywood and Dyes

This process that Stephen Gleasner will demonstrate can lead to a utilitarian salad bowl, or something as glorious as “Between the Lines,” at left, one of Stephen’s art pieces.

“**The advantage** is that you can start with dry wood, and you don’t have to have a chainsaw and a truck,” Stephen says. He began himself by rough turning bowls, and while he finds it enjoyable, his focus is now entirely on turning from plywood, using wood up to 6 inches thick.

Because it was hard to find the right piece of wood to meet customer demand when he was dealing with logs, Stephen likes the ring bowl process. “I wanted a little more control,” he said.



Stephen Gleasner

Stephen has been a woodworker all his life, beginning with fine cabinetry and custom woodworking. A major influence is the time he spent in a high-end electric guitar factory, which taught him a lot about high tech finishes and coloring wood.

“My eye got used to seeing colors on figured wood,” he said. “It’s a little unusual in the turning world now.”

Stephen’s demo will be held at Erskine Academy (directions on back page) at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18.

Club Officers

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Secretary's minutes

Dave Lancaster—Once Turned Bowls (a year's worth of instruction in one night)

Thanks very much to Vice President Mark Irving for writing up the meeting in Tom Raymond's absence. He also took all the pictures.



Meeting minutes:

President Peter Asselyn opened the meeting promptly at 7 o'clock by introducing Dave Lancaster, the night's demonstrator. No business was discussed due to the time needed by Dave to do his demo.

Dave started by telling us he would show us how to make once-turned bowls from green wood. He drew a picture showing how to cut the blank from the log. The blank is cut, avoiding the pith, so that after the bowl is turned, it will warp symmetrically as it dries.

Dave mentioned that green wood is much more fun to turn than dry wood because it is not

dusty, and cuts easier than dry wood. Dave also does not rough out bowls anymore, he cores out everything. Consequently, he ends up with a much smaller pile of shavings at the end of the day.

He then attached a faceplate to a blank which had been previously cut somewhat round with a band saw. He mounted the bowl, brought up the tailstock and proceeded to rough turn the outside of the bowl. He used a bowl gouge with an Irish, or

swept back grind, starting at the base of the bowl and working up to the rim using a pulling cut. Dave said, "Let the log dictate the shape of the bowl."

"Use a bevel cut for the last finish cut, by rubbing the bevel during the cut, keeping your eye on the top of the bowl to watch the shape develop."

Dave then showed us how he uses vacuum chucking to finish turn a nested set of bowls he created earlier that day. He did

If you don't use a vacuum chuck, the way David does, you will have to cut a tenon on the foot. David advises that for many chucks, the tenon should be slightly dove-tailed so the chuck grips better. If you use a Oneway



Dave kept the flitch and the cored bowls—which had only been cut from the log that afternoon—wrapped in plastic so they wouldn't crack before the evening's demo. Once the cored bowls are finished, he said he had no problems with cracking.

Toolwork, he emphasized, depends on the movement of the whole body, not just the hands.



Dave both bevel cuts and scrapes to get a fine finished surface on the bowl. The better surface he gets with the tool, the less sanding he has to

the outside of all six bowls first, before moving to the inside of the bowls. Many people asked questions during the demonstration. Dave handled the questions expertly. He said he had no idea what lathe speed he uses. He didn't know how large his bowls

“People ask how do you get it perfect. Don't worry about perfect. People worry about too little things.” —D. L.

measured, and he didn't know what ratio of beeswax to mineral oil he uses for his special lubricating compound.

Actually, he said knowing those numbers isn't necessary. He uses the speed that works for him. His bowls are sized by what he can get with his coring tool, and he just adds a little more mineral oil if the lubricating compound is too thick.

One of the main things he says about woodturning is to avoid vibration. He mentioned several ideas on how to avoid this, including using curved tool rests in order to keep the tip of the tool closer to the rest and more stable, to using the tool rest to steady the rim of the bowl, and using your thumb to help guide the tool.

A vacuum chuck, instead of a chuck which clamps on a tenon, also

Lyle Jamieson available next fall for lessons in this area

We received the following communication from Michigan turner Lyle Jamieson:

Lyle Jamieson will be traveling near our club area in the first three weeks of November 2004. Lyle is well known for his teaching from the fundamentals of preventing catches to figurative sculptures done with the Jamieson boring bar system and the Jamieson laser measuring system. Lyles' web site www.lylejamieson.com has a gallery of his work and a great deal of information about his teaching and tools. He is available to do one-on-one workshops in your shops with little or no travel ex-

penses on your part. His fee for one-on-one classes is \$250.00 for one day or \$400.00 for a two day session. He will schedule his time available on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in taking advantage of the opportunity to work with Lyle to take your turning skills to the next level please contact him directly to chat about your desires and to check on open dates and availability. 231-947-2348, ar785@tcnet.org



Lyle Jamieson's turned wood sculpture, "Invitation."

“Whenever you’re turning, you want to think. Don’t just turn it, think about what you are doing first.” - D. L.

“I just took a finish cut. You notice I didn’t talk while I was doing that. That’s because I was trying to control my breathing. Everything you do telegraphs through to the work, even to your breathing.” - D. L.

helps eliminate vibration. Sharp tools also help. David always sharpened a tool before taking a finish cut.

David showed us how he cuts and glues the foam pad on the edge of one of his vacuum chucks. Then he showed us how he uses a drill press to gauge the thickness of the bottom of the bowl for turning the inside. The bowls were lined up for inside turning by using the tool rest as a gauge and a hammer to tap the bowl into alignment. No need to be too exact since the outside is already done, but his alignments looked almost perfect. Dave finished a complete set of 6 or 7 nested bowls in the 2 hour demonstration. Impressive. Finally, he finished up by showing us how to do a twice turned bowl that was already turned once. Much more dusty than the green wood bowls. But, the process is identical.

We then had the wood auction to sell the remaining blanks from Joe Larra-bee's widow. This generated \$158 dollars for the club. There was no time for the show and tell and the meeting was ad-journed.

Respectfully, Mark Irving
(for Tom Raymond)

“Know what happens when you have a set of nesting bowls and you break the middle bowl? You don’t call it a nesting set anymore.” - D. L.



Dave set the drill press so it would come down just far enough above the table to mark the thickness he wanted his finished bowl to be. Then he cut to the bottom of the hole left by the press—leaving about 1/4 inch of material in the bowl bottom.

“You get all your control in the bevel. When you get ridges, it’s because the bevel’s not rubbing. You think it is, but it isn’t.” - D. L.

“Whenever you have that last critical

Thank you David Lancaster for such a



David with two once-turned bowls, both about 16”, the one on the right finished and one on the left ready for finish sanding.

President's message By Peter Asselyn

Friends and Turners

It was great to see so many people turn out last night for David's demo and he did a great job, thank you David. I know I learned a few tricks.



As you all know we did not discuss any business at the meeting to allow time for David's demo. I am finding it difficult to schedule all the things we need to do into two hours a month. Be thinking about ways we might make more time for the demos and auctions and instant galleries. I have not had time at any of the recent meetings even to have everyone introduce themselves and I believe it is important because we have so many new members. Thank you Burt for the video work last night, it worked out great to be able to see on the TV and now we have a tape of David's demo. We will have to ask David if it is ok to make that tape available to club members for a small fee. (another fundraiser)

Tom Raymond was not present last night because he is in Florida. I hope he is getting a nice tan. We raised another \$150.00 last night at the wood auction and that brings the total to over \$800.00 raised for the club. Mark did a great job as auctioneer last night and I apologize for leaving his side. When I heard there was a trunk full of burls outside I got a little crazy. Ethan brought some nice burls all the way from Bangor. I am hoping next time he brings some we will have time to bring them inside.

Sandy asked again last night that we all make some contributions to the newsletter, especially Member News. Please take a minute to email her with something to make the newsletter yours.

See you all next month and happy turning.

Peter

Classified Ads

Free to members!

CHERRY BURLS FOR SALE:

These burls range in size and shape but I try my best to cut only the finest. Prices start at five dollars. I also have some cherry crotch wood, cross-grain and end-grain blanks available. If interested contact Ethan Hall at 866-7569 or <primal_e@hotmail.com>.

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

Member news

Got something new going on? Appearing at a craft fair, selling your work at a gallery, got a tidbit that would be of interest to other members? Please contact Jacques Vesery to include your news in the next issue, jvesery@tidewater.net

Jeff Clapp, former Maine Woodturners president, has a new twist on turning: he is making bells and vases from aluminum oxygen cylinders. And more: in February Jeff will be personally gathering those used and discarded tanks from the dumps high up on Mt. Everest and bringing them back to his Brunswick shop to turn. Jeff promises a slide show on his adventures for the club when he gets back. For more information, see the Times Record online for 1/23/04.

David Lancaster will be the subject of a feature story in the Kennebec Journal, publication date as yet unknown. Keep your eyes out for it!

Jacques Vesery will be teaching a workshop in March for the Hawaii Craftsman's Guild at the University of Hawaii/ Manoa Campus in Honolulu. Jacques is also teaching a week long course at Arrowmont School of Arts and Craft in Tennessee in April.



Feb. 04 issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

February 18: Stephen Gleasner on Ring Bowls – and wood auction
(Stephen is a nationally known artist and 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 driveway on the left. The meeting is in the woodworking shop.

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: