

# Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

Coming Up March 17 - 7 p.m.:

## Bob Biette on A Simple Green-turned Bowl



Bob Biette

Bob Biette has been turning wood since his retirement ten years ago, and at first gave away everything he made. It was his wife who got him to start selling his work.

“If you’re going to do this,” Bob says she told him, “you’re going to have to pay for your tools.”

Besides giving him that little push, Bob says that the former college business professor is his marketing manager and his book-keeper. She also refers many of his customers, who come from her extensive network of friends and former students and colleagues who visit them at their Brunswick home. This loving partnership has been very fortunate for Bob, who after all is just in this for the fun.

“It’s a hobby, and it’s going to remain a hobby,” says Bob, who keeps about 100-150 finished bowls on hand for visitors and fairs he shows at. “But I have managed to pay for my tools.”

Bob does a little something in his shop every day, and works more extensively about three times a week. Many members may find it easy to relate to his relaxed but committed attitude toward woodturning. Bob intends to demonstrate turning a small, simple bowl out of green wood, a project suited to the beginner. He joined the Maine Woodturners early in his career at the lathe, and has himself benefited from many such demos.

### 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
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Burt Truman</b>	622-6772 trumbu@localnet.com
<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

Bob has chosen an easy project so there will be plenty of time for questions. Coming so soon after a series of high-powered club demonstrations, Bob admits that he’s “nervous as an outhouse rat” about the upcoming event. But we’re confident there will be lots to learn from Bob’s experience, so c’mon over.



Cherry bowl by Bob Biette

## Secretary's minutes

The February Maine Woodturners meeting was held on February 18, 2004 at Erskine Academy in South China Maine. President Peter Asselyn called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. He first called for an introduction from each member and guest. He then introduced Steve Gleasner as the demonstrator for this meeting. He announced that a video of Dave Lancaster's demo last month is available for \$20 through Burt Truman.



Burt Truman asked all present to sign in on a "sign in sheet". Burt advised that green cherry wood is available from someone he knows in Benton if anyone is interested.

The CA glue offer mentioned 2 meetings ago was brought up again. Ken Keoughan said he does not want the responsibility for this order but would give the information to the Treasurer. Sandy Gregor asked why couldn't the club order a batch then sell it to the members. She asked for a show of hands from those interested and about 15 hands were raised. Since there was no opposition, Burt will place an order. It is available in 2 oz. bottles and in thin, medium and thick.

Ken Keoughan said that Lyle Jamieson would be doing a 2-day training session at Round Top Center for the Arts this summer. It will be for 6 students if anyone in the club is interested in attending. You can get the information through Round Top in Damariscotta.

Steve Gleasner started his demo at 7:22 pm and ended at 9:08

Show and Tell came next with some interesting items on the table.

Peter Asselyn advised that there are many videos missing from our file cabinet so if you have any out please return them. Burt Truman said that there is a \$3.00 charge for video rental.

The meeting ended at 9:08 PM

**Tom Raymond**



## Turning Tip of the Month:

### Ebonizing Wood

From Peter Asselyn

Peter brought to last meeting's show-and-tell a hollow vessel from a cherry burl that he had

blackened with a process called ebonizing. He soaked a piece of steel wool in ordinary household vinegar for a couple of days, and then rubbed the finished piece with the mixture. He said it turned it an awful gray at first, but after two coats of finishing oil, it came out black and shiny with the wood grain still showing through. Ebonizing works best on woods with a high tannin level, like oak and walnut.

The Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild will be hosting the West Coast

## West Coast Symposium set for next September

Roundup, an international woodturning symposium, September 10 - 12, 2004, in Vancouver, British Columbia. This event will cater to all levels of turning enthusiasts. Presenters are Richard Raffan, David Ellsworth, Lyle Jamieson, Jacques Vesery, Michael Werner, Vernon Leibrant, Joe Fleming and Martin Thorne.

For registration and information, please contact Marco Berera (604 274 7594) or visit their web page at: [www.gvwg.ca/Symposium2004.htm](http://www.gvwg.ca/Symposium2004.htm).

"Why not make this event part of a vacation to British Columbia's beautiful west coast," says Berera. "Spectacular scenery combined with all the pleasures of a modern multicultural city will make this truly a trip to remember. We look forward to meeting you."

# Our Stuff...

Pictures from the  
February Show and Tell  
(Courtesy Mac Ray)



## Lyle Jamieson teaching at Round Top in Nov.

Lyle Jamieson will teach two one-day, hands-on workshops will be held at the Round Top Center for the Arts in November.

The focus will be on turning and hollowing vessels. Jamieson invented the tool that permits controlled, stress-free hollowing. (Tools will be for sale at the workshops.)

Dates of the workshop are Wednesday, Nov. 10 and Thursday, Nov. 11.

Cost is \$175 for one day, and \$225 for two days. The limit is six students (each student will

## Summer Woodturning Classes

Message from:

**Peter Korn, Executive Director Center for Furniture Craftsmanship**

Thanks for your inquiry. Please let the Maine Woodturners know that we are looking for volunteer workshop assistants for some of this summer's turning courses. They should be experienced enough to help with one-on-one coaching of workshop participants, reinforcing the techniques taught the instructor. The best thing to do, for anyone interested, is to contact me directly at [peter@woodscool.org](mailto:peter@woodscool.org) or 594-5611.

There are several ways to sign up for a workshop, if any of your members are interested in participating as students. The simplest is to call the school and register over the telephone. One can also download the registration form at [www.woodscool.org](http://www.woodscool.org) and fax it in or mail it.

**Stephen Gleasner June 21 — 25 - \$515**

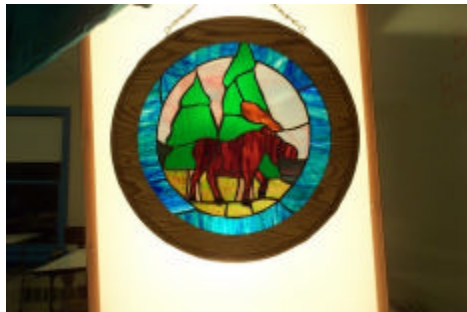
**Michael Hosaluk June 28 — July 2 - \$515**

**Alan Lacer July 5 - 9 - \$515**

**Betty Scarpino July 12 - 16 - \$515**

## More of Our Stuff...

Pictures from the  
February Show and Tell  
(Courtesy Mac Ray)



Stephen Gleasner's  
Safety Tip  
for Turners:

"I always take  
my wedding ring  
off when I ap-  
proach the  
lathe."

Thank you Stephen for generously sharing your experience with us!



*Stephen Gleasner at the lathe*

## Elegantly Economical: Making bowls from boards

“I like the idea of taking something very thin and making something with volume out of it,” said Stephen Gleasner about the ring method he demonstrated at the February club meeting.

For economy, he added, this method is akin to coring a log.

But beyond simple economy, Gleasner uses this method because of the design potential.

“It keeps the same color density and grain pattern through the piece because they’re sister pieces,” he said.

The work that Stephen does these days is all artistic. “I drifted off from salad bowls. It’s all design—I got out of control,” he says with a laugh.

Clearly, what Stephen himself does with plywood and ring design has left behind anything



*A typical glue-up using Stephen’s ring method.*

that suggests practical use. But his demonstration showed that the method has applications for the average woodturner.

Some of the steps in the process had been done before hand: Stephen usu-

ally glues a wasteblock on the center of the piece to grip the wooden disk on a four-jawed chuck. In addition, the disk is turned round and trued up before ring cutting begins.

Another important step before beginning to cut the rings is designing the bowl. If a ring bowl is cut from one piece of wood,

the limitations of the method require a simple outflowing line for the bowl profile. The rings are cut at an angle. The outside diameter of each successively smaller ring must match up to the outside diameter of the previous, larger ring. This means the angle has to be calculated to take into consideration the profile of the bowl, the thickness of the wood, and the kerf of the cutting tool (which in Stephen’s case is a modified 1/4-inch diamond parting tool. His modification requires grinding a long, curved angle on the top of the tool. The cutting tip is at the widest part of the tool to prevent binding, and is skewed. This expla-



*Stephen’s piece, “Ghost on the Stairs”*

nation makes a lot more sense if you've seen the tool!)

Stephen designs using a full-scale drawing made by measuring the disk of wood he intends to use by thickness and diameter, and drawing a stack of rectangles with those measures on a handy piece of plywood.

"I do all my drawings on the next piece of plywood I'm going to use, so I'm always destroying my designs. It keeps me honest, it keeps me fresh," he said.

When he mounts the piece on the chuck, the first thing he does is mark where the edges of the #1 jaw meet the waste block to help remounting the piece.

"It's going to tend to want to go back better if you put it in the same place," he says. "It's wood and it's soft and it's not like a machine relocation screw, but I think it makes a difference."

The method is adaptable to other methods of chucking, including faceplates — "you need to get it on the lathe somehow. It just needs to be on there spinning," he says.

He warns that the size of the foot or waste-block or faceplate matters when considering design. When you get to the smaller rings, you won't be able to cut through if the foot is too large.

When cutting, Stephen said it was important to hold the tool parallel to the floor.

"This generates a lot of heat. I like to keep the rpm's down and the tool sharp," he said. He hones his parting tool frequently.

Stephen begins with a small cut to create a groove for the tool. He uses a bevel guide to angle the cut according to his design, and lines up the tool. Then he tends to eyeball it by keeping the handle at the angle he notes from the bevel guide.

"When you feel it's cutting right, it's best to keep going. If you pull out it leaves shavings in there, and they get on the tip of the tool and it won't cut. You push and push and all of a sudden you've got something you don't want—a big catch."

The cut should have power but not speed, he says. "If the wood goes away completely, you still want control of the tool."

"Hear that pitch?" Stephen said as he was cutting. "That means it's just about ready to go and that means go extra slow."

When the ring is cut through, it pops off toward the headstock of the lathe, and is trapped. Because of the angle of the cut, it can't slip back over the piece remaining on the chuck. Stephen takes it all off the lathe and marks where the next ring should be cut using the diameter of the last ring. He also uses "witness marks" on the rings to keep them lined up when he glues them back together in a bowl form. Marks are both across the flat of the disk and on the sides of the rings.

"I made the angle steeper every time because I want it to be round. When I glue it together, I have this "thing" that I can turn into a bowl the next day," he said.

Stephen uses epoxy to glue the rings together, an superglues little wood rectangles as guides to keep the rings from sliding out of place. He roughens the disks with 60 or 80 grit sandpaper so there is room for the epoxy.

If you are off by just 1/16 of an inch lining up the rings, he warns, you lose 1/8" of wall thickness. You want to be really careful with a large bowl. By the top, you can be far off."

It needs some practice, but this is a versatile method that can serve a wide range of work.

News from penmaker Kim Dailey:

## Help make pens for service men & women overseas

I don't know if you know about this drive to create turned wooden pens for the servicemen and women overseas or not but I'm including a link to the site: [www.freedompens.us](http://www.freedompens.us) just in case you don't. It is an admirable effort that is being undertaken by some turners from down south and they are looking for help. They are trying to get 100,000 pens to send to the service men and women overseas. I am going to make up 10 or 20 pens to send down. If anyone wants some Birdseye Maple wood to use toward this project I believe I can supply them with it. I can get us a good price on slimline pen kits as well from Craft Supplies. It's \$1.39 and I'm figuring \$.11 freight per kit ( I will add them to my regular orders to help knock down the cost of shipping on the kits). So \$1.50 per kit should do it, they are regularly \$1.99 + shipping.

Kim Dailey

Dailey Woodworking, [www.daileywoodworking.com](http://www.daileywoodworking.com) kim@daileywoodworking.com 207-562-7136

## President's message

### By Peter Asselyn

The February meeting of the Maine Woodturners had 38 people attending and I know because of a new sign up sheet created by Burt Truman. Burt is a pretty handy guy to have around. Steve Gleasner did a great job explain and showing how to turn a flat piece of wood into a bowl or form.



**I remember seeing** Steve do this demo about three years ago and I really did not grasp the concept very well. However on seeing it done again it became much clearer, so if you have a little trouble with it, don't despair, we'll ask Steve back again I'm sure. I'm really taken with Steve and the beautiful art he creates.

**I will have** a thank you card at the next meeting for the widow who sold us all that wood we auctioned off. We raised over \$800 for our club.

**Thanks to** Sandy Gregor's persistent interest we will be adding a few turning videos to our library. Please don't forget to return videos you have taken. We ask \$3 when you borrow one which can be paid to Burt Truman. There is a sign up sheet with the videos. Please sign out and when you return it. We could really use a better storage unit for our library and if anyone has an idea or would like to make something that we could lock, please talk to me. Magazines and books are free to take out but again please return them so someone else has a chance also.

**We had eight** guests attend last night and I encourage members to bring guests as that is a good way for us to meet more people who love to turn

**If you have** any items to sell or things to share please email Jacques Vesery at [jversery@tidewater.net](mailto:jversery@tidewater.net) don't forget this is your newsletter.

Thank you and happy and safe 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>](mailto:primal_e@hotmail.com)

**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, please contact David at 445-4758 for prices and times.

**Cherry logs:** Dwight Gagnon 877-9020 has some approx. 15" dia by about 15" long native cherry. If anyone is interested call him.

## 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](mailto:jvesery@tidewater.net)*

**Ken Keoughan** will participate in the "Woodworkers of Midcoast Maine" exhibition at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport. The exhibition will run from 3/18/04—6/13/04. Opening reception is March 19 from 5—7 p.m.

**Stephen Gleasner's** work will be featured in a small article in US Airway's Attache magazine in July. Anybody flying US Airways to the national AAW symposium in Orlando will get a copy. Also, his work will be featured this spring sometime by Maine Public Television on one of their Made in Maine episodes.



Mar. 04 issue



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Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

### *Coming Events:*

#### **March 17: Bob Biette on Green Bowls**

**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:**