

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
Vol. 3, Number 8, April 2004



Mike Chase

Coming Up April 21 - 7 p.m.: Mike Chase on

Mike Chase is a pretty remarkable turner. He not only makes “Things with Rings,” he can make things with *intertwined* rings.

Captured rings (a ring of wood held in place by a larger bead of wood on either side) have always fascinated the public (“How did they get that on



Mike's amazing intertwined rings

there?”), and therefore been a favorite decoration for woodturners, so this is something you won't want to miss. Rings are popular on items like goblets, bottle stoppers, and baby rattles. Often, a special ring turning tool is used, but for years, Mike always used just an ordinary parting tool to turn his rings.

Now Mike has discovered the secret of turning intertwined rings (see picture), a feat that must be not unlike turning a moebius strip. He promises to teach ring turning, and the more amazing intertwined ring turning, at his demonstration at the April meeting.

Mike has been turning since he studied with Russ Zimmerman (a well-known teacher who was sort of the grandfather of New England turners) in New Hampshire in 1980. “My family is still trying to break me of my passion for turning and get me back into furniture making,” Mike says, but he finds it hard to stay away from his lathe.

This is Mike's first demo for the club, and he feels like he has joined Bob Biette in the outhouse rat-pack, but club members who saw Mike demonstrate last fall in Farmington are boosters. And Mike feels the same way Bob did: “I've always been grateful to be a member of this club, because I've learned so much. I owe a huge debt to the club and I'm honored to be asked to demonstrate.”

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@localnet.com
Librarian	Jeff Raymond	jeffraymond@ prontomail.com
Secretary	Tom Raymond	563-6813 trdamar@tidewater.net
Newsletter	Sandy Gregor	778-3717

Mark Your Calendar! Two exciting weekend demos coming up: Nick Cook, May 22 and 23 and John Jordan, June 26 and 27—See page 3 for details.

Secretary's minutes

The March 2004 meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine academy in South China , Maine on Wednesday the 17th. Vice President Mark Irving presided over the meeting in absence of Peter Asselyn. There was an introduction of about 40 members and guests prior to the business. Mark introduced Bob Biette as the demonstrator at this meeting. He advised that tonight we would nominate a new President and Vice President.

Two future Nationally known demonstrators are scheduled to do a two day demonstration. Nick Cook in May and John Jordan in June. The fees are \$25 per member and \$40 for non members for each session. They are both excellent demonstrators.

Burt Truman announced there is a lathe for sale in Cumberland and if interested, the phone # is 829-3021. He has also made video's of the last two demonstrations by Dave Lancaster and Steve Gleasner. Copies are for sale at \$10 each.

A web page for our club was mentioned at a cost of \$5.95 per month.

There is a new consignment Gallery in Boothbay called Salt River for anyone interested. Sandy Gregor spent \$250 of club funds to purchase new video taped on turning. She reviewed each one and gave highlights as to their content. Rental is \$3.00 per month. See Burt Truman if you are interested. They have to be signed in and out. It was again mentioned that we need a better cabinet for the storage of tapes and magazines.

The nomination for President for the next 2 years were for Mark Irving and for Vice President , Peter McCrea.

At 7:27 Bob Biette started his demonstration and ended at 8:35.

We had a very interesting Show and Tell followed by a bring back raffle. The turned items were donated by Mac Ray and Mark Irving.

Two items have to be brought in by the winners at next months meeting.

Dave Lancaster suggested that we offer club tee shirts with a Maine Woodturner logo. He is looking forward to ideas and designs from members at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:50 PM

Tom Raymond, Sec.

“Firewood is any piece of wood that won’t fit in the lathe.” -Burt Truman

...and a big THANKS to Burt for all he does to keep the club organized!

Elections to be held at April meeting

Elections for club officers will be held at the April meeting. It will be the last meeting including regular business before the summer break, as the May and June meetings are scheduled on weekends for special demonstrators.

The club elects a president and vice president for a two year term, and on alternate years elects secretary and treasurer.

Nominated at the March meeting for president was current veep, Mark Irving of Bath. Peter McCrea, Thomaston, was nominated for vice-president.

T-shirt design contest

David Lancaster challenged members to design a tee-shirt for the club. Those interested should bring their design to the April meeting, where a friendly vote will be held to determine the favorite.



Show and Tell items March meeting



Letters to the Editor:

Klingspor Discount

To the editor: I received a pleasant surprise when I placed an order with Klingspor recently.

The order-taker on their 800 line asked me if I was still a member of the Maine Woodturners. When I replied in the affirmative, I received a 10% discount on the order, which almost negated the shipping! Since their product line includes much more than abrasives, club members should remember to ask for this discount when they call in any order.

To request a catalog, one can call 1-800-228-0000.

Bring back raffle

The tradition of the bring-back raffle was revived at the March meeting when Dave Lancaster twisted the arms of Mac Ray and Mark Irving to get them to donate a piece of turned work to the winners. Tom Raymond went home with Mac's southwest style vessel, and Roy Antaki left with Mark's cherry bowl. They each have to bring back a turned piece or some kind of woodturning related item for another raffle at the next meeting.

Exciting upcoming demos: Nick Cook & John Jordan Sign up with Burt Truman

The "Maine Woodturners" is proud to announce two upcoming demonstrations in May and June. Both will be held in the Industrial Arts Dept. at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine.

The May demo will be on May 22 & 23 by Nick Cook. Saturday will be spindle and production projects. Introduction to the skew with a demo on how to turn various items, (tops, rattles, wine stoppers, boxes, etc.), using only the skew. Sunday will be a plate or platter, simple bowl, and a natural edge bowl. Along the way he discusses jigs & fixtures for production work, sharpening techniques and methods of chucking work. Every thing he makes during a demonstration is left with us to auction or raffle off.

The June demo will be on June 26 & 27 by John Jordan. Saturday will be bowl turning, sharpening, wood selection, etc. Sunday will be a turned and carved hollow vessel.

For both demos, Saturday time will be from 9 AM to 4 PM. Sunday time will be from 11 AM to 4 PM. Lunch can be provided for \$5 per person per day. It consists of a 6" sandwich (your choice) from Subway and a regular bottled or canned soda. You also may bring your own lunch if you wish.

Cost for either demo is \$25 for members and \$40 for non-members. No discounts will be made for those that only attend one day.

Reservations can be made with Burt Truman, Treas. by email: <trumbu@localnet.com>, telephone: (207) 622-6772, FAX: (207) 621-1021, or mail: 85 Second Street, Hallowell, ME 04347.

Bob Biette Says Safety #1 Concern

When Bob Biette approached the lathe at his March demo, “A Simple Green-Turned Bowl,” his first concern was safety.

He had with him a bowl in two pieces that was just one piece before he mounted it on his lathe at home and set it spinning. It split, just missed his face, and put a sizeable hole in the ceiling.

“Wear face protection,” Bob said.

The morbidly curious in the audience were also entertained with a vivid photo of Dave Lancaster’s stitched and bruised face after he was seriously injured by a spinning bowl that blew apart a few years back.

“Woodworking is a dangerous activity, and accidents happen fast,” Bob reminded his audience.

Sharpening tools well is also an important safety measure, according to Bob.

“Your gouges have to be the sharpest in the tool shed or you’re going to be hurt,” Bob said.

Safety covered, Bob moved into preparations for turning, beginning with the tool rest.

“If you make a dent in this thing, every dent shows up in the bowl,” he said.

Bob smooths down his tool rest with a mill file.

“Round it off and keep it shiny. Every once in a while you can use mineral oil or beeswax to keep it smooth. I use paraffin—just rub some on,” he said.

Bob keeps 100– 150 bowls in his cellar

that are green turned, dried, and ready to finish. He admits to producing more bowl blanks than he probably needs because it’s so much more fun to turn green wood than a dried blank.

The wood he uses comes from many sources, and sometimes just appears because



Bob donned an old hospital gown to keep wood bits out of his collar and pockets when he started making the chips fly. (photo by Mac Ray)

people know he’s a woodturner.

“I arrived home yesterday and there were two yellow birch logs in my yard because my neighbor had cut them and brought them over,” he said.

But he warns that city or yard trees can hold surprises. Bob had a collection of iron nails, spikes and hooks that had been driven into trees when young and were completely grown over and invisible until he began to cut into the wood.

He can tell something’s wrong, he said, because **“it’s smooth going and then all of a sudden, tick, tick.”**

“You ought to be worried about the bumps on a log. That means there’s a defect in

there somewhere,” he said. It could either be metal or a dead knot that could ruin or alter the design of the bowl.”

Bob previously prepared a piece of cherry by lengthwise sawing a log section proportionally in half with the pith balanced, and then cutting it round on his band saw. Bob mounted the wormwood screw on the four-jaw chuck, turned the variable speed very low, and deftly threaded the blank onto the screw. This motion impressed a lot of people present since Bob had neglected to mention the pre-drilled hole he had put in the face before leaving home.

When Bob mounted the blank, he kept the speed low, quite a bit lower than a stepped belt would usually allow. He brought the speed up cautiously because the blank was out of balance.

“When it starts vibrating, you better stop,” he said.

For safety, Bob pulled the tailstock up to increase support. When the chips started flying, he reminded people that his face protection was deflecting flying chips from his eyes.

Bob shaped the profile of the bowl, and cut a food with a smaller gouge because he intended to reverse-mount the bowl in a four-jawed chuck. He had previously turned himself a recess in a scrap piece of wood that would help him check the size of the foot. If it fit in the recess, it would be the right size for the chuck.

Bob owns a McNaughton coring system, but, he said, “I didn’t bring it because I would be swearing at it.”

He does not recommend buying McNaughton, and steered people interested in coring to the OneWay system Dave Lancaster helped develop.

Bob uses his favorite Irish grind gouge (Ellsworth grind, English grind, side grind... all names for the same thing) to cut most of the bowl, finishing the inside with a round scraper. He inspected the edges of the bowl (which

when aligned in the log had been nearest the pith) for cracks, and faced it off (cutting down the height of the bowl) twice when he discovered it had begun to crack. When he finished he had a bowl just under 8” in diameter which he left about 3/4” thick. After the bowl dries and warps, that thickness will leave enough for him to true up into a finished bowl.

The green bowl was then thoroughly painted with a green wood sealer on all surfaces, and bagged in a paper bag in preparation for three months in Bob’s cellar. This will slow down the drying process and prevent cracks.

Bob told new turners to study bowls they like the shape of to learn what they should do.

“You’re not copying a design, you’re copying making a bowl,” he said.

But he also warned amateurs who want to sell their work not to copy and undersell professionals. He turns as a hobby, and likes being able to do what he wants when he wants. But out of respect for professionals who earn their living from turning, Bob said hobby turners should put a fair market value on their work when they sell it.

If everyone follows Bob’s advice, there will be a lot of bowls for sale.

“You don’t get good at it unless you do it over and over. Try this and try that,” he said.



Show and tell

Natural edge burl bowl with pebble inserts, March Show and Tell (all photos by Mac Ray)

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

Ken Keoughan will have a piece featured in the book **500 Bowls** published by Lark Books. Release date is October 2004.

Editors note: Those of you who were at the March meeting may recall meeting Eric Tompkins who was attending for the first time. Eric donated his expertise to the American Association of Woodturners to help update their website. He has a small web business for woodturners, and I asked him to share something about it for our newsletter.

Eric Tompkins Woodturns Store

PO Box 129
Farmington, ME 04938

Three years ago I created Woodturns.com as a way to organize all of the woodturning information that I found on the internet. What began as a modest quest for personal information turned into a 500+ page website with links to suppliers, over 100 woodturning artist listed, nearly every woodturning club in the world listed, links to articles, and other information. Woodturns.com has grown a great deal over the past three years. Today we have over 1200 pages of information related to woodturning plus a message board to share woodturning information and questions, an online gallery, and an event calendar of upcoming woodturning events. One of the more popular areas of Woodturns.com is the Articles section. We have over 50 articles relating to many different woodturning topics, half of which are about projects to make. We are continually adding more articles to Woodturns.com.

Throughout the course of developing Woodturns.com, we got many questions about whether or not Woodturns carried any of the

products showcased on our site. We didn't at that time because any products shown were those of other companies we were affiliated with. Because of those questions we started to research the possibilities of carrying some woodturning products. A survey was posted at Woodturns.com to find out what products people are looking for, when they turn, how often they shop, and other shopping habits. We received a very good response to the survey, and armed with that information we started to research suppliers and start ordering products. On October 16, 2003 the Woodturns Store was officially open. We've developed an online catalog that can be found at www.WoodturnsStore.com, which is how we are currently marketing our products. By late spring, or early summer we plan on having a print catalog available.

Woodturns Store carries a wide variety of products and we're adding more on a regular basis. Some of the products that we carry include books, pen kits, pen turning supplies & tools, project kits, some wood, design software, project supplies, finishes, lathes & lathe accessories, project plans, peppermills, and saltmills. We currently have one of the largest varieties of peppermill sizes available. Orders can be made online at Woodturnsstore.com. You can also order by phone. Please visit <http://store.woodturnsstore.com/info.html> to see our current phone number and other ordering options. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

More Show and Tell March Meeting



Classified Ads

Free to members!

Tools for sale: Radial Arm saw – Craftsman 10" on metal stand. Practically new – need space \$300

Radial Arm saw – Craftsman 8" on wood cabinet stand. – need space asking \$150

Wood Lathe – electrified antique (over 100 years old) I've used it for 35 years. Face plate, live & dead centers, knob center, tool rest \$75

Ken Shepherd

205 Main Road

Westport Island, ME 04578

(207) 882-4128

Red plum for the taking: I was wondering if you had any members who live in the Union area that might be interested in a gnarly old red plum tree. I will wait until I hear back from you before cutting it down. (Dick will email interested parties a picture of the tree.)

Dick Anmahian

Union, ME

bigblue@ime.net

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.

OneWay Dealer:

For anyone who hasn't caught on through the jokes constantly being made at meetings, Dave Lancaster (445-4758) is a OneWay dealer and would be glad to help anyone interested in ordering tools or lathes carried in their catalog.



Apr. 04 issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

April 21: Mike Chase on Things With Rings & election of officers.
May 22 and 23—Nick Cook demo, all day both days, \$25 members, \$40 non-members
June 26 and 27—John Jordan demo, all day both days, \$25 members, \$40 non-members

All regular 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: