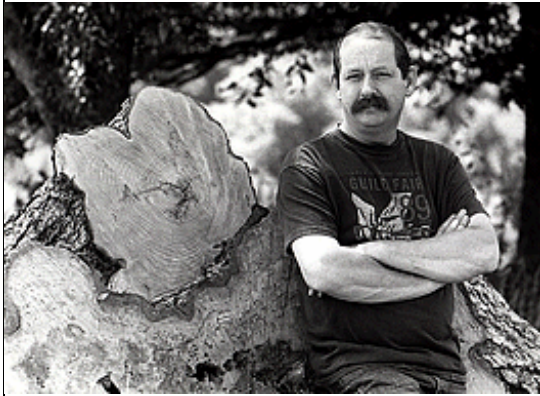


Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
Vol. 3, Number 9 June 2004

John Jordan June 26 & 27: World Class Turner in Maine



John Jordan

Jordan has been featured in nearly every major turning exhibition the past decade.

Jordan is closely involved in the camaraderie of woodturners. He is a former President of the Cumberland Valley Chapter of the Tennessee Association of Craft Artists, and former Vice-President and a founding member of the Tennessee Association of Woodturners.

And ask him about his motorcycle!

Known primarily for his textured and carved hollow vessels and small necked bottles, Tennessee woodturner John Jordan loves to share his expertise with other turners. He regularly teaches woodturning throughout the US and the UK.

Jordan will focus Saturday on bowls, choice of wood, and sharpening. Sunday his demonstration will be a turned and carved hollow vessel.

Widely respected as a one-of-a-kind turner, Jordan



Mesquite Spiral Vessel

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The Practical Details: June 26 and 27—John Jordan

9 AM -4 PM Sat, 11 AM. -4 PM Sunday, Erskine Academy.

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 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.

As the Wood Turns: President's Message



I enjoyed Nick Cook's Demonstration. I had never heard of a garden dibble until he turned that first item. I will surely turn myself one to use for planting bulbs in the fall. He turned many other items which we will probably raffle off during meetings next year, as the June demo will be John Jordan and then we take the summer off. Among the items Nick turned were a 10" peppermill from ash, an ash platter with a burned rim, baby rattle, bottle stoppers, tops, and honey dippers. Visit Nick's web site at www.nickcookwoodturner.com

We are also looking into having Beth Ireland do a demonstration in September. Check out her web page at www.bethireland.net. She has some interesting stuff in her gallery.

Craft Supplies has sent us some information about a program for members of AAW sponsored clubs. The current promotion runs from June 1-July 15, 2004 and includes Artisan Coloring Dyes, Mylands, Liberon, All Hut Finishes, and Box of Rags. If you need any of this stuff, give them a call or check out the web page, www.woodturnerscatalog.com. The promotion code is 04SPAAW6 which you must mention to take advantage of this special. I don't know what the prices are, or what the special actually is, but the products can be checked out on the web site. They also gave us a \$15 gift certificate which we must decide what to do with. I'm sure there won't be any shortage of ideas.

The Adirondack Woodturners in New York are having a symposium in Albany on October 30, 31 for anyone wishing to attend. Check out information at www.totallyturning.com or call me. I have more information on a brochure.

We also have a new member, Eric Tompkins from Farmington, who runs his own web site and catalog store. He sells woodturning supplies, some of which he brought to the meeting last month. He has plenty of peppermill mechanisms and other items for sale. His web sites are www.woodturns.com and store.woodturnsStore.com.

Don't forget about the tee shirt contest. We have two or three submissions to consider and would like to have more. Bring them to the next meeting. We'll vote on one at a meeting in the fall and get the tee shirts made after that.

I hope to see a large crowd for the John Jordan demo next month. He was the first demonstrator I saw when I first came to this club several years ago (when I was young). His demos are well worth attending. In the interest of spending as much time as possible with John demonstrating, we will hold off on the show and tell, wood auction, and bring back raffle until September.

See you next month and
Keep the bevel rubbing,

Secretary's Report:

Tom Raymond had one of his rare absences in May, and there is no secretary's report. There was no business conducted, and the next business meeting is in September.

T-shirt design contest

... Has been extended until the fall. Send your design in electronic format to sgregor@midmaine.com and we'll put them in the September newsletter. Members will vote on their favorite.

Nick Cook Does It All

When Nick Cook demonstrated for us this May, he made a garden dibble, honey dipper, baby rattle, two kinds of Christmas ornaments, spinning tops and two kinds of wine bottle stoppers, and that was just before lunch the first day.

He also demonstrated tea lights, a pepper mill, two kinds of end grain boxes (regular and finial) and plates, a platter with burned rim, green-turned bowl and natural edge bowl.



Various items turned by Nick Cook. At the demo

A production turner who runs the only full-service turning shop in Atlanta, Georgia, that's sort of the way it is for Nick at home. Only he often makes hundreds, even thousands, of any particular item for an order.

Nick quoted the late and legendary turner Rude Olsolnik, who advised him that if he wanted to make a living as a turner, he should pick a small item that he could sell at a reasonable price and turn lots of 'em. Nick picked wine bottle stoppers, and to date figures he has turned about a quarter of a million of them. That's lots, for sure.

Nick does a lot of his work with the tool most hated by beginners: a skew chisel. He's an advocate of the oval skew (a pair of articles appear in the next issue of *American Woodturner*: Nick vs. Alan Lacer who advocates a regular skew.) He likes the larger tool—1 1/4 to 1 1/2" width. "The whole key to woodturning is to have the bevel support the cut," Nick said. "But the first thing is to put the tool on the rest before touching the wood. Everyone says 'I know that,' and then they go back to their lathes and they don't do it."

The next most important thing, according to Nick, is to support the end of the tool handle against your body. The tool itself doesn't require much pressure.

"I lay 3 fingers across the top and literally push it with my pinkie," he said.

Bob Biette wondered why he sometimes got a ripple on the wood when he cut with the skew.

"It's usually from pushing too hard because the tool is dull," said Nick, who often hones his skew in between sharpenings.

"Use the center 1/3 of the tool," he said. The toe of the skew is used for Vee cuts, and the heel all the way down to the corners is the part used for rolling beads.



Nick Cook at the lathe

Nick Cook continued

“This is the only tool you cannot cheat with,” Nick said. “It’s either sharp or it’s not.”

The grain of the wood will show “cathedrals” which indicate the direction of the cut to achieve a fine finish. “Try to cut toward the peak of the cathedral. The trouble is when on one side the grain runs one way and on the other side runs the other way. When that happens, go both ways with a lighter and lighter cut,” he said.

As far as the angle of the bevel, Nick said the specific angle matters less than making it uniform. “If you’re used to it and it works for you, that’s fine,” he said.

In the course of two days, Nick tossed off a lot of pointers. Here’s a review of a few of them:

When cutting a bead with the skew: “You see how little I’m taking with each cut.”

Parting tool: “The whole key is to work squarely in and squarely out without wavering.”

Using a roughing gouge: “Roll it over and use all the cutting edge. That way, it’s going to last a lot longer.”

Hold a piece of tempered masonite against the spinning wood to burn a decorative ring on a spindle-turned object.

When making bottle stoppers you hold in the chuck by the dowel glued into the stopper top, bandsaw the edges of the blank off at 45 degrees. “It saves dowels.”

Toymaker’s aniline dye is a good nontoxic agent to color wood.

Don’t use steel wool. The fibers can get wound around your fingers. Use non-woven Scotchbrite.

When using calipers to mark a circle against a face, always point them down.

Never extend the jaws beyond the body of the chuck.

The best peppermill mechanism is made by Chef’s Supplies (ed.’s note: and available from our own club member, Eric Tompkins at our meetings or at www.woodturns.com).

When making an “innee” to chuck on a Oneway chuck, you have to make it deeper than other chucks to be sure at least two of the ridges on the chuck jaws catch the wood.

Using a screw chuck on green wood: “Put a little beeswax on it first and don’t leave it overnight or it will rust on. To take the blank off, put a key in the chuck and brace the handle on the tool rest, then turn it off with both hands.”

To make a flat cut, as on the face of a platter, “place the tool with the bevel rubbing and keep it in that attitude all the way across.”

“When you get vibration, lighten up. Everyone tends to want to push harder, and that just make the chatter deepen.”

“Good lighting is essential to getting a good finish. I have two 100-watt bulbs on each machine that put a lot of light on what I do.”

“Don’t touch the rim of a platter while it’s spinning. It WILL cut you. I’ve had splinters go all the way through my finger.”

Hollowing a bowl: “I tell my students, make every cut as if it were the last cut, but never ever make the last cut. How many of you have ruined a bowl on the last cut?”



Roughing the shape of the peppermill.

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

And we know Jacques isn't the only one with news so send it in!

Jacques Vesery will be a feature demonstrator at the following upcoming events;
25th anniversary Utah Woodturning Symposium, June 10-12, 2004 at BYU, Provo, UT
AAW National Woodturning Symposium, July 23-25, 2004 Orlando, FL
West Coast Roundup Woodturning Symposium, Sept.10-12, 2004 Vancouver, Canada

Jacques will also have work in the following exhibits this Summer;

“Beneath the Bark” 25th Anniversary exhibit at the Museum of Art, BYU, Provo, UT

“Flight of Fancy;New Works” solo exhibit, July 8-Aug. 16, Elan Fine Arts, Rockland, ME

“Celebrating Nature” August 11- Oct. 31, 2004 Craft & Folk Art Museum of Los Angeles, CA

Eighteenth Annual AAW National Symposium

July 23 to 25, 2004

Caribe Royale Resort

Orlando Florida

\$275 (transportation, meals and lodging not included)

From 7:45 a.m. Friday to 3:15 p.m. Sunday, it's nothing but woodturning. Wow!

The list of demonstrators includes the best in woodturning, including our own David Lancaster, Stephen Gleasner, and Jacques Vesery. But don't go down just for them: there are literally dozens of other turners demonstrating on a rotational basis throughout the weekend.

In addition, there is a banquet Saturday for all attendees, an instant gallery, a special pen-turner's instant gallery, a trade show, and “From Sea to Odyssey” - a juried exhibition.

There will be a special presentation by Mark Sfirri and Jacques Vesery, “The Need for Seeds: Collaborating with Other Artists.”

When you register, you will be sent a complete schedule.

To register online, go to www.woodturner.org. Or call 651-484-9094, or write AAW Symposium, 3499 Lexington Ave. N., Suite 103, Shoreview, MN 55126.

Exciting Summer Turning Events in Damariscotta

Round Top Center for the Arts will offer turning classes starting with the fall session in September.

To kick off this new program, there will be a lecture/ demo series this Summer with four prominent artists in the field of woodturning;

Michael Hosaluk [Canada] Saturday, June 26th, 2004

Betty Scarpino [IL] Saturday, July 17th, 2004

Jacques Vesery [ME] Saturday, August 7th, 2004

Steve Gleasner [ME] Saturday, August 21st, 2004

There will be a small daily fee for each of these events. For more information contact

RTCA at 563-1507 or Jacques Vesery at 563-8965.

Dixfield Turners June 9

For more information contact: Kim Dailey,
kim@daileywoodworking.com 207-562-7136.

Turning Courses Coming Next Fall at Round Top Center for the Arts, Damariscotta

Ken Keoughan and other club members have been working hard to set up a curriculum in woodturning. at the Round Top Center for the Arts. The club donated a lathe to get this started. For more information, contact Round Top at P.O. Box 1316 Damariscotta, ME 04543 Telephone: 207-563-1507

INTRODUCTION TO WOODTURNING

Sessions:

Tuesday, September 14 to October 5. (4 weeks) Days: 1 PM – 4 PM

Tuesday, September 14 to October 5. (4 weeks) Evening: 6 PM – 9 PM

Tuesday, October 12 to November 2. (4 weeks) Days: 1 PM – 4 PM

Tuesday, October 12 to November 2. (4 weeks) Evenings: 6 PM – 9 PM

Tuesday, November 9 to November 26. (4 weeks) Days: 1 PM – 4 PM

Tuesday, January 11 to February 1. (4 weeks) Days: 1 PM – 4 PM

Tuesday, February 8 to March 1. (4 weeks) Days: 1 PM – 4 PM

Turning wood is considered by many to be the most enjoyable form of working with wood on a power tool. This course will provide an introduction to spindle turning, bowl making and end-grain hollowing techniques. In addition to woodturning, students will be taught safety, tool sharpening and lathe maintenance.

Students will “learn-by-doing”. Each step will be explained and demonstrated after which each student will do “hands on” exercises while the instructor supervises and makes on the spot corrections. Emphasis will be on enjoying the process of turning. Bowls, goblets, egg cups, and plates will be among the exercises each student may undertake. Our instructors are all active woodturners and love to share their experience. Our lathes are new and the finest made. We will provide all necessary tools.

Ages: 16 + (Women and Men)

Maximum enrollment: 6, one per lathe.

Fee: \$100 members; \$125 non-members

QUICK AND EASY TURNED GIFTS

Tuesday, December 6 and 13 (2 Week) 6 PM - 9 PM

Prerequisite for this course is completion of “Introduction to Woodturning” or equivalent experience.

This will be a project potpourri of easy to make gift items including scoops, goblets, spin tops, hand mirrors, small bowls. Materials will be available for sale on site. No tools are required.

Ages: 16 + (Women and Men)

Fee: \$ 50 members; \$75 non-members, plus cost of materials used.

BOWL TURNING 1

Sessions:

Tuesday, November 9 to November 26. (4 weeks) Evenings: 6 PM – 9 PM

Tuesday, January 11 – February 1. (4 weeks) Evenings: 6 PM – 9 PM

Prerequisite for this course is completion of “Introduction to Woodturning” or equivalent experience.

Almost everybody loves bowls. Wooden bowls, turned on the lathe, have a warmth and patina unique to themselves. This course will teach the pros and cons of green vs. dry turning; the stance and movement necessary to successful bowl turning; the techniques of “facing” and “rounding up” bowl blanks; and safety procedures for out of balance blanks. Each student will produce at least two bowls, one each of “green” and “dry” wood. No tools required.

Ages: 16 + (Women and Men)

Round Top Info, continued

Maximum enrollment: 6, one per lathe.
Fee: \$100 members; \$125 non-members

BOWL TURNING 2

Tuesday, February 8 to March 1. (4 weeks)

Evenings: 6 PM – 9 PM

Prerequisite for this course is completion of “Bowl

Turning 1” or equivalent experience.

This course will help the somewhat experienced bowl turner to advance. Natural edge bowls will be explored. A variety of shapes and forms will be studied as the course progresses. We will go from open forms to more enclosed



Peppermills made by our president, Mark Irving

or vessel like forms. Texturing will also be taught. Emphasis here is on practicing and learning techniques.

Special Members Discount, Woodturners Catalog

See the President’s column for correct information about this discount.

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.

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.



June 04 issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events

June 26 & 27 — John Jordan demo, 9 AM – 4 PM. Sat, 11 AM – 4 PM
Sunday, Erskine Academy, \$25 members, \$40 non-members

Regular meetings are held throughout the year at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month 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: