

# Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

## September Demo: Beth Ireland September 15, 7 p.m., Erskine Academy

Folks, we have here either a true likeness of Beth Ireland or a fine example of her sense of humor. This photo is from Beth's "bio" on her website. Beth's demonstration at the Providence AAW conference two years ago was called "Turning with your mind," and we suspect you can get a good idea of what that might mean by close examination of the character revealed in this outstanding portrait of the artist.



Beth does small-scale turning, boxes which are treated both on and off the lathe, and furniture work. She uses epoxy resins and imbeds objects to enhance her turnings. Part of Beth's presentation will be a slide show (please get in touch with Mark Irving if you have a projector to lend to the occasion, 443-2337.)

This will be a fine kick-off to a great new year of woodturning activities. Look forward to seeing you!

### Club Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Mark Irving</b>	443-2337 irvings@javanet.com
<b>Vice-Pres.</b>	<b>Peter McCrea</b>	354-2314 panacea35@aol.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

### Totally Turning Symposium October 30—31 Albany, New York

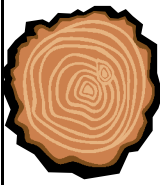
Sponsored by Adirondack  
Woodturners Association.

Information: Ken Evans at 518-753-7759

Website: <http://www.totallyturning.com>

## **As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving**

John Jordan put on a great demo for us in June. This was the second time I've seen John do a demo for us. The last time was



probably six years ago, and it was only my second meeting and the first demo I had ever seen. I thought what he did back then was pretty amazing. He is still doing hollow forms, like he did years ago, but they have changed. The designs, carving, and texturing of his current work is outstanding. I picked up a few pointers and hope everyone else did too.

This was our last meeting for the year. I hope everyone has a good summer. We are planning on having Beth Ireland do a demo for the September meeting. Visit her web site for a look at some of her work, [www.bethireland.net](http://www.bethireland.net). I think a demo of some of her epoxy work and some of her work on unusual materials, such a tagua nuts would be very interesting. If you see something on her site that you would like to see her demonstrate, please let me know as soon as possible so I can coordinate this with her.

Also coming up will be a photography demo in October by our own Guy Marsden from Woolwich. He takes his own photographs which appear on his web site, [www.arttec.net](http://www.arttec.net). Check out the new collaborative vessels he does with his wife. This demo should help everyone learn how to photograph their work. I know there is more to it than just point and shoot and Guy will help us take better pictures.

And David Lancaster has agreed to do another demo for us in January. As everyone knows, Dave is a world class production turner. John Jordan, no slouch himself, said he is amazed by what Dave does. I'm sure Dave will come up with something interesting as he

## **Secretary's minutes By Tom Raymond**

There was no business meeting in June.

## **Treasurer's Report By Burt Truman**

Burt says not to worry, the club is solvent. He will give a full report at the meeting.

## **President's report con- tinued**

always does.

We are working on lining up demonstrators for the next two years. If you have any ideas on whom you would like to see, please let one of the officers know. We will look into it if possible. Also, if you have any desire or technique that you would like to share with the membership, let us know. We encourage and welcome any of our members to put on a demonstration.

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.

Hope everyone has a good summer.  
See you in September.

Keep the bevel rubbing, Mark

## **T-shirt design contest**

.. Has been extended.

Bring your design to the next meeting, where a friendly vote will be held to determine the favorite.

# John Jordan June Demos: Reports by Tom Raymond and Mark Irving

**Saturday 6-26-04, by Tom Raymond**

John started with the details of Basic Bowl turning. He advised that the spindle centerline of the lathe should be at the height of your elbow for comfort while turning. The tool rest should be kept smooth, (polished) and free of nicks. He sprays all the moving parts of the lathe with WD 40.



Taking bowl sections out of a log was discussed with sketches on a white board. He showed how growth ring patterns differed with respect to locations on the log. Taking sections out of crotch wood was illustrated. The bottom of the bowl should be the center of the tree. After that we went

*Jordan marks a log while deciding how to orient the bowl blank.*

outside and he showed how to take a section out of a log using a chainsaw. The wood selected was (green) white ash.

The section was set up between centers with a spur driver. He started cutting on the outside at a 45-degree angle towards the centerline and base of the bowl using a 1/2" bowl gouge. Keeping the bevel rubbing. He leaves enough tenon at the bottom to make a decent looking base. He stressed not leaving a radius at the bottom of the tenon as it hampers the grip of the chuck. He uses the long edges of the flutes of the gouge to smooth the surface in shear scraping and takes a very fine cut. When done there

is a minimum of sanding. He showed us how he uses a fine 45 degree shear scraper for the final cut. It has a special grind and was made from a planer blade. His bowl gouge has a 62-degree angle at the bevel. He discussed rim shapes before coring the inside of the bowl. He uses the Wolverine grinding tool for his gouge sharpening. He made a round edge rim with his gouge. He then groove the rim with a special tool made from a tool bit. He coring was from the outside towards the center. He cores the center out to the same shape as the outside of the bowl. He emphasized always sharpening your tool before the final cut. Then starting at the rim, he does the final cut in sections of about 1.5" depth at a time.

David Lancaster demonstrated sanding with a 5" disc on this vessel. He started with 80 grit 3M paper. He advised not working with used sandpaper. He likes P grade sandpaper, which is finer than standard grade. He said a 3" disc would have been better on this size bowl.

John does not microwave bowls but he

sometimes uses water to wet the surface before final cuts. Spax screws are use to fasten the waste block to the faceplate.

He showed how to make a jam chuck out of a waste block and normally pads it with leather or a pa-



*Rough shaping the bowl blank with the chainsaw.*

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## Jordan on Saturday—continued

per towel inside the bowl. He then trimmed the tenon with his gouge before texturing the base to match the rim. He then showed how to enhance the appearance of the rim with a small stainless steel wire brush. His final sanding is with 320 grit. After lunch a chunk of ash was set up for a natural edge bowl. The blank was about 3" thick. Again it was set up between centers and the outside was turned first. He said wood cut in the spring, has loose bark and once its dry its on quite tight. He says someday the bark will eventually fall off. He demonstrated making 3 feet at the base of this bowl. By sawing and hand carving with a chisel and also with a reciprocating power carver. He filed the surfaces before sanding between the feet.

He showed us how he makes a 6" dia. MDF sharpening cylinder for sharpening his carving tools. The contours fitting inside of the tool shapes. He uses a stainless buffing compound on the disc. The buffing wheel always turns away from the user when sharpening. He says you can sharpen gouges on this cylinder.

John turns all green wood because it's easier and easy to acquire. No time is lost in drying and there are no defects from drying. He explained that shrinkage is 8% on the dia. and 4% on the radius of a bowl. There is no shrinkage vertically through the grain. He said willow could have 200% in shrinkage. End cracks are caused by fast drying on the ends of a log. You cannot control the change in shape after a bowl has been turned or finished. He stores wood in a freezer in Tennessee so it won't rot rapidly. In Maine our climate dryer so we have more



## John Jordan on Sunday

### Sunday June 27, by Mark Irving

John started Sunday off by chainsawing a piece of ash for a hollow vessel. His current work is mostly turned in the bowl or faceplate orientation. He cut a piece for a vessel about 6-7 inches in diameter. He also told us the story about how he lost 3 chain saws early in his career. The biggest lesson learned was 'Don't leave your chainsaw behind when you take the wood home!'

We went back inside and John mounted the ash between centers. He then started forming the shape of the vessel with the top at the headstock end. After turning a tenon for the chuck, he unmounted the vessel and showed us the symmetry in the growth rings. This orientation would produce very interesting wavy lines once the vessel was carved with spiral grooves from the top to the bottom. John says you don't need real fancy burl or expensive wood to make a piece interesting. It is enough to see the subtle patterns produced by carving on a fairly plain wood such as Ash.

John then mounted the vessel on the outboard side of the headstock for hollowing. This allows easier access as the bed of the lathe is not in the way. Most of the hollowing is done by standing almost directly in front of the piece.

Using a Steward hollowing tool with a straight attachment, he started hollowing the vessel. The center is hollowed out first all the way to the bottom. He then switches to a hook tool and completes the rough hollowing to about three quarter inches thickness. A consistent thickness at this stage makes the final stage of hollowing easier. Using the hook tool, the final thickness is obtained by working his way gradually from the top to the bottom. During the entire hollowing process, frequent stopping is necessary to remove the shavings which pile up inside the vessel. These shavings get in the way of the hollowing tool and must be removed.

Once the hollowing was done, John mounted the vessel on the inboard side of the lathe. He turned a small wooden plug which fit in-

## Work by Guy Marden and Rebekah Younger



This is recent collaborative work by Guy Marsden and his wife, Rebekah Younger. Guy is a club member and will demonstrate techniques to photograph your work later in the year.



that, much filing and sanding, sanding, sanding, over and over, sanding and sanding.

He and Dave Lancaster then rode off into the sunset on their Harleys. All in all a pretty good demonstration.

*Thanks to Mark for the pictures, and to both him and Tom for the write-ups. Thanks to Burt for all he does—see him about buying a video of the demo.*



side the hole in the top of the vessel. The tailstock held the bottom. John then turned as much of the bottom as he could, unmounted the vessel and chiseled off the stub.

He then showed us how he lays out the vessel for carving. Lines are drawn straight down from the top to the bottom. Spacing of the lines is done by eye. This allows the vessel to have that hand done quality that is not a mark of machine turned works. The spirals are laid out by drawing lines from the top of one of the straight lines to the bottom of an adjacent straight line.

He then showed us how he used a reciprocating carving tool to carve the spirals. Once the spirals are carved, a rotary tool is used to fair the carved lines with the surface of the vessel. After

## Classified Ads

**Free to members!**

**1990 BMW K75 RT (750 cc) 66,000 miles in good condition-leather seat and cover- all maintenance records since new-asking \$3,200 Please contact Peter Asselyn at 353-4206.**

### **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



Sept. 04 issue



85 Second St.  
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

*Coming Events:*  
*Beth Ireland, Sept. 15*  
*7 p.m. Erskine Academy*

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:*