

# Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

Vol. 4, Number 3 Dec. 2004

## Woodturner's Christmas Party at Round Top

### Potluck Supper and Yankee Swap

The party will be in accord with the traditional format: spouses or important others welcome. There will be a Yankee Swap. Spouses may participate as long as they also bring a gift to put into the pool.

Dinner will be potluck. There is a full kitchen, so you can heat what you bring. The club will provide soda and utensils.

You are invited to drop by the Round Top Woodturning Studio before the party. The woodturning studio is no more than 100 yards from the lower gallery in the main farm house where the party will be held. Parking is available near both.

### Directions:

Round Top Center for the Arts is located on Business Route 1 in Damariscotta, Maine. *From the south:* Take Rte. 1 North to the Damariscotta exit (Business Rte. 1), go down the ramp to the Second Congregational Church. Turn right at the church and go straight through Damariscotta 1.6 miles. Round Top is on the left, after the traffic light. *From the north:* Take Rte. 1 South to the Damariscotta exit (Business Rte. 1). Continue 1.3 miles. Round Top is on the right.

### A Very Important Message from the American Association of Woodturners

The AAW membership renewal forms went out this September in an envelope attached to the Fall edition of the American Woodturner Journal. It has come to our attention that many members thought that the envelope was just a mailing label and did not open it or save it. New or renewing members can join or renew on line by clicking on <http://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/online.cfm> or call and request a membership application. Remember that all new members or renewal members will be entitled to be in the drawing for the full size Delta lathe if their application is in before January 15, 2005.

Thanks

John Hill - AAW Chairman of Chapters and Membership Committee—828-645-6633 [johnhill@charter.net](mailto:johnhill@charter.net)



*You may get a chance to see Santa himself at the Christmas Party!*

### Club Officers

**President Mark Irving** 443-2337  
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**Vice-Pres. Peter McCrea** 354-2314  
[panacea35@aol.com](mailto:panacea35@aol.com)

**Treasurer Burt Truman** 622-6772  
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**Librarian Jeff Raymond**  
[jeffraymond@prontomail.com](mailto:jeffraymond@prontomail.com)

**Secretary Tom Raymond** 563-6813  
[trdamar@tidewater.net](mailto:trdamar@tidewater.net)

**Newsletter Sandy Gregor** 778-3717

## Secretary's minutes By Tom Raymond

The Maine Woodturners meeting for November 2004 was held at Erskine Academy, in South China Maine on the 17th. Forty-six members and guests were in attendance.



President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 7 PM. Guy Marsden announced that he has CD's for the ones that requested them at his demo last month. Mark announced that there will be a bring back raffle tonight which includes a pen and a craft supply gift certificate. He brought in Treeline catalogs for anyone interested. There will be a wood auction tonight. He delegated the judging of the Tee Shirt contest to David Lancaster.

The Christmas Party will be at Round Top Center for the Arts in Damariscotta this year.

There will be a Yankee Swap and anyone that brings a gift will be allowed to join in. It's also a potluck so bring food.

Mark announced Peter Asselyn as tonight's Demonstrator. doing hollow form turning with a laser system.

David Lancaster announced that One Way will have a price increase on the first of the year.

Peters demo started at 7:04 and he stopped for a break at 8 PM. Mac Ray sold the bring back raffle tickets at that time then the demo resumed at 8:08. Peters demo ended at 8:36. After that we had Show and Tell until 9:02

Peter Asselyn was our Auctioneer again for the wood raffle (wood donated by Peter McCrae) which netted \$50. A bidding war between Mark Irving and Ken Sheppard enlightened the auction for the last piece of box elder.

Al Mather assisted by Tom Raymond has agreed to be our demonstrator for the April meeting . It will be on turning inverse candleholders.

The meeting ended at 9:09 PM

Tom Raymond, Sec.

## Board minutes By Tom Raymond

The Maine Woodturners November 2004 Board meeting was held at 6:38 PM at Erskine Academy in South China Maine on the 17th. The following were in Attendance; President Mark Irving, Editor Sandy Gregor, Mack Ray, David Lancaster, Treasurer Burt Truman, Vice President Peter, McCrae, Ken Keoughan and Sec. Tom Raymond.

Ken Keoughan is scheduled to try and get Alan Lacer for an evening session on Sept. 10 or 17. He is to find out what the cost for his Demonstration is. He will be at the Rockport School at that time.

David Lancaster has not contacted Johannes Michelson to check on his availability for a weekend demonstration yet.

Mack Ray will call Michael Hosaluk to see if he can do an evening demo for us in October

and get his charges. He will be at the Rockport School at that time.

A Tool making, problem-solving Demo is planned for March, led by Bob Hackett.

Sandy Gregor reports that the Western Maine Woodturner group has about 15 active members now.

Mark brought in Catalogs from Treeline for the club members. They also sent Mark five \$10 discount coupons.

Ken Keoughan said if we supply Rockler in Portland with a list of club members, we will get a discount on purchases. They are located in the former Woodworker Warehouse building near the Mall.

The meeting ended at 6:54 PM

Tom Raymond, Sec.

# Peter Asselyn cuts a fine figure As he demonstrates hollow turning



A sample of the voids Peter likes to create in his hollow turnings.



Peter Asselyn examines the piece of cherry he is about to hollow turn as his faithful assistant Ken Shepherd looks on in the background.

**Editor's note:** You know that bright orange warning card you get from AAW that says that woodturning is an inherently dangerous activity? What they mean is the stuff Pete Asselyn was doing at his demo. Please remember that Pete said

1. Use a face shield at all times
2. The safest way to mount a block of wood for this kind of turning is with a faceplate
3. Use the tailstock where possible
4. Always check the lathe speed before you begin.

Peter Asselyn is into negative space these days. That's why when he gets ready to do a hollow turning, it's not just the wood he's interested in, but the voids that will be created by the undulating surface of the burl. He'll study the wood he's going to use for a long time before deciding just how to mount it.

Beginning with the piece between centers gives Peter more options for altering the occurrence and positioning of voids before he's ready to mount the piece for the final shaping of the profile and the hollowing. "When I first started this line, I thought it had to have wood everywhere. Then I had a hole, and it looked nice, so I made another, and it had a bigger hole and it looked nice. It's good to make a series because every one you make comes closer to what you want. Like David (Lancaster) says, after you make the 3000th bowl, you might get it right," Peter says.

Peter doesn't complete the profile form before beginning the hollowing, because usually he wants a foot that is too delicate to provide proper support to the piece while hollowing. Therefore he leaves extra wood at the bottom.

"The hardest part for me in the hollowing is taking my eye and following the intended shapedown because the form has to go into the block of wood left on the end for support," he said.

He uses a Forstner bit in a Jacob's chuck to drill a center hole and begin the hollowing process. The drilled hole makes the hollowing process a little easier and served to indicate depth.

He uses a Jamieson hollowing system and relies on a laser beam to indicate how thinly he is cutting the wall when working on the inside. How the laser is set up is critical for a correct reading.

*(continued next page)*

## Asselyn, continued

“When you use calipers, they have to be perpendicular to the wood. If not, you get a much bigger reading. It’s the same thing with the laser. If it’s not perpendicular, you get a much bigger reading.”

Peter uses a long stick with a spoon carved into the end of it to help clear out shavings. He finishes the inside wall as he goes so as not to have to go back to the neck of the piece later when there is not as much support. Peter prefers to cut dry wood for the color and quality of the wood and because it has already done most of the moving.

Just because no two woodturners do things the same way, and people often do things exactly the opposite both with excellent results, Dick McFaul, who also does hollow turning, had some comments on how he does it differently during the show and tell period.

First, he uses the Ellsworth tools, which he favors because it’s less of an investment. He always turns wet, which he vastly prefers, though he finds he may have to flatten the bottom after it dries so it sets well.

“I enjoy wet turning. Dry cherry burl to me is like cement. I remove all the shavings with an air compressor.” He doesn’t think he needs the laser guide because he prefers to gauge where he’s going with his senses. “A lot of woodturning is blind. It’s tactile and auditory. It takes a lot of courage when you have a beautiful piece of wood and it’s too thick and you have to take it down that additional 1/4 inch. Take it out real slow. You’ll go through enough bottoms before you develop confidence,” McFaul said.

***Another editor’s note:** When I first started turning two years ago on a friend’s lathe, we’d neither of us ever seen anyone else turning. Pete Asselyn, at a club demo at the Augusta Woodworker’s Warehouse, was the first person I saw turning that I couldn’t fast forward. Pete is the perfect example of a Maine Woodturner’s club member. He arrived a complete neophyte, and became highly skilled. The club became a major forum to support and develop his interest. In the meantime, he’s found ways to give back—as a demonstrator, club president, chairman of the board and auctioneer supreme. Thanks Pete!*

### Mark’s corrected Upcoming Demos list:

David (Oneway) Lancaster – January 2005

David continued - Feb 2005

Peter McCrea – March 2005

Al Mather & Tom Raymond – April 2005

Mac Ray (tentative) - May 2005

Mark (big crowd) Irving – June 2005

**Summer break – July, August 2005**

Alan Lacer – September 2005

Possibly Michael Hosaluk? – October 2005

anyone else? - November 2005

Xmas party – December 2005

volunteer? – January 2006

someone reading this? - February 2006

me? - March 2006

you? - April 2006

National Demonstrator? – May 2006

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don’t forget the **Klingspor** 10% discount on all non-powered merchandise to all members of the Maine Woodturners.

**Craft Supplies** [www.woodturnerscatalog.com](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com) or 1-800-551-8876) promotion this month is: spend \$100 and receive a \$20 voucher redeemable after January 15. Be sure to mention the Promotion Code 04FPAAW12. Please note that these codes change with every promotion. Also, when you call or order you must mention the code, as they will not ask. This promotion is good from December 1 to January 15.

**Round Top Center for the Arts** in Damariscotta is offering classes in woodturning. Taught by some of our own members! Check out their web site at [www.roundtoparts.org](http://www.roundtoparts.org).

There is a container of **green wood sealer** in the file cabinet for sale for \$5.00. I know someone was looking for some. (Andy?, need some?)

## As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving



Happy Holidays. It's hard to believe another year has come and almost gone. Again, another big turnout. I counted 50 people. Thanks for the demo Peter. We got through it with only one little piece of wood flying off the lathe. I thought that Jamieson tool was pretty easy to use when I tried it. I didn't get as aggressive as you did, but it was amazing how little effort it took to hollow out that vessel. With the hand held off-set tools, which I have, it's more of a workout. And I know I can use the exercise, so I'll keep using them for now.

Lots of pieces showed up for the show and tell. Great to see. And like Al Mather says, we could do critiques if people would like that. Anyone who would like that, just ask. I'm sure we can find people who will be accommodating. Al also said he would do next April's demonstration on those beautiful inside out turned candlesticks. Can't wait for that.

We have a little change in schedule for the February demo too. Dave Lancaster is going to show us his methods for twice turning bowls and it will take two meetings. January, he will show us the green turning, and February, he will show us the dry, finish turning. Both sessions promise to be very informative.

Don't forget, the December, Christmas Yankee Swap meeting is in Damariscotta at Round Top Center for the Arts. It's pot luck, so bring something to eat and a gift for the swap. And don't forget, spouses are welcome, as always.

See you in December.  
Keep the bevel rubbing,  
Mark

## Get Paid to Turn Wood!!

### Woodworking Assistance Needed

Looking for woodworkers with own shops to assist in making prototype and sample products. Most products are basic and require basic shop machines. Projects will range from simple flatware to laminated and turned projects, so we are looking for craftsmen with different skills and product type preferences.

Projects can be priced per project or on an hourly basis. For more information contact **Thom Labrie at 946-3420**

## Classified Ads

### Free to members!

**Oneway toolrest base and bed extension** for 2436, new cost with shipping over \$500, asking \$400. Peter Asselyn, 353-4206, peterasselyn@gwi.net

**Two- 4 inch jointers.** One craftsman, one of unknown manufacturer and on a home made stand. \$25 each, OBO. I have a new(er) 6 inch one now and no room for these old ones. Mark Irving. Email me or see me at the meeting or call.

**Jet Blue Delta 46-840** Woodturning duplicator for 11 and 12" lathe. \$50—Call Fred Weber 622-1108

### 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.

### Wheels and Grinders

Wheel set for Oneway 1640 lathe \$60.

Oneway 8' 80 grit grinding wheel, Oneway 8" 120 grit grinding wheel, Oneway 5/8" Precision balancing system—All of the 3 above items basically unused \$100.

Tormek Super Grind with standard accessories \$350.

For more information call John McAlevey at 207-372-6455 or e-mail at johnmcalevey@adelphia.net



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85 Second St.  
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

### *Coming Events:*

*Dec. 15– Annual Christmas Party and Yankee Gift Swap  
at Round Top in Damariscotta, 6:30 p.m.*

*Jan. 2005– David Lancaster, back at 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:***