

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

Inlaid Boxes: Getting that perfect fit A demo by Peter McCrea, March 16 7 p.m.

Our honorable V-P, Peter McCrea, has chosen boxes as the focus of his first demo for the club—because he thinks it's an area of turning that has been neglected in past demos, and because he likes making things that require a precise fit.



Samples of Peter's boxes, from lower Left, clockwise: Red Oak with Cherry Burl inlay, Cherry with Cherry Burl inlay, Spalted Maple with Cherry Burl inlay, Osage orange with Cherry Burl inlay. Center: Mahogany with Alternative Ivory inlay (Scrimshaw by Peggy McCrea).

If you're thinking this is not beginning turning, you're right, but Peter's going to make it look easy. He has prepared a handout you can use to follow along, and take home to try things out for yourself.

Peter had his first experience with turning when he was 12, at the Pawtucket Rhode Island Boy's Club. "I remember chucking a 1 1/4" piece of maple dowel onto a lathe and making smoke, and thinking Gee, this is fun!" he says. About 4 years ago, Peter reintroduced himself to that fun, and he's been keeping his lathe smoking ever since. During the winter, Peter will be in his shop 6 or 7 days a week, and put in a full day each time. But when summer comes, don't try to talk

turning to him: Peter and his wife are out sailing (Peggy just wrote and illustrated a book for Downeast about their extensive sailing adventures together called *Maine Sail*). Peter will be sailing single-handed to Bermuda June 3, so if you have questions about box turning, be sure to ask them before that!

Peter sells his boxes and bowls (which are tending these days to be natural edge, burl and figured wood intended as decorative pieces rather than functional bowls) in local galleries on the coast.

Club Officers

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

Our Apologies:

Correction from last issue: The picture taken at Roundtop was from David Russell. Thanks, David.

Secretary's minutes By Tom Raymond



The February Maine Woodturners meeting was held at Erskine Academy in South China Maine on Wednesday the 16th. President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 6:57 PM. Fifty-five members and

guests were present.

Mark announced that we have a program in place to announce meeting cancellations prior to 3PM by e-mail and phone. Anyone in doubt should check his e-mail and the ones who do not have it would be called. TV channel 6 may also be used.

Mark announced that we need a new Librarian and asked for a volunteer. Bill Vogt agreed to take over this task.

Three pieces of wood will be auctioned off tonight.

Next month's demonstrator will be Vice President Peter McCrae on lidded boxes.

Curved Tool rests have been added to the May Demonstration so anyone who wants one for the price of materials, should notify Mark Irving and specify the diameter of the post.

David Lancaster started the second half of his demonstration at 7:01 PM. And took a break at 8:06 PM.

Show and tell was the next item on the agenda then Peter Asselyn did his usual Auctioneer performance with 3 pieces of wood, which brought in \$21.

Dave's demo resumed at 8:21 and ended at 8:53 PM.

Are you a member of AAW?

There are many benefits, not the least of which is the excellent American Woodturner quarterly magazine. Go to the website, www.woodturner.org

Board minutes By Tom Raymond

The February 2005 Board of Directors meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine on Wednesday the 16th. President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m. The following Board members were present: Chairman Peter Asselyn, Vice President Peter McCrae, Treasurer Burt Truman, Sec. Tom Raymond, David Lancaster, Mack Ray, and President Mark Irving. Mark opened discussion on how to notify members of a cancelled meeting. After much discussion, it was decided that the president would make the decision, then notify the Treasurer whom would e-mail the membership before 3 PM on the day of cancellation. Burt Truman said that about 12 members do not have e-mail and Peter Asselyn volunteered to call them after the president calls him.

The second item for discussion is a need for a new Librarian and Mark will ask for volunteers at today's regular meeting.

In the schedule of demonstrations published in last month's minutes, there is a change in the tool making session for the month of May. Dave Lancaster suggested we add the fabrication of curved tool rests and add material costs to whomever might want one.

Ken Keoughan reported to Mark Irving that he has confirmed that Alan Lacer will demonstrate for us on Sat. Sept. 3rd.

Mac Ray also reported at this meeting that Michael Hosaluk would demonstrate for us on Saturday Oct. 8th.

The Tee Shirt contest was again discussed and hopefully Dave Lancaster will make the decision on selecting a design at the next meeting. The meeting ended at 6:55 p.m.

Member News: Newsletter editor Sandy Gregor published a profile on Costa Rican woodturner Barry Biesanze in the latest issue of Woodturning Design, which came out in February.



David Does It Again

Reported by Peter McCrea

David Lancaster gave an entertaining (would you expect anything else?) and very informative encore demonstration at the February meeting. An attentive audience of about 55 members and guests (many new faces) were treated to David's transformation of an air-dried birds-eye maple rough-turned bowl into a finished piece, using many of the tools and techniques that he employs in his production bowl shop.

David relies heavily on vacuum chucking in his twice-turned bowl process and he started by using a large vacuum drum chuck as a friction drive (no vacuum needed) together with tailstock pressure, allowing truing up of part of the bowl interior. In this way, David removes the oval part of the interior that might cause catastrophic splitting when pressure is applied later by the application of vacuum. This actually occurred in the past and is a vital step to observe to avoid injury.

The audience was told of the desirability of curved toolrests, which allow short overhangs, and subsequent reduction of vibration.

Using gouges with smaller diameters can also lead to smoother cuts, David feels, when used in conjunction with curved toolrests. (N.B. the May 21st Maine Woodturners meeting will be a Saturday dedicated to tooling with an emphasis on making your own curved toolrests.)

We observed David wielding with a steady hand one of his favorite tools, a double-ended, center-handled 3/8" gouge with an Irish grind on one end and a steep fingernail grind opposite. One is unlikely to find this in a tool catalog in the near future and David cautions against its use by mortal practitioners. A catch using this tool is likely to scar more than just the workpiece.

Shear scraping with a diamond-profile tool is often done on the exterior of special pieces but most production items are "shear scraped with 80 grit" to achieve his high daily output targets of 20 or more finished pieces.

Sanding the exteriors is in the sequence of rough power sanding, often starting with 80 grit on a 5" disc- then adding tooled detail, such as exterior beads below the rim,

Lancaster February Demo, reported by Peter McCrea

and then final finish sanding using hand-rotated workpiece and finer grits on 3" foam-backed pads chucked in a hand drill. Beads are added by incrementally forming adjacent v-grooves with a diamond-profile scraper, and then rounding the interior profiles of the v-grooves to form the bead within the exterior surface of the bowl. Finish sanding will leave the

bead untouched, it being sanded with a 3" diameter wheel of 120 grit abrasive fibers chucked in a hand drill.

David's latest discovery of new materials to improve his productivity is 3M's new purple Cubitron PSA adhesive discs, available in 2", 3", and 5" from Packard Woodworks. Although expensive and not available in Velcro versions, David has experienced much greater longevity and overall performance of the new abrasive as compared to "brand K".

After finish sanding the foot (a simple concavity without fussy detailing) and the exterior- paying attention to following the grain of the piece with the rotation direction of the abrasive disc, a depth-hole is next. Because finishing the bowl interior in a drum vacuum chuck precludes easy calipering of wall thickness near the foot, a drill-press set to stop the bit a desired distance off the drill table- say 1/4" to 3/8"- is used to locate a depth-hole in the bowl bottom.

Demonstrating how he renews the foam layer on the drum chuck, David cautioned against the use of vendor-supplied PSA-faced thick black foam.

He uses 1/8" white shippers foam adhered to the aluminum drum with a good spray



You don't see burl of this quality often—or turning either, for that matter.

adhesive. (Dave says use caution with the spray adhesive can. Don't pick up and use the spray adhesive when you mean to be using spray lacquer!) Thicker pads can be added to provide "vacuum clamping" of rough bowls for sanding or carving. For alignment he uses a partial vacuum and slow bowl rotation noting rim motion near the toolrest. A rap or two with a Oneway (what else?) tool handle brings the bowl into "good enough" alignment. Full vacuum can then be established for turning.

David then tools a flowing curve from the rim to the center- using the shape of the curved toolrest as a guide. His finishing cut uses an unusual shear-ground steep-beveled gouge to achieve a final cut, again following the profile

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please let Mark Irving or one of the club officers know if you are interested in making curved toolrests or other items (such as curved hollowing tools) at the May tool making and problem solving meeting. We need to gauge how much stock to buy to make these items. Send email, notify via phone or let someone know at a meeting before the May meeting.

of the closely-spaced curved toolrest. Quick interior rough sanding with 80 and 120 with a 5" disc, followed by higher grits using foam-backed pads following grain lines. An air-powered random-orbital sander is used in his shop, together with a "good dust collection system."

David's finishing regimen after sanding uses Waterlox (tung oil) in 3 applications with 24 hour dry followed by hand sanding with steel wool saturated with "Lancaster wax" - a proprietary mix that he is marketing, followed by dry buffing with paper toweling.

This finish was the same that David had that day applied to a set of three "perfect" (i.e. one could put salad in them without having dressing oil fill the bark inclusions) maple burl bowls on display were true works of art and collector's gems. Thank you David for an another seemingly effortless demonstration of your very considerable expertise- together with your willingness and skill at communicating the methods of your trade.



The secret to a perfect bowl is to connect the foot to the shoulder with a beautiful curve...

The Future

According to Mark Irving

Al Mather and Tom Raymond; Inside out turning – April 2005

Tool Making/Problem Solving - May 2005

Mark Irving – June 2005

summer break – July, August 2005

Alan Lacer – September 2005

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

? - June 2006

Turning Instruction at Roundtop

Round Top Center for the Arts in Damariscotta has a new Woodturning Program designed to provide men and women an opportunity to explore turning and all of its aspects with very little expense. They provide the lathes, sharpened appropriate tools, prepped wood and proven instruction with seasoned woodturners. There are a variety of courses offered in the evening as well as during the day. FMI, call 207-563-1507.

FOR ALL CLASSES:

Instructor: Woodturning Faculty

Duration: 4 Weeks

Ages: 16 and older (Women and Men)

Maximum enrollment: 6, one per lathe.

Fee: \$115 members; \$140 non-members plus material fee: \$20

Roughing Left-handed: Ken Shepherd passes on a new skill ...by Sandy Gregor

One recent February weekend I had the opportunity to visit Ken Shepherd in his well-equipped shop on Westport Island near Bath. Our two hours seemed like minutes.

Ken's been deeply involved in the turning school at Round Top this year, since Ken Keoughan called him up and said they needed help managing the studio. The Maine Maritime Museum's boat shop where Shepherd had been volunteering had just closed, and his partner Cheryl wanted a way to get him out of the house for a few days a week, so it was a perfect match. Ken also teaches or assists in many of the classes, and is doing something for the school one way or another most days.

I got a taste of his talent as a teacher when he showed me a technique for roughing he had picked up from Lyle Jamieson's workshop at Round Top last fall. Look at the picture below of Ken demonstrating: the gouge is held just 15 or 20 degrees from vertical. The cut is in the direction of the bevel, with the bevel rubbing. The right hand is on the tool rest, and the left hand controls the gouge at the hip. You put the bevel up to the wood just till you hear the tick-tick of the irregular surface. Don't push the gouge into the wood. Move it in a straight cut—it's more controllable that way.. Ken steps the cut until most of the eccentric waste is cut away, then begins to work on the curve sometimes using a more conventional pull cut.

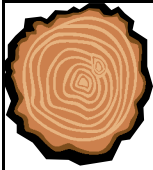


As I said, I know Ken is a good teacher because the first time Ken told me to keep the gouge more vertical and the sixth time he told me, his voice had the same calm and patient tone!

Ken's involvement at Round Top doesn't mean he has abandoned his shop. He works there whenever he can. Still, Ken has to be persuaded to sell his work. He sets up at fairs now and then, but he mostly turns for the love of it. A former electrical engineer, Ken also loves to tinker and figure out better ways to do things.

Ken, who is retired, moved to Maine a few years ago after he lost his wife and wanted a change. His two criteria were to be near the water and to have a barn. He really didn't know at the time how well that barn was going to be put to use. He had done some woodturning back in high school. When he was in college, someone gave him a 150-year old lathe, and "I made a lot of stuff by jamming metal into wood and using a lot of sandpaper," he said. He acquired an inexpensive used Delta after he got to Maine and "learned there was a science to how you cut, and then I got hooked. Like the rest of us!

As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving



The drive home this time, though it snowed heavily for about 10 minutes for me, was way better than the January drive. It normally takes me about an hour to drive home, but January took me almost two hours! First, since it was snowin' wildly outside, I decided to go the interstate through Augusta, rather than the backroads through Windsor, Dresden, and Woolwich among other towns on the way to the big city of Bath, Maine. That meant going left outta Erskine and trying to find Route 3 to Augusta. I've been this road many times so it shouldn't be a problem. Just take a left offa Route 32 onto Route 3 and follow this to the Mobil station, where a left turn should run me right into Augusta, from where I could find the interstate no problem. This road should be better to drive on than them back roads.

Course no one told me 'bout that new bridge they put in. So I followed route 3 like I always have and that Mobil station never showed up. What'd they do with it? And this road is wicked wide now too. What's with that? I came to a light where I thought I should turn left, but there was no Mobil station there. Since there was no one else on the road, I backed up and moved over to the lane for goin straight. Course now the light won't change. No traffic comin from across the intersection either to change the light. I thought about runnin it, but I'm in a 2 wheel drive truck and the weight I been meanin to put in the back is still in the attic of my garage and it's about 6 miles across this huge intersection. It would take me a day and a half just to get movin and another day to run this red light. My luck and I'd be right out in the middle when someone, probably a cop, would come the other way, and I'd be responsible for whatever wreckage resulted from the accident. What to do? I musta waited 10 minutes before a plow came by from across the intersection and the light finally changed. This was the easy part of the drive home. I went straight and followed the signs to 295 and ended up somewhere north of Augusta. I thought I was gonna end up at Moosehead.

Arriving on the interstate, I musta been greeted by a dozen 18 wheelers, all going about 45-50 miles an hour in zero visibility. At least it was zero for me, with those truck whipping up all that snow. These trucks were passing me all the way to Topsham. I don't know how they could see. Must have GPS or sumpin. Two other idiots passed me too, one in a Volvo, the other in some unknown vehicle. I thought, there's no way you can drive that fast in any car in this weather. I ended up going about 25 miles an hour all the way to Topsham. And then I passed those two guys that passed me earlier. Course they were in a snow bank now off the left side of the road! I felt a little guilty whilst I was smilin inside. That was the highlight of the drive home.

Well, enuf about me. Anyone else have an interesting ride home in January?

I hope everyone enjoyed the conclusion of Dave's two part demo. I know I picked up a few

Classified Ads

Free to members!

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.

Tormek Super Grind with standard accessories \$295.

For more information call John McAlevey at 207-372-6455 or e-mail at

I have recently opened a hardwood lumber business in Bowdoin, ME, 10 miles north of Topsham on Route 201. I am currently stocking the following 5 species of rough-sawn, kiln-dried hardwoods; Cherry @ \$4.85/BF, R. Oak @ \$2.85/BF, H. Maple @ \$3.85/BF, S. Maple @ \$2.65/BF and Poplar @ \$1.95/BF. All in 4/4 only. If this is something you would be interested in I'd be glad to hear from you. Guy Jasmin
d/b/a Jasmin Hardwoods
2165 Augusta Rd.
Bowdoin, ME 04287



Mar 05 issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

March– Peter McCrea on Inlaid Boxes

April– Al Mather and Tom Raymond, Inside-Out turning

May– Tool Making/Problem Solving

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. (From the south and east take Route 17 to 32 N. In about 9 miles at the top of a hill, Erskine Academy will be on the left. Turn onto the street at the north side of the school grounds. 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:

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