

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

Make Your Own Tools, Try Out A Skew Chisel,
and Talk, Talk, Talk About Your Favorite Topic:
Woodturning! Sat. May 14 10 a.m.

The club will have its annual tool-making workshop on Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m. This is in place of the usual third-Wednesday meeting, and will be held in the woodworking shop at Erskine Academy in South China.

If you would like to make a tool rest or a tool, please email or call Peter McCrea (panacea35@aol.com or 354-2314) to be sure there will be enough materials on hand.

Al Mather has offered to work with anyone wishing to become acquainted with the skew chisel during the May 14th meeting, as time allows. Perhaps others might be willing to offer suggestions for using the skew or other tools. Al's idea is to use one of the lathes with a safety center so that catches are not so

scary. He will walk you through some of the basic cuts. Also, if you are having difficulty with a particular cut perhaps he or someone else can offer some advice. Please bring your skew (or you may try his) or bring another tool you might like some help with, and an appropriate block of wood and find someone to work with you for a few minutes. (For the skew one or two squares from a 2 by, about 12 inches long would be good.) Al also invites other 'experts' to be willing to give hands-on instruction throughout the day when not busy making tools.

Club Officers

President	Mark Irving	443-2337 irvings@javanet.com
Vice-Pres.	Peter McCrea	354-2314 panacea35@aol.com
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Librarian	Bill Vogt	623-1835 bvogt@powerlink.net
Secretary	Tom Raymond	563-6813 trdamar@tidewater.net
Newsletter	Sandy Gregor	778-3717 sgregor@midmaine.com

Don't Forget the Lending Library

Thanks a bunch to Bill Vogt for taking over the lending library and keeping it in order.

Don't forget that the club has an excellent selection of videos and printed material, some of the best available, to help you develop skills and an "eye" for the perfect curve. Videos rent for \$3 per month, and Bill hangs out in back by the cabinet to help you find what you need.

You say “potato” and I say “potahto”

Remember Fred Astaire singing that old song “Let’s call the old thing off?” Tom Raymond and Al Mather’s discussion of Inverse Turning (or is that Inside-Out turning?) brings it to mind:

*You say
Tite Bond I and I say Tite Bond III You say
“gouge” and I say “skew” Eether,
eyether, Neether, nyether... Let’s call
the whole thing off!*

But it’s a good thing they didn’t “call the whole thing off” because their presentation – two turners with different techniques and equally satisfactory results – drew a large, interested crowd and gave everyone a variety of ideas for things to try.

There were many similarities and agreements between them. They both start at the same place: inverse turning requires four equal squares of wood temporarily bound together by some method into a larger square that can later be taken apart. The first shaping on the lathe creates what artists call a “negative space,” or an open space of a particular form surrounded by the inside surface of the finished item. The small squares are then split apart and turned around and replaced on the lathe to shape the external form.

“Equal” and “square” are essential and unarguable points.

“To get them square, you have to put them through the jointer before you put them through the planer,” Tom said. If not, your

wood pieces could be parallelograms instead of squares, in which case the glue joint will not work and the piece will split apart, he said.

“The more you can work on precision and accuracy, the better it’s going to be,” Al agreed. He added that he had several candlesticks in his firewood box because they weren’t balanced at the outset.

Tom began the demo by describing his



Tom Raymond discussing the fit of the inverse piece with the base.

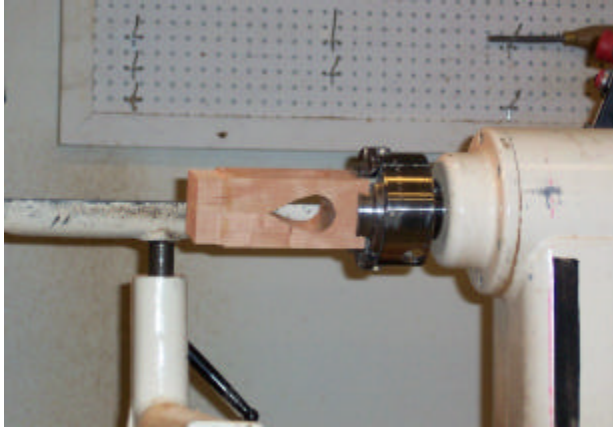
process and handing out a full-scale plan. Like Al, Tom turns the candlestick in two pieces, a wide base with a mortise-and-tenon joint to the candlestick holder. Tom uses wood a couple of inches longer than his finished stick and uses 2” screws to hold the pieces together for the “innee” portion of the turning. He’s discovered an “innee” shape he likes that reminds him of a lantern, and devised a way to put a redheart “flame” inside the lantern on one of his pieces.

“You can do all kinds of things with this,” he said.

Both Tom and Al use brass candleholder inserts obtained

through the Craft Supply catalog. But Tom sets the tapered insert completely down into the candlestick, whereas Al likes to keep his set above the wood. Because Tom sets his fully in, he first drills with a bit about the size of the narrow end, and hand-fits the taper with a small round-nose scraper.

Tom prefers to use a gouge to shape the candlestick, whereas Al is a devotee of the skew. Despite Tom’s reluctant relationship with the skew, he agreed to be Al’s guinea pig for a



Al's "innee" shape in the first turning.

lesson in skew technique.

Al suggested that newbies to the tool practice with a lot of dry runs, working out how to keep the bevel rubbing through the cut. He went straight to the spinning square with his skew without using a roughing gouge first, and started by cutting a vee into the wood with the long tip of the tool. He continues to shape the form with delicate cuts, using the skew for all but the bottom of the cove.

But before he gets to that point, Al has to spend a lot of time preparing the wood for inside-out turning, and when he took over the demo from Tom, he explained that process.

He cuts the squares from 5/4 (or up to 8/4) boards, adding extra waste length as does Tom. He then spends some time figuring out how to match the grain for the best finished effect. Once he's decided, he numbers the pieces and glues them with Tite Bond III along the first inch at either end. (He's used CA glue, painter's masking tape, and a pipe clamp to hold the wood together temporarily, but has come to prefer this glue method.) He mounts the bottom of the glued square into the jaws and brings the tailstock up

to the exact center of the top.

Al has designed his candlesticks in what he calls his "minus-a-third" style, reaching for a combination of simplicity and elegance. The inside shape is often teardrop or "helium balloon" shape, with the outside reflecting the negative space. Rather than centering the shape on the stick, he has it begin about 1/3 of the way down for a more pleasing form. Al draws the "innee" shape he wants onto the wood, and then draws a mirror image of the same shape at the outer edge to show what should be cut away. He doesn't cut any deeper than half-way through, to leave enough wood on the outside to shape in the second step.

When he's done with the inside, he cuts the pieces apart on the radial arm saw, since he doesn't own a bandsaw, and re-glues them in the final position. He also always wears a face-mask when he turns, in case the sticks fly apart, and sometimes they have.

In remounting the piece, Al puts the bottom, which is still a square, into the chuck jaws and first drills a hole in the top for the candle cup after squaring off the end. He then puts a specially shaped plug into the hole, and brings up the tailstock, enough for added support but not too tight so it won't bow the piece when it gets thinner.

On inside and outside, Al starts sanding with 80 grit and goes all the way down to micromesh 12,000. He's careful when sanding the finished piece with the lathe spinning not to round off the leading edge and often sands by hand to prevent that. This was an interesting demo, and a great example of a cooperative approach to teaching. Thanks to the careful preparation and excellent teaching of Tom and Al!



Al Mather at the lathe.

Classified Ads

Have a Lathe to Sell?? Albert Kolodji in Yarmouth is looking for a used lathe with a 16" or better swing in good to excellent condition. Call him at 846-1066.

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.

The 19th Annual National AAW Symposium

Date: July 22-24, 2005

Location: Overland Park

Convention Center

Overland Park, Kansas

(suburban Kansas City)

Our own David Lancaster will be an important demonstrator at the symposium and will be featured in an article by Ken Keoughan in the next edition of the American Woodturner.

Highlights of the 2005 Symposium

- ? Three days of terrific demonstrations by international, national and regional turners
- ? Panel discussions
- ? An Instant Gallery of those attending and Chapter Collaborative Projects
- ? The annual AAW banquet and auction for the educational fund.
- ? The complete woodturner's trade show.
- ? A Gallery Exhibit titled - "reTURN to the Land of Oz" - the exhibit will be in the Convention Center

The 2005 Nineteenth Annual AAW National Symposium is open to anyone with an interest in woodturning.

There are four ways to register:

- ? On-line at www.woodturner.org until July 2.
- ? After July 2 register on-site in Overland Park
- ? Registration form in the Spring edition of the American Woodturner.
- ? Register by phone at the AAW office: 651-484-9094
- ? Register at the door, any day of the Symposium.

Announcements

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

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.

Future Demonstrators:

Tool Making/Problem Solving - May 2005
Mark Irving : Spindle Turning, Rolling pin and wine bottle stopper- June 2005

summer break - July, August 2005

Alan Lacer - September 2005

Michael Hosaluk - October 2005

Kim Dailey - November 2005 - Pen Turning

Xmas party - December 2005

volunteer? - January 2006

someone reading this? - February 2006

me? - March 2006

you? - April 2006

National Demonstrator? - May 2006

? - June 2006

As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving



Summer is nearly here. Well, at least spring is here and the weather is a little warmer, though at the moment it's rather wet. I can tell because all the foam rubber mats I have in my basement shop have floated off! I live in a hunnerd year old house in Bath with a foundation that was problee sposed to be better built than the old granit block leaky dirt floor type cellas of that era. Brick. Now where could that leak? I have a colander in the kitchen that holds back more water than my foundation.

These old houses also thought head-room was unnecessary back then too. I can just barely walk around in the part of the cella that houses my workshop. I still have to duck here and there, and you otta try to handle a 4x8 sheet o' plywood when the ceilin is only 6 feet high.

Before I remodeled, (which amounts to buildin a new bench, and movin everything else around) I had my unmovable old bench in the part of the cella where I could stand up straight without puttin my head between two joists. The reason I had more headroom here was cos the floor slopes down that way. Guess where all the water goes when it comes in? I'm always waitin for the thrill when I flip the switch on any power tool.....

No I don't have a sump. Been meanin to put one in, it might help. I did rig up a contraption that would make Red Green proud though. Not real proud, but it does the job. Before I threw out that old leaky washing machine, I took the motor offen it. I knew there was some kinda pump in that thing, so I tested er out. Yup, it pumped water ok. So I mounted it upside down on an old piece of plywood with some two by sixes for legs, added a garden hose, actually two, cause there are two

pumps on it and stuck it in the low corner. It wasn't close enuf to the floor. So I grabbed a hammer and beat a hole in what little cement I had for a floor and lowered it some what. Drilled a hole in the door next to the corner where the pump was, stuck one of the hoses in it and waited for the rain. It's not automatic, but when the cellar starts fillin up, I can put my waders on, go plug in the pump and watch the tide go out in less than 30 minutes!!!

Course, that doesn't mean it's dry yet. That may take another day or so. Ya know, maybe I should move my shop to my new garage.

Tom and Al put on a great demo didn't they? I thought Al was gonna send that piece of wood flyin when he was using that skew. But he makes it look easy doesn't he? He has offered to show people how to use it at the meeting next month. So bring your skews and other tools you may need help with. Ask

Up Close and Personal

There are currently two opportunities to see wood art in the state of Maine, opportunities you won't want to miss.

An AAW touring exhibition is at the Messler Gallery at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport. The show, "A Nation of Enchanted Form: Woodturning Artists from Across North America" features some of the best turning on the continent. The Messler Gallery is open Mon—Fri 9—5 and Sat. 10—4.

Also in Rockport is "A Celebration of the Art of Wood," a show of Maine wood artists of all persuasions put together by our own Ken Keoughan. The show will continue through June 4. For more information, call (207) 236-2875.



May 05 issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

May 14 10 am– Tool Making/Problem Solving

June– Mark Irving, Spindle turning (rolling pin and wine stopper)

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 is the first building on the left.)

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: