

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

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Michael Hosaluk: A versatile and creative woodturner—Oct 8, 9 a.m.



Michael Hosaluk making a perfect sphere.

If you want to learn from an experienced turner who can do anything—with flair—Michael Hosaluk is the one to watch. And he's HERE, with us, all day Saturday October 8.

Hosaluk, from Saskatchewan, Canada, is well known to turners who want to keep their eye on the cutting edge of woodturning. Hosaluk's work, which can range from sublime to silly, may have beautiful form and wild colors, and often relies on creative technique. Hosaluk is also a leading figure in blurring the edges of woodturning to bring in techniques from other fields, and get crafts people from all genres together to learn from each other. His demonstration for us will undoubtedly be interesting and stimulating. You certainly won't want to miss it!

This demonstration is free to members! Bring \$5 if you want lunch provided (or bring your own lunch.) Non-members may attend for \$25, or pay \$30, become a member, and attend free!



Editor's note: I will be at my niece's bat mitzvah in York Oct. 8, so I have to miss this. (Cheesh! Again? How many nieces can one person have??) If you can take pictures for the newsletter and website or can write up the demo, please see Peter McCrea.



Club Officers

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Classified Ads

Wanted to buy: I'm looking for a used lathe (to keep the cost down). I would prefer a Oneway, preferably a 20" or larger, but would settle for a 1640, should the price be right. Please contact Mark Irving.

For sale: General Lathe, model 260, purchased from Dave Lancaster a few years past. Contact Chaplain Warren S Doersam
Director of Maine Prison Ministry
Vision New England

207-722-3761

mpm@nepm.org

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.

September minutes By Tom Raymond

The September meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine on Saturday Sept. 10, 2005. Twenty-eight members and guests were present for a demonstration by the nationally known turner, Alan Lacer.

President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 9:30 am and advised that dues are due (\$30) and can be paid to Treasurer Burt Truman. Mac Ray volunteered to demonstrate at the Feb. meeting and Tom Raymond will demonstrate segmented turning at the November meeting.

Andy Hoyt got an ovation for his work in creating the new club website. He asked for more information from the members to add to the site. He reported that there are about 20 visitors to the site each day. Visitors are mostly AAW members. Andy asked if we should have a message board and a guest list.

Mike Chase reported that Kim Dailey was in a bad car accident with his family. He is the President of Western Mountains Woodturning who meets on the 2nd Wed of the month at Dixfield High School. Mike brought in a get well card for our signatures.

Mark Irving advise that members

should feel free to bring in work for show and tell at any meeting.

On Oct. 8th, Michael Hosaluk will demonstrate at Erskine Academy. He is also teaching at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport and there are still openings according to Mac Ray.

Mark introduced Alan Lacer at 10 AM. Alan drove from Wisconsin with his wife and will be teaching at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship for the next 2 weeks. Alan advised that there are now 12,000 members in AAW and every state has a chapter now. Peter McCrea volunteered to take notes on the demonstration during Alan's presentation. The demonstration ended at 3:40 PM.
Tom Raymond, Sec.

Future Demonstrators:

Alan Lacer – September 2005

Michael Hosaluk – October 2005

Kim Dailey - November 2005 – Pen Turning or possibly Tom Raymond

Xmas party – December 2005

Your Name Here – January 2006

Mac Ray - February 2006

Your Name Here- March 2006

Need to fill this in. - April 2006

Tool Making? – May 2006

? - June 2006

Alan Lacer Sets It Straight on a Skew

By Peter McCrae



Alan Lacer's day-long demo on Saturday, Sept. 10 was attended by about 30 members who, I suspect, wanted to be on better terms with their skew chisels- for Alan is the accomplished master of that tool.

Much emphasis was placed on "tuning" the skew with adaptations, like rounding the short point tool shaft edges and "easing" (smoothing the corners) of the long point edges. Alan likes the "old time" radiused cutting edge profile (stronger long point, better tool control on heavy peeling cuts) which combines a straight portion for about 1/3 of the cutting edge, followed by a curved section toward the short point. Wide (1 3/8") and heavy (3/8") are the pre-

ferred tool cross-sections, both for stability and width of the "sweet spot".

Skews will misbehave, Alan warned, unless "wicked sharp." Off-the-grinder-sharp, perhaps adequate for many bowl gouges, is Alan's starting point for sharpness by honing, either with a 600 grit diamond plate, or a power hone. The latter consists of a lathe-driven MDF disc 1.5" thick (glue two 3/4" pieces together) and slightly larger in diameter than the grinding wheel. Turned round and charged with white Dico compound, the bevels are quickly brought to the desired level of sharpness- a "black" edge when viewed under incandescent light. Alan also mentioned that gouge sharpening success will be enhanced by honing and polishing the machined-ground and blackened flutes of certain makes of gouges with compound-loaded MDF discs which have beads turned to match the flute profiles.

Alan demonstrated many types of cuts with the skew, while advocating the use of a friction drive (Oneway Safedriver) for both student training and his production work (on all but porch columns) in his shop. Overly aggressive cuts and dig-ins result in the wood merely stopping, rather than the often-spectacular shat-



Lacer hand-crafted hook tool.



Lacer using the hook tool he made.

tered work piece one may experience with prong-style drive centers.

The peeling cut, a rapid roughing cut to remove waste material quickly was followed by the planing cut. The most familiar skew cut results in smooth burnished surfaces needing no abrasive. The long-point-down v-cut resulted in either tiny micro-beads like those adorning Alan's duck calls, or in lay-out grooves made prior to forming beads or transitions. Shoulder cuts across end grain left smooth burnished surfaces in the soft pine, a result impossible to obtain with a lesser tool.

In parting-off a small hardwood top (about 1/8" diameter with a 1/32" shaft), the released object ended up spinning on the bevel of the skew that formed it, with Alan enthusiastically exclaiming it was a "first" for him in 20 years of woodturning!

Skew demonstrations on end grain were a good launching pad for discussion of scraper tuning and use, and hook tools as efficient end-grain finishing tools, the latter being well-known and used in both Scandinavian and Oriental traditional vessel turning. In a relatively short period of time Alan made two hook tools from 9" lengths of 3/8" diameter O1 oil hardening drill rod. (MSC) Ground to a

wedge shape on a Zirconia abrasive belt, the tool blank was heated to bright orange with a MAPP torch (Home Depot). The hook was fashioned with a "disposable" set of needle-nose pliers. Heat treatment, quenching in peanut oil, cleaning and polishing followed by tempering to a dark straw color resulted in a tool ready for the grinder and hone.

A turned box demonstration provided the vehicle for hook tool use, producing a flawless finishing cut on the end-grain of the ash box interior (on both lid and body) that needed no sanding before finishing. Since the tools made this way are carbon steel, end grain roughing is best carried out with sturdy box scrapers, leaving the finishing cuts to the hook tool. It is likely that the Spring '06 tool making session of the Maine Woodturners will feature hook tools as a highlight item.

If you can't wait that long, have a gander at Alan's website www.alanlacer.com for further details on this topic and on skew use and sharpening. In addition, the club video library has a copy of Alan's skew chisel instruction as well. Spend some time to get your skew chisels "wicked sharp" and see if you can experience the "sweet side" of this versatile centerwork tool.



Love that tongue! It must be an essential part of the technique...

As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving



Alan Lacer put on a great demo last month. He has been woodturning for many years and knows much about the subject, which is obvious from the many references he made to the history of the art—including the treatment of steel for tools. He said the Romans new all about heat treating steel to be able to keep edges sharp. These demos are always enlightening in one way or another. And it always helps when the audience is not shy about asking questions.

So when Michael Hosaluk, an internationally known woodturner from Canada, comes next month, don't be shy. Ask plenty of questions. And remember, as your teachers always said during those formative years way back when you were young, there is no such thing as a stupid question.

Well..... Actually there is such a thing as a stupid question. Don't let them fool you for a minute. I had the opportunity to ask such a question a few years back, when I was a fresh high school graduate attending my first semester of college. OK, that may be more than a few years back, but who's counting? I still remember it like it was yesterday.

All through junior high and high school, parents, teachers, grand parents, relatives, unknown relatives, tv ads and probably even your pets always encouraged you to get a college education after high school. "You'll never get a good job without one". "You'll end up like your uncle", or "You want to be a janitor the rest of your life?" If you didn't want to go to college, you were practically shamed into it anyway. I knew it was a good idea and that I was going to go. I just didn't have the motivation I needed right after high school.

I moved out of my parents house

shortly after graduating from high school. Free at last. School was not my first priority. But I signed up for all the classes and truly attempted to at least attend them. I thought I could slide through like I did in high school. Put off doing the work 'til halfway through the semester, catch up later as much as I could, and pull off a C. Maybe a B. Only that calculus class I signed up for was at 8:00 am three times a week. Do you remember what an unmotivated kid of 18 feels like at 8:00 am? One who has a car and a job, and a new apartment of his own? One who is free to stay up as late as he wants any night of the week?

And this calculus professor started out each class by completely filling up the blackboard (remember those?) at the front of the room, before filling up the one on the right side too. With all these numbers... Then he would start over at the front again, continuing on to the side one again. Erasing the previously written numbers as he continued. All this in 55 minutes. I remember having trouble keeping my eyes from slowly closing.

Two or three weeks into the course and I was lost. But I didn't want the professor to know that. I wanted him to think I was paying attention. I figured if I asked him a question he would at least think I was trying. So as he was filling up the blackboard for the second time that day, he mentioned something called a 'derivative'. I didn't remember him mentioning that before and I didn't know what it was, but thought it might be important to know so I could understand all those numbers he was writing. So I put up my hand. "What's a derivative?"

Sounds like a reasonable question doesn't it? He must think I'm yearning for an education. If I end up with a high C for a grade, maybe he will remember how I asked questions and bump me up to that B minus I'm so close to. Well the professor looked at me and said "Take a look at the title of the last chapter". Uh ohh. I didn't expect that. This didn't sound good. We were

President's column

Continued from previous page

halfway through chapter 3. I flipped back to the beginning of chapter 2, all the while feeling the eyes of every student looking at me, and there it was. The worst answer I could have imagined. Right there in the middle of the page, all by itself, it practically yelled at me. It said "DERIVATIVES". It was the title of the chapter we had already finished.

Oh no. I'm the class moron. I just asked the worst question I could have asked. I hadn't just asked about some little thing in the last chapter that I might have missed. Everyone does that. Everyone misses a little something. I missed the whole chapter! And the whole class knew it.! I might as well have stood up and announced "I HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING ALL SEMESTER!" I could hear everyone thinking "He doesn't know what a derivative is? How could he understand any of this?" My face was red. And heat waves were going up and down the back of my neck. "How could I

have asked that question? What am I gonna do now?" I should have just gotten up, walked out and never come back. I just sat there. It's possible, possible, that I could still pass.

I don't remember much of that day after that. I do know that I attended that class a few more times before I finally realized that if I couldn't keep my eyes from slowly closing during class, I wasn't going to understand anything. I think I dropped the class. I know I didn't pass it.

So let this be a lesson to those of you who think there is no such thing as a stupid question. But don't let it stop you from asking questions either.

I don't know why, just don't let it. I've seen Michael Hosaluk demonstrate before and know that it will be a good demo. I won't be able to make it.

Have a good time and see you in November.

Keep the bevel rubbing
Mark

Cool stuff on
www.mainewoodturners.org
Thanks to Andy Hoyt

Andy has posted some cool new stuff on our website, like this work by Jeff Raymond. He's also got pix (of you?) of past meetings and old newsletters. You can email Andy at aeh@downscaledesigns.com and send him some digital images of your turning that he can post on the site.



JUNE

Secretary's minutes

By Tom Raymond

Editor's note: My apologies to Tom, these got left out of the last newsletter.

The June meeting of Maine Wood turners was held at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine on 6-15-05. Thirty-five members and guests attended.

President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 7:03 PM .A web page for Maine wood turners were the first order for discussion. Andy Hoyt advised that he would be willing to design the site and that the monthly cost to maintain it would be \$100. He showed a sample of what it might look like. There could be a gallery or Show and Tell on it and maybe the newsletter. We now pay about \$37 a month to mail the paper copy. Mark put this up for a vote and I was unanimous that we should go ahead with it, but not drop the hard copy to each member.

Ken Keoughan talked about the summer program of woodturning classes at Round Top.

The new 4-morning s in row classes and the 6-

hour weekend classes. Ann Prescott passed the new brochures around to each member. Ken offered a free scholarship to Club members say one per class.

Ken Sheperd talked about the left over tool rests from the May meeting. About 57 were sold to the May participants in the fabrication session. About 30 were left for sale. He offered them at \$10 each for the members who participated in the fabrication at the May meeting and \$20 for the ones who did not participate.

Mark announced that there is a man in South Berwick that has mahogany cutoffs for sale at \$1.60 a board foot. If interested contact Mark for the phone number.

Librarian Bill Vogt announced that video's need to be returned and some were returned during the meeting.

Mark Irving started his demo at 7:20

Mike Chase donated a batch of purple heart boards for a wood auction and it took in \$45.

Ken Shepard reported that 21 more tool rests were sold at this meeting.

The demo ended at 8:50 Pm and there was no Show and Tell.

There are no meetings in July and August

Tom Raymond

Totally Turning 2005

October 15 and 16, Albany New York

Billed as the largest woodturning symposium in the Northeast, this two-day symposium will feature the likes of Stuart Batty, Nick Cook, JoHannes Michelson, and Andi Wolfe besides a whole slew of other turners.

Sponsored by the Adirondack Woodturners Association and held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, visit www.totallyturning.com for more information.

Don't forget to borrow club videos to increase your turning skills.
Don't forget to bring them back to librarian Bill Vogt when you are done!



Sept 05 issue



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Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

Michael Hosaluk, Sat. Oct. 8 9 a.m. Erskine

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: