

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
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Tom Raymond on segmented turning Wed. Jan 18 at 7 p.m. at Erskine

Little pieces of wood can add up to a lot, especially in the hands of someone who does segmented turning. Tom Raymond, our club secretary, will show us how he does it at the January meeting at Erskine.

Because the Christmas Party was snowed out and we are going to have the traditional Yankee Swap at this meeting, Tom is going to keep his demo short. He plans to focus on techniques, tools and jigs and won't actually be doing any turning. And anyway, those are the parts that make segmented turning interesting.

"I've made 4 or 5 partially assembled segmented turnings so they can see them being built," he explained. In general, segmented turning is hard to demonstrate because it involves so much gluing and drying time.

"I'm going to show how to fit it together and get even spacing," he said. "Most people work with rings. I work with individual pieces and this way I have more flexibility in my design."

Tom was a recent guest artist at the 302 Gallery in Bridgton where he had a month-long show which led to a recent article from the Portland paper that featured his work. If you haven't seen it, he'll have a copy with him.



Tom Raymond at a previous year's demo.

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Yankee Swap at this meeting

Don't forget to check out the
website at
mainewoodturners.org

500 Pens a Year: How to Develop Expertise

Kim Dailey, president of Western Maine Woodturner's and the club's November demonstrator, turns about 500 pens a year.

That's a lot of pens!

And a pretty sure way of developing expertise at something.

Not only that, Kim has another secret advantage he employs: as a trucker by profession, some of his pens have landed in the hands of trucking customers. Kim has had the opportunity to watch those pens over a long period, and thus he knows just which mechanisms stand up to regular use.

"24K gold is very soft gold. If a person uses it every day, it's worn off in three months. 10K gold is not quite as shiny, but it lasts longer. If it has Titanium mixed in, it holds up better. I've seen 10K gold worn out in 9 months. Under normal office use, it holds up 3—4 years. Platinum has a lifetime guarantee. I've never had one wear out.

"You're better off buying something that will last, especially if you are going to sell it to someone," he says.

Kim makes pens in various styles, but his customers prefer the "cigar" pens or the "Gentleman Jr." styles. After trying various vendors, Kim says he relies on two for quality materials. He buys his mechanisms from Craft Supplies in Utah, and his pen blanks from Bob Baumbeck at Arizona Silhouette (available on the Internet.)

His wood of preference is resin-impregnated burl, which comes natural or dyed in many colors.

These aren't cheap materials, but Kim says it pays off.

"I've ordered cheaper, but some of them have resin blobs and you can't drill them, and you've wasted \$4-10," he said.

Like many people who repeat the same process over and over, Kim has a system that works for him.

He first marks the pen blank into lengths, a short piece, a long piece, and a little waste piece on the end

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Kim Dailey at the lathe.

Photo by Jorge Castaneda



Photo by Gretchen Felhau

Kim Dailey on pens, cont'd

Before sawing, he also draws a line lengthwise of the blank across the division between the short and the long ends so he can match up the grain later.

"I always do it the same way," Kim said, noting that it especially makes it easier to line up straight-grained woods like tulipwood.

The small waste pieces he sometimes uses for key rings.

Next the pieces need to be drilled on the drill press so they will fit on the mandrel for turning. That can be a bit tricky, and takes some practice.



Photo by Jorge Castaneda

"If you go too fast, when you get down to the bottom it literally blows it apart, especially when it comes to an acrylic blank," Kim warned. "Speed is your enemy."

He uses CA flexible glue for inserting the brass tubes which are part of the pen mechanism. He says pen insertion tools are a waste of money.

"I just use my thumb and wipe my thumb off on a paper towel," he says.

Kim uses accelerator to set the CA glue, but says it's still not an instant process. "Contrary to popular belief you can't spray with accelerator and just turn it. It's not dry in the middle. I've blow enough of them apart to know. I usually leave them 3 hours."

Next, he uses a

barrel trimmer on the drill press to square the end of the blank. The trimmer is just touched down until the top of the blank shows the fresh brass of the tube inside. You have to use caution, because some pen kits are not tolerant to any loss of length.

The trimmed blanks are assembled on a mandrel with bushings that will guide the final diameter of the turned pen. When putting it on the lathe, Kim advises not turning the tailstock up too tightly or you can bow the mandrel.

The rest of it, he says, is just basic spindle turning.

He likes to use a large spindle gouge rather than a skew, and turns at from 12-1400 rpms. The roughing and the finish turning are all done at the same speed.

He sands beginning with 220 grit and goes up to 2000. "Once I get beyond 800 I'm actually starting to shine it so it's shined before I put the finish on."

He sands less than a minute with the first grit, and then just basically holds the sandpaper against the pen for subsequent grits.

After sanding, and before putting on the finish (Hut Crystal Coat liquid friction finish, using a piece of

Photo by Gretchen Felhau



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.

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.

Cancellations...

A note from Mark Irving

For now, I will call in cancellations to WCSH channel 6. Watch for the alerts at the bottom of the screen. I will also attempt to email everyone on my list. I have also contacted radio stations but have not received the required paperwork yet. Stay tuned...

I will also try to get the notice on our web site. Don't forget to visit it anyway.

<http://www.mainewoodturners.org>

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paper towel) Kim checks the pens for flaws. When working on burl, he can fill any flaws without it being visible on the final pen. For

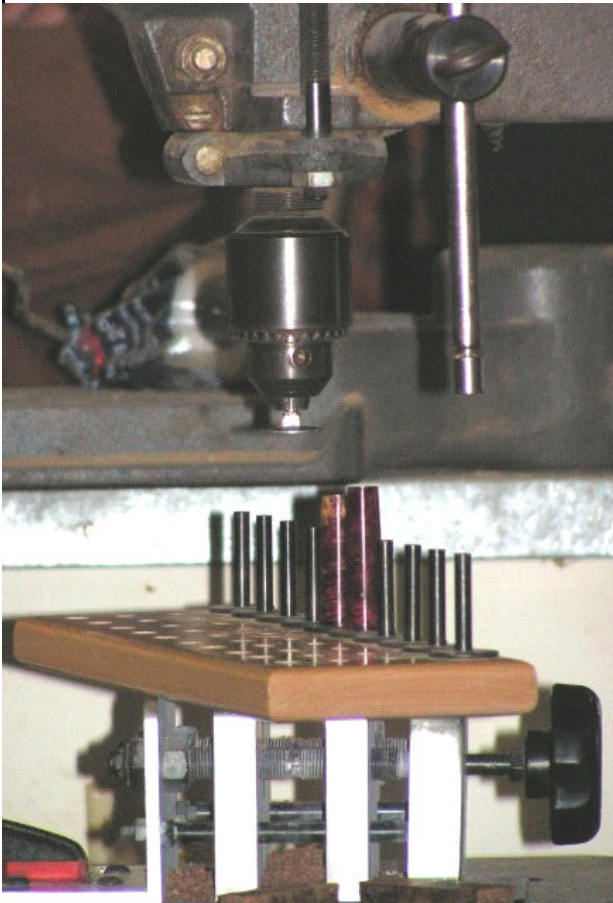


Photo by Gretchen Felhau

something small he uses thin CA glue, for something a little larger he uses medium CA glue and shavings.

He assembles the pen at the drill press, using a jig with various sizes to protect the pen mechanism.

A finished Cigar Pen? Sells for \$75.

Thanks Kim

and Thanks to Gretchen Felhau and Jorge Castaneda for photos.

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:

Tom Raymond– January 2006

Mac Ray - February 2006

Peter Asselyn - March 2006

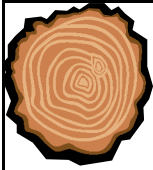
Tool Making - April 2006

Bowl Bottoms – May 2006

Al Stirt - June 2006

Bob Rosand – Sept 2006

As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving



Christmas is over, the new year is here, vacation is over, and I'm wore out. Time to go back to work and get some rest... The trouble with these office jobs though, is they don't leave 'nuff time for woodturnin. But the health insurance is good.

Speaking of insurance. It might come in handy some day for those of us who partake of woodturnin. It can be a dangerous hobby/occupation if not practiced just right. Just ask Dave Lancaster. Or better yet, take a look at the back issue of American Woodturner that has a picture of what I think is his face in it. The one where a 20 inch bowl got the best of him. Not that he's that good lookin in the first place, but.... Bowls flyin off a lathe can hurt!

Back when I was a young man and just learnin the aht of woodturnin, I had a similar experience. I had read that you could actually remove the screw holes from the bottom of a bowl that you had turned on a faceplate. Imagine that? You don't have to fill them up with wood putty or cover them with a piece of felt. Those filled glue holes don't really look any better than the unfilled ones do they? And the felt stuff eventually peels off. So how do you remove the screw holes?

Some book I was readin said somethin about makin a jam chuck to turn the screw holes off the bottom of a bowl. I had this laminated glued up bowl that I had created some time ago that I thought would look much nicer without the screw holes. So I made a jam chuck and stuck the bowl on it. I thought it would hold. I don't remember the book sayin it would be a good idea to bring up the tail stock for a while.

So I turned on the lathe with the lowest speed selected, which I think was just shy of the speed of light on this particular lathe. The bowl stayed there. I selected a bowl gouge and gingerly began to approach the bottom of the bowl. I wasn't real sure that the jam chuck would hold. But the book said that's how it's done, so I continued. As soon as I touched the bowl it disappeared. A little faster than the speed of light I think cause I didn't see it. It hit my face so fast that I didn't even know what happened as the bowl rolled its way across the floor.

It had hit me right square between the eyes, on the nose piece of my safety glasses. Stunned. Good thing it was only a 6 inch bowl. Good thing I had my safety glasses on. I was lucky I didn't get hurt. (The brain damage was done long before this!) I now wear a face mask when I do stupid things like this, though that happens less often now. I've had stuff come off the lathe since, but not like that. And I'm a little more careful when I use jam chucks.

I'm sorry we had to cancel the Christmas party. But bring your gifts to the January meeting and we'll still have the Yankee swap. Don't forget.

Keep the bevel rubbing
Mark



Happy New Year
And
Happy Turning!



Jan 06 issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

Tom Raymond, Wed. 7 p.m. Jan. 18 at Erskine.

Next month: Mac Ray Demo

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

One good turn deserves another!

Or just introduce yourself at a meeting and pay Burt then.

*Become a Member of the
Maine Woodturners!*

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email: