

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
February 2006

Mac Ray on Piercing Techniques and Rim Turning Wednesday, Feb 15th at 7 PM at Erskine

Mac Ray will be our featured demonstrator for February's meeting. Mac has been an integral part of this club since long before I joined about 6 or 7 years ago. He's done many demonstrations and it's something different each time. He does all kinds of things from one piece bowls, segmented pieces, Christmas ornaments, to hollow vessels, and far beyond.

I've seen some carving, painting, and piercing in some of his work. I think he's going to show us a variety of the things he does. You don't want to miss it, I know I won't!

Mac has also been building a garage/shop/studio at his house for what seems like an eternity. If you saw the size of this monster, you would know why it's taking so long. I haven't been there lately but he's at least moved his lathe out there, even though there's no heat in it yet. Too late for this winter so he now says that he'll try to get it installed after the tourists leave next fall. Watch for the big furnace light-off party.



Mac Ray at Alan Lacer's demo.

Mac is also willing to help with the mentoring program, but he did ask "What's mentoring?"

Club Officers

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Newsletter	Sandy Gregor	778-3717 sgregor@midmaine.com

We're having a Wood Auction
again – Finally!
Bring some stuff!

The Yankee Swap has been
cancelled.

Don't forget to visit the website
at www.mainewoodturners.org

As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving



I'm beginning to wonder if we will ever have another meeting. What's with all this bad weather on our meeting nights? I'm sure we will have another meeting sometime. The weather can't be bad forever. Can it?

This reminds me of a few years ago when I thought I'd never water ski again. My parents went and moved to Presque Isle and took the boat with them. I had already moved out of their house so didn't go with them. But with me living in Portland and them in Presque Isle, or PI as we call it, I didn't think borrowing the boat was an option anymore. But as luck would have it, they were only there for about 20 years. They moved into a camp on Little Sebago Lake while they built a house in North Yarmouth. And they put the boat in the water.

So at a family gathering we decided to try the water skiing again. Of course, after 20 years and packing and unpacking, we couldn't find anything except the boat. We searched everywhere for skis and rope and life jackets, etc. Finally found something we could use, though it hadn't been used in years and none of it looked too good, but it would work. We then started bragging to each other about who was the best water skier. Who was gonna get up first and who would be the first one to fall, etc. Who could start without getting wet and who would be spectacular and start by jumping off the dock with one ski on and the boat already up to speed.

So we warmed up the boat and lucky me, I went first. I'd show these guys. None of that jumping off the dock, but I would start in 12 inches of water, standing up on one foot with the ski on the other. The trick here is to determine just when to yell 'hit it!'. You want the boat to get some speed up before the rope gets taut. But you don't want the boat going too fast that it just pulls the rope out of your hands and your face into the water. Especially after all that bragging and everyone watching and waiting for total failure and the laughter that follows.

So I'm standing there in the water and at the appropriate time I yell 'hit it!' The boat takes off and the slack is going out of the rope. I prepare to take off.

As soon as the rope gets taut you jump up and pull as hard as you can on the rope. Only this time something goes wrong. As I pull on the rope, it bends my hands around so my knuckles are jammed against each other. Like holding on to a loop of rope with both hands while someone pulls on the other end. The boat is already going fast, and my knuckles are being mashed together. I can't hold on because of the pain, but I can't let go either cause my knuckles are pressed together too tightly. I feel like I'm gonna be dragged halfway around the lake if I can't let go. Finally I shake my hands loose and of course I fall.

On shore, no one can see exactly what happened. And with all the laughter, no one will listen to me either. It wasn't my fault that I had to let go. It was that stupid rope. 'Sure', everyone said.

Turns out that the rope we found had been 'repaired' by my father. He had never used it after 'repairing' it. Apparently the wooden bar that one usually hangs onto had broken and he had replaced it with a piece of rubber hose. Of course the rubber hose was real old too, and was very stiff, which wasn't noticeable until the exact moment when the rope went taut. Funny how no one else tried to ski that day after me.

I did eventually go water skiing again. And I'm sure we will have another meeting too. So see you for Mac Ray's demo.

Keep the bevel rubbing. Mark





Various pieces
by Mac Ray
over the past
hundred years
or so.



Miscellaneous Notes

I wasn't going to call off the last meeting, but found out at the very last minute that there was no power at Erskine Academy. I know it was a late notice and apologize if anyone went to Erskine and found no meeting taking place. I called the cancellation in to Channel 6, WCSH, but it never appeared on the screen. Andy did put the notice up on the web site, but it was late due to the late notice we received from Erskine. I will continue to let Andy know about cancellations so it can be put up on the web site. I will also continue to call cancellations in to WCSH TV also. Please check both places and if you have any question about whether a meeting has been cancelled, please call me. Mark

Future Demonstrators:

Mac Ray - February 15th, 2006
Peter Asselyn - March 15th, 2006
Tool Making - April 19th, 2006
Bowl Bottoms - May 17th, 2006
Al Stirt - June 21st, 2006
Bob Rosand - Sept 20th, 2006





Feb 06 issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

Mac Ray Wed. 7 PM Feb 15th at Erskine.

Next month: Peter Asselyn to 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: