

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW
Vol. 45 Number 7 March 2006

Peter Asselyn on Natural Edge Bowls Note! : Thurs. 7 p.m. March 16 at Erskine

It seems Pete Asselyn is not comfortable at the lathe unless it's a bit of a wild ride—hollowing a burl with voids, or, as he will demonstrate at the March meeting, avoiding the wildly spinning wings of a natural edge bowl.

Pete learned turning at the knee of Dave Lancaster and the Maine Woodturners, a source of help and guidance he never fails to credit when he talks about his turning roots. Pete has since served as president of the club and chairman of the board. He demonstrates around the state and teaches at the Round Top Turning Program.

And here's what he has to say about the upcoming meeting:

“ Help!

I'm doing a natural edge bowl demo in March and don't have a piece of wood suitable for this type of bowl. Please bring in a piece of wood you would like to see turned into a



natural edge bowl and you will get the result of the demo. (If there is anything left.) The membership will decide which piece we use. At the end of the evening we will auction off the rest of the wood.

anything as long as I can lift it. (Try to keep it under 14 inches in diameter.)”

So come on over, bring a piece of wood, and watch a pro at work. You might go home with the prize!

Club Officers

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

Mac Ray Does It Again: Great February Demo



Mac Ray with his favorite sandpaper: torn from rolls purchased from Lee Valley

You catch on pretty quick to the idea that Mac Ray is an experimental kind of guy. He enjoys turning, and does it with flair, but he's just as enthusiastic about the other stuff you can do to a turned piece of wood.

"No fancy turning tonight because we're doing mostly decoration," Mac said at his demo for the February meeting. Over the course of the next hour or so, Mac managed to toss off methods using gesso (paint), carving through gesso, texturing with an air-powered welder's scaler, piercing techniques, as well as indexing to create even divisions on a piece and reverse jam chucking to finish a bottom using another bowl and the tail stock.

And he made it all look easy.

"**See what I did** for reverse chucking," he mentioned in passing at one point. "You don't need a vacuum chuck. I've got one and I don't use it."

According to Mac, you can use any old bowl, just chuck it, true it, and press the top or inside of the bowl you are working on up against it with enough tail stock pressure to hold it in place.

Black gesso was the star material of the evening, however. Gesso is an acrylic primer, although in its pure form it's not exactly just paint. Here's the dictionary definition:

"A mixture of glue and either chalk or plaster of Paris applied as a ground or coating to surfaces in order to give them the correct properties to receive paint. Gesso can also be built up or molded into relief designs, or carved."

Mac's method was to use the dramatic contrast of a band of black gesso against the natural wood, applied with a foam brush while the piece is still on the lathe and hand spun.

"This stuff is real good if you want to coat something quick," he said. "It's available at any art supply store. It's real handy stuff to have around. There's a lot more uses for it than I use it for."

Other suggestions Mac had: gesso also comes in white (use it to underpaint when you are applying acrylics) or red (use it to underpaint gold leaf). Gesso tends to be thick-bodied, but for an even thicker material for texturing, add acrylic texturing paste.

Mac likes to use foam brushes to apply gesso with the lathe running at a slow speed because he likes the ridges that appear.

On some of his southwest pieces, Mac uses several coats of the black gesso to give the inside of the piece the feel of pottery.

"It's great stuff. Fun to play with," Mac said.

But gesso wasn't the only theme of the evening. Next, Mac pulled out an air powered (90 lb.) welder's scaler. He had previously pulled the needles out and filed the ends to round them. The texture left by the scaler can be wiped with paint and sanded to leave some bare wood and some paint to increase the interest of the texture.

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Mac Ray does it again... continued

To create a hard edge between a textured area and a plain area, Mac picked up a narrow kerf parting tool and used the straight edge as a guide.

“You don’t have to sand real well if you’re going to use that devil either,” Mac said. “Save yourself a little trouble.”

Another post-turning embellishment Mac likes to use is piercing—literally cutting irregular holes through a thin bowl or band on a piece. He uses a Dremel, mounted in a proprietary router base which gives him a two-handed grip and more control over the tool. For a first-time piercing, Mac recommends using ash.

“It cuts well, doesn’t break easily, cuts clean and doesn’t burn too much.” He likes using fine bits—even cast off dental bits. He also mounts the piece and the chuck on a carvers tool post available from Trent Bosch. It has a rotating head and gives easy access when working.

When Mac came to indexing, he had a couple of what he called “gidgets and gadgets” to make it easier. On the Oneway, the index



Mac with the Dremel in a router base

Mac Ray demo, continued next page

Secretary's Report By Tom Raymond

The February 2006 meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy in South China on Wednesday the 15th. President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 7 PM. Sixty two members and guests attended.

Mike Chase announced that member Bob Burgess of Jay broke a leg which turned out to be due to bone cancer. He brought in a card for all members to sign. Mark Irving said that a former member Barry Gaugler passed away.

Mark advised that we would have a wood auction tonight and show and tell. There will be a tool making workshop in April Saturday the 22nd. Peter Asselyn will be the demon-

strator at next months meeting.

The Fifth New England Woodturning Symposium will be held on May 13, 2006 at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. Registration is \$50.

Maine Woodturner snow cancellations will be announced on our website. mainewoodturners.org

Mac Ray is tonight's demonstrator and he started at 7:05 on surface texturing and ended at 8:30.

Shortly afterwards Auctioneer Peter Asselyn started the wood auction assisted by Mark Irving. The auction brought \$121 to our Treasury.

Show and tell followed with many interesting pieces to view and discuss.

The meeting ended at 8:46 PM

Mac Ray demo continued

wheel can be hard to read, so Mac just applied a piece of masking tape across the access opening and marked it with a pen to note more easily where the wheel was stopped. Another idea he took from renowned Vermont turner Al Stirt (who will be demonstrating to the club in June.) Al fit a piece of broom handle into the tool rest banjo. A straight board across the top allows the turner to mark lines with ease. A stop on the piece of broom handle guarantees that the “gidget” will always be just at center height (minus the diameter of a pencil) when it’s dropped into place.



As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving

Well, the pile of money just got so big I had to spend it on a little Stubby. I know I been talkin bout Oneway's, but with a small pile of money, it woulda hadda beena smalla one. I didn't really want the smaller one, but a new Oneway, even the 1640, would sure be nice. I could always turn something bigger than 16 inches on the outboard side. I wanted to wait for a bigger one, but I didn't want to wait for a bigger one. A big used one would be nice, but I really wanted a new one. What to do? Since I wasn't in a hurry, mostly because my Jet has a variable speed, which made it just bearable, I just let that pile of money grow. Sellin a bowl here and there, a few rolling pins, some salt and pepper mills, and a few wine stoppers and suddenly that pile was big enough for a real Oneway. A NEW Oneway, A BIG Oneway. I was close enough to at least a 2036, maybe even a 2436. Sweet. I couldn't wait any longer.

Then I don't know what happened. I remembered lookin at a Stubby lathe a while

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Classified Ads

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

If you are wondering if a meeting has been canceled due to weather, check the web site. Or call Mark Irving or Donna Lancaster. Mark will call her if the meeting has been canceled. You may want to check just before leaving for the meeting if there is a question. The January meeting was canceled at the last minute due to no electricity, in turn due to inclement weather. Mark will still call it in to channel 6, WCSH TV.

[Http://www.mainewoodturners.org](http://www.mainewoodturners.org)

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:

Peter Asselyn - March 2006
Tool Making - April 2006
Bowl Bottoms – May 2006
Al Stirt - June 2006
Bob Rosand – Sept 2006

Mark Irving's column continued



The new lathe in use

back, but dismissed them as too expensive. It would take too long to get that much money, so I forgot about them. And everyone knows Oneway's are the best anyway. And I thought about the Powermatic lathes too. They are a lot less expensive than Oneway's. But something said to me "Spend a lot of money". So that ruled out Powermatic. Even the bigger one. They just aren't expensive enough. (What kind of logic is this anyway?)

So that pile of money is just waitin to be spent. Something inspired me to look at a Stubby again. I don't even remember when it occurred to me to look at them. But when I saw that they were in the same ballpark pricewise as the Oneway I looked again. Here was a lathe that didn't take up much floor space (a nice feature when you have a small shop) and could turn a 30 inch bowl (yes, 30 inch) and could be adjusted to turn a long spindle. All on the inboard side. A 30 inch bowl!!!! I was sold.

So I thought I ought to see one before I bought one. I found out that Jacques Vesery had one, so I went up to his

place to try it out. I ordered one a couple of days later from John Jordan. Picked it up the same day as the February meeting. This thing will turn a 30 inch bowl!! It came on a pallet that the trucking company put on my trailer. After backing into my driveway, I took it apart piece by piece and took it in the house. I only had time to create a few shavings on it before I had to leave for the wood-turning meeting. Not enough time to rough out a 30 inch bowl yet!

Since then, I've roughed out a few bowls larger than the capacity of my old Jet. What a pleasure! But I haven't exercised the new Stubby thoroughly. I did have a 17 inch piece of wood on there though, and the Stubby never slowed down. (Yes, Dave, I did actually turn it on.)

Now I'm just looking for the biggest piece of wood I can find in my yard! Did I mention you can turn a 30 inch bowl? Check out the pictures. If they don't make the newsletter, check out my gallery on the website.

See you for Peter's demo in March. Don't forget to bring in a challenging piece of wood for him.
Keep the bevel rubbing
Mark



Stubby with bed extended



March 06



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

Peter Asselyn - March 16, 2006 7 p.m. Natural Edge Bowls
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!

Tool Making - April 2006

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

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: