

# Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

Vol. 45 Number 7 March 2006

## Two in One: Saturday April 22 9 a.m. Toolmaking Workshop and Everything Al Has Learned About the Skew Since Last Year

We'll be gathering on a Saturday in April for our annual tool making workshop. Mark Irving says we'll be making "hook tools, hollowing tools, and whatever else we have materials for."

We'll be meeting at Erskine Academy from 9 a.m. until 3 or so. Bring about \$5 and we'll send someone out for food from subway, or bring your own lunch.

In addition to the tool making, we'll get the lathes spinning under the guidance of Al Mather who is going to show us everything he's learned about the skew since his demo last year. Everybody can get a chance to try it out.

Here's what Al says:

"While questions about your projects or cuts are welcome, two small projects will be featured: small spinning tops, made with only the skew, (chuck held, handle end of top towards the chuck) and small 'lobster buoys', about 1' in diameter by 3.5 long. The later will be turned between centers. Use of the long point of the skew will be introduced with practice opportunities offered while turning these projects. (Yes, these may be turned with a spindle gouge, but are good and useful practice projects for the skew as well.)

"I will be willing to bring some materials for participants to make their own project and if participants would like to bring their own wood

here are some suggestions. I turn the buoy out of pine, but any clear wood will do. Size: 1 or 1 1/4 inches wide by 4 inches. Wood for the tops: hard wood, length - at least 4 times the width of your skew, width of the wood: any size from 3/4 through 2 or 3 inches." If you have questions you may email Al at [almather@netscape.com](mailto:almather@netscape.com)."



*Al Mather*

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Don't forget to check out the  
website at  
[mainewoodturners.org](http://mainewoodturners.org)

# Peter Asselyn on Making a Live Edge Burl Bowl

*Editor's note:*

*Friends, we need someone or several someones to volunteer to write up the demos for the coming year. I will continue to put together the newsletter, but I don't always get to the meetings and I don't always have the time.*

***Beginners! Don't stop reading here. This means you!*** Writing about a demo is a great way to learn more.

*Please speak to me or Mark Irving at the next meeting to let us know that you are ready to contribute.*

*It doesn't have to be complicated: the following charming vignette of the meeting was provided by our photographer Jorge Castaneda when he found I had no story to go with the pictures. Thanks to Jorge, Mark Irving, Gary Swinton and Gretchen Fehlau and anyone else for helping with the photos for past issues—you're still needed! Anyone who wants to submit pics, please keep them to 100 kb.*

*Thanks, Sandy*



At the last meeting, somebody brought in a good size burl, Peter scrutinized the critter and decided how to cut it, then with the chosen half, using a rig he made with a tool rest post and an angle grinder, he made a flat in the bark side, then bringing in the tail stock, to hold the piece, he made a tenon, then he mounted the work on this tenon and made a tenon in the other side too; then he shaped the outside, Once he was done with the outside, he reverse mounted the bowl and pro-

## Peter Asselyn demo

ceeded to hollow the inside, giving pointers as he went and making it look easy. In a remarkably short time, a live edge made from a dried out hard burl was completed.



Thanks Pete, and thanks to Bob Morrill for bringing in the burl.

## Secretary's Report By Tom Raymond

The March meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy, South China, Maine on March 16, 2006. About 46 members and guests were in attendance. President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

Mark asked for the members to sign the cards for the two deceased members mentioned at last months meeting. We have many tool rests left over from the last tool making session for sale at \$20 each. See Bill Vogt if you want one.

Mark put out applications for anyone interested in joining AAW. He advised that we would have Show and Tell tonight and a wood auction. Also to sign up for the number and type of tool you may want at the April meeting so he can plan on the materials needed.

Ron Kostron mentioned that there is a free 1948 Delta lathe never used still in the box available. Its free to a non profit organization. Mark Irving wondered if Erskine Academy would like it. Dave Barden was n't there to comment on this suggestion.

The nominations for President and Vice President for a 2-year term were open to the floor and Peter McRae; Vice President was nominated for President and Andy Hoyt for Vice President. Mack Ray was named but refused to be an officer and offered all the help he could supply to support the club.

Bob Morrell supplied the cherry burl for Peter Asselyns demonstration, which started at 7:10 PM and ended at 8:16. One interesting statement that Peter made during his demo was that he checked with One Way on recommended safe lathe speeds relative to rim diameters. They told him the speed in RPM where the rim is at 30 miles per hour. Peter ran the lathe at 800RPM for his demo, which was equivalent to 28.6 miles per hour at the rim for the 1-foot dia. blank. It would be good to have a tabulation of speed VS diameters on all our lathes. Peter's demonstration ended at 8: 16 PM.

Show and Tell was next, followed by a wood auction by Mark Irving and Peter Asselyn which netted \$44. Thanks to the members who supplied the wood.

The meeting ended at 8:51 PM.

**May 13, 2006**

**Fifth NE Woodturning Symposium**

Derry, NH at Pinkerton Academy  
The GRANITE STATE WOODTURNERS and THE GUILD OF NH WOODWORKERS are for the fifth time sponsoring a full day symposium for beginner thru advanced turners. The program has been greatly expanded to include 28 separate demos in 4 rotations. The event will run from 8:30AM until 4:30PM on Saturday, May 13th, 2006 at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH.

There is plenty to interest and intrigue you. Lunch is included in the registration fee. While the schedule is yet to be finalized, a few of the demonstrators include: Peter Bloch, Stephen Gleasner, Beth Ireland, Alan Lacer, David Lancaster, Luke Mann, Andre Martel, Bob Rosand, Jon Siegel, Linda VanGehuthcen, Jacques Vesery, Brad Vietze and Wendy Wilson. The symposium will also feature:

An instant gallery where turners may bring and display their work

Trade show booths by woodworking schools, equipment suppliers, and wood supplier

Flea market tables for participants to buy, sell, or swap their used tools and suppliers

Attendance is limited to the first 300 registrants. Places will be on a "first come, first served" basis. Registrations will be accepted beginning on April 1st. No early registrations will be accepted.

REGISTRATION IS \$50 PER PERSON. Contact: Clyde Daggett, Registration Coordinator

**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. Mark will still call it in to channel 6, WCSH tv.

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

**AAW Symposium In  
Louisville KY  
June 22-24**

There are still spaces to register for the AAW Symposium in Louisville June 22 - 24.

For information and registration, go to <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2006/>

For door prizes, every paid registered attendee will be eligible to win one of the five, Oneway 2436 lathes that we will give away. They don't even have to haul it home. We will pay up to \$400 shipping right to their door. We were able to offer these lathes because of very generous special pricing offered to us by Oneway Manufacturing.

In addition to the 5 lathes, we will give away fifty, \$100 gift certificates that were generously donated by Packard Woodworks.

All young people ages 10 through 17 who are accompanied by a paid adult, will receive free registration and be eligible to win one of the 25 complete turning outfits. The youth turning room will allow the registered young people to attend free classes by Bonnie Klein and Nick Cook. This is an opportunity of a lifetime. Bring your kids and grandkids. The kids must be registered through the AAW office at 651-484-9094.

There will be 34 world class demonstrators and the world's largest instant gallery and woodturning-trade show.

**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](http://www.roundtoparts.org).

**Future Demonstrators:**

Tool Making - April 2006

Bowl Bottoms - May 2006

Al Stirt - June 2006

Bob Rosand - Sept 2006

## As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving

I was on my way home from work one fine sunny spring day, the spring following that disastrous ice storm of '98. We all probably suffered from that event in some way or another, and to varying degrees, but for us woodturners there was some joy. Lots of fallen wood. As luck would have it, my neighbors were having a damaged tree cut down and I drove by just in time to see the big chunks on a trailer parked out front, waiting for a trip to the landfill. Not wanting to overload the landfill, and saving my neighbor from having to pay to dispose of all that heavy stuff (they charge by the pound at the landfill) I offered to take some of it off his hands.

Being a relatively new woodturner with a small stash of wood, I saw an opportunity for lots of practice. There were a lot of bowls in that wood. I started



cutting it in half and roughing out many small bowls in the 6 to 9 inch range. After mastering that and putting the roughed out bowls aside to dry, I thought I would work on some maximum sized pieces. That's what we woodturners do. The bigger the better. That Jet lathe of mine, the 1236, has a head that will turn so pieces larger than the 12 inch max can be turned. All you have to do after turning the head 90 degrees clockwise is to move the toolrest to the auxiliary bed on the left side of the headstock. And, because the banjo isn't long enough to reach around the 17 inch piece of wood that I planned to turn, Jet provides a convenient banjo extension. So I put the extension into the banjo, and then put the toolrest into the extension, mounted up that piece of wood and sharpened up my tools.

Now for the thrill of turning my first large piece. I figured the platter I was about to turn would be gorgeous. It was a crotch piece from that tree obtained from my neighbor. Ice storm of '98 wood. Of course I didn't think this through completely. Being blinded by the excitement of the opportunity to turn a really large piece, beyond the actual capacity of my lathe. I hit the start button. Now this lathe is not a variable speed lathe. The slowest speed is 500 rpm's. Large pieces of

wood hacked up with a chain saw tend to be unbalanced before you put them on the lathe. When you hit the start button, 500 rpms does not improve the balance of that piece of wood one iota. Holy smokes.

So I shut off the lathe, waited 10 minutes for it to stop spinning, then pushed it back to where it belonged, it having waltzed around my shop a few times, reined in only by the cord plugged into the wall. I unmounted the piece so I could trim it with the chain saw a little more. It helped some...

But I was determined. I was gonna rough this thing down. Then I discovered my next problem. Using one of those banjo extensions. You might as well have a toolrest made from rubber. (reminds me of that rubber hose I tried to water ski with) It's impossible to keep the gouge in a steady position with the wood (did I mention it's going 500 rpms?) banging down on the gouge and the toolrest bouncing up and down like a yoyo. How am I gonna fix this? Still thinking clearly, I decided that I could cut a two by four just long enough to set on the floor and wedge under the toolrest.

So with all that set up, and keeping the lathe from moving too much by holding my leg against it whilst I attempted to round this piece up (as to opposed to roughing down? Why is it called roughing down when you're actually smoothing it up?, but I digress, whatever that means.) I finally ended up with about a 15 inch platter about one inch thick. Took me all afternoon, and a few shaky nerves.

The reason I mention this is because that roughed out platter remained on the shelf for the last eight years, awaiting drying, warping, then final turning. Actually, it was awaiting a new lathe because I didn't want it anywhere near my Jet lathe again. I had enough of that. As a matter of fact I later modified that Jet lathe by replacing the motor with a 1-1/2 HP variable speed reversible motor. The headstock can no longer be turned and that's ok with me. A max of 12 inches suits me just fine on this lathe, thank you. But as you all know, I now have a 'STUBWAY'. Variable speed. Heavy. Sturdy. Capable of up to 30 inch bowls. Guess what I just did? On my 'STUBWAY'? With no problems whatsoever? Check out the pictures.

See you next month for the toolmaking, problem solving meeting. Don't forget, it's on a Saturday.

Keep the bevel rubbing, Mark





March 06



85 Second St.  
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

### *Coming Events:*

Tool Making - April 22, 2006

Bowl Bottoms – May 2006

Al Stirt - June 2006

Bob Rosand – Sept 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 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:**