

# Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW  
May 2006

## Dazzling Bottoms: Tricks for a No Disappointment finish on your bowls

Ever wonder why turners ALWAYS look at the bottom of a bowl they pick up at a monthly show and tell session? Yes, they are curious to see the identity of the turner by the signature placed there, but they are also interested to see how well finished and, oftentimes, detailed the craftsman left this humble but important portion of the piece. Bowl bottoms have come a long way from plugged faceplate screw holes- sometimes hidden by glued-on felt pads, or belt sander scratch marks on a flat bowl bottom.

Today's standards, according to Instant Gallery "name" judges at a recent regional woodturners symposium, demand "no disappointment" when examining the bottom of a turned object- and some are even adding "surprises" in the form of added "eye candy" to please the enthusiast/collector.

While Mark, Tom and Peter will be unlikely to be able to show you how to make your bowl bottoms dazzle with the facets of a brilliant-cut diamond (we will have to leave that to a future Mac demo), they will demonstrate the techniques, tools and tricks they use to achieve a "no disappointment" finish on their bowl bottoms. Mark will show his home made, catch resistant, knuckle busting, shirt sleeve catching jig for finishing bowl bottoms without tail stock support.



### Club Officers

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

## Dazzling Bottoms... cont.

Then, for the less than brave, he will show how to finish the bowl bottoms without all those dangers, using the tailstock for support. Tom says bowl bottoms are important because "The price tag is generally on the bottom of every bowl and hopefully not over the artist's signature. A poorly finished bottom could influence the buyers decision on making a purchase." Peter will show how to center a reverse-chucked bowl with no tailstock mark, plus his use of a polished box tool rest as a "safety" on a bowl bottom during the finishing process. It is hoped that the membership in attendance will share some of their "secrets" on this topic so that we might all learn from our experience.

*Pictures by Mark Irving from the April toolmaking workshop?*



## What's Up at Round Top?

Beginning and intermediate woodturning enthusiasts may be interested in one of the five woodturning classes being offered in the next four week session beginning May 8th at Round Top Center for the Arts on Business Route 1 in Damariscotta.

Ken Keoughan, who directs the woodturning program, has designed an educational woodturning curriculum that offers beginning and intermediate woodturning students a chance to develop their skills in a consistent, safe, and friendly environment.

Scheduled classes through June 5th include: Introduction to Woodturning I to be held Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 4 pm; Intro II is taught on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9. Bowl Turning I runs Tuesday evening from 6 to 9 pm; and Bowl Turning II on Thursday afternoons from 1 to 4 pm. Additionally, for more advanced students, a new specialty session of Hollow Turning will be offered on four consecutive Saturdays beginning May 13th.

Classes are open to men and women at least 16 years of age. No prior woodworking experience is required. Every student will have their own personally assigned lathe and tools to use for the duration of the class. The cost for 12 hours of instruction is \$115 for Round Top members and \$140 for non-members. There is also a \$20 materials charge for the entire session. All instructors are professional woodturners (who sell their work locally and nationally) and are members of the American Association of Woodturners.

Introductory woodturning classes are prerequisites for the more advanced specialties. Individuals with equivalent experience are invited to talk with Keoughan about their eligibility for enrollment. For more information or to register, please call Rebecca at the Round Top Office at 207-563-1507.

## **Board Meeting By Tom Raymond**

Board of Directors meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy in South China Maine on March 16, 2006. President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. The following members attended, Peter Asse-

lyn, Chairman, Burt Truman, Treasurer, Dave Lancaster, Founder, Bill Vogt, Librarian, Tom Raymond, Sec. and Mack Ray.

The first item for discussion was the election of new officers at the May meeting. Mack Ray nominated Peter McCrae for President and Tom Raymond nominated Andy Hoyt for Vice President. These names would be presented later at the regular meeting tonight and voted on.

Burt Truman suggested a free membership for one year to the members who do Demonstrations at the regular meetings. Dave Lancaster suggested a Certificate in lieu of a membership. Neither was resolved at this time.

The next item for discussion was the materials needed for the tool making meeting on April 22nd. Mark issued a sign up list to the membership for selecting tool rests, hooked tools or parting tools. David mentioned that his bender for tool rests is on loan to an unknown borrower. Hopefully its a member and he will step forward and return it. Mark said he will inventory the materials we have with Burt Truman and also get in touch with Bob Hackett for his assistance. Burt Truman reported that we have about \$4700 in our treasury and the wood auction last month netted \$118. He also said he had many members who are delinquent in paying their dues. He has sent out many requests through the mail.

The current schedule for events is as follows:

April – Tool making

May – Bowl bottoms by Peter McCrae, Mark Irving and Tom Raymond

June 17th – Al Stirt

July and August: summer off

September 16th – Bob Rosand

## **Secretary's Report By Tom Raymond**

The April meeting of Maine Woodturners met at Erskine Academy, South China, Maine at 9 AM Saturday April 22nd. Seventeen members and guests were in attendance.

President Mark Irving opened the meeting at 9:15 AM. He asked for a volunteer to handle collecting for lunch and ordering the food. Bill Vogt took the job and the pizza and drinks were superb. Thanks Bill. Coffee and doughnuts were also on the menu.

High speed steel rod had been purchased in two diameters to make hooked tools as demonstrated by Allan Lacer last year. They are used for coring hollow forms when the end grain is exposed at the opening. The 9" pieces were available in 9" lengths for 2 or 3 dollars .

During the tool making session, Al Mather demonstrated and encouraged members and guests to test their skills with the use of the curved skew while making a small lobster buoy.

Andy Hoyt offered eastern red cedar to anyone who wanted it from a trailer behind his vehicle. Andy said he is allergic to working with this wood.

Mark Irving and several other members made several turning tool handles during the session.

Many thanks are extended to Bob Hackett, Peter McCrae, Bill Vogt and Burt Truman for the preparation and help during this meeting.

Next months meeting at Erskine Academy will feature three methods of preparing the bottoms of bowls by Peter McCrae, Tom Raymond and Mark Irving.



Photos by Mark Irving from the April tool making workshop



# 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.

## 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 into 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](http://www.roundtoparts.org).

## Future Demonstrators:

Bowl Bottoms – May 2006

Al Stirt - June 2006

Bob Rosand – Sept 2006

Malcolm Tibbetts—October 2006

(unconfirmed)

## As the Wood Turns: President Mark Irving

I need a place to get rid of my wood shavings. I hate throwing stuff away that could be used by someone. I live in town and don't have any place to put them but the trash barrels. But, being environmentally conscious, I hate to have them fill up the landfill when they could be composted or used somehow by someone. Bath does not have a compost heap. Even when they pick up fall leaves, they just throw them in the landfill. I should talk to them. Brunswick has a compost heap, why can't we have one? What do the rest of you do? If you have a solution, please get back to me and let me know.

Not wanting to throw stuff away is a trait I have that is most likely inherited from my father. He was a pack rat. It's not that he liked to save stuff, it's just that you never know when you might need the thing that you threw away last week. "If I only had that whosamajiggy I threw away last week, this job would be a lot easier." So nothing gets thrown out that has any possibility of being used in the future. Even though you probably will use only one percent of all the stuff you save. Screws, pulleys, rope, broom handles, putty, nails, light sockets, ends of extension cords, old useless wrenches, etc., etc., etc. When my dad moved out of his house to move into a condo, I helped clean out lots of this stuff from his garage. What did we need the next week? Something I threw out, of course! Never fails. I knew my father saved a lot of stuff but I didn't know he used to save his old motor oil too. Now what could you do with that? Unless you have a used oil burning furnace, which he didn't. I found out what he did with it one day when he invited us down for a smoked turkey dinner. It was too cold, that October day, for smoking outside, so he had dragged the smoker into the garage. When we showed up we thought the

garage was on fire. Nope, just dad, smokin' the turkey. We opened the door to let some of the smoke out and eventually went into the garage, where his workshop was. Up back, next to his woodstove, I found a charred, blackened soup can, opened at one end. What was he doin with this? Turns out he would fill the can with sawdust, then top it off with motor oil, set it in the woodstove and light it. "Who needs a used oil burning furnace when you got a perfectly good woodstove?" I know he was trying to use stuff up, rather than throw it away, but I don't think this was the safest thing he ever did. And he wasn't actually smokin the turkey with it either, but whenever he invited us down for dinner again, we would ask for the "10w40" turkey. It was very good!

I practice 'safe sawdust' myself. But still need to know where to get rid of it. I'm trying to break myself of the 'save everything' habit too. It's much easier and less stressful to buy what you need, when you need it, rather than storing everything for which you may never have a use. And for which you don't have room. Get rid of all that stuff that's taking up all that space and then you could have a place to put away all the tools and other stuff that's piled up on top of your workbench and every other flat surface in your shop. Just layin stuff down is another habit I gotta stop.

But that's another story...

I gotta go find that bowl or two I need for this month's demo. See you there.

Keep the bevel rubbing  
Mark



*Clearly,  
this Irving  
guy is a  
star...*



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85 Second St.  
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Return address requested

### *Coming Events:*

#### **Bowl Bottoms – May 17, 2006**

Al Stirt - June 2006

Bob Rosand – Sept 2006

Malcolm Tibbetts—Oct 2006 (unconfirmed)

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:*