

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW

Sept 2006

Bob Rosand: Getting ready for Christmas with small projects at the lathe

Sat. Sept. 16, 9—3:30 p.m. \$20 for members



Icicle ornaments, globe and acorn and birdhouse ornaments, ring holders, lidded boxes, oil lamps, paperweights—all things that can be turned relatively quickly in preparation for that Christmas list you may not have yet thought about. We can't guarantee that if you attend Bob Rosand's demo on Sat. Sept. 16 at Erskine Academy that you will NOT be applying finish to some essential gift at midnight on Christmas Eve,

but at least you'll know how to do a series of items that make great gifts with relatively little investment of time.

Bob Rosand makes and demonstrates small turned objects on a regular basis. He is a long-time member of the American Association of Woodturner's board of directors, writes for the Journal, and turns full-time, often in collaboration with his artist-wife Susan, who will demonstrate painting ornaments at the end of Bob's demo.

This year the club is charging for demos by national woodturners: \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. Anyone wanting to join in the pizza lunch may for an additional \$5. The demonstration will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.—and think about staying to help with clean-up.



Club Officers

President	Peter McCrea 354-2314 panacea35@gmail.com
Vice-Pres	Andy Hoyt aeh@downscaledesigns.com
Treasurer	Burt Truman 622-6772 trumbu@localnet.com
Librarian	Bill Vogt 623-1835 bvogt@powerlink.net
Secretary	Tom Raymond 563-6813 trdamar@tidewater.net
Website	Andy Hoyt aeh@downscaledesigns.com
Newsletter	Sandy Gregor 778-3717

The Club needs YOU!
There are many jobs that need to be done to make our club successful— see Peter McCrea

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

Al Stirt: Attention to detail by Charlotte Carnes

Despite the first beautiful weekend in months, Al Stirt's demo on June 17th was well attended by those seeking the grail of fluted bowls. Al explained that for him the challenge was researching the form and creating the necessary jigs. He has moved on in his own work but generously shared his expertise on fluting, design issues, techniques and tool modification which allow his world class finishes.

Throughout the day, subtleties of design were discussed starting with "grain balancing" in which the heartwood is symmetrical in the bowl. He uses a MDF disc 1.5" thick with 3 sharpened bolts across the diameter and a tenon on the back. This allows a blank held between "centers" to be roughly shaped and its position tweaked to achieve symmetry as the



grain appears. He actually counts the growth rings from a scored line near the bottom and manipulates the blank to get them balanced on each end-grain side.. The symmetry which evolves is pleasing even if the pattern is not centered.

Al then wet turned a cherry blank while emphasizing safety(he always wears a face shield and checks speed), the use of the tailstock to keep the blank firmly in place while roughing the face, and re-tightening the chuck after roughing. After a short discussion on drying including the use of a moisture meter, kilns and microwaving, he re-centered a dry bowl over a jam chuck adjusting by finger tapping to minimize vibration. As he brought it to round and shaped the outside, he introduced us to customized tools: a diamond tool for shear-scraping, detail spindle gouge for creating a tiny bevel at the junction of bowl and tenon. Much use was made of the diamond hone to get the correct burr. He finished the rim working inside to outside with the grain(carefully), then started into the bowl at a 45 degrees to the bed and 45 vertical with a square gouge with steep bevel and ground off points using his thumb as a brake. A very clean cut developed.

A slide show was perfect for lunchtime lethargy. A view of chez Stirt isolated in a Green Mt. "bowl" explained his creativity with tool and jig design- store- bought not an option at times.

After lunch, a ceremonial platter was turned to demo the use of scraper and modified detail gouge for coves. Al uses the flex edge system to rough sand platters, then paper to 150 with a fast sander on a slow lathe which is sufficient. He sands the rim then paints and finally finish cuts the bowl. The bottom is done under vacuum .

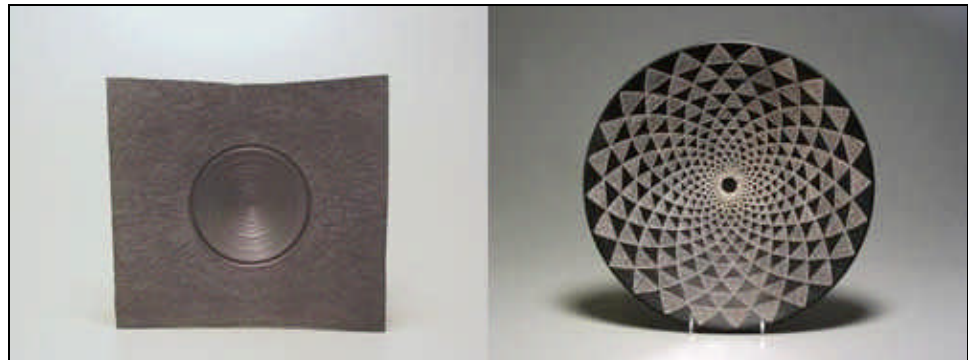
We moved on to the history of fluted Chinese porcelain bowls and Al's classic adaptation of fluting to wood. He prefers green wood and usually carves before hollowing. The outside is divided into three sections- the proportions are critical for scale and the eye exaggerates height. He advised the foot and sub-rim be tooled perfectly since they must be hand sanded. The middle area to be carved requires a smoothly curved surface demanding careful shear scraping.

To make flutes Al tries to have them go through interesting grain -usually side grain. He marks top and bottom of the midsection of the overturned bowl on

an indexed MDF disc. Vertical flutes are drawn on the mounted bowl with a curved jig which fits on the tool rest post. For spiral flutes he marks with mylar curves or uses cast material for a template. For carving, texturing and other manhandling, he has a jig to clamp the bowl on its side to a bench. He carves with an air driven reciprocating gouge or, on woods like cocobolo, with a rotary grinder. Sanding is done with random coarse sanding drums up to 150, then paper to 600. At times a bristle brush is used on texture applications.

For applied decoration there were many effects demonstrated: texturing, carving, painting with gesso or, especially on cherry and hard maple, milk paint, indexing radially and concentrically and the use of mylar to create patterns. He pointed out that what initially seems excessive detailing can strikingly accentuate the remaining wood (and grain) in relief.

Ultimately, Al's message was attention to detail at every step makes better bowls. See his finished art at alstirt.com



Win a Powermatic lathe!

As part of the Fall 2006 membership drive, the AAW will be giving away a free Powermatic 3520B lathe to one lucky member who joined/renewed ONLINE. By joining on line, your correct address, phone, etc. will appear in the Directory and your Journal will be mailed to the correct address. If you use the paper mail-in form, mistakes can happen in reading and retyping it. The lathe will be given away in a drawing just after January 1, 2007. To qualify you MUST join or renew online using the AAW website join/renew feature by Jan. 1. The free lathe includes free shipping up to \$400. For more information, visit the AAW website at <http://www.woodturner.org/> . The first time you login, use the username and password provided to you from the Fall 2006 individual AW Journal you received. If you just joined the AAW for the first time, the username and password were provided to you either electronically, or via postal mail with your order. After you login, you will be prompted to create a unique username and password combination.

Give Me A Brake By Peter McCrea

“If you want to do good work, you first have to remove the dissatisfiers from your work environment.” I have heard this line from so many people, stated in so many ways, that I don’t know who to attribute it to- but I believe it and practice it often. Too hot/cold/risky/boring/dusty/humid/noisy/cluttered/inconvenient? DO something about it and then watch your pleasure and, ultimately, your work quality improve.

My most recent dissatisfier had to do with the fact that my lathe’s (Oneway 1640) powertrain bearings were so friction-free that power sanding the wild bark rims of cherry burl bowl interiors with the lathe turned off was difficult. The sander-driven 2” abrasive discs would cause the bowl to rotate before the (ahem) tool marks were removed. The spindle lock sometimes helped, but often it would place the work area in an awkward location- I needed a spindle brake!

A solution was needed that would be simple to implement, allow rapid actuation and removal, permit different levels of braking friction, and most importantly, not present a safety hazard when actuation of the lathe power switch presented the brake with a 2 hp driving force! Links, levers, belts, foot pedals, and even a look at the motor controller manual were all considered until, one day the light bulb went off!!! I happened to glance at the banjo of my lathe in its “storage” position under the

headstock while power sanding a bowl when I realized that a brake pad could be held in the tool post location and brought to bear against the rounded rear surface of the chuck! A hardwood dowel was quickly turned to 1” diameter and a section of foam pipe insulation was placed over the dowel, one end of which was clamped into the banjo.

As the photo(s) show, the foam “brake” is placed against the rear of the chuck, creating enough friction to prevent spindle rotation when sanding, but still allowing manual rotation of the bowl to the next area requiring sanding. Pressing the banjo harder against the chuck (well away from its jaws) increases the braking action. If one forgets to remove the brake before power sanding the bowl bottom with the next grit, the foam material emits a distinctive hissing sound which alerts the forgetful operator to release the brake- all at no damage to machine or foam! Between my new Sioux sanding drill and the spindle brake, sanding is less unpleasant, although it will never be fun.



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.

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.

Making Chips and Good Stuff

By President Peter McCrea

September is here and it's time to crank up the monthly gatherings of the Maine Woodturners Association. Our Club website (mainewoodturners.org) has lately posted images of what a few of us have been up to this summer, but now its time to "get serious" and make the chips fly!

Our September and October meetings will be held on Saturdays to allow professional demonstrators from away to give us day-long examples of their expertise in two very different areas of woodturning, Bob Rosand on September 16 on small gift objects and Malcolm Tibbetts on October 21 on segmented turning.

Bob's work can be viewed on his website at rrosand.com, and Malcolm Tibbetts gallery is at tahoeturner.com. Check them out!

We hope to introduce a few changes

this year in our meetings by upgrading our video display and capture capability and by some changes in the way we photograph and structure the Show and Tell portion of the meetings. The intent of these changes is to improve information flow to all members, not just to those with a good seat or within earshot of the display table! Bear with us as we "tune in" these changes.

The first Show & Tell session of this season will be held at our November Wednesday evening meeting, usual time.

Once again I ask all members to make your wishes known as we pull together this seasons schedule of events. Demonstrations, tool making and sharpening sessions, holiday gatherings, shop visits are all possible events, but you have to let us know.

Keep turning safely.

Secretary's Report

By Tom Raymond

The June meeting of Maine Wood turners was held at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine on Saturday the 17th, 2006. Thirty-two members and guests attended.

President Peter McCrea opened the meeting at 9AM. He advised that Vice Pres. Andy Hoyt would collect \$5 for those who wanted lunch. He said the demo would last until 3 PM with a 45-min. break for lunch. Then he introduced Al Stirt from Vermont.

Mike Chase said his son is in Relay for life and he would accept donations from any of the members and had raffle tickets also.

Dennis Curtis offered pieces of a large ash log to anyone who is interested in coming to Augusta with his chain saw. His phone num-

ber is 623-1685

Al Stirt started his demo at 9:04 and continued until 12:03.

There were 3 items for show and tell. The first was by new member Dick Kelly of Spruce Head, which was a small-carved walnut bowl. The next one was by Dick Maxwell of Waterville, which was his first attempt at Segmented work. It was of pine and teak. The teak was taken from an old piano. Harrison Smith from Turner described his soap solution and bleaching of a maple/ambrosia bowl which had a variation of colors in the end grain. Show and Tell ended at 12:16.

Al Stirt resumed his demonstration at 1PM starting with a slide show of 50% canoeing trips to Canada and 50% of his bowl designs. The slides ended at 1:40 and he resumed his demonstration of turning a platter until 3PM when the meeting was adjourned.

Tom Raymond, Sec.



Sept 06 issue



85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

Bob Rosand – Sept 16, 2006—Getting ready for Xmas

Malcolm Tibbetts—Oct 21, 2006 - Segmented Turning

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: