

# Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW  
November 2006

## World renowned demonstrator David Lancaster of Weeks Mills, ME Shows How to Sharpen—7 p.m. Nov. 15

David Lancaster has a lot to say about tool sharpening that could improve your turning life.

Okay, so Dave has a lot to say about a lot of things!

But he really does know about sharpening. So come to the next meeting, Wed. Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. in the shop at Erskine Academy—and listen up!

Starting with chain saw sharpening using a file and guide, proceeding to gouges using a Oneway jig, and later addressing the sharpening and use of scrapers for that final shear scrape finish often sought prior to sanding—David will cover it all at his November demo.

David will also comment on how the shape of the turned object will influence the shape of the grind on the gouge, especially for the inside of the object.

We love to tease Dave, and he loves to tease us. But truthfully, people travel thousands of miles to get to one of his demos. We couldn't be luckier to have him in our own backyard.

Not to be missed. See you there.



### Club Officers

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**Secretary Tom Raymond** 563-6813  
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**Newsletter Sandy Gregor** 778-3717  
sgregor@midmaine.com

### Mark Irving

It's a little belated, but we ought to use the newsletter to thank Mark for the two years of hard work and cheerful leadership he brought to the club. And you can thank him in person when you see him!

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

# You Had To Be There!

## Malcolm Tibbetts

**Editor's Note:** After talking to several people, I learned that I had missed a GREAT demo. And everyone agreed that there was no way to convey the wealth of the information that Tibbetts presented. But Peter McCrea did his best to give us a bit of the flavor in the following piece.



Peter McCrea with Malcolm and Tere Tibbetts

### Malcolm Tibbetts: A Master in the Art Form of Segmented Woodturning

There was so much information given out by Malcolm during his PowerPoint presentation on Saturday, October 21, 2006, that trying to capture merely a fraction in hastily taken notes proved a fool's task - but here are some highlights.

Segmented work spans simple laminations, mitered rings with "feature elements", stave construction, stacked laminated rings, mitered polyhedrons, and "ribbons". Examples were given of all of these constructs and the last new original form "stopped the press" for inclusion in his new "how to" book on the topic (for sale with his signature on the website at [www.tahoeturner.com](http://www.tahoeturner.com))

Malcolm stresses "design first", although many of his advanced structures seem to defy how one might pursue an analytic approach to the resulting masterpiece! Elements of good design emphasize

- ? a pleasing shape as being more important than over-all color elements
- ? a small base in relation to the largest diameter
- ? gravity-produced (i.e. catenary) curves
- ? gradual transitions
- ? thin vessel walls for small objects and inverted shapes guide

Much attention was given to safety, both in regard to respiratory protection (a lot of dust from a 10,000 piece construct) and in the jiggling required to safely produce small sawn and sanded elements. Malcolm pre-sands joints when the joining pieces are large, wide and of similar light colors, but feels that as-sawn glue joints are "inspectable" when light wood joins dark. A sanding sled on a massive 20" Woodtek disc sander is his prime workhorse, but some good work can be performed with 120 grit paper spray-glued to a piece of MDF. Small angle alteration on the sled-carried work piece is accomplished with thicknesses of masking tape. Precise angles needed for "perfect" ring closure on glue-up can only be verified with dry runs with cheap dry wood, followed by 'good' wood runs - always making extras for insurance.

## Tibbetts continued from page 2

Malcolm's jigs extend to glue-up aids, employing waxed paper, nails in predrilled holes, and rubber bands. Half-dowel spacers are employed at the 180° point of a ring glue-up, for later precise sanding, fitting and glue of a complete “perfect” ring of segments. Glued rings are flattened via disc sander or the MDF/abrasive surface and then glued to the previously constructed assembly using the lathe tailstock as a clamp. Alignment marks at dry-fit aid in accurate work. Opti-visors with 4X magnification give one all the visual alignment feedback needed for this important task. Sloppy work here will be regretted for the life of the piece!

Malcolm designs and builds hollow-form vessels in halves, each mounted on waste blocks. He works both sides alternately, so progress is rapid. The vessel halves are turned, sanded, and finished inside and out, so that only the glue join need to be attended to in vessels with large-enough openings. Malcolm shear-scrapes external surfaces with hand-held cabinet scrapers in between multiple coats of Zinsser Sanding Sealer (shellac in alcohol solvent), until the pores of the wood are filled. Fine sanding (220 through 800 grit) and a finish coat of General Finishes Topcoat completes the project, examples of which had a flawless appearance!



This quick description of a small portion of the day's presentation is intended to impart a flavor of the information that was shared- and cannot do the whole topic justice. Members who have a desire to pursue segmented work are encouraged to view the DVD of the complete presentation, available soon from Bill Vogt, our Club Librarian, and perhaps consider purchasing Malcolm's text on this fascinating topic.

## Secretary's Report By Tom Raymond

The October meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine on Saturday the 21st. Twenty three members and guests attended.

President Peter McCrea opened the meeting at 9 AM. He first announced that dues are due . Bill Vogt was collecting \$5 for lunches and Burt Truman for attendance for the demonstration today.

The Demonstrator next month will be Dave Lancaster on sharpening.

Show and Tell will be on a new format at the entrance with a sign in sheet and the items should be in by 6:45 PM.

Peter again asked for volunteers for a photographer and video operator. Dennis Curtis and Burt Truman did a nice job of mounting the new video monitor from the rail adjacent to the tilt mirror at the ceiling. A new camera which makes DVDs was in use by Dennis at this meeting. He and Peter McCrea were the operators. It was very effective at times.

Peter read a paragraph introducing Malcolm Tibbetts as today's demonstrator. The demonstration started at 9:06 AM and after a break for lunch it ended at 3 PM

**Tom Raymond, Sec.**

## Maine Woodturners – Photo Session ID Form

Turner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Turned: \_\_\_\_\_ Species:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Finish: \_\_\_\_\_ Critique desired: Yes No Critique to be Done in: Public Private

Facework Dimensions - Diameter \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ For Centerwork - Length \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness \_\_\_\_\_

I would appreciate some guidance with these issues: Material Prep Planning the Form Mounting

Sharpening Tearout Sanding Finishing Other \_\_\_\_\_

Photographed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date photographed: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Making Chips and Good Stuff

By President Peter McCrea

The Malcolm Tibbetts demo was an good example of how a creative mind, some innovative technique, and a lot of hard work will pay off huge dividends in the arena of unique works of wood art. Even though I am unlikely to pursue segmented woodturning in the near term, I left the demo feeling extremely humble about my own accomplishments in woodturning in general after seeing the monumental skill of this master!

This session was the first time our Phase I video system was in operation, i.e. our new Camera, DVD recorder and Monitor, the latter recently suspended overhead by Burt. Thanks to the crew of Dennis Curtis, Burt Truman, Andy Hoyt, Dave Barden and Dave Lancaster who spent an afternoon installing the system and checking it out prior to the Tibbetts demo day. See our Librarian Bill Vogt for rental of the DVD for viewing at home.

For our first Wednesday evening meeting on November 15, Chapter Founder and Advisor David Lancaster is going to give us an up-close and personal how-to on sharpening our tools, from chain saws to gouges and scrapers. I am sure we will all have something to learn, or perhaps, relearn, from our "own" master professional turner.

Plan to come early (6:30 will be good) with your offerings for the Show & Tell session which will be held in a new format intended to maximize the exchange of information about our individual efforts. We hope to take good pictures of the work as soon as you enter the Erskine shop. It will save a lot of time if you will have a Photo Session ID form for each piece made out before you arrive. Forms are **included with this newsletter** and on the website under Galleries/Show & Tell. We intend to take a photo of each item twice, once with the label displayed, one without it. This way, meaningful info can be "connected" to the piece, instead of ... well, you know! After photography, items with ID labels will be placed on the table in front of the small lathe, in view of the seated audience. At a break in the demo, and with a seated audience, an experienced turner (in this first session, David Lancaster) takes the role of evaluator, leading a discussion of each piece, with members and the turner asking questions pertinent to the piece, material, finishes, form etc. This type of activity has been used by other AAW Chapters with good results- everybody learns something! It is expected that the evaluator role will rotate through the membership at each meeting. Let's see if this new format will work for us.

**Keep turning safely.**

**NOTE:** We still need camera people volunteers and photographers to assist with the S & T Photo sessions. Also, the barstool has not yet surfaced.

## Classified Ads

**OneWay Dealer:** 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.

### For Sale

Foredom SR wood carver set - 1/6 hp at 1800 rpm - hanging unit with foot control and 3

collets and 47 pc accessory kit, have new box and all books. Unit is less than 3 months old. Klingspor sells this for \$209 plus shipping - **asking \$180.00**

Peter Asselyn Tel. 207-353-4206

11 Sunshine Way

Durham Me 04222

<http://peterasselyn.tripod.com>



Oct. 06 issue



85 Second St.  
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

### *Coming Events:*

Wed Nov 15 7 p.m. Dave Lancaster

Wed Dec 13 Xmas Party at Roundtop (Confirmed)

January: Ken Keoughan: Design and creation of tall elegant Vessels

February: Ken Shepherd: Goblets

March: Chuck Hargenrader: Peppermill

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:*