

# Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the AAW  
November 2006

## Annual Christmas Potluck and Yankee Swap Round Top Center for the Arts Damariscotta, 6 p.m. Wed. Dec. 13

This is the traditional December party – time to bring the significant other to join in the fun. Mark Irving will conduct a Yankee Swap. Spouses may participate as long as they also bring a gift to put into the pool. Dinner will be potluck. There is a full kitchen, so you can heat what you bring. Cups, Plates, soda and utensils will be supplied, please bring a serving utensil with your food offering, if appropriate. If you wish, you may BYOB.

Directions: Round Top Center for the Arts is located on Business Route 1 in Damariscotta, Maine. From the south: Take Rte. 1 North to the Damariscotta exit (Business Rte. 1), go down the ramp to the Second Congregational Church. Turn right at the church and go straight through Damariscotta 1.6 miles. Round Top is on the left, after the traffic light. From the north: Take Rte. 1 South to the Damariscotta exit (Business Rte. 1).

Continue 1.3 miles. Round Top is on the right. Ken Keoughan, director of the woodturning program at Round Top, invites members and guests curious about the woodturning studio to take a tour from 5:30-6pm. The studio is located behind the main building.



### Club Officers

**President Peter McCrea** 354-2314  
panacea35@gmail.com

**VP & Web Andy Hoyt** 314-7213  
aeh@downscaledesigns.com

**Treasurer Burt Truman** 622-6772  
trumbu@localnet.com

**Librarian Bill Vogt** 547-2052  
bvogt48@pivot.net

**Secretary Tom Raymond** 563-6813  
trdamar@tidewater.net

**Newsletter Sandy Gregor** 778-3717

### Member News

**Bob Biette** has been a "regular" on cable channel 6 in an ad for health insurance. For those off the grid (with a spring pole lathe?), he is shown busily turning a bowl and is a great advertisement for woodturning! Neat looking shop!

**Jeff Clapp** has a great article/letter in the latest (Winter 2006) AAW Journal (page 9) in which he talks about his woodturning career, gives great credit to Maine Woodturners, and describes his path to his distinctive O2 cylinder art beginning on the slopes of Everest.

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

# Getting Sharp and Staying Sharp

By Bob Biette

“Getting Sharp and Staying Sharp,” David Lancaster said as he began his November demo, is one of many the requirements of being a master craftsman.

David started his program with the chainsaw, lifting the chain away from the bar to show how tight the chain should be, about 3/8 of an inch. He then placed the saw in a vise and explained that you could sharpen “free hand” or with the use of a jig – however you feel comfortable. One should always use a chain saw glove, a file with a handle and take three slices per teeth, one side at time. The jigs which David used were 1) a Chain Sharp and 2) a Combi Gauge. The Combi sharpens teeth and raker at the same time. His favorite chain saws are the Stihl, the Husqvarna and the Johnson.

David then moved on to basic sharpening. The gauge session was first. He used a Ryobi Grinder (3450 speed) with an 8” wheel, a 54 grit and an 80 grit – all available at Home Depot. The wheels were balanced with the One Way system. He uses a diamond dressing jig to keep the wheels clean and square and the Wolverine system for a jig. Most of the time, he uses the Irish grind on his gouges, sharpening them to an average of 54 degrees depending on his needs. Various bowls require different shapes so that he can rub the bevel to the very center of the bowl. Scrapers are sharpened at anything below 90 degrees. When you are buying a new gouge, it must be reshaped to your needs. David recommends using the hand method to get the approximate profile and then finishing off with a jig.

The next tips regarded coring knives. One Way coring bits are sharpened with a special jig. Parting tools are sharpened on the long side and not flat across. In addition, David recommends that you hone them .

David demonstrated one spindle gouge, the roughing gouge. He used this at a shallow angle, 20 – 25 degrees. You don’t have to round off the edges – just learn how to use one!!!

Even with a lot of heckling from the group, he retained his “sharp” wit as he filled us with the knowledge on how to do our sharpening, His comment: “Now that you know how to sharpen those tools, learn how to use them!!!”



Thank you Dave  
for all you’ve done  
all these years!

And thanks to Bob for the write-up!

## Have You Renewed Your AAW Membership?

Anyone that either joins or renews their membership in the AAW using the "On-line" feature at [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) will have their name in a drawing for a free new Powermatic 3520 lathe that includes up to \$400 shipping. In order to be eligible, you must join or renew no later than December 31, 2006. The drawing will be the first week of January.

If you are renewing your AAW membership, click on "Renew your membership" and then follow the directions. If you do not remember your username and password, no problem. Just click on "click here" in the section for "Lost password". You will type in your email address and a new username and password will be emailed to you. If your email address has changed since the last AAW Resource Directory, you must contact the AAW office at [inquiries@woodturner.org](mailto:inquiries@woodturner.org) and tell them your name, old email address and new email address. They will send you the new username and password to let you renew.

If you have previously renewed for several years as many members do, you can renew for one more year now and be included in the drawing for the free Powermatic lathe.

Everyone joining or renewing for 2007 (or longer) will receive the fabulous American Woodturner Journal all next year along with the AAW Resource Directory and a DVD of the Louisville Symposium highlights to be mailed in April. If you join or renew by December 31st, you will save \$5 over the price of those that do so later. You will also be covered by the AAW liability insurance policy that insures you while doing AAW Chapter sanctioned activities.

Good luck.

John Hill -Chairman AAW Chapters and Membership Committee

## Secretary's Report By Tom Raymond

The November 2006 meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy in South China Maine on Wednesday the 15th. Forty five members and guests were in attendance. President Peter McCrea opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Treasurer Burt Truman reports that we at the moment have 4 life members and 50 paid up members in the club.

Librarian Bill Vogt reported that we have 30 video's from professional Turners and 2 new ones that can be checked out at \$3.00 per rental. He also has some books and magazines at no cost.

Peter McCrea advised that we will have a new Show and Tell procedure tonight . Entries were taken at the door with a description form

for each piece after which photo's were taken. It should be a learning opportunity for all members to have a critique on his work.

The December Christmas party will be held at Round Top Center for the Arts in Damariscotta. He asked that if anyone can find a location for next year that suitable it will certainly be considered.

Peter announced Dave Lancaster as tonight's demonstrator on sharpening. Dave started his demonstration at 7:07 PM. Before starting he announced that there are 2 Oneway used lathes for sale if anyone is interested.

His demo ended at 8:05 PM then we had a break before starting Show and Tell at 8:05 PM.

Dave Lancaster critiqued about 20 pieces that were brought in by members. Peter said that this was our maiden voyage and the Show and Tell format may be fine tuned in the future.

The meeting ended at 9:12 PM

Tom Raymond, Sec.

# Maine Woodturners – Photo Session ID Form

Turner \_\_\_\_\_ Date Turned \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Facework Dimensions: Diameter \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_

For Centerwork: Length \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness \_\_\_\_\_

I would appreciate some guidance with these issues: Material Prep Mounting Planning the Form  
Rims Bottoms Sharpening Tearout Sanding Finishing Other \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like a formal Critique Yes No Critique to be done in: Public Private

I'd like a copy of the photo: Yes No \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

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# Making Chips and Good Stuff

By President Peter McCrea

Once again, hats off to David Lancaster for giving us a memorable evening, both with his sharpening demo and his kickoff of the “evaluator” role in our new Show & Tell format. Feedback from members who go “way back” was that the evening was a success, one that bears repeating.

An integral part of the evening was the photo and data capture of the S & T items as they arrived at the shop - thanks to all those who arrived early to allow these photos to be taken before the start of the meeting. The quality of the photos, which can be seen on our website ([www.mainewoodturners.org](http://www.mainewoodturners.org), click on Gallery, then Demo Gallery, then select November 2006), will not cause a serious photographer to have pangs of envy, but I believe they allow us to quickly capture the essence of our work for display on the website. My hope is that someone steps forward to take over this important function of our Association. For those interested in the gear that was used to control the lighting, go to [tabletopstudio.com](http://tabletopstudio.com). This site, under the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section, has a great deal of good information regarding selecting a digital camera for product photography and taking good product photographs without spending a lot of \$\$\$.

Looking for ideas on what to bring to the Yankee Swap at the Christmas Party on December 13? Check out items in the latest Woodcraft flyer, or visit the paint/hardware store for a can of Minwax wipe-on satin poly, a can of clear furniture wax, steel wool (OOOO), or a box of rags. How about a nice chunk of wood, maybe even a burl? How about a shop fixture? Better yet, something you have turned like a small bowl, an ornament, a pen?

One hesitates to start to recommend “tips” or “technique” to a group of woodturners such as ours for fear of reactions like “everyone knows

that, dummy!”, etc. But, I surmise that there are a group of members who—like myself, are still open to discovering ways of making “good stuff” better/easier/more often. My “equipment” consists of a comfortable chair and a photography-grade reflector lamp with a 75 watt bulb.

My first use of this gear is when I inspect a piece after the first coat of finish has kicked. A magic marker is used to encircle sanding marks that were not visible prior to finish application. The foot remains on the piece to allow remounting on the lathe for power sanding. After creating the “show” foot and adding another layer of finish, the “gear” is used to hand sand the piece with a good brand (I use Finkat from Craft Supplies) of P600 abrasive backed with a foam pad. The lighting telegraphs missed shiny spots easily. Multiple coats of finish (typically 3) with hand sanding in between gives me a good result. OOOO steel wool is then used to “flatten” the finish and remove dust bumps- again the lighting telegraphs missed shiny spots easily. Finally a coat of Mylands clear wax, after drying, is rubbed out with shop towels using the lighting to detect areas that need work. This method works for me- give it a try!

Keep turning safely.

Peter's hollowed vessel





Dec .06 issue



85 Second St.  
Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

### *Coming Events:*

Wed Dec 13 6 p.m. Christmas Party at Round Top

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:**