

Mainiac Woodturner

Monthly Newsletter of a Maine Chapter of the AAW
February 2007

“Of Goblets and Grain”

Ken Shepherd to demo — February 21st

Ken Shepherd’s demonstration “Of Goblets and Grain” will show how to make a goblet from green wet hardwood. In the process he will discuss how certain cuts work and why the grain of the wood really controls how an object turns out.

Ken retired from a career in engineering in which he invented and developed various types of radar and radar components. Upon retirement in 1999 he moved to Westport Island, Maine. He has been turning for more than 50 years making things that needed to be round. He describes his self-taught approach as the “poke & hope” method. A 5-year stint as a volunteer at the Maine Maritime Museum convinced him that there was a “science” to turning wood. Joining the Maine Woodturners in 2002 taught him how to go about getting what he wanted without spending quite so much money on sandpaper!

He assisted in opening the Woodturning School at Round Top Center for the Arts where he is currently both Studio Manager and an instructor. After being exposed to beginners he analyzed why some things worked really well and others just were something you could “get away with.” He also saw intermediate turners who had developed bad habits from being self taught. His observations have made him a better teacher and a better turner.



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	Your Name Here	

Now his work is being sold in galleries, although a lot is given away to family and friends. He specializes in decorative objects made from free local wood, a frugal preference. Teaching and attending Maine Woodturners’ meetings plus lots and lots of practice has provided a background suitable to commanding respectable prices on the objects that he makes. Of prime importance to him is taking on and solving challenges on different types of turnings rather than being a production turner.

Ken’s always looking for that better, easier way to accomplish something, whatever it might be.

Secretary's minutes By Tom Raymond



Board minutes By Tom Raymond

The January 2007 meeting of the Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine on Wednesday the 17th. Fifty two members and guests were in attendance. Photographing of the Show and Tell entries was done at the door by Peter McCrea and Andy Hoyt.

President Peter McCrea opened the meeting at 7:03 PM. He emphasized that we are half way through the 2007 period. He again said he is looking for volunteers for doing some of the club functions such as writing and photography. He said that Ken Keoughan will be doing the Show and Tell critique this evening.

Treasurer Burt Truman encouraged guests to join the club and advised that they will get the newsletter for three months only as guests. Peter asked guests to introduce themselves.

Ken Keoughan started his demo at 7:08 PM and ended at 8 PM. Dennis Curtis made a DVD of Ken's presentation which will be available through our library in the future. The DVD recorder is a recent addition to our new club owned video equipment. Mark Irving took notes of the presentation for the next newsletter.

After a break, the "show and tell" portion of the meeting began at 8:20 PM. Katharina Keoughan, Ken's wife, introduced herself as an accomplished Artist and volunteered her expertise in describing shape and form while Ken displayed and discussed the 9 pieces on the table. The meeting ended at 9:03 PM

Tom Raymond, Sec.

January 2007 B.O.D Planning Meeting

On January 19th 2007, President Peter McCrea called a special planning meeting of the Board of Directors to be held at Erskine Academy in South China from 7 to 9 PM on 1-24-07. The following members were in attendance, President McCrea, Director-at-Large Sheila Wiken, Vice Pres. Andy Hoyt, Sec. Tom Raymond, and Treasurer Burt Truman. The meeting started at 7 PM following an agenda prepared by Peter McCrea.

The first item discussed was the resignation of Sandy Gregor, our newsletter editor. She had been publishing the newsletter since June 2003. Andy Hoyt volunteered to take on this task for next months newsletter only. After that, Burt Truman will send out meeting notice cards until we can find a volunteer to take on the newsletter work.

The demonstrators for the next 5 months are listed as follows:

- February — Ken Shepherd on goblets
- March — Chuck Hargenrader on Peppermills
- April — Peter McCrea on walking canes
- May — Andy Hoyt on winged bowls

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Classified Ads

Free to members!

Oneway Tools: For anyone who hasn't caught on through the jokes constantly being made at meetings, Dave Lancaster (557-2288) is a Oneway dealer and would be glad to help anyone interested in ordering tools or lathes carried in their catalog.

Board minutes

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June, Peter will try to get Matthew Hill to demo while he is here for a Rockport engagement

Burt Truman stated that we have about 71 paid up members in the club. Those who are not paid up after 3 months are shut off from receiving future newsletters.

A 50 year old Delta lathe (never used) was donated to the club about a year ago and has sat in the Academy shop all that time. Dave Barden the shop Instructor has said that it must go. The turning tools are included and a 1/3 HP motor, but no manual. It has a 12" swing and 36" between centers. Peter set a price of \$300 on all of it and would prefer that a club member who needs a lathe have the first preference. He set Feb. 21st as the deadline for this sale.

Burt Truman has had some problems collecting dues from members who are delinquent and attaches notices to their newsletter.

Encouraging more member participation is always a problem in any club. And we need people to do video work, photography, demonstrator write ups, and demonstrations. And we should consider adding a membership chairman in the future.

It was decided to spend \$230 to purchase a photo-capture booth for the show and tell items at the meetings. The club does not own a digital camera yet.

The meeting ended at 9 PM.

Tom Raymond , Sec.

Cherry and Walnut Server
by Ken Shepherd



Tall Elegant Vessels

by Mark Irving

Ken Keoughan Demo

After finishing with club business, our President, Peter McCrea, introduced our first demonstrator of 2007, our own Ken Keoughan from Friendship, Maine. Ken's subject for the night was "Tall Elegant Vessels". Ken said that "He loves making them"; though he admits that "I'm not the Emerill La-Gasse of woodturning". His work is indeed exceptionally beautiful.

He started off with some slides to take us through his process. He doesn't just throw a piece of wood on the lathe and start removing some wood to see what he ends up with. He makes sketches of what he would like to create and considers himself an artist. He spoke about designing with precision and thinking about what he is going to make. His ideas and influences come from outside the world of woodturning. Ideas from the woodturning world result in essentially a copy of someone else's work. He showed us a tall, thin, clear glass vessel which he bought for his wife, Katharina, who was assisting him. It was thin, light, and elegant and besides being a present, it was also a form he wanted to emulate in wood.

Then Ken showed us many

sketches of a vessel he wanted to create. The sketches were all of similar shape, but the tall, thin necks were different combinations of various woods.

Ken showed us a vessel with a tall, slender body. The body being about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the height with a dark wood neck on the top. Since the bottom was a very



small diameter, he added some weight to it for stability. Then he said he knocked it over anyway and broke a piece off the flared out section at the top. This created a design opportunity for him, reshaping the funnel shaped top into a pitcher shape. One would not have known this was

not his original intention, but it demonstrates what can be done when mistakes happen.

One of Ken's favorite pieces was a black vessel with a wide top and bottom and a short neck. He explained that sometimes wood just doesn't finish well and painting can completely change the look. This was a beautiful piece that was evidence of that theory.

He talked about "Design Ideas", and also "Design Vocabulary". At a young age he was not exposed to art. And he learned that the artist's vocabulary is different from that of non-artists. Some examples: artists may refer to form, or proportion, or harmony whereas non-artists refer to shape, scale, and working together respectively.

Ken did all his turning for the demo before the meeting and showed us the steps to making his creations. All wood is selected before any work on the lathe starts. The body is the first part to turn and hollow. At first glance, it's not evident how Ken does the hollowing. He shapes the body, then hollows from the bottom. Then the hole is plugged and the plug is shaped as desired for the base. Sometimes the base is visible in

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the finished vessel, sometimes not.

The flute is next. This particular vessel was made from a light wood, maple or holly possibly, and rings of cocobolo. This was made to the specifications in his sketch, to which he adds dimensions. Using graph paper for sketches makes this easier. The flutes are put together with a mortise and tenon approach. All neck pieces have a tenon on the bottom, which fits into the mortise, or hole in the piece below it. The cocobolo rings are flat pieces of wood with a hole drilled in them the same size as the tenon. One is slipped over the tenon on the bottom of the flute before the flute is glued into the piece below it. The rings actually float between the two pieces. All pieces in the neck are also drilled through (the hole going right through the tenon). So these vessels have a hole from the top, all the way through the neck into the hollow body. Ken would consider them a "weedpot" should the hole not go from top to bottom. "You should be able to put a straw in the hole from top to bottom," Ken says. This is one thing that makes these vessels intriguing – that they are completely hollow and with little evidence of how it was done.

For coloration, black is all Ken uses. Sometimes painting the neck while turning the vessel slowly on the lathe is difficult. This is where Ken gets help from Katharina, who paints as Ken slowly hand turns the piece. (I hope she signs them too!)

After the demo and a short break, Ken and Katharina did the critique for the show and tell. This was very informative. Katharina, being an artist and understanding things like shape



and form, was very helpful in giving us insight to what kinds of things can improve or influence our work. One suggestion to creating a symmetrical for

was to draw a vertical center line for the desired shape on tracing paper. Draw the half-form on one side of the centerline. Fold the paper in half on the centerline and you can trace the other half. Perfect symmetry.

Some other suggestions: live with a form for a while. Cut it out of construction paper and put it on the fridge. Put several there and look at them for a week or two.

Also, take pieces off the lathe to judge the form. The perspective is different when viewed in the position which they will be displayed. The background also has an effect. Your shop is probably visually cluttered. Put the item in a place similar to where/how it will be displayed. You may find the form needs refining.

Thank you to Ken and Katharina for a very informative and interesting evening.

Mark Irving





Making Chips and Good Stuff

by President Peter McCrea



Thanks again to Ken Keoughan for showing that you don't need a pile of chips under the lathe to have a good demo session, just a lot of planning and good imagery to tell a meaningful story. One by which we were not merely entertained, but also able to go home with fresh ideas. Ken was joined by his talented wife Katharina and served as our Show & Tell Evaluators in a most meaningful and instructive way. Katharina sketched the forms the turners had created and then showed, in a family of related sketches, how different forms would look so that one might see areas of improvement. Lifting the region of maximum vessel diameter to the Golden Mean (3/5) height is one way to achieve improvement in form. We learned that creating shapes using black construction paper and scissors is a much faster way to come up with a pleasing shape than urging it to be revealed with a bowl gouge and vague, hopeful thoughts. Thanks for the insight, Ken and Katharina!

The vintage - but unused - Delta lathe will be sold, complete with a set of spindle tools, for \$300 at the February meeting. First priority will be given to members who do not yet have a lathe. Go to the club's website and click Stuff for Sale for specs and photos.

A team of turning tool specialists from Robert Sorby will be at a free seminar at the South Portland Rockler store (200 Gorham Road, site of the old Woodworkers Warehouse store) from 2-5 PM on February 24. It's open to all, but you **must** call for a reservation (207-761-4402) as they will cut off attendance at 100 persons. Substantial discounts are available to those who pre-register. Sounds like a good way to spend a February Saturday afternoon!

At a recent Board of Director's planning meeting, we learned that Sandy Gregor has regretfully had to resign as our Newsletter Editor for personal reasons, effective immediately. Sandy held this position for 3½ years and has been extremely effective in projecting a high quality communication to the membership and beyond. We will miss her editorship, but hopefully her warm smile will continue to grace our presence. Thank you Sandy, for all you gave to the Maine Woodturners!

Once again, members are reminded that flexible part-time volunteer positions are available to help your club run more smoothly. Communicate your interest to any officer.

Don't forget to bring in Show & Tell items for photography at 6:30 on Wednesday, February 21st, and later discussion during a break in the demo. As before, a short business meeting at 7 PM will precede Ken Shepherd's demo. Hope to see you there!

And remember - keep turning safely.

Peter



Thanks, Sandy!



Dontcha just love it when someone else picks the photos for the newsletter!





www.mainewoodturners.org



Feb 07 issue

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Hallowell, ME 04347

Return address requested

Coming Events:

February 2007 – Ken Shepherd – – – – – “Of Goblets and Grain”

March 2007 – – – Chuck Hargenrader – – “Peppermills”

April 2007 – – – – Peter McCrea – – – – – “Walking Stick”

Regular meetings are held throughout the year at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine. 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:
Maine Woodturners
c/o Burt Truman – Treasurer
85 Second St.
Hallowell, ME 04347

Or just introduce yourself at a meeting and pay him then.

Become a Member of the Maine Woodturners!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____