

Maine Woodturners

February 2008 – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the March 19, 2008 meeting of the Maine Woodturners

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Peter McCrea. Approximately 26 members braved the late-winter precipitation to attend.

VP Andy Hoyt announced that Kim Daily of WMT has been approached by personnel from the Barbara Bush Children's Medical Center on the desirability of Maine woodturning organizations donating hand-turned tops for the patients. More details to follow in the websites.

Andy organized the tee-shirt design selection vote, which ended in a draw tie! A voice vote proved decisive and the shirts will have both the original club letterhead logo on the front and an original new design on the back- details in the website.

Peter described the Eagle Cane Project, in which woodcarvers have created cane-head American Eagle carvings as ceremonial and decorative keepsakes to veterans injured in the post-9/11 conflicts. MWT has been approached by Maine Woodcarvers to assist them in producing and modifying components of the assembled canes. Details and signup information will appear on the website.

Gary Rowland gave a demo in which he described how he designs, constructs, turns and finishes his attractive open segmented forms. Gary utilizes shop-made sleds and jigs to accurately shape the contrasting-color components of each of the ten layers of the vessel, and then glues the components in place using both the indexing wheel of his lathe and a placement jig to set each component in place while the glue (Titebond II is preferred) sets up. No clamps are used - only 10 seconds of finger pressure per "brick".

After 10 minutes of drying, an oscillating disc sander can level the layer, but with a bit more time, a scraper can be employed to make the light surface-leveling cuts, which are necessary for a strong structure. A solid top and bottom piece complete the vessel, which is then turned and sanded, followed by a turned interior using either the wings of a gouge or a round-bottom scraper. Finish is with spray polyurethane. The process is time-consuming and often unforgiving, but the results are rewarding. Thanks, Gary for the view into your process for making these eye-catching vessels!

Gary served as Evaluator for about 12-15 pieces on the members "Treasure Table" which included some striking Ambrosia Maple and "Blue Gum" (AKA Eucalyptus) bowls.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Submitted by Peter F. McCrea