

Maine Woodturners

April 2008 – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the April-12, 2008 meeting of the Maine Woodturners

Approximately thirty members and guests gathered for a Saturday lecture, demo, and Show & Tell. In a brief business meeting, President Peter McCrea described future demos by Tom Raymond on spindle replication scheduled for May 21st and a hands-on session for June 18th to turn toy tops for kids at the Barbara Bush Childrens Hospital in Portland.

At the latter session, it is hoped that we can have members working on mini-lathes as well as the two Erskine Oneways. We will have stock prepared to turn about 100 tops, and if we get enough members and mini lathes we shall reach that number. A report on the Eagle Cane project was also given, and members were encouraged to click on the Special Projects button on the website to see more about both of these worthwhile activities.

VP Andy Hoyt addressed the group about having members “step up” to volunteer for club officer and other key staff positions. Peter McCrea added “when there are no volunteers in a volunteer-based organization, it goes away.”

Jacques Vesery then led the gathering on a visual journey into the world of object form, balance, proportions and scale. The sought-after smooth flowing line was shown and exceptions to accepted rules discussed. JV emphasized that color and texture should not be used to mask poor form – imagine the object painted flat black to evaluate its form.

After the visuals, the group was shown how JV creates his signature feathers, and how layers of color are added to give the carving its final appearance. Attending members now have a fuller grasp of why he is truly a “wood artist” – even if, or perhaps because, some of his creations have only briefly sat upon a lathe.

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