



*A Maine Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*

NOVEMBER 2008



## David Lancaster



*November 19<sup>th</sup> Demonstrator*

As founding President of Maine Woodturners, Dave needs little introduction. He got his first tool, a Dremel jig saw, by selling seeds from a magazine and built it up from there. "I acquired my first wood lathe during the seventh grade and by the next year I had my own complete shop."

*Below are more quotes from Dave*



"People ask how do you get it perfect. Don't worry about perfect. People worry too much about little things."



"Getting sharp and staying sharp is one of the many requirements of being a master craftsman."

"Now that you know how to sharpen those tools, learn how to use them!!"



"The bowls that I create are made with a strong passion, a keen eye, and a skilled hand. Each one is unique and made to the best of my ability."



His thoughts on the roughing gouge "You don't have to round off the edges – just learn how to use one."



*Dave promises something new and different !*

## ***SPEAKING OF ...***

By Andy Hoyt



Ahoythere Woodturning People!

Another cold and grizzly gray day here in Benton Falls. Had a shower of hail a few minutes ago and it got me to thinking about other white stuff that falls from the sky – although of the fluffier and less noisy variety. The leaves have been raked for the last time; the lawn mower has been parked for the duration; and the snow shovel has regained its honored spot near the barn door. I'm not looking forward to using it, but somehow suspect that I have no choice in the matter. My only solace in this is that I know you don't either.

Speaking of snow ... our annual Christmas Party is on track for Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Erskine Academy cafeteria. While a number of details have yet to be worked out, you can look forward to it actually happening this year. As always, it will be focused on a potluck dinner and Yankee Swap. As details flesh out, I'll be sure to get that information to you.

A few weekends ago Ken Shepherd and I spent two days at the Augusta Armory demoing for the Maine Woodcarvers Association annual show. Wow! Those folks do some amazing stuff. And the collection of our Eagle Canes was prominently on display. Ken and I took turns demoing for the assembled onlookers and rubberneckers. Ken did quite well with his bowls, goblets, and such; while I had similar success with my sub-orbital launches and arrested rotational forms. Seriously, it was a lot of fun to do this casual demo and "talk up" woodturning with the visitors.

And speaking of having fun doing a casual demo, we are partnering up with the Woodturning School on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December and again on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> to turn tops and give them away to attendees at the first annual Let it Snow Gift Fair at the Camden Snow Bowl. This is part of the Camden, Rockport, & Lincolnville Chamber of Commerce's Christmas by the Sea extravaganza. We're looking for five or six volunteers from the membership to spend a few hours on either day to help with the production of the tops. Interested parties should contact me for additional information.

We have the new MWT brochures in hand to be distributed to the entire membership. Thanks again to Brian Libby for designing the piece and to Dale Woerter for printing them. Dale actually gets double thanks, because he hasn't billed us yet. The brochures will be kept in the club's storage locker at Erskine and everyone can simply grab a few to have on hand should they run into someone they feel might benefit from learning more about us.

And lastly, we're all set to have Dave Lancaster demo for us on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. When he and I were discussing the demo, I asked if he could do something "different". He thought about it for a spell and offered us a choice between golf tees or checkers. And I countered with, "Great! But why can't you do both?" His answer was lost in a cloud of sheetrock dust in Donna's new children's center, but I suspect it had something to do with the fact that he doesn't own a straight tool rest. So.... We settled on a bunch of smaller burl bowls including a natural edge piece – all to be done with alternate mounting methods. Maybe we can get the golf tees next year.

See you next week.

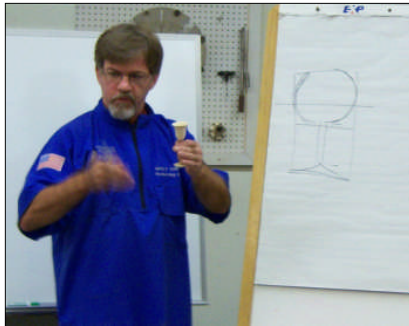
*Andy*



# INSPIRATION -> DESIGN -> TURNING

## Demo by Keith Tompkins

Keith keeps a journal to capture and preserve ideas for design while they are fresh in his mind. He believes that building on the skills we know, and putting our life experiences into our work can expand turning skills and foster creativity in exploring new techniques and approaches to turning. He cited his own experiences as a furniture builder, a lover of roses and fisherman as providing inspiration for new approaches to the creation of unusual pieces, tools and chucking techniques.

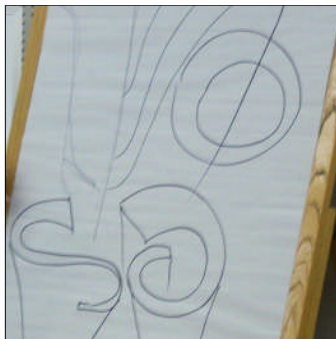


Keith started by turning a miniature goblet to “relieve his nervousness”. However, he did point out that by starting with the goblet he would be introducing the tools and techniques to be used later with his signature pieces. All the turnings were of miniatures, showing the methods used in their creation, but were not brought to the finished product. Keith used ash, roughed to a cylinder with a tenon for the demonstrations. He chose ash, as it was the wood he possessed that still held enough moisture for quicker turning in the demos.

“TANGO”, his artistic piece shown in the Summer 2008 issue of AMERICAN WOODTURNER, page 44 was the first demonstration.

With the ash mounted in the chuck and the tailstock brought up Keith trued the edge. He then turned a V-shape going from large to small. Using a straight edge, he checked the outside wall to make sure it was absolutely straight. The V-shape was hollowed with a shallow-fluted spindle gouge. Using a Japanese saw he cut the V-shape in half length-wise.

The two halves are finish sanded inside and out, then glued together with the hollows facing outward to form a horizontal S-curve at the top. He uses Titebond wood glue to make an invisible seam. When the glue has dried the piece is re-chucked and a tenon formed to fit into the base. A wooden clamp designed by Keith is glued to the top of the S-curve to hold the halves together and provide stability while the tenon is turned. The top of the S-curve is smoothed with a saw, which also gets rid of the wood clamp that has been glued on.



Keith turned a thick walled V-shape. He moved the piece slightly off-center, then hollowed it with a shallow-fluted spindle gouge. The V-shape was then cut in half lengthwise at the point where the diameter was the same. The result was an S-curve with a thin and thick side.

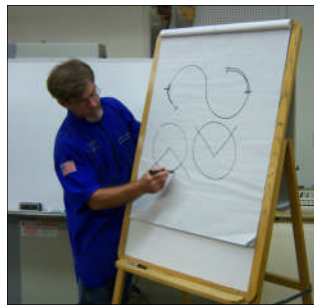
## Tompkins Demo continued



His "WINTER ROSE" shown in the Summer 2008 issue of *AMERICAN WOODTURNER* was the next demo. The rose is created from pieces of vases turned with wide tops and narrow-bottoms. Ash was mounted between the chuck and tailstock and a vase turned making sure the sides were absolutely straight. After hollowing the vase was cut down the center. A smaller vase was turned to exactly the same profile using half of the first vase as a guide. This vase was hollowed and cut down the center. A third vase, smaller than the second and with the same profile as the second was turned, hollowed, and cut down the center.



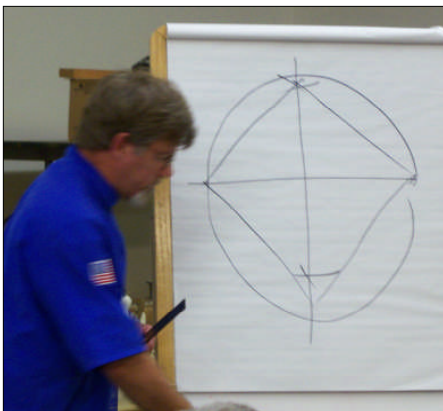
*The pieces that will make up the rose*



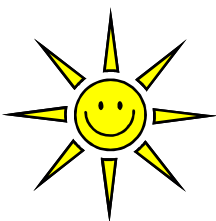
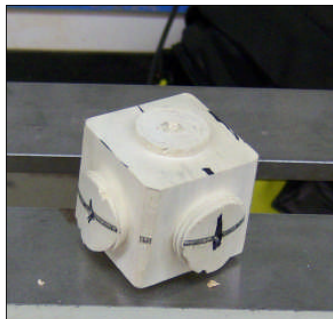
*One of the many flip chart sketches Keith used to explain the process.*

To assemble the rose, the sharp corners are rounded to resemble petals. Assembly of the rose is from the inside to the outside to form the diminishing spiral. The pieces are glued in place. Both halves of the largest form are reassembled to form the outer petals. The stem of the rose, which is turned off-center, was not demonstrated on the lathe, although the procedure was shown using the flip chart.

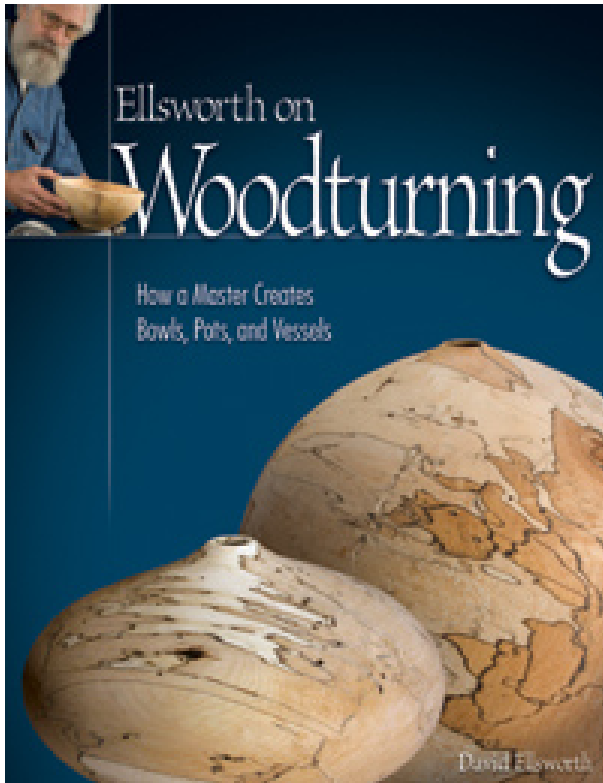
The base of the rose, a cube, is turned on three axes. Keith realized he could turn a cube when he visualized a circle with four points forming 90-degree angles on the circumference of the circle. When those points are connected with straight lines, the cube within the circle is visible.



The cube is started by turning the wood to a cylinder. Lines are drawn equidistant from the center to define the area of wood to be removed. The piece is turned to the lines, taken off the lathe, turned 90 degrees and remounted on the lathe. This process is repeated twice more. The waste wood is removed with a bandsaw, and the cube sanded.



*Article by Joan Coleman*



Available From



## *Ellsworth on Woodturning*

In this highly anticipated new book, David Ellsworth, one of the world's premier woodturning teachers and artists, shares his revolutionary techniques, signature style, and creative philosophy. This first ever book from Ellsworth features all the step-by-step directions and full-color guidance you need to create an open bowl, a

natural-edged bowl, and his trademark hollow vessel. At more than 250 pages, this resource includes all the expert tips and helpful advice needed to elevate your turning skills.

### **Also Available:**

***An Exclusive, Autographed, Limited-Edition Hardcover! Only 500 copies, each signed and numbered by David Ellsworth. The collector's edition is available ONLY from Fox Chapel Publishing.***

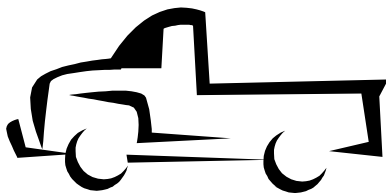
Limited Edition Hardcover  
Signed by David Ellsworth  
**Only 500 copies printed. Order Today!**

ISBN: 978-1-56523-397-3  
Price: **\$75.00**

Soft Cover Edition  
ISBN: 978-1-56523-377-5  
Price: **\$29.95**

*This sounds like a very interesting and informative book from one of the Masters*

## *Western Mountain Woodturners*



Our friends in the Western Mountains meet the second Wednesday of each month at Dirigo High School in the woodshop, located at 26 Notta Rd, Carthage, ME 04224

Their meetings start at 6PM and end at 9PM.

## *Future Demonstrations*

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NOVEMBER 19, 2008

**Dave Lancaster**

*It will be new and different !*

DECEMBER 17, 2008

**Annual Potluck Christmas Party**

NO STORMS ALLOWED

JANUARY 17, 2009 (SATURDAY) 9AM

**Johannes Michelsen**

*World Famous Hats*

FEBRUARY 14, 2009 (SATURDAY) 9AM

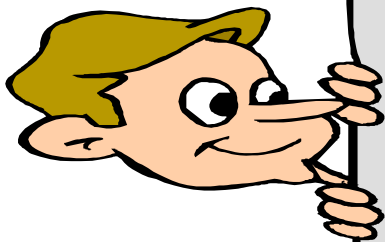
**Ralph Tursini**

*A Bowl from green log to completion*

*Please note that we have some  
Demonstrations on Saturdays!*

OUR MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ERSKINE ACADEMY  
309 WINDSOR ROAD (ROUTE 32), SOUTH CHINA, MAINE

We meet the third Wednesday of each month  
(except July and August there are no meetings)



### November meeting details

6:30 PM	Coffee and donuts
7:00 PM	Short business meeting
7:15 PM	Demonstration
	NO SHOW AND TELL
9:00 PM	Head home with great information

## Tee Shirts & Sweat Shirts

The tee shirts come in four colors: Sport Gray, Cardinal Heather, Honey and Indigo Blue. Each is available in sizes ranging from small to triple extra large. The shirts themselves are from the Gildan Company and qualitatively comparable to the familiar Hanes Beefy Tees.

The price for all shirts regardless of size is \$12 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. This price includes Maine's 5% sales tax, but does not include shipping, add five dollars for shipping and handling, which covers shipping via USPS Priority Mail.



Sweat shirts are now available with the same size range. The colors are almost identical too. We have Sport Grey (same), Honey, (same), Carolina Blue (nearly identical to Indigo Heather), and Cherry Red (which is a bit more vibrant). The price for these sweat shirts is \$24 for members and \$28 for non-members.

Please also note - tee shirts will neither be available for inspection nor for sale during chapter meetings. However, if so requested your order will be brought to the next meeting thereby avoiding the need for you to pay the postage and handling charge.



### **OFFICERS**

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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

## ANNOUNCEMENT

With the idea of moving its program ahead and keeping its fiscal house in order, the AAW has made two key personnel changes.



First, for the past six years the editor of the *American Woodturner*, our AAW Journal, has been Carl Voss. Carl has been a very dedicated, respected, and well-liked editor who has raised our journal to a new and highly-praised level, for which we are all very appreciative. With the end of Carl's contract approaching, bids from him and other qualified sources were sought that would make Journal production more efficient, reduce cost, and bring more coverage into place. With those objectives in mind, Betty Scarpino, a former Journal editor and professional woodturner, was selected by the board to become the next editor. Betty has lots of new ideas and vision for the Journal – we look forward to seeing her product in 2009.



In addition, Mary Lacer has been appointed Executive Director as of September 2, 2008, replacing Larry Sommer. We wish Larry well in his future endeavors.

Mary Lacer has been the face of AAW for 18 years. She has a passion for woodturning and is committed to the field. She has been a practicing woodturner for 28 years and has taught at some of the major woodturning schools. Mary ran a woodturning business for nine years, producing a wide range of turnings, production work, and art pieces. Everyone who knows Mary admires and respects her for her friendliness, capabilities, and dedication to our organization. She has proven herself to be an excellent Managing Director, and more recently, Assistant Executive Director. Mary understands the duties of Executive Director and is ready to meet the needs and challenges of the Association. We feel she will do a superb job!

We look forward to a bright, productive, and exciting future with Mary Lacer at the helm, and with Betty Scarpino producing the Journal.

*The AAW Board of Directors*



***The AAW is an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of woodturning. Our mission is to provide education, information, and organization to those interested in turning wood.***

# Tompkins Gage'T



Keith Tompkins is not only an expert turner but he also built "a better mouse trap." The gage't is the result of several years of refinement to his original bowl gauge.

This is a very simple but extremely accurate bowl gauge. The spring loaded measuring pin rides along the exterior of the bowl, giving a direct reading of wall thickness in 1/16" increments.

What a great tool !

Visit Keith's website at [www.keithptompkins.com](http://www.keithptompkins.com) to find out more.

Keith enlists the help of another gadget that saves much time finding the tool that he needs. This lazy Susan tool holders is shop built and is a very simple design. Similar designs published in various magazines.



## Missing Tapes and DVDs

The inventory of the library has been completed. There are several tapes and DVDs that are not accounted for. Would you please check to see if you have any of the following items, and if so, bring them to the next meeting.

Thank you! *Gene*

**AAW Symposium 2002 #1**

**AAW Symposium 2002 #2**

**Beyond the Basic Bowl by Bill Grumbine**

**Decorative Utility Bowls by Trent Bosch**

**Finishing For Woodturners by Chris Stoty**

**Hollow End Grain by Richard Raffin**

**Twice Turned Lidded Boxes by Peter McCrea**



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***SILENCE IS OFTEN MISINTERPRETED, BUT NEVER MISQUOTED***

*Some of the items donated to the Erskine Academy  
2009 senior class silent auction in November*

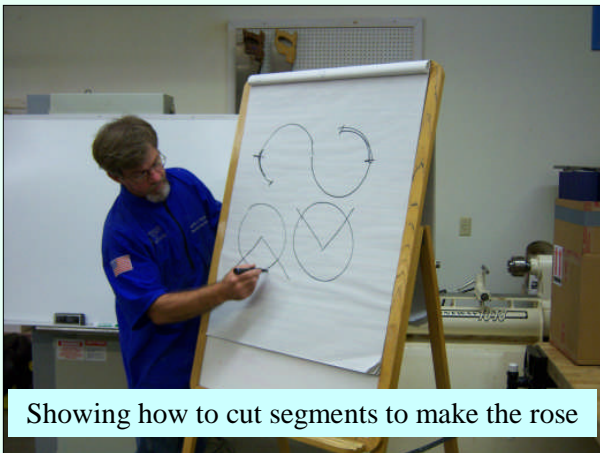


Cutting waste off to remount the "Tango" piece

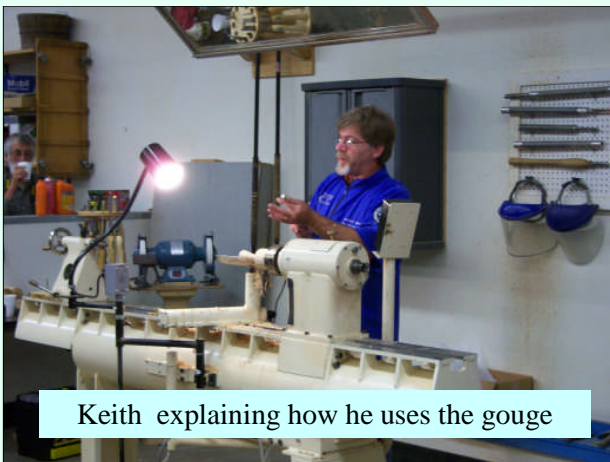
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"The Fish Story"



Showing how to cut segments to make the rose



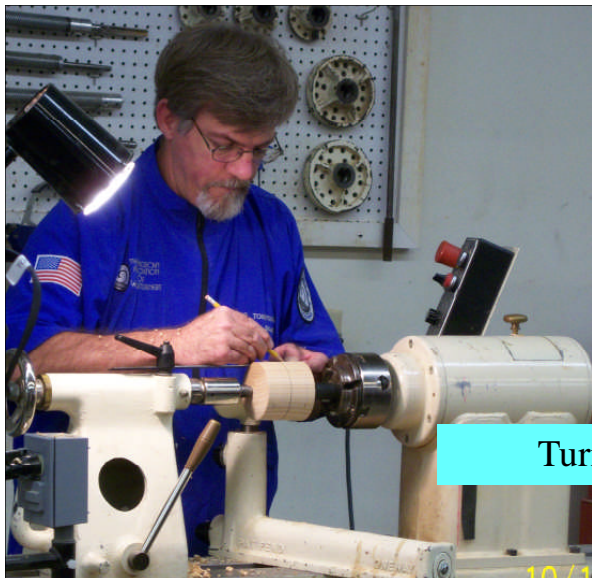
Keith explaining how he uses the gouge



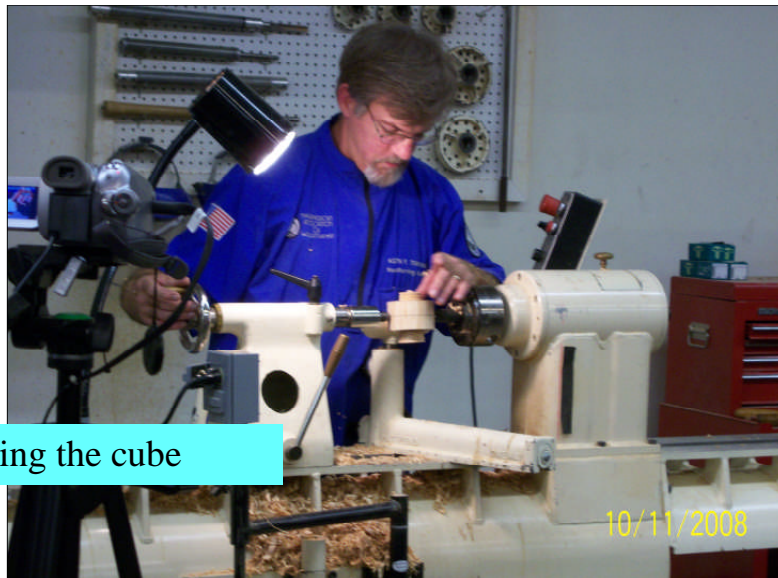
President Andy Hoyt and Vice-President Ken  
Shepherd critiquing Immediate Past President  
Peter McCrea's sweeping technique !



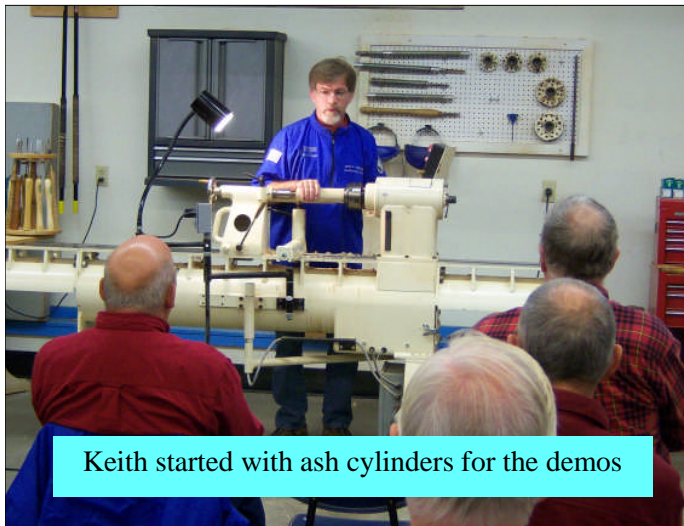
# October Meeting Photos



Turning the cube



10/11/2008



Keith started with ash cylinders for the demos



The very attentive crowd

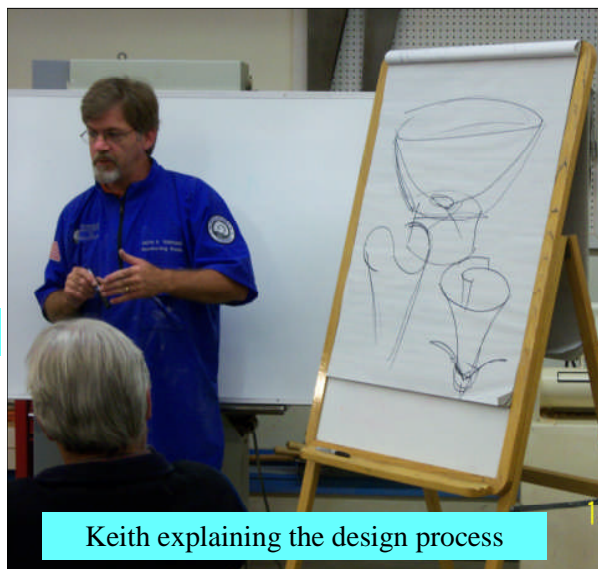
10/11/2008



Attention to getting the piece "just right"



"The warm-up piece"



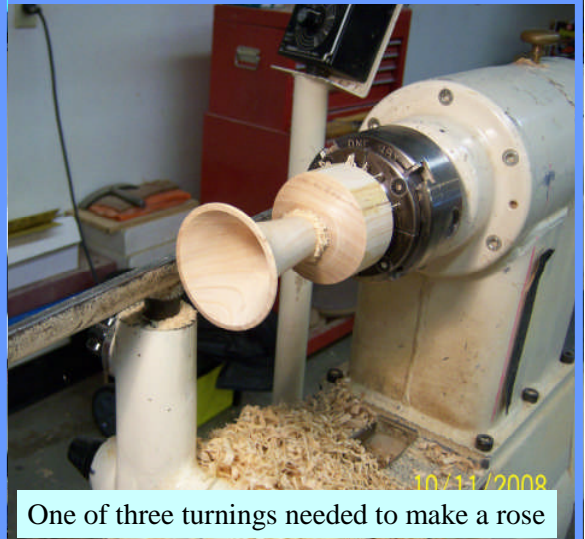
Keith explaining the design process

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# October Meeting Photos



Dave Bardon addressing the group



One of three turnings needed to make a rose



Safety first - the tenon was too long



The sketch of "Winter Rose"



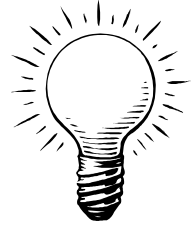
Keith was always receptive to questions during his demo



Cutting the Tango turning in half

# GERMAN RING TURNING

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX !



Approximately every quarter, the AAW Forum conducts a turning contest, each with a different theme that follows a recently published article in the AW Journal. The most recent contest winners are shown below. These were based on the article "Leaf Extraordinaire" in the Fall 2008 issue of AAW Journal.

First Place



**Maple Leaf**

Spalted Maple ring is 9-1/2 inches in diameter and



Second Place



**Butterfly**

Rosewood ring is 6 inches in diameter and 3 inches wide



Third Place



**Giraffe**

Ring is 5 inches in diameter and 3-1/2 inches tall. (a piece of firewood)













**Seiffen/Erzgebirge, Germany - Origin of ring (hoop) turning.**

Turning hoops is an art first developed around 1850 in the Seiffen, Germany area of the Erzgebirge Mountains, after the mining industry shut down. Wood turning was already a small industry before the closing of the mine, with the making of plates, spindles, needle holders and buttons. The turning of hoops made for efficient and cheap production. That has made this small mountain town world famous.. Erzgebirge village has been producing toys for more than 300 years.

# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Different types of fires require different types of extinguishers.

Types of Fire Extinguishers		
	Class A extinguishers put out fires in ordinary combustible materials such as cloth, wood, rubber, paper, and many plastics.	 Ordinary Combustibles
	Class B extinguishers are used on fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints.	 Flammable Liquids
	Class C extinguishers are suitable for use on fires involving appliances, tools, or other equipment that is electrically energized or plugged in.	 Electrical Equipment
	Class D extinguishers are designed for use on flammable metals and are often specific for the type of metal in question. These are typically found only in factories working with these metals.	 Combustible Metals
	Class K fire extinguishers are intended for use on fires that involve vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances. These extinguishers are generally found in commercial kitchens, such as those found in restaurants, cafeterias, and caterers. Class K extinguishers are now finding their way into the residential market for use in kitchens.	 Combustible Cooking

**Each class of fire is best fought by a specific extinguishing agent.**

## **.Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical (A, B, C)**

A dry chemical agent called mono ammonium phosphate. The chemical is non-conductive and can be **mildly corrosive if moisture is present**. In order to avoid corrosion, it is necessary to scrub and thoroughly cleanup the contacted area once the fire is out.

## **Regular Dry Chemical (B, C)**

A dry chemical agent called sodium bicarbonate. It is non-toxic, non-conductive and non-corrosive. It is easy to cleanup.

## **Carbon Dioxide (B, C)**

Carbon dioxide removes oxygen to stop a fire but has limited range. It is environmentally friendly and leaves no residue, so cleanup is unnecessary.

## **Halotron (A, B, C)**

A vaporizing liquid that is ozone friendly and leaves no residue. Because it requires no cleanup, fire extinguishers with halotron are ideal for computer rooms

## **Foam (A, B)**

Foam floats on flammable liquids to tame the fire and helps prevent reflashes.

## **Water (A)**

The most common agent is water; however, it cannot be used for class B or C fires because it is conductive.

**HAVE ATLEAST ONE FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN YOUR SHOP / STUDIO**