

A Maine Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

JANUARY 2009

Johannes Michelsen



JoHannes first turned wood at age 10 and continued on an occasional basis until 1977 when he began to pursue the turned vessel as an art form. His efforts were simple one-piece footed and natural-edged bowls of burl or spaulted wood. His work progressed from these simple one-piece turnings into more complicated vases constructed of many elements with a variety of finishes. Recently JoHannes has returned to one-piece turnings. Only now they are not simple bowls, but hats. Hats that are not only sculptural, but hats that can be custom fitted. Johannes uses a unique grind on his gouges. He is another one that takes woodturning to a whole different level.

Do not miss this demonstration !



Ebonized Top Hat



Baseball caps



Derby/Bowler

Johannes also does miniatures !

The hats pictured to the right are on display at the Messler Gallery in Rockland.

The thickness of these turnings are 20/1000's of an inch and set on your finger tip.



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Speaking Of... Happy New Year, one and all!

By Andy Hoyt



As usual, I'm writing this only after being rudely awoken from a splendid nap by Brian Libby, who said that I needed to giddyap with this column. Am I done yet, Brian?

Speaking of giddyap, we're to be treated this coming Saturday (January 17th at 9AM) to a demo by Johannes Michelsen. He turns hats – cowboy hats, among others – and has promised us shavings “Yee Ha!” and a technical “Git-r-dun”. They are cowboy words for uninitiated. As a special treat, Hannes has suggested that we raffle off the hat he produces during the demo to all those present as a means to generate some fun. I agreed, as long as the beast he produces is in my size. I wish.

So here's the deal – we spend a great day learning from a true master; and then one of those present (and only one of those present) will go home with a very special bonus from the day. Admission to the event will cost \$20 for current members; and \$30 for nonmembers. Those nonmembers automatically also get a free years membership in the chapter. Each paid admission will earn the attendee one raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets will be available for \$1 each.

Another new element for all of us is that we've acquired a third metal locker (thanks, Burt) and it will serve as the new warehouse for our tee and sweatshirt inventory. Thusly, these items will now be available for sale at all meetings. To make like easier for all, try to bring exact change or a check. Check the website for prices, colors, etc.

Yet another new element is that we now have our second video camera set up and configured. Much thanks goes to Dennis Curtis who has devoted a large amount of time and energy researching, implementing, and ensuring that everything will work properly. All those in favor of awarding Dennis an extra raffle ticket say, “Aye”. Guess we ought to give Burt one as well, dang it all.

I've been in touch with Clyde Ricker who splits his time between Clearwater, Florida and Standish, Maine. He's in the early stages of developing an article for American Woodturner magazine featuring the turning process of his Rose Tulip form. He's offered to demo this for us sometime within the next year. An especially heartwarming part of this is that it's intended to benefit the Pink Tulip Project, which is an adjunct to the Maine Cancer Foundation. More information can be found at www.pinktulipproject.org and you'll be hearing more about this from me as well.

We've got Ralph Tursini lined up for the February demo (another Saturday) and he's promised to get us back to some bowl basics, but with an intellectual twist.

Now that the new year has arrived it's time for me to get back in touch with Fred Armbruster and the demo that we hope to hold in his shop – his Rose Engine Shop! Details soon.

And lastly, I want to formally recognize and congratulate the efforts being undertaken by our members from the greater Portland area and the new AAW chapter they are in the midst of establishing. It's long been recognized that those folks have a tedious drive to Erskine each month – as did those from the western part of the state – and this development should be seen as a positive and natural progression of this thing we call woodturning. I'm not personally worried that we'll lose members as they become more established; to the contrary I'm pleased as punch that woodturning in Maine has now grown to the point where a new regional chapter makes sense. Growth is good, and a fundamental element of the roles played by the AAW, the Maine Woodturners, and each of us as individuals. I'm hopeful that someone from that group will be at the Michelsen demo on Saturday and provide updated details.

Okay! I've typed my obligatory 500 words (plus a few more to make up for last month) so I'm headed out to the shop now and make some shavings.

Andy

Johannes Michelsen continued

We all know that the more mass weight of a lathe means more stability and less vibration but Johannes takes size and weight to a whole different level !

The Oliver



Mr. Big is the "Oliver" built in 1923 by Oliver company in Dayton Ohio, it swings 24" and does 8' between centers and weighs 3200 lbs

The "Imperial" built in Grand Rapids MI. late in the 1800s. it weighs 2250 lbs. swings 16in. and does 60in between centers.

The Imperial



New MWT Member Profile



Brian Libby of Standish has been a woodworker since his early teens and he turned his first bowl in Sr High shop. A dairy farmer for 20 + years and a board sawyer for 8, Brian now drives a truck for a living when he isn't volunteering his time as Vice-Chair of the local Planning Board.

Brian had limited turning experience until he purchased his Jet 1236 in 2004, followed by his Rikon Mini in 2006. He likes to work small with projects like pens and spindle-related projects. Until recently his shop was in a sparsely heated barn, but a new garage has been built to house his shop. We are fortunate to have Brian join our membership ranks and to step forward and volunteer to be the editor of the Maine Woodturners Newsletter. Thanks a lot, Brian!

Christmas party 2008



Due to a scheduling conflict, the party was held on Tuesday.
GOOD THING - IT SNOWED ON WEDNESDAY !!

Announcing
The Sixth New England Woodturning Symposium
to be held on May 23, 2009 at Pinkerton Academy in
Derry, NH

Sponsored by “The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers”
and
“The Granite State Woodturners”

Scheduled Demonstrators are:

**Allan Lacer
Al Start
Beth Ireland
Bob Rostand
Ralph Tursini
Keith Tompkins
Johannes Michelson
Dave Lancaster
Angelo Lafarge
Linda VanGethuchten
Dave Belser
Brad Vietje
Jon Siegel
Donna Banfield
George Saradakis
Ed Kelle
Charles Sheaff
Richard Angus
Graham Oakes
Jim Kephart
Keith Holt**

Youth Symposium
on Friday May 22

This will include a day of instruction for any high school student at no expense with 4 professional turners and instructors.

Contact Peter Breu peterbreu@comcast.net for more details regarding the youth symposium

Point of Contact for Symposium Registration is:

**Bob DeAngelis
470 Newmarket Rd.
Warner, NH 03278
603-456-6242
rdeangelis@tds.net**

Registration fee is \$60 including Lunch.

WOOD WEIGHTS



How much does that block of wood on your lathe weigh? Many of our domestic hardwoods weigh in at about 50 pounds per cubic foot. Maples range from the low 40's to high 50's per cubic foot.

This may seem like trivia, but it can be important information to know.

If that green chunk of hard maple, you are about to turn into a bowl, measures 12 inches wide by 12 inches deep will weigh in at about 50 pounds. That is a lot of mass to be spinning at the wrong RPM.

Wood Weights by Wood Type

This chart from USDA

Wood	Weight Green	Weight 12% MC	Wood	Weight Green	Weight 12% MC
Ash - white	48	42	Elm	54	35
Ash - black	52	34	Maple - Red	50	38
Apple	55	47	Maple - Silver	45	33
Black Cherry	45	35	Maple - Sugar	56	44
Black Walnut	58	38	Oak - Red	63	44
Boxelder	32	NA	Oak - White	62	48
Butternut	46	27	Staghorn Sumac	41	33

A Great Day On The Road

By Brian Libby

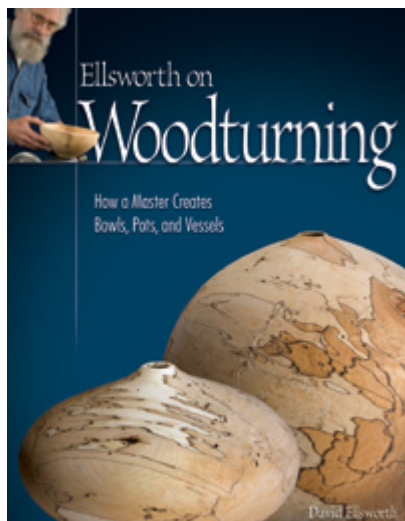
On a recent return trip from the Calais border crossing, I pulled into a rest area around 4:30 PM. As I was approaching the truck parking area I noticed something on top of the snow bank. To my amazement it was a four foot piece of pulp wood about 16 inches in diameter at the small end. Upon further inspection I discovered it was a very nice piece of maple! Weighing in at roughly 250 pounds, I pondered how I could get this home. My truck has a power lift gate, so I lowered it rolled the wood onto the power gate, rolled it into the truck and away I went. Now the big decision! What do I want to turn that will be a new challenge?



Two views of my find



THE EDITORS PAGE



David Ellsworth was a founding member of the AAW and then served as AAW President for 6 years, he was the creator of the modern bowl gouge and an early innovator of thin walled hollow vessels.

Recently I purchased The book Ellsworth on Woodturning. I have only had time to skim the book but the information that is between those covers is outstanding. It is loaded with pictures and sketches and the explanations are very clear.

A quote from the appendix of the book::

“The only thing that parallels the satisfaction and intensity of my engagement in the making process is sharing that experience with others, especially through teaching woodturning. Teaching woodturning requires four basic elements: creating a safe space, Knowing your subject, and having the ability to think like a student throughout the instruction period. The final step is simply to tell your own story.”

The book covers everything from chainsaw to finishing with a few things you may not realize could help your turning enjoyment. Well worth your consideration !

Next Months Newsletter



I HAVE RECEIVED AN ARTICLE THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER (LOOK FOR “ A NUTTY CHALLENGE”).I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE OF THIS TYPE OF COPY. IT MAKES FOR VERY INTERESTING READING, HAS A LOT OF VALUABLE INFORMATION AND IS SHORT IN LENGTH. IT IS THIS TYPE OF MATERIAL THAT GREATLY ENHANCES THE NEWSLETTER. PLEASE STEP FORWARD AND SEND ME A SHORT ARTICLE WITH A PICTURE OR TWO.

Thanks, Brian

Please note — My email address is now bglibby@roadrunner.com

Demonstration Schedule



JANUARY 17, 2009

JOHANNES MICHELSEN

World Famous Hats

SATURDAY DEMO—\$20.00 MEMBERS \$30.00 NON-MEMBERS

No Show and Tell

FEBRUARY 14, 2009 (SATURDAY) 9AM

RALPH TURSINI

A Bowl from green log to completion

SATURDAY DEMO—\$20.00 MEMBERS \$30.00 NON-MEMBER

No Show and Tell

MARCH 18, 2009

PETER MCCREA

Details forth coming

APRIL 15, 2009

GARY SWINTON

Using a lathe duplicator

MAY 20, 2009

MEMBERS NIGHT

OPEN MIC NIGHT

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE INDUSTRIAL ARTS SHOP

ERSKINE ACADEMY

309 WINDSOR ROAD (ROUTE 32), SOUTH CHINA, MAINE

Our regular meetings are usually the third Wednesday of each month
(except July and August there are no meetings)

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 145 Weld street, Dixefield, Maine

(Please note address correction.)

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



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 nonmembers.

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

2008-2009

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The 2009 Symposium of the AAW

The 23rd Annual National AAW Symposium
Friday June 26 - Sunday June 28, 2009
Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico



The Annual AAW symposium is the highlight of the woodturning year. We meet in a different location each year, rotating throughout the regions of the continental United States. The symposium has become the most attended woodturning event in the world.

Each symposium features three days of woodturning demonstrations and meetings. These are lead by numerous talented experts: internationally known woodturners, the highest quality woodturning instructors and knowledgeable local talent.

Multiple rotations are held simultaneously so the attendee has many different types and styles of woodturning demonstrations available. Many of the demonstrations are held multiple times so the attendee has the opportunity to attend sessions they may have missed.

Each symposium has had a unique flavor, but most of them have had the following features: A Fine Rotation Schedule of the World's Best Woodturning Demonstrators.

An Instant Gallery like no other on Earth. This gallery includes pieces brought to the event by the attendees. A Banquet in the Middle of the Weekend. An Auction of Tools, Wood, and Fine Woodturnings. Funds from the Auction Fund Scholarships for Woodturning Education. The Largest Woodturning Trade Show Anywhere. This Includes Tool and Lathe Manufacturers or Their Representatives as Well as Vendors of Wood and Other Materials and Supplies Related to Woodturning.

The attendance at the 2008 symposium was 1591.



A typical demonstration



2008 Instant Gallery had 800 pieces

The article and photos taken from the AAW website

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Rockland's Atlantic Challenge is a 35 year old boat building school that has an interim executive director as reported in a December issue of the Bangor Daily News . Maine Woodturners member Rick Palm, a board member of Atlantic Challenge , will be taking over the helm for the next few months until a new executive director is found.

The school was founded in 1972 at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath and has been at its present location since the early 1990's. Most students are college grads that come from around the world with about 10% of the students being women. Programs range from two weeks to two years with about 90% of students enrolled in the apprentice program. The maximum length boat they can build is 30 feet.

Many Atlantic Challenge students take turning classes at The Woodturning School in Damariscotta.

This is one of many examples of Maine's rich maritime heritage.

WE GET USED TO

turning bowls ——— *turning spindles* ———- *turning pens*

As a general rule we stay in our comfort zone and avoid the challenge of trying something more difficult.



This is a new year, let's accept the challenge of trying a different project.

We all tend to get into a rut , now let's try something we have never done !

*“When you reach for the stars, you may not quite get one,
but you won't come up with a handful of mud either”*

Safety Tips Review



Alcohol—Alcohol and machinery don't mix

Drugs— If you are on any medication that will impair your judgment or reflexes stay out of the shop when you are taking it. If a drug makes you sleepy, stay out of the shop.

Eye Protection— This is an absolute must. Safety glasses are required and a face shield is highly recommended.

Dust— This is a hazard in any wood or metal shop. The best we can hope for is to control how much escapes into the ambient air.

Lighting— Sufficient lighting is always necessary. Your shop must be well lit and task lighting should be used at all work centers.

Footwear—Good footwear is a must. Tools can fall off the lathe bed.

Clothing— Never wear loose fitting clothing while using the lathe.

Hair—Long hair must be tied so that it will not fall into the equipment.

Jewelry—Watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, and earrings should be removed.

Wood—Use only sound wood.

Centering Blanks—The reason you should take the time to center a blank is so that it is balanced on the lathe and you obtain the highest yield of material used.

Positioning the rest— After the blank is mounted, rotate the stock by hand to make sure it clears the rest for one complete revolution

Starting the lathe—Always stand to the side when you start your lathe with a blank on it

Moving the tool rest— Never move the tool rest with the work piece turning. If you do you risk wrecking the piece, bending or breaking the tool rest.

Never reach over the lathe when it is running.

Speed—Roughing speeds should be slower than finishing speeds.

Sanding—Always move the tool rest out of the way when sanding.

Grinding— Never use a cracked or chipped stone—if it flies apart the results can be fatal.

ALWAYS THINK SAFETY