



A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

JUNE 2009

Chainsaw Safety Demo

professional logger and trainer Pete Tracy

On Saturday, June 20th our regular monthly meeting will be held at member Tom Edwards' woodlot in Woolwich. The focus of the day will be chainsaw safety as presented by professional logger and trainer Pete Tracy of Farmington. Feel free to bring family members and friends who you feel would also benefit from Pete's training.



The trees that Tom has graciously allowed us to fell (maple and elm) for the training session will also be available for us to take home as turning stock.

There is no charge to attend the day's session.

*Directions to the woodlot have been emailed to the membership.
If you're not on that distribution list, please contact Andy Hoyt for details.*

Mark your calendar for SATURDAY June 20th
Safety always comes first

Speaking Of...

BY ANDY HOYT



Greetings and Salutations Woodturning People of Maine (and a few others a bit farther out there):

Mark Twain once said that the coldest winter he ever endured was a summer spent in San Francisco. Having been there, I know what he meant; and as we approach the historical warmth of the Summer Solstice, I'm reminded of just one thing – this weather sure feels like San Francisco.

As long as I'm in a drizzly foggy where's my buttered rum kind of a mood, I'm happy to report that Phil Brown is back from his European bike trip and made face to face contact with the good people of Great Britain's Treknow Woodturning and Carving Club. You'll hopefully recall that these folks stretched a hand across the Atlantic in search of

some nice American woodturners to befriend and steal turning secrets from. Okay, so they ended up with us; but aside from that "nice" part, I'd like to think they nailed it. Phil says he'll be at Saturday's meeting down in Woolwich and if we're lucky enough to see the sun that day, maybe he'll fill us all in.

Speaking of being cold and drizzly, as I write this, I'm (once again) happy to report that Peter McCrea successfully completed the first leg of the Bermuda One Two yacht race aboard Panacea. The return leg to Newport, RI begins on the 18th. Visit www.bermuda1-2.org, noodle around, and then visit the iBoattrack link to check his current standings. He won his class in this race two years ago, so I see no reason why all those buttered rums he's downing during the layover should prevent a repeat win.

On an equally less local nature, I'd like to thank everyone who brought in those lumps of dried out bug infested wood, broken gouges, and spent sand paper for the kind folks of the South Coast Woodturners out on Oregon's left coast. I finally got around to mailing everything out last week, which means the goodies will be arriving any day now. I suggest we all duck. Ya know, it gets cold and foggy on the Oregon coast too.

Speaking of "local" – or at least considerably closer to home – I'm happy (again) (hey, what's with all this happy stuff? – it's cold and drizzly ain't it?) to report that our field trip to Fred Armbruster's shop down in York was a hugely successful day. Our host was both gracious and informative; and the caliber of what we witnessed was first cabin all the way. Brian Libby has supplied me with a disk's worth of photos and I promise to get them posted just as soon as I can find the time. Truly amazing, this rose engine stuff!

In closing, I'm hopeful that my sunny and cheery disposition wears off on Mother Nature by next Saturday. It promises to be a unique diversion from the regular kind of meeting and a fun informational day. And don't forget the free wood concept!

Andy

PS: Has anyone seen my mittens?





The Maine Wooturners May 2009 meeting was held at Erskine Academy in South China Maine on Wednesday the 20th. Thirty two members and 3 guests were in attendance.

President Andy Hoyt opened the meeting at 7:04 PM. He said there is a box of wooden blocks on the table to make eagle cane adapters and for members to help themselves. Also there is a stack of cherry blocks that Ken Shephard brought in for a contest amongst members scheduled for Sept. We are to

create a turning of our choice and bring it in at the Sept. meeting. John Ramsey will demo at the Sept. meeting.

There are brochures on the table from the Southern Maine Woodturners chapter.

The AAW Symposium will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico this Year.

Andy read a thank you letter from George Gunning on the help the club has donated for the manufacture of the eagle canes for Veterans. Burt Truman was identified for his turning of the cane shafts.

Election of a new Secretary and Treasurer was part of the meeting per the Bylaws. A motion was made to keep the existing people in office and then it was voted on. Tom Raymond will continue as Secretary and Burt Truman as Treasurer for the next two years.

Andy said he has to look into insurance when holding meetings where a group is working with chainsaws. He says members of AAW are covered.

The June Meeting will be on a Saturday and feature a professional logger on the use of chain-saws. The location of this meeting has not been determined at the time these minutes were prepared.

Tonight's demo will be an open mic night featuring 6 members. At 7:22 PM Brian Libby went first with a series of fixtures and sanding devices. He was followed by Mac Ray at 7:40 PM who demonstrated his methods of burning and the tools he prefers. Some of his work was circulated amongst the audience. At 8:02 PM Damon Harmon demonstrated the Beall system of making male and female threads in wood with the use of a router to do the male v grooves. At 8:18 PM Andy Hoyt demonstrated his fixture to cut out bowl blanks of the band saw. It positioned the blank on a center pin for rotating the blank in a perfect circle. He uses it with a 14" band saw with a 6" riser. Ken Shephard started his demo at 8:28 PM with showing his fixture to freeze a block of ice then turn it on his lathe. A series of slides showed the process of turning an ice goblet. The finale was great because he brought in the goblet in a freeze pack. Dennis Curtis started his demo with a series of slides at 8:45 PM describing how he adapted a 3 phase motor with a variable frequency drive to his lathe for speed control.

Before and after Ken and Dennis's demo, Andy tried to show some of the items on the Show and Tell table and never got beyond 3 pieces because he ran out of time. Then he auctioned off an oak burl for around \$14.

The meeting ended at 9:07 PM.

Tom Raymond, Sec.



Six hearty souls stepped forward to show us how to be innovative, creative and to be frugal. First up was **Brian Libby** who reached into his magic bag and held up a non-powered angle sander. At first glance it looked like the Sorby Angle Sander (\$48.99), but Brian Said it cost him a few parts and an hour of time to make it. The rod is from a door closer. The elbow and top angles are from the hardware store as well as the bushing that holds the Sanding Pad Arbor (purchased from the woodturning catalogs). You can use the hook and loop backing pads or the Wave system on this sanding head for more flexibility. He said it saved him about \$20. Next up were his jam plates made from regular nuts sized to fit the headstock and spot



welded to a large washer to make a flat surface for gluing a scrap block for jam chucking ,making a donut chuck or making a screw chuck . Brian found that the commercial screw chucks were too large for the work he produced so, he made several different smaller sizes using his homemade jam plates. He suggested using Sumo Glue rather than CA or Gorilla glue. Sumo sets up with less foaming and has the strength to hold at high speeds. Instead of gluing the scrap stock to the washer he drilled and counter sunk three holes to support the block for his donut chuck. He found a soft foam pad (AC Moore 39 cents) that helped cushion the work

against the pressure plate of the chuck. His other tricks of the trade included a Woodcraft Set of safety drives and drive centers that provide form him a safer turning environment.



Mac Ray's pyrographic demonstration started with him passing out several bowls and boxes and pots with his unique burnings. Pyrographics are burned in images using a special heating instrument and fine pen tips. The "DETAIL MASTER" has been the standard for professional burners for over 20 years.

(<http://woodworker.com/cgi-bin/fullpres.exe?PARTNUM=934476&search=Woodburning&smode=&showsingle=>) Mac suggested that a less expensive bent wire unit in the \$60 -\$70 range would work just as well and there is always the option of making your own using parts from Radio Shack. He showed us a homemade unit with a wooden block to absorb the heat.

Mac's tools of the trade included several pen type handles each with a different shaped tip that allowed him to work on different parts of the design as he came upon them. After turning a bowl or pot or plate, he sets a design on pencil so he can adjust it to fit the desired effect he's looking to achieve. He finds a comfortable place to sit and places the work in his lap and slowly, evenly and patiently begins to burn in the lines of the design. He always hand holds the project and using one hand to stabilize the work and the other



to hold the pen handle. The test of his craftsmanship is in the coordination and manipulation of the work between the design and the burner. In the end he concluded that using a pyrographic is a form of carving and enhancing the work and much more than just a tool to sign your name.



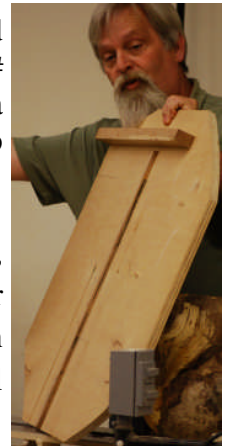
Continued on page 5

Damon Harmon's Beall Threading Tool demo was a very quick exercise on how to use the tap/die to make threaded dowels and the corresponding nut. A router helps to control the depth of the thread in the dowel and a little practice holding the dowel steady as you apply pressure makes for a clean cut. In less than five minutes he had a thread and a nut ready for assembly into a hand clamp or a vise. His tips on taking time to practice and making small minor adjustments to the router depth which varied the angle of attack and its relationship to the top of the thread made a lot of sense to our group. This is a tool and some ideas that will stick in the back of our minds for later use.



Andy Hoyt gave us a KISS project. With the help of Gary Kitchen, Andy designed a band saw jig for cutting circles. This **Keep It Simple Stupid** design enables him to haul a 40# plus misshaped block of wood to his 14" band saw and with ease and safety place it on a center spur and spin it through the blade. He avoids the loose fitting wobbling plywood top template that he's used for the last umpteen years.

His secrets are the flat face of the block is on the flat board with a small center pivot point, the miter slot is used to stabilize and the stop block that positions the jig in its proper relationship to the blade and a clamp on the side or end of the board holds everything in place while turning the mass around the center pin. This is a must have jig for any bowl turner. Let's ask Andy for a PDF page of his design for website.



Our next presenter was **Ken Shepherd**. All presentations require many hours of instructor preparation. All easy to understand presentations require an extraordinarily skilled teacher. Ken started his slide show and laid out the problem he needed to solve. In coring out a bowl from a large block how do you find the angle to set your bowl coring jig? Before we could scratch our heads and wonder how this worked Ken and Andy made our mental gymnastics easier for us. Ken's answer is a stick with a knob on both end and a screw in the center. His RMD (Radius Measurement Device) is held up to the side of a bowl and the center screw is turned out so the two knobs can touch the bowl. A measurement is taken of the height of the screw. A quick glance at a handy graph, made from all the math Ken did shows us the angle we need. Problem solved.

Okay, so now we're hooked into what's next from Ken.

With just the hint of a smile and a glint in his eyes, Ken holds up a 4" round piece with a tenon on the bottom. On the face are four dowels and a 1" x 1" x 3" centered square of wood. What is it? No one guessed. Next up is a paper milk container and a wooden brace that fit over the rectangular box. Still no one guessed.



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OPEN MIC—continued from page 5

The two items make up a chuck and a capturing device for water. Trial and error went into the chuck to get it to grab the water as it turns to ice and to maintain that hold during turning. The wooden brace is used to keep the container square and not blow out during the freezing process. We all know that water expands when frozen, right?

But, there's more, after several failed attempts Ken found the right combination of how to make the water freeze and become airless and completely solid. "Boil the water and stir it and filter it. Filter it at least twice and stir it again while chilling it. The ice forms from the edge to the center and the stirring allows the ice crystals to form uniformly throughout the container", were Ken's instructions.



The result is a quickly turned NICE ICE GOBLET. All puns intended.

When asked why he would make an ice goblet. Ken simply answered, "Because I could".

Dennis Curtis gave us his insights on turning his lathe into a variable speed with a range of 400 to 2500 rpm on one set of pulleys. This set up gives him the range of RPMS and the torque needed to turn all his anticipated projects. His well thought out design for his controls and his unique lathe will make a 14" unbalanced block a piece of cake to turn.

His next mechanical project is getting his home made vacuum chuck mounted and working. His slide show and the discussion that followed focused on the details of psi, drainage, lift, oiling, fittings and motor types. This even exchange of knowledge was helpful and healthy because when you make it from scratch and you are alone in your shop, even though you may have the design right, the details still have to be right. One mistake can be costly in time, effort, money and health.

Thank you gentlemen for a great second OPEN MIKE NIGHT.

Back to the shop to tinker.

Chuck Seguin



***NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,
SOMEBODY WILL FIND A WAY TO TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY.***

Demonstration Schedule

June 20, 2009

SATURDAY

Chainsaw Safety with Pete Tracy

Tom Edward's woodlot—Woolwich, Maine

June 26 - 28, 2009

23rd Annual AAW Symposium

Albuquerque, New Mexico

JULY AND AUGUST

No meetings—have a great summer

meetings are held at the Industrial Arts shop

Erskine Academy

309 Windsor Road (route 32), South China, Maine

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

Show and Tell Photos @ 6:30

Demo @ 7 PM

More Maine Woodturning Meetings

Western Mountain Woodturners

2nd Wednesday @ 6—9PM

Dixfield High School

Southern Maine Woodturners

1st Wednesday @ 6:30-8:30 PM

Rockler, South Portland

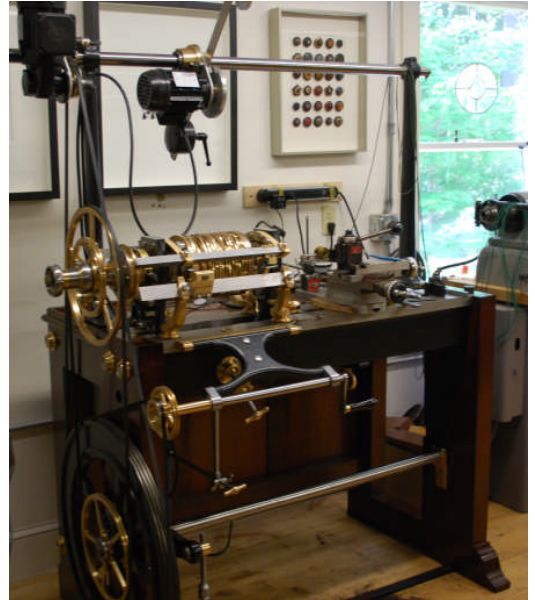
ARMBRUSTER ROSE ENGINE

Our field trip to Fred Armbruster's on June 6th was a great event. When we stepped into the first floor machine shop and all anyone could say was "WOW"!!! Fred is a surgeon, an expert on using a rose engine, extremely knowledgeable on the history of rose engines, is restoring some antique models and a few years ago started designing and manufacturing his own model - the "ARMBRUSTER".



Our gracious host
Fred Armbruster

The Armbruster
rose engine



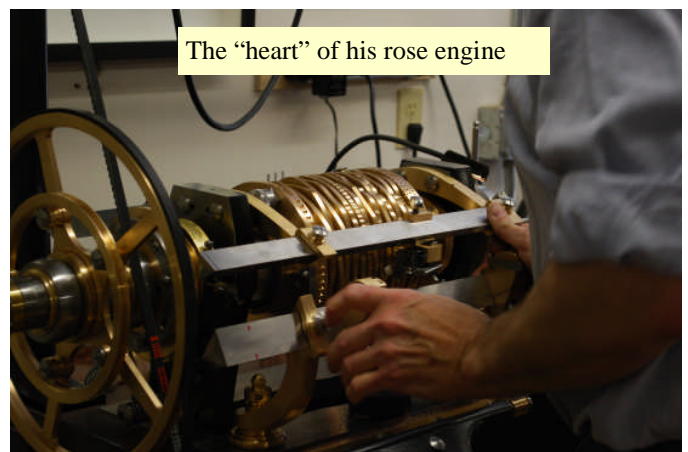
This lidded box has designs on
every surface, inside and out



The machine shop



The assembly room



The "heart" of his rose engine

Maine Woodturners at the 6th Woodturning Symposium at Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH.

Mark Irving and David Lancaster were Symposium demonstrators and Corbin Westcott (our youngest member and Dave's grandson) demonstrated through out the day at the One-Way booth.

Corbin Westcott



Mark Irving



Dave Lancaster



These turnings were on the demonstrators instant gallery table

Corbin with Grampa looking on



Instant Gallery photos



**1665 pieces
over 3 feet tall**



**680 pieces
stands about 12 in. tall**

With cancer touching so many lives and being a cancer survivor myself I am putting this request from Chuck Sequin in the newsletter.

Chuck is asking help from the Maine Woodturners for donations to a silent auction (Only wood turned items will be there) to help raise funds for cancer research at the Dana Farber Institute.

Chuck's son, Andrew, is a cancer survivor and on July 19th Andy will be hosting a Soccer Tournament to raise funds for the Pan Mass Challenge in Amesbury, Mass. (the auction takes place during the tournament)

<http://andyridesagainstcancer.wordpress.com/soccer-tourney/>

Andy is a graduate of Bangor High School, University of Rochester (NY): Simone School of Business (University of Rochester). He is married and they are expecting their first child in October 2009. This will make Lonna and Chuck first time grandparents.



*Here is a small opportunity to help fight all types of cancer.
Every dollar raised will be donated to the "Jimmy Fund".*

For more information on donating an item to the auction please contact Chuck at

cfsequin@midmaine.com or telephone at 947-7592

Tee Shirts & Sweat Shirts

Tee shirts and sweatshirts are now available at our meetings. A cabinet has been secured so that storage is now possible at Erskine Academy. All sales are cash or check. Most sizes and colors are in stock.



The price for all shirts regardless of size is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. This price includes Maine's 5% sales tax.

Sweat shirts are now available with the same size range. The colors are almost identical. The price for these sweat shirts is \$24 for members and \$28 for non-members

AAW Sponsored Insurance for your personal business activities



New AAW Sponsored Insurance for your personal business activities

This is an important announcement from the AAW. **Our commercial insurance program has changed, effective May 18, 2009.**

Most professional turners **know** that their homeowner's insurance policy does not cover their private business activities, inventory, teaching, equipment and property. Most of them have either done without insurance at great risk, or at great expense and effort, have found an agent to cover them. On the other hand, most of the rest of us **assume** that our homeowner's policy insures us even if we do some sales of our work or occasional teaching or selling tools or videos. Laws that regulate insurance vary from state to state. In North Carolina, it used to be that activities that were occasional in nature and did not amount to a "substantial" amount of income were covered by one's homeowner's policy. A few years ago, it changed to say that "any" activity that was commercial in nature, no matter how few dollars were involved, was not covered. That means that if someone came to my home to buy a piece and was injured, or if my shop burned, or my tools were stolen, or I taught a private class, I would not be covered. Each member should check with your own insurance agent to see if all of your activities are covered by your homeowner's insurance policy.

As a service to our members, the AAW has sought out a new insurance program that individual members can purchase at reasonable rates to cover their commercial activities of woodturning. The program that we have found, can insure AAW members in all states of the USA. If someone can recommend insurers that will cover Canadian or foreign members, please let the AAW know. AMJ Insurance, Inc., a well-respected national firm offers the policies that the AAW is sponsoring. They have been offering similar policies to members of the American Crafts Council (ACC) for several years. AMJ Insurance will primarily use national insurance companies like Travelers, The Hartford, and others. The AAW endorsed program offers specialized policies that can be customized to fit the needs of our member businesses. These policies can include coverages for:

- Business Contents coverage for shows
- Goods in Transit
- Loss of Business Income
- Accounts Receivable and Valuable Papers
- Goods on Consignment
- Liability -Premises and Products
- Coverage if you teach classes
- Coverage if you sell tools or videos

To apply and receive a premium quote, down load an application by going to www.woodturner.org , print it, fill it out, and either scan it to a file and email it, mail or fax it to the address on the application.

You must be an AAW member to apply.

{ information on this page taken from AAW website }

MAY MEETING PICTURES



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2008 - 2009



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