

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

September 2009

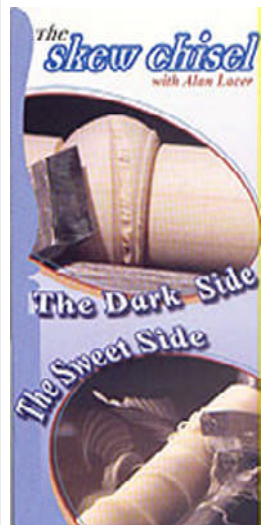
September  
Demonstrator

# *Alan Lacer*

Master of the Skew



Alan Lacer has been a turner, demonstrator, writer, past president of the AAW, exhibition coordinator, video producer, and AAW Honorary Lifetime Member award recipient. He has taught or demonstrated in all 50 states and 4 foreign countries.



**DO NOT MISS THIS ONE !**

Mark your calendar for SATURDAY September 12th

## Speaking Of...

BY ANDY HOYT



Happy September, folks!

Leaves falling and turning color; flannel sheets; cider – yup, fall is here. In case you were wondering, summer occurred on July 23<sup>rd</sup> between the hours of 6 & 8 PM.

For once, I've stayed fairly busy on the lathe these past few months while we were on hiatus and oddly enough, it was all centerwork. A handful of porch posts for a fellow in Augusta; a few more for a couple just up the road; and "more than a few" balusters for a family in New York. I walked away from all this with a newfound relationship with the skew.

Speaking of the skew (yup, here come those segues again) we're all set for Alan Lacer to show up this coming Saturday morning. He's promised to entertain, inform, and boggle us. I can't think of a better way to spend the day and look forward to the 9 AM launching time.

Speaking of launching time, if you've taken up the challenge of turning something with that chunk of cherry (or walnut) we provided last spring, please arrive prior to the launching time so we can photograph your effort. The challenge will officially come to a conclusion when Alan conducts a Show & Tell style discussion as he reviews your efforts but awards me the grand prize for the toothpick I turned. You did want that free Maine Woodturners tee shirt, right, Alan?

Speaking of free Maine Woodturners tee shirts, we have several folks in the wings lined up or (nearly so) to receive theirs in the months to come. Our own Jon Ramsay will earn his in October when he demos his thin pierced work. Forester Pete Tracy will finally get his in November. And for the winter months I'm working on Andre Martel and Ken Lindgren. Beyond that our demo schedule is still in the undeveloped-jeez-I-better-do-something-about-it stage.

Speaking of "doing something", Chuck Seguin has begun to develop a new program for us that will hopefully find a place in the newsletter, on the website, and during monthly meetings. It's focused on short sessions of the Question and Answer variety. His notion is to pool the talent of a handful of experienced members to answer submitted questions from our talented pool of less experienced members. I hope to see this get off the ground in the near future.

Speaking of the near future, I feel the need to remind everyone that the 2010 AAW Symposium is only ten months off, and will be held in our own backyard down in Hartford, Connecticut. This is the first time in many years it's been so close by and therefore accessible without air travel considerations; so I'm most hopeful that Maine will produce a strong contingent of attendees, and perhaps even some of you may wish to volunteer to help staff one of the programs. Help is always needed in this regard, and again, I'd like to see us make our presence known in Hartford.

That's it for now. Time to go put another coat of lacquer on the toothpick.

*Andy*

## TURNING TIP

CHUCK SEQUIN HAS BEEN SURFING THIS SUMMER AND FORWARDED ME THE FOLLOWING ENTITLED “ASK THE EXPERTS”

### Question:

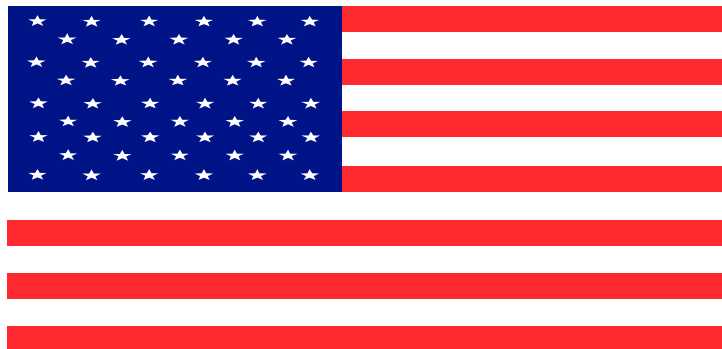
I am getting ripples on the inside of my bowls when I'm turning.

### Answer:

Due to the different densities of early wood (fast growing and less dense) and late wood (slower growing/more dense), achieving a nice, fair and smooth inner surface on bowls can sometimes be a challenge. While more pronounced in some wood species than others, the varying density between early and late wood makes it difficult for the cutting tool to cut evenly. The tool cuts easier (and just slightly deeper) into the soft grain and not as deeply into the harder grain and you end up with ripples or bumps.

To lessen this effect, keep your cutting tool extremely sharp and use a light touch as you make your cuts. Pushing hard with a dull tool will only cause the tool to penetrate deeper into the soft grain, yet you will still encounter resistance in the harder grain and will end up with a less than smooth surface.

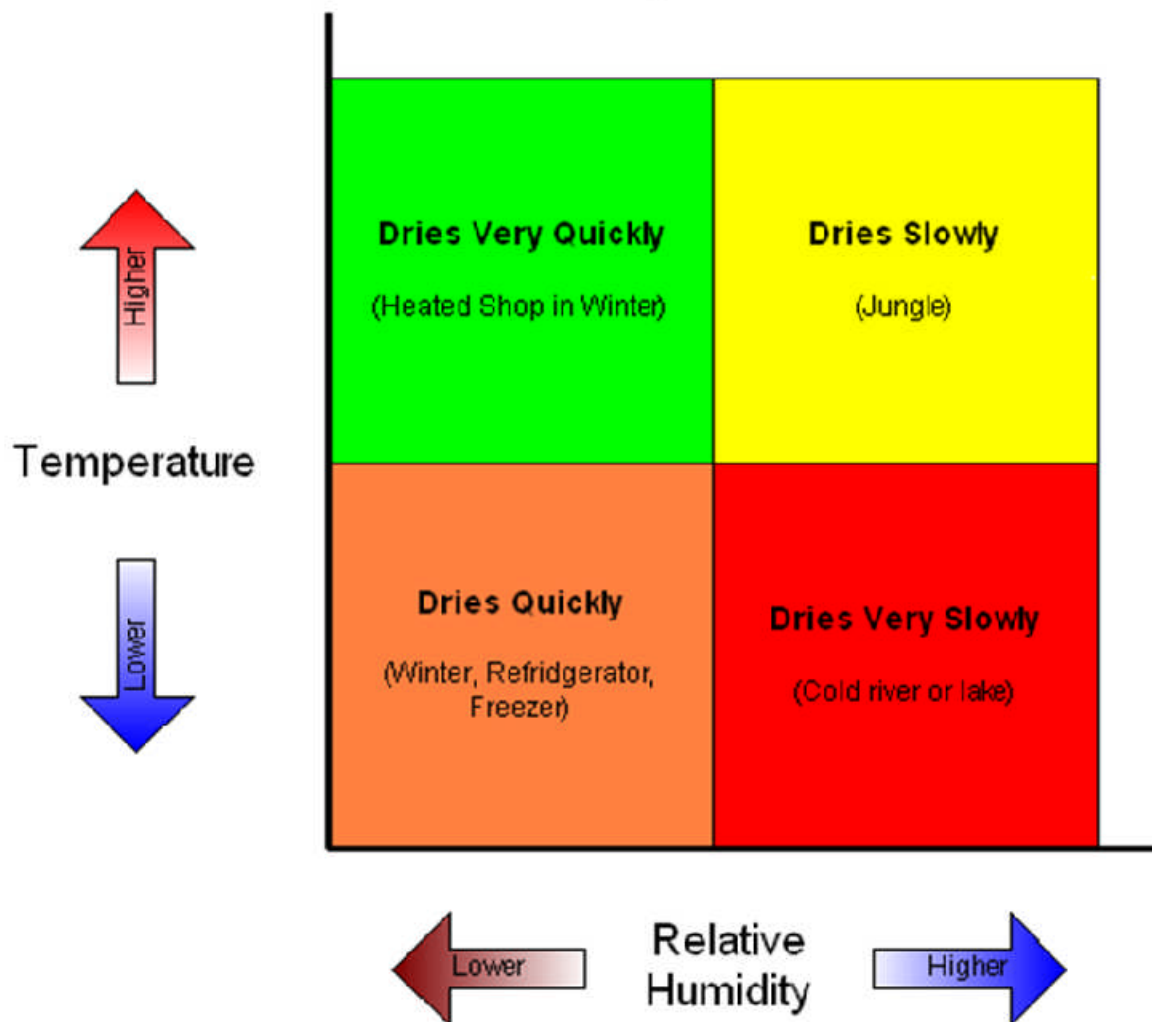
Whether you are cutting from the center out to the rim or from the rim to the center, always start the cut as if it were your last cut. Each cut should be a finish cut. Each cut should be a non-pressure cut. If you finesse the tool (perform light cuts with minimum pressure), you will produce clean, smooth cuts and you will not have to sand as much.



# The internet

*a great place for info !*

## Green (Wet) Wood Drying related to Temperature and Environmental Humidity



## Educational Opportunity Grant Information

The AAW would like to assist you in your woodturning education. If you have a particular goal, workshop, or project in mind and need financial help, you are just the person we would like to have apply to this program.

In order to expand and share woodturning resources, the board has established a fund from which grants are awarded either to individuals (adults and youths), chapters, and other woodturning-related associations. The grants will cover expenses such as tuition, registration, demonstrator's fees, travel, lodging, and meals, with each individual grant not to exceed \$1,000 and with each chapter, school or "other" grant not to exceed \$1,500. In addition, two more grants will be awarded annually in the name of the Daphne Osolnik Memorial Endowment Fund.

### Eligibility

- ✦ An *individual applicant* must be an AAW member in good standing and must not have received an AAW grant in the previous five years. Recipients must submit a report on their experiences within six months of their completion for possible inclusion in the Journal.
- ✦ A *local chapter applicant* must be affiliated with the AAW and not have won a grant in the previous 12 month period. A report should be submitted for the Journal. A school or "other" applicant must not have been awarded a grant during the previous year. Applications in this category must demonstrate an ability to enhance the mission of the AAW, which is "to provide education, information, and organization to those interested in woodturning."

### Application Periods and Deadline

Applications will be accepted thru **January 15**, annually. One application per member or chapter.

### Schedules

Those applications submitted for consideration must be postmarked no later than **January 15**. Recipients will be notified by **March 1**, and must acknowledge acceptance of the grant by **July 20** of that calendar year.

The AAW website has complete information and applications

*Info from AAW website.*





*The sign that greets you when you enter the shop at the Woodturning School*

In July, I took a course at the Woodturning School appropriately named “From trees to Bowls”. Ann Prescott was the instructor with director and founder, Ken Keoughan assisting her. The course was a three day intensive, from 1-5 each day. As always the class was limited to 6 turners and for this course there were 3 guys and 3 gals with the 2 other guys coming from Massachusetts.

The course started with a chunk of tree that was cut into bowl blanks ready for the bandsaw to be made somewhat round, and Ken was put to work in short order .

Bowl #1 was a green piece of birch. The second day was a chunk of DRY ash! And yes it was hard on the gouges. Day three was another green piece of birch .



At the end of day three, Katharina Keoughan showed us how to apply milk paint to our turnings and give them a totally different look.

Ann and Ken made sure that everyone “got it” before moving on to another step. There were many different skill levels in this group and with a 3 to 1 ratio, if anyone needed extra help , it was there.

This was a very enjoyable time! You WILL come away with much improved skills.

If you have thought about taking a class at the Woodturning School, do not hesitate any longer. There are several different courses, so call the School and sign up. The time spent there is well worth it.

Thank you Ann, Ken and Katharina — it was a great time,

*Brian*



Ken Keoughan

# ***Demonstration Schedule***

September 12, 2009

SATURDAY

Alan Lacer

sharpening, box making, using the skew and more !!

October 21, 2009

John Ramsay

getting bowls and ornaments pierced and really thin

November, 2009

Chainsaw Safety

Date still to be set

December, 2009

Christmas Party/Yankee swap

Date still to be set

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  
Dixefield High School

### ***Southern Maine Woodturners***

1st Wednesday @ 6:30-8:30 PM  
Rockler, South Portland

## THE MESSLER GALLERY



### Current Exhibition

Boxes and Their Makers  
September 11 – November 25, 2009

Internationally recognized woodturners represented

*Jacques Vessery and Bonnie Klein*

*Michael hosaluk*

*Richard Raffan*

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## Maine Wood Carvers Association

23rd Annual Downeast Wood Carving Show

Saturday and Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Augusta Armory, Western avenue, Augusta

*Woodturners will be there with mini lathes demonstrating our passion. Although this venue is aimed at carving, woodturners have demonstrated there in the past.*

*This is just one more way to get our avocation in front of the public.*



**SEE YA THERE !**





# The American Association of Woodturners



## Annual Symposium—2010

Hartford, CT - June 18 - 20  
Connecticut Convention Center

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.

## HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Just a short drive ( *well in my world it is* ).

It is not too early to start thinking about the 2010 AAW symposium.

Anyone who has attended will tell you it is a great experience.

Start making plans to attend.

It will be several years before it is this close again.

# PRESIDENTS CHALLENGE

What was made from that 3X3X12 inch chuck of wood ?



ROLLING PIN ?  
BOWL ?  
CANDLE STICK ?  
HOLLOW FORM ?  
LIDDED VESSEL ?  
OFF-CENTER ?  
VASE ?  
GOBLET ?  
ORNAMENT ?

**The results will be at the SEPTEMBER SHOW AND TELL**

## *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



## Fall 2009 President's Letter

**From Bill Haskell ...**



Nearly 1,300 people attended the Albuquerque 2009 symposium - thank you for your interest and support! Ask any attendee to show you their 158-page Demonstrator Handout Book, which is packed with program details and demonstration information, diagrams, and pictures - all in color. This book provides a whole new level of information for those who attended because it's something they can keep and refer to in the future. While they last, these books are for sale on the AAW website.

This Handout Book, like so much of the symposium and other areas of the AAW, was made possible by a volunteer. Hundreds of loyal AAW members worked at the symposium to pull it off successfully. As an example, there were well over 225 volunteers who accomplished hundreds of tasks, including registration, demonstration assistants and videographers, the Instant Gallery, youth programs, merchandise sales, exhibitions room, auctioneers and supporting crew, and many other areas. The host chapter, New Mexico Wood Turners, provided almost a third of the volunteers, including spouses and friends as well as members. The local volunteers had already done a fantastic job before the symposium by helping set up the conference center, gather tools for the demonstrators, and prepare for registration. They also spent many hours at the conclusion cleaning up, packing items to be shipped, and performing a multitude of additional tasks. A sincere and hearty thanks to all who contributed their time and energy to the symposium and to all who give of themselves in so many ways throughout the year to make the AAW such a successful program. And of course, a very special thank you to the AAW staff who put in countless hours both before and after the symposium, as well as long and challenging days during the conference! Your Directors also worked tirelessly to plan and execute the symposium, and of course put out the many "fires" that crop up in an undertaking like this.

The Board of Directors met for several days before and after the symposium. Some of the more noteworthy issues addressed and decisions made by your board are:

- \* The Nominating Committee presented their final selection of six well-qualified candidates for the AAW Board of Directors election this fall. \* The upcoming fall election of new board members will be done only on paper ballots, discontinuing the use of electronic AAW website ballots. \* Director Linda VanGehuchten was replaced by Al Hockenbery. \* The journal editor's decision to remove the stylized portion of the AAW logo from the American Woodturner cover for reasons of artistic and layout simplicity was discussed and supported. \* A final decision was made to publish six American Woodturner journals a year starting in 2010. \* The AAW Board agonized over how to deal with increasing AAW operating costs and the additional cost of producing two more Journals a year. Raising the annual membership fee was considered and debated. In recognition of the current economic environment and the number of members on fixed income, the decision was reached to raise the basic membership fee by only \$3. This may not be enough to cover next year's higher expenses, but the board is taking on the challenge of trying to make it work.

***We thank you for your continued support and look forward to an ever-growing and prospering woodturning program.***

***Bill***

Exerts from Bill Haskell's message

# **MAINE WOODTURNERS** **HISTORY NOTES**

June 18, 1997—*first meeting at Erskine*

March 17, 2004—*tee-shirt contest suggested*

June 16, 2005—*website posted*

May 16, 2007 - *MWT website wins 1st place in  
AAW website competition!!*

March 19, 2008—*tee-shirts a reality*

September 2008—*The newsletter resumes  
publication*



## **OFFICERS**

**2008 - 2009**



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