



A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

OCTOBER 2009

John Ramsay



GETTING
BOWLS AND
ORNAMENTS
REALLY THIN
AND THEN
PIERCING
THEM



John has taken woodturning to another level by not only getting his turnings really thin but then embellish them with free-hand piercing.

Our members have a tremendous amount of talent and John is a testament to that.

Attend this meeting and find out how to embellish your projects by piercing them.



**BE THERE
WEDNESDAY
7 PM**



Speaking Of...

BY ANDY HOYT



Hey Turners!

Is it just me, or does it seem like all this year the weather has been skipping ahead one month from what we normally experience at any given time. Is it Climate Change or Calendar Change?

Just prior to writing this I spoke with John Ramsay on the phone and he assures me that he's all set to thoroughly embarrass himself on Wednesday night as he demonstrates his techniques for "going thin with holes". He did have one last minute request to make, which was to ask all of you not to attend, so that the embarrassment factor will be held to a minimum. Not a chance, Bub. I'd never put that kind of word out.

I can also confirm our schedule for the coming months. In November we do indeed have Pete Tracy coming down from Farmington to present us an abbreviated and indoor version of the Chainsaw Safety session we were forced to cancel last June due to a road washout in Woolwich. If this goes well and interest remains high, perhaps we could schedule the longer outdoor session for next spring. Bear in mind that these sessions are related to AAW insurance coverage protocols for chapter activities.

In December we'll try to make it two in a row for a Christmas Party in the Erskine cafeteria. Last year's informal event was a lot of fun and the food was exceptional. And we do indeed have Andre Martel lined up for January and Ken Lindgren for February. But more about all that later.

It's now my reluctant and sad duty to report that our dear friend Sandy Gregor lost her battle with cancer on October 8th. It's important that we remember this wonderful lady with the same high spirit; devotion to friends and family; and wicked sense of humor that were the guiding principles of her short life. This hurts. Really hurts. For those who care to participate in a proper send off know that there will be a memorial service at 2:30 PM on Sunday, Oct. 25, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Farmington.

Take care, Andy



Sandy, you will be missed



Alan Lacer Demonstration

September 12, 2009



“What did Andy tell you that I would today”, asked Alan Lacer to the forty or so gathered to hear the voice of American Woodworking. “Anything you wanted “, was the Greek chorus answer. “Excellent, I’d like to do that”, he replied.

With that quick exchange Alan smiled and outlined for us the topics he wanted to cover. He started by sharing a recent history of his articles in the AAW magazine about sharpening. His empirical study of the sharpening process was to answer the question “What type of surface does it leave me on the wood.” His articles; Andy has placed on our website and from the AAW magazine, are extensive and technical but helpful to understanding the nature of the tool steel and the edges that are created in sharpening.

Other than the basics of sharpening, his agenda included scrapers as a finishing tool, Skew work, hallowing end grain and showing the use of two different jig he uses in rechucking his bowls.

The morning session seemed to fly by as Alan demonstrated his approach to sharpening. Almost all of this material is covered in his published papers. Either on his web site or at the AAW web site. The next best thing after free wood is free professional information; (WWW.alanlacer.com and WWW.woodturner.org). Just of the few tidbits garnered from Alan’s efforts include:

“Grinders- are not sharpening machines until you modify them to make sharpening machines. “
“Toss out the wheels that came with the grinder and purchase a friable aluminum oxide 8 inch wheel or a SeededGel (SG).”
“Roughing wheel (46 grit) and Sharpening finish (60 or 80 grit).”
“Buy a good diamond dresser” and “Dress the wheel frequently; the goal is little bit all the time”
“Purchase aftermarket platforms or make them. Good platforms equal Greater safety.”
“Get good lighting it helps you see the edge or a non edge.”
“Learn how to hone the edge or non edge.”

To the woodturner sharpening means three things:

- Making the profile or shape the tool this establishes the clearance angle (relief angle or bevel) and the shape of the edge.

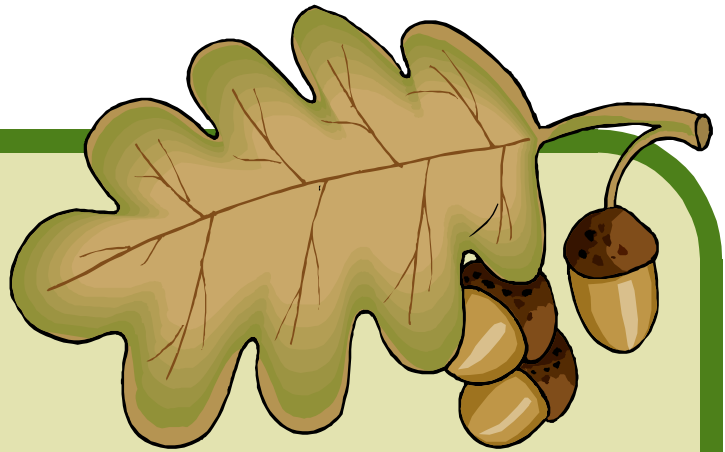
- Edge production to initially sharpen the edge by allows the sparks to come over the top.

- Honing to refine the sharpened edge or the bevel.



BEWARE of any tool that is painted black because the paint is covering the milling marks. Some manufactured tools use rolled steel in using this process the top and bottom of the tool is pitted which result in a saw tooth edge after being ground. The steel is okay but the milling edge needs to be polished top and bottom to establish, attain and retain a proper burr.

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The September 2009 meeting of Maine Woodturners was held on Saturday the 12th at Erskine Academy in South China Maine. About 50 members attended.

President Andy Hoyt opened the meeting at 9AM by introducing the days demonstrator, Alan Lacer.

Andy announced that the AAW Symposium will be in Hartford, CT in the fall and members are encouraged to attend. Mike Chase said that Western Maine Woodturners are planning to do a collaborative piece of a rail road Steam engine and coal car. He brought a very elaborate sketch of the project for our viewing.

Phil Brown told us about his 2800 mile motorcycle trip in England. He also mentioned he met up with John Brooks of Treknow Woodturners Club which has about 20 turners. Andy Hoyt said that John wanted us to be a sister Club to them. He told us about their fund raising efforts that supports their lifeline Helicopter. No public money supports this project, only private donations

Andy introduced about 10 new members attending this meeting. Brian Libby was commended for the quality of the newsletter.

Alan Lacer from Falls River , WI, started his demonstration on mostly sharpening at 9:22 AM.

At 1 PM Alan Lacer conducted a critique of about 20 items on the Show and Tell table. About 10 of the items were made from the 3 X 3 X 12 block of Cherry given to the members as a challenge to create anything they desired at the May meeting. Alan commented on the improved quality of the items over the last 10 years.

Ann Prescott offered to take any of the items to the Common Grounds Fair from Sept. 25 to 27 and offer them up for sale in the Woodturning School Booth.

At 1:40 PM Alan continued with his demonstration until 4:20 PM

Tom Raymond
Secretary

TURNING TIP

SANDPAPER

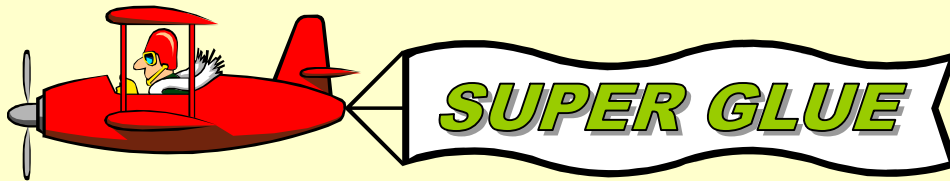
A NEAT WAY TO GET ORGANIZED

Take regular 8 1/2 X 11 sandpaper, cut in half length ways and then cut 1" strips. Arrange by grit with the coarser on top to the finer on the bottom.

Staple them together on one of the narrow ends like the pages in a book.

When you have finished sanding your project with one grade of grit, just flip the page over to get the next finer.

Much neater and faster than hunting for grits all mixed up together.



Super glue was invented by Dr. Harry Coover of Kodak Laboratories by accident in 1942 . A one-square-inch bond can hold more than a ton of weight.

The main ingredient in super glue is cyanoacrylate, this bonds almost instantly when exposed to moisture. Why doesn't the glue stick to the bottle? - there is no moisture inside the bottle. Have you ever stuck your fingers together with super glue? - there is no need to panic. Loosen the bond by using acetone nail polish remover. Soap and warm water and your sweat will also loosen the bond.

There is a medical form of super glue that can be used to close some types of wounds and surgical incisions, and if you watch TV programs, super glue fumes are sometimes used in criminal investigations to detect fingerprints.

Although super glue is extremely strong, it is also extremely brittle.
A sharp blow, twisting or dropping will easily break the joint



CRAFT SUPPLIES USA

THE WOODTURNERS CATALOG

MEMBER DISCOUNT

All club members can take advantage of a 10% discount from Craft Supplies on all abrasive discs and finishes by mentioning the following code when placing your order by phone.

Promotional Code— **CLUBMEM.**

It is the responsibility of the club member to mention this source code when ordering as our representatives do not ask for it.



AMERICAN OR EUROPEAN

There is a Difference

The American standard to measure a gouge is by the *diameter of the steel*.

The European standard to measure a gouge is *across the flute*.

In a world where we use both it does get confusing at times.

Here's a simple chart showing the difference.



American ----- European

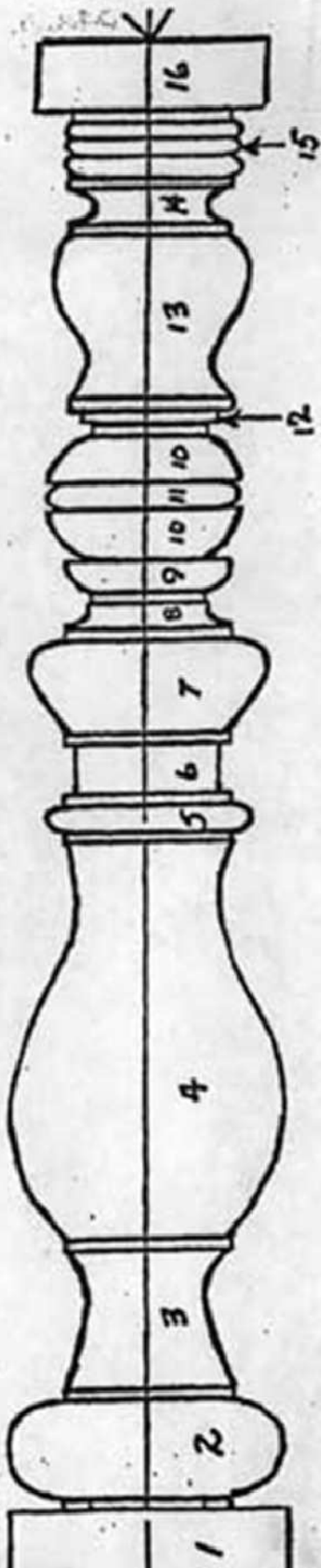
3/8 ----- 1/4

1/2 ----- 3/8

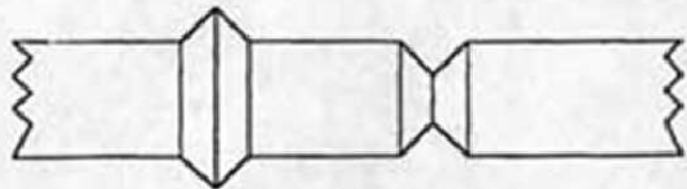
5/8 ----- 1/2

3/4 ----- 5/8

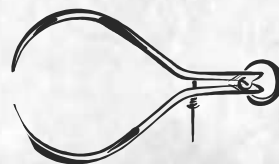
Spindle terminology



- | | |
|--------------|--|
| (1) PLINTH | Straight Sided Base |
| (2) TORUS | Large Semi-Circular Shape |
| (3) SCOTIA | Sunk-in Ovoid |
| (4) OGEE | "S" Shape Usually Asymmetrical
(Large Bulge Below is Ogee (Cyma-Recta)) |
| (5) ASTRAGAL | Semi-Circular Form (Smaller than a Torus) |
| (6) NECK | Straight Section in upper Area |
| (7) OVOLO | Protruding Segment of an ellipse |
| (8) QUARTER | Hollow |
| (9) QUARTER | Round |
| (10) BALL | Can Be Elongated into an ellipse |
| (9-10) QUIRK | Transition Between Elements 9 & 10 |
| (9-10) FLAT | End Of Quarter Round |
| (11) BEAD | Bead Is Cut Into Surface
(Astragal Protrudes Above) |
| (12) FILLETS | 3 Stair Stepped In Reverse |
| (13) OGEE | Large Bulge Above
(Ogee, Cyma-Reversa) |
| (14) CAVETTO | (Cove) Semi-Circular Hollow |
| (15) REED | Uniform Series Of Beads. 3 or More |
| (16) ABACUS | Straight Sided Section At Top |



"V" Positive Or Negative



Demonstration Schedule

October 21, 2009 Regular meeting night John Ramsay
getting bowls and ornaments pierced and really thin

November, 2009 Chainsaw Safety
Date TBD

December, 2009 Christmas Party/Yankee swap
Date TBD

January 16, 2010 Saturday meeting 9AM Andre Martel
end grain turning with his famous hook tool

February 13, 2010 Saturday meeting 9AM Ken Lindgren
Uses only wood harvested by mother nature

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



September 2009 AAW Board Letter

From Mary Lacer



Special Membership Note: Currently, 50% of local Chapter members are also members of AAW. While this is the core of AAW membership, the other-side-of-the-coin is 50% of local Chapter members are not members of AAW. As a current active AAW member, we could use your help to grow our membership. We have some excellent additional membership benefits in the works for 2010, so please encourage your fellow local chapter members to join you as a member of AAW.

NEW Member Benefits: The newest benefit is a section on the website dedicated to providing a simple and convenient way for AAW members to sell their work and buy pieces from other members, galleries and museums. AAW members may also post "ads" on the website for items they are looking to acquire. You will find the ONLINE SALES VENUE directly under the SEARCH option at the upper left side of the Home Page.

The Board has decided to begin publishing six issues of the AAW Journal starting in February, 2010. Each new issue of the Journal will have slightly fewer pages than previous quarterly issues to maximize printing efficiencies. And the Board is shooting for a 28% content increase.

Health insurance for AAW members has been a very desirable benefit. AAW is able to offer most of our U.S. resident members and their family's medical insurance policies at very competitive rates. Check the website for further information and to request a quote.

We continue to work to increase and improve benefits for our members. Additional member benefits are being pursued and will be announced on the website and in the journal as soon as they are available.

Maple Medley: An Acer Showcase: I encourage members to take part in the AAW Exhibit planned for the Hartford Symposium - *Maple Medley: An Acer Showcase*. Please note that the application information published in the Fall issue of the Journal on page 17 is incorrect. The correct application procedure can be found on the AAW website. The deadline for on line applications is February 8, 2010. The Exhibit will open at the symposium and then travel to St. Paul for our fall show. There are more than 20 species of maple, including Box Elder. We encourage you to use your imagination to introduce humor into your turnings. We are also looking for other venues for the exhibit. If you can suggest a venue in your area, please let me know.

25th Anniversary Symposium: We have already begun the early planning for our 25th Anniversary Symposium on June 24-26, 2011 in St. Paul, Minnesota - just one block from the AAW national offices! The plans include a woodturning cruise on the Mississippi River and a Local Chapter exhibit with a piece representing each of our Local Chapters. Look for more details on the Website as they develop.

Thanks to all our members for your support. It is very gratifying to have so many dedicated turners be part of our organization. I look forward to working with you to maximize the benefits of being a member of AAW. I truly welcome your suggestions about how we can improve our organization. Feel free to call or send an e-mail. With summer drawing to a close, it's time to start thinking about turning projects and getting back in the shop. I have a variety of projects to explore. I hope you are equally as eager to get back to the lathe.

Time to make chips!

Mary Lacer

Executive Director

Exerts from Mary Lacer's message



The American Association of Woodturners



Annual Symposium—2010

Hartford, CT - June 18 - 20
Connecticut Convention Center

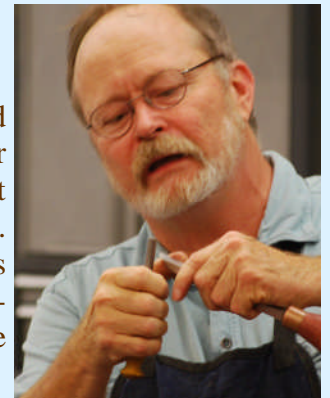
It will be several years before it is this close again.

Alan Lacer demo continued from page 3

Scrapers are the easy to sharpen. They act as a flat workers cabinet scrapper to refine the wood surface and eliminate most sanding. After setting the platform to the eyeballed angle you should, "Color the bevel to show exactly where you are hitting the bevel on the grinder." Then fine tune the angle of the platform as needed. Next shape the scrapper and the sharp the edge and hone.

How to redefine the burr on the edge to make different cuts:

The burr created from grinding is the meat axe burr. It's a starting point not the end edge you need. Using his own designed diamond honing tool Alan removed the burr from the scraper and using the technique of a flat woodworker, he created a correct burr needed to turn. A five degree bevel and a steady one pass across the top edge. Using DRY POPLAR Alan demonstrated the regular scraping technique with this new burr; he created fine spiral waste. Showing us the sheared finishing cut he explained that the result should look like someone had used water on the wood after the cut.



Remove wood with the regular scraping and use the shear scrape as a finishing cut on all surfaces. The biggest problem with how to use the scrapped is how to cant (angle) the tool. Shear scraping is a progressive action into the wood to produce a goose down waste fiber.

[continued on page 11](#)

Alan Lacer demo continued from page 10

The cutting tools, parting tool, gouges and skewers were next on the sharpening platform. The bench test for how sharp is the edge is to look down the edge and if you can see an edge there is no edge. Because when an edge is keenly shaped the edge cannot balance the light therefore there is no reflection. Where there is a reflection that is a dull spot on the edge. Alan's four indicators of dullness are; having to apply more pressure to make form a chip, the type of chip being produced, listening to the sound and with the lathe off check the surface of the work. This is the time to hone the edge. Any honing that takes over a minute then go back to the grinder get a new edge to hone.



Lacer moved through the skew and the gouges with the same intensity and attention to details that he covered the scraper. His insights, professional knowledge, humor and stories kept us on the cutting edge of our seats.



Our afternoon session had Alan work his magic with the skew. His explanations on a planeing and peeling cuts included why people dislike the skew and how to overcome these objections by sharpening the skew according to his type of profile. During this discussion there were several ah ha moments as the turners agreed with the insight Alan had or when Alan agreed with the questioners.

All in all the day came down to a hearing from a person who is a master of the skew as well as a master turner who understands the nature of the wood and the complexities of making that wood into a useful produce. His last good quote was to "take what you can and leave the rest for a later time."

Keep the chips flying,

Chuck Seguin



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2008 - 2009



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In memory of

Sandy Gregor



A very talented lady that will be missed

