



A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

NOVEMBER 2009

**November
Demo**

PETE TRACY

chainsaw safety

Most woodturners use chainsaws, some a lot more than others, but are you using them safely? Pete Tracy comes with a boat load of experience not only teaching but also that all important field experience!

- * Self-employed Maine Licensed Consulting Forester; 1983 - present.
- * Nationally Certified (CF) Forester; 2002 - present.
- * CLP trainer and Field inspector; 1997 - present.
- * Master Logger (MLC) field verifier; 2002- present.
- * Tree Farmer and "Tree Farm" Inspector; 1984 - present.
- * Part-time Logger (on own woodlots), crawler, oxen, farm tractor, skidder; 1965 - present.
- * Certified Forestry/Wood Harvesting Instructor - Foster Technology Center, Farmington; 1985-1997.
- * Maine Army National Guard Engineer Retired Major, 1978-2003.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 18th
and learn from a professional
{ *remember 6:30 PM start time* }

Speaking Of...

BY ANDY HOYT

Hey All !



Just talked to Pete Tracy and he's all set to come down from Farmington this Wednesday for his chainsaw safety discussion. The session starts earlier than usual - at 6:30 PM. And just to reiterate, there's no Show and Tell this month.

Speaking of no Show and Tell, there won't be one during our December meeting either. And that's because we'll be having our Christmas Party in the Erskine Academy cafeteria. Dave Barden says that we can arrive as early as 5 PM to get stuff set up, and perhaps warmed up in the kitchen; and I suggest we plan on formally launching at around 6:30 PM. The

night's festivities will feature a Pot Luck dinner – mmmm good! And that will be followed up with a Yankee Swap, so please bring in something extremely valuable to give away in exchange for the lump of coal I'll be bringing.☺

Speaking of bringing something in --- at the October meeting I put out the word for everyone (who was interested in doing so) to bring in a turned item that will be donated to the Erskine Academy Senior Class for their fundraising auction. This was a huge success for the seniors last year and I hope we can do likewise again. Since the auction will not take place until March, there's no rush. But Dave Barden says that he'll take custody of your donations at any time.

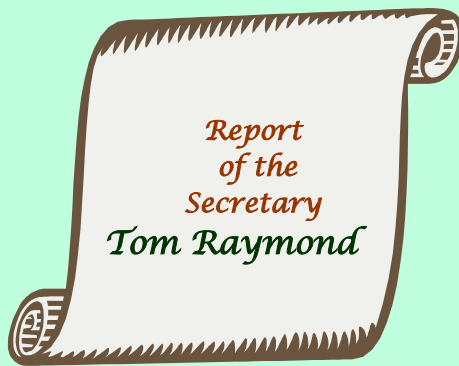
Speaking of March (and bringing something in) – let's not forget that we've all agreed to conduct a special Show and Tell in March. The notion is that we'll all bring our best effort in for Show and Tell just like normal, but then those in attendance will democratically select the Best of Show and Tell. This piece will be sent to our friends at the Treknow Woodturners in Cornwall, England. The Brits will be reciprocating at about the same time. Once their piece arrives here, we'll have an auction (for real money!) with the intention that we can raise a few bucks to donate to The Lifeflight Foundation; which is the group that operates emergency helicopter ambulance services throughout Maine. So get turning!

Speaking of Chuck Seguin (huh? who? what?) – Check out the [How'd They Do That](#) page on the website. Chuck's unearthed some neat articles for us.

And lastly, I'd like to thank John Ramsay for his insightful demo last month. It was a true treat.

Andy





The 2009 October meeting of Maine Woodturners was held on Wednesday the 21st at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine. About 50 members and guests were in attendance.

President Andy Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. He first introduced the new guests to the membership.

He advised that past member Sandy Gregor had passed away and that the Service would be on Sunday the 25th at 2:30PM in Farmington at the Trinity United Methodist Church on RT 2.

Burt Truman advised that he has a good supply of wood for the next wood auction. Andy said we would have one at the November meeting. Burt also said he would like the member input on the coffee and donut/bagel refreshments that he has been supplying and are any changes desired. He supplied forms for this information.

At 7:13 PM John Ramsey started his demonstration of turning a thin vessel then his method of piercing. The demo lasted until 8:37 PM.

Peter McCrea was the moderator for the Show and Tell Table which ended at 9PM

After Show and Tell Andy announced that the Senior class at Erskine is having a fund raiser auction like last year and asked the members to bring in donations of their turnings for this at the next meeting.

Tom Raymond, Sec.

Support Erskine Academy's Senior Class

Bring in a turned item before the March meeting
and donate to their auction.

John Ramsay Demo

October 21, 2009



How did he slip by for so long? How could he have never done a demonstration for the Maine Woodturners? If you missed this demonstration you missed fantastic turning experience. John Ramsey said he was nervous and worried about things going quickly south. He also, said, "I'm a very aggressive turner." He showed neither worry or fear as he shared with us how to turn a block of Box Alder into a thin walled tea light with pierced sides. "I turn things of interest" and "Thin is a challenge", he

said just before placing the block between centers, cranking the speed up and roughing out the first tea light.

John chose the box alder because it is a semi hardwood usually used for turning lamp shades. It has translucent properties when about 8% dry that allow it to be turned thin, real thin. John likes getting to 1/16 inch or less thickness.

John also likes to tell stories about how he failed to maintain a safe working environment and received an injury or two; one physical and one bruised ego. His hard knocks made him a better turner. Today, he is a calm cool craftsman with the ability to work quickly and effortlessly in creating his turnings.

John started right in on roughing out the 4x4x6 block. He soon saw a problem develop and replaced it with another block. Quickly rounding the block and making a tenon he took the piece from between centers, chucked the tenon and pulled the tailstock up to steady the cylinder. Again a flaw in the block appeared and he stopped threw the piece into his take home box and started over. Setting a quick pace the third block took shape and soon he was hollowing out the tea light and shaping the outside. The thinnest of the walls require that the top lip protrude out from the wall to act as reinforcement against warping. Yes, even with dry wood just the relative humidity in the air is enough to cause the wood to warp and disfigure.



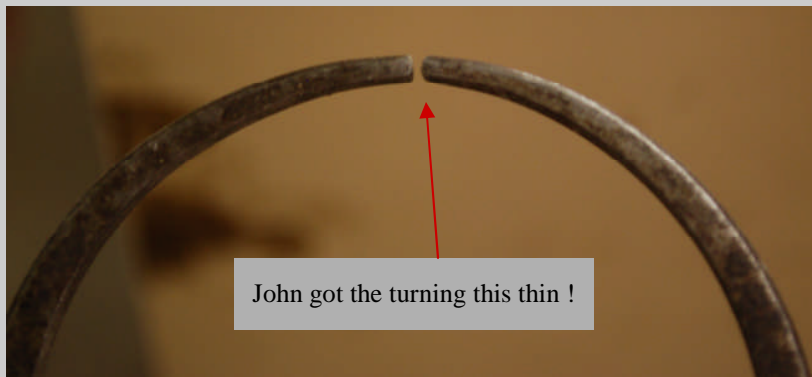
Continued on page 5

John Ramsay—continued from page 4

Using a 3/8" bowl gouge he worked quickly to get down to a little under 1/8" thick. He changed to a non handled One Way 1/4" gouge to thin the rest of the way. The technique is to hold the gouge in his right hand just about center and using his left index finger to support the wall as he applies pressure to the wall.

"As you get closer to 1/16" the wall starts to bend and it needs to be supported". As John makes another thinning cut he is looking at three points. First the amount of the fibers he is taking off, second is making sure the dark line of the cut is a consistent depth and third he glances at the outside to check the amount of light that is showing through the side.

"At home I would shear scrape the inside and that can get hairy, but I'm not going to do that tonight", John cautioned, this comment lead to a five minute discussion on how we all want to make the last cut the best cut and when to stop cutting. Finally common sense took over and John said, "Enough". The group let out a sign of relief and applauded.



One side note on the 1/4" One Way gouge he uses. His right index finger is about an inch from the cutting edge with the tool rest just underneath. The rest of the hand is behind the tool rest and the gouge rests under his forearm acting as his handle to provide leverage and balance against the cut. The gouge is a nasty shape and the cuts are very fine.

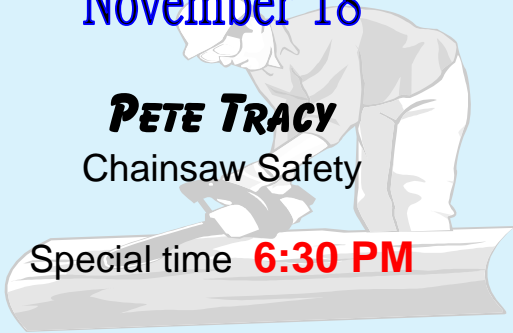
Just a light sanding with mineral oils soaked sandpaper and a hard pressure to eliminate the slight bump or two was all that was needed at the end. He finished the base and reverse turned the project on a jam chuck to finish the bottom with his trademark indented double circle symbol on the very bottom to surprise anyone who dares to look.

November 18

PETE TRACY

Chainsaw Safety

Special time **6:30 PM**



December 16

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Potluck supper and Yankee Swap

Special time **6:30 PM**

February 13

KEN LINDGREN

Uses only wood harvested
by mother nature

SATURDAY MEETING
9 AM



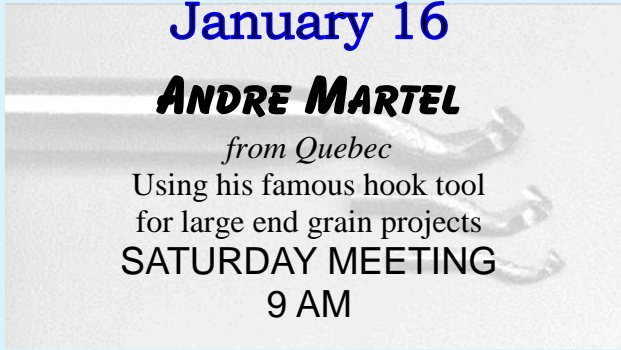
January 16

ANDRE MARTEL

from Quebec

Using his famous hook tool
for large end grain projects

SATURDAY MEETING
9 AM



March



Still in the works !



April



Nothing Yet !



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

John Ramsay—continued from page 5

The next step in the process was to decoratively pierce the sides to allow the light of the tea candle to shine. While attending a symposium in California, John purchased a dental drill system that allows him to quickly pierce and shape and burn

wood. The dentist drill is a 300,000 rpm cutting instrument using diamond bits just like the dentist uses. Sitting on his dentist chair John drilled holes in the sides and then passed the tool around for several members to try their hand at this technique. Really easy to use and in the end John signed his name to the project with the drill as a burning tool to complete his demonstration.



If we ever get around to having Sawdust Sessions again and John is agreeable to hosting a few friends over to his workshop be sure to be one of those few friends. Thoroughly enjoyable and knowledgeable and entertaining this was a professional demonstration from beginning to end.

Enough of me, time to turn.

Chuck Seguin





John Ramsay brought a few of his turnings with him.

Here are a few good sayings that Chuck found:

~ Sonny, be sure you have the thinking done before you start the job. ~

~ I've heard it said that one definition of a craftsman, regardless of field is: "10 years, 10 fingers"... ~

~ All opinions are mine alone, you go get your own! ~

~ Said of a coworker who wasn't known for thinking rapidly:
"Tell him a joke on Thursday and he'll start laughing in church ~

Lead testing and Children's products

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 is scheduled to go into effect next February, and may impact some woodturners ability to make/sell children's toys. The Government's "Statement of Policy" - providing much needed clarification on administration of this new law can be found on the AAW website.

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.

Sheffield England

Ever wonder why so many turning tools and cutlery are made in Sheffield England?

Sheffield has been home to Robert Sorby for over 200 years, Henry Taylor for over 170 years, Crown Tools about 25 years. These manufacturers are only a few minutes drive from each other.

Sheffield had all the natural resources to produce good steel. Two rivers provided plenty of water power and Timber was plentiful for making charcoal. Plenty of sandstone and millstone grit for making grinding wheels and plenty of clay to make crucibles to cast iron ingots.

Even though these companies are well known throughout the world, they employ very few people in their manufacturing facilities. In 2006 Robert Sorby, Henry Taylor and Crown had less than 75 combined.

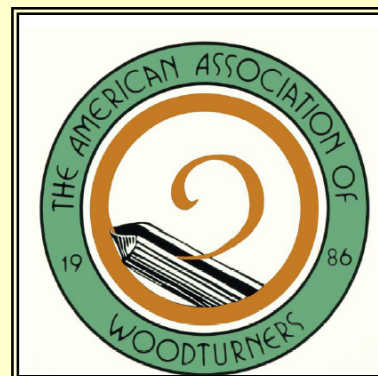
These toolmakers buy billets and then mill them to the size and shape they want. Once the manufacturer get the iron billets, all of the processing is done in-house. They have complete control of the quality of their products



Dear AAW Members,

I thank each of you for supporting the AAW through your membership and volunteer activities you undertake on behalf of the AAW and its chapters.

For me, the AAW is all about members helping members through various networking opportunities and communication venues. When you invite someone to visit your shop or see the woodturnings you have in your home, you are introducing them to the AAW.



We all see the big splash contributions to woodturning by our AAW members writing for the *American Woodturner*, demonstrating at symposiums and club meetings, classes they teach, and work they display in shows. However, the most valuable contributions are one on one sharing between friends. Something we all do.

My amazing journey began with a phone call from *Frank Amigo* in 1993. Frank had seen my name in the AAW directory and invited me to a meeting of new club he started with other AAW members. That began a wonderful friendship with Frank. It also became the first in depth contact I had with other turners. I was in a group that shared freely and genuinely supported each other's endeavors. This association with 18 people grew to hundreds of friends and acquaintances in AAW across the nation and around the world.

Perhaps, the most important thing we can do as AAW members is to reach out to those around us. Call someone in the AAW directory. Invite a new acquaintance to see your shop. Volunteer for your local club. Form a local club. Help run a regional symposium. Volunteer at the AAW symposium.

We all know the AAW relies on its membership dues. Often, we define the AAW as being its 13,000 paid members, the AAW Symposium, and the *American Woodturner*, but the AAW is much more. Two significant extensions are AAW presence in over 300 local chapters and in nearly 20 regional symposiums.

The AAW chapters include sixteen with 100% AAW membership. The other chapters allow "limited" memberships (chapter only). For a club to be qualified to be an AAW sanctioned chapter with the AAW furnishing liability insurance for the chapter, all officers and directors of that chapter must be AAW members. Only AAW members will be insured under this policy for claims that may be brought against them for bodily injuries that they may have caused to another person while performing a chapter sanctioned activity. Chapter members that are not AAW members who participate in chapter sanctioned activities are not insured for claims that may be brought against them.

The many regional symposiums are produced by AAW chapters and most use the AAW insurance to hold their events. The excellent Utah Symposium is the one notable exception. But it was founded by Dale Nish: AAW founder, AAW lifetime member, educator and author. Dale wrote *Creative Woodturning* which I used in the 70s to teach myself turning. In January, Dale will be at the Florida Symposium. Oh! Did I mention I joined AAW using a flier sent in box of materials from Utah? Is this a small world or what!

Give something to woodturning. You'll get more back than you can imagine. I hope to see you at Lake Yale, Tampa Fairgrounds, Hartford, or around a lathe somewhere.

Happy Turning,
Al Hockenbery
AAW Board member

OFFICERS

2009—2010

President

Andy Hoyt

aeh@downscaledesigns.com

Vice-President

Ken Shepherd

kshep440@myfairpoint.net

Treasurer

Burt Truman

trumbu@roadrunner.com

Secretary

Tom Raymond

trdamar@tidewater.net

Immediate Past President

Peter McCrea

panacea35@gmail.com

Directors

Dave Lancaster

dave@heirloombowls.com

Sheila Wiken

sheilawiken@roadrunner.com

Dennis Curtis

curtonpond@roadrunner.com

Librarian

Eugene Beaupre

pixes@aol.com

Web Master

Andy Hoyt

aeh@downscaledesigns.com

Newsletter

Brian Libby

bglabby@roadrunner.com



THE PITH

a guaranteed crack

I HAVE NOT FAILED. I'VE JUST FOUND 10,000 WAYS THAT WON'T WORK.

Thomas A. Edison



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.

Inspired by a photo of Alan Lacer's turned mailbox post and beam, I obtained some cedar and, with the help of member Darrell Larrabee's longbed Conover lathe, came up with this structure. The 57" tall vertical post had quite a bit of "reaction wood" so a bit of handplaning and sanding after the turning was necessary. The crossmember has a 2 1/8"

diameter through-tenon which is pinned with a 1/2" oak dowel with wedged ends. The finish is Cabot's Bleaching stain which is supposed to promote good weathering appearance with minimal ongoing maintenance.

Peter McCrea

