



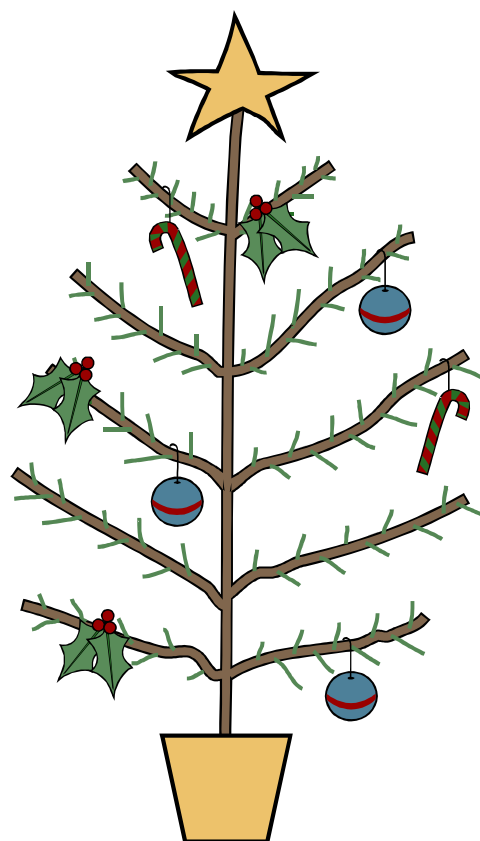
DECEMBER 2011



**POTLUCK SUPPER
&
YANKEE SWAP**

Bring some food to share and a small wrapped unisex gift (preferred woodturning related) if you want to participate.

Spouses, significant others and guests are welcome.



December 15, 2011 - 6:30 PM at Erskine Academy Cafeteria

The Guy That Works in My Shop

By Ken Shepherd

Ho, Ho, Ho! It is that time of year that gets very busy! The guy that works in my shop actually started work on his Christmas presents back in June – now it's time to get busy again and finish by the appointed date! Next year he will get them all done in the summer and not have to rush again (like every year).

The new lathe hasn't been used yet, but it is keeping the shop busy anyway. What was needed was a place to put it. It also had to be "demo ready". This required a portable bench with a place to put stuff. The design evolved with removable wheels (cheaper than lockable casters) and slip in handles that can be used as a stretcher carry or wheel barrow handles or to mount shelves when at a demo. Now it's up to the paint department to get a finish on it.

Back in November we saw John Ramsay make a ventilated box. He showed us some new techniques and new use for different tools. I hope he didn't take it personal that we gave him a hard time for the "peep hole" in the bottom. Of those of you who haven't demo'd in front of our group it is real easy to get nervous and distracted. It is really a lot of fun to do, but sure is different from doing it at home. If there are any volunteers for a demo in the spring please let me know.

The sale of Andy's bowls went very well at our meeting in November. All of his blanks were sold and generous contributions were made for his widow Chrystine's benefit. Thanks to all.

Last week several of us showed up at Genie Hammond's shop. The upfront purpose was to get her set up for coring out bowl blanks. We did get her set up, and did a couple of bowls out of beech – but mostly we had a good time. I always learn something from visiting somebody else's shop. We have tried in the past to set up club activities but the logistics' of small shops and geographical spread of our membership has prevented it. I would encourage inviting a few people over to see your shop and maybe even throw some chips around.

A few years ago I was at the NH woodturning symposium and met a woodturner from Israel. Amy Gilron and her husband are here in the US and she will be spending a couple of days with us to see some Maine and woodturners. The more you get around, the more you make contacts and learn something.

Ken's Hint of the month

Jaw protection! Ever want to put an almost finished piece back on the lathe to sand and or put another coat of finish on it? The guy that works in my shop has tried pieces of rubber, masking tape, and a lot of other things to protect the work from chuck jaw marking. He finally got it. A left over piece of plastic tubing (he never throws anything out) cut about 2" long fit over each jaw works great. The tube is 5/8" OD and 1/2" ID Poly [4]. It comes on a spool at the hardware store and relaxes to a roll about 8-9" in diameter. If it is sliced on the top of the roll they slide onto each of the #2 and #3 jaws. If it is sliced on the outside radius of the roll it slides onto the #1 spigot jaws nicely. It does a great job of holding your piece, it is easy to use, and doesn't leave any marks!

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Secretary's Report

By Tom Raymond

The November meeting of Maine Woodturners was held at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine on Wednesday the 16th. Fifty three members and guests attended.

President Ken Shephard opened the meeting at 7 PM by announcing that a Vice presidential candidate is need to take over as President in the future. He asked for volunteers.

The Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 15th in the Erskine cafeteria starting at 6:30 PM. Members and their partners are welcome. The usual Yankee gift swap will take place so all bring a gift to participate.

Ken said the website is being brought up to date and help is needed to assist Ann Prescott.

Brochures are on the back table from the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship classes and also from the Rumford wood supply store.

Ken thanked Ken Keoughan and Mack Ray for video's they donated to the library.

Mack Ray was commended for being Juried in at the Messler Gallery at the School for Furniture Craftsmanship's next exhibit.

Member Hank offered bubinga for sale on the back table and more in his car.

Ken obtained bowl blanks from Andy Hoyts widow, Christine for sale tonight along with others donated by various members. The proceeds are to go to Christine.

John Ramsay will demonstrate his method of small box making tonight and he started at 7:12PM and ended at 8:10

At 8:12 Ken started showing the items on the Show and Tell table and half way through , Peter McCrea took over. Show and tell ended at 8:30 followed by a raffle of shirts and hats with free tickets handed out by Burt Truman .

The meeting ended at 8:30PM
Tom Raymond, Sec



FOR SALE

Hank Tyler of Hallowell has bubinga wood for sale. If interested in some fairly large chunks please contact him at 22 Perkins Lane, Hallowell, Maine - Tele (207) 622-7379 or email : tylerpub@aol.com



John Ramsey

November 16, 2011 Demo

From the standard box with a popping top to a finial topped box, John Ramsey displayed several different forms he is comfortable in making. There seemed to be a 'ah ha' moment when John talked about the box with the popping top that can be set to spinning when the top is attached. It seems to be a trade secret that he was not going to share with us, just his Wiley smile and a nod towards a later time and place.



Comfortable is his word for being able to work through a complicated turning and getting constant results. Other words to describe his efforts would be confident and knowledgeable. John wasted little motion in getting the cherry block loaded and spinning to rough into shape for marking the proportions of his box. Making the two end tenons and cutting the block to length allowed John to chuck up the blank to cut the top off.

Here was John's first tip of the project- Place the top aside for a moment and start to core the base of the box. He has found that even with very dry wood that when you core out a majority of the box base now and NOT define its lip the wood relaxes; so when the lip is completed it retains its shape and avoids warping. Now take the base off and rechuck the top.

Tip # 2 was to define the lip on the top than fit it to the box.



Using a parting tool the lip is formed and a sharp round nosed scraper is used to finish the coring of the top. Light cuts and a fluid motion smooth out the bowl gouge marks.

Tip # 3 is to finish the inside of the top with mineral oil and sandpaper. This cuts down on the dust and makes a paste to fill in the voids that may be left. Working through the grit sizes to achieve the desired smoothness. A quick spray of lacquer from the can to act as a sealer than a dab of Carnauba wax completes the finishing task.



Chucking up the base of the box and coring to find the bottom is easily done with a round nosed scraper. Squaring up the lip and starting to pay attention to the sizing that makes the cap fit neatly is an act of concentration and slow light cutting. John said, "Don't be afraid to stop and start a lot so that the top fits tight."

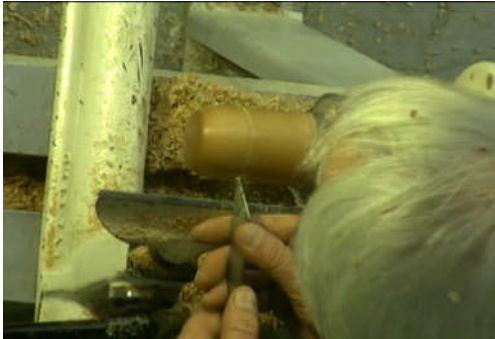
Tip #4 came from a question about finishing the base lip. "You're not suppose to finish this lip because it effects the way the moisture moves both pieces."

Once the base lip and the top lip are tight, John uses the base as a jam chuck to finish the top end.



Several tricks here could help hold the top to the base – a tissue paper wedge or painters tape. John's best suggestion was to use a smaller tool and use your fingers to apply pressure to the top. The small tool allows for less metal touching the wood when you pull cut from the center to the edge. This pulling cut and the hand pressure apply enough force to hold the lid on the jam chuck.

To enhance the character of the box as a design element is to make a indent or small gap between the lid and the base. "If you leave the raw edges together over a period of time they don't look right", commented John.



Making noise and shavings with a scraper comes next as he cored the box. Using his sanding techniques, lacquer spray and a quick rub of wax allows John to proceed to reverse and jam chuck the base of the box. Using the same hand pressure technique and a small bowl gouge John gracefully cuts the bottom. The finishing process takes a minute or two as Ramsey discusses the details of the mistakes that happen and how to effect design changes as the wood plays tricks on the cutters.



John Ramsey turns with a delicate touch and a clear understanding of how the wood will react to his efforts. Watching him exercise his talent is a... (I just spent 15 minutes looking for big dictionary words to make this point, but a small three letter word is the best to use).

Watching him work is a joy. Thanks you, John.

Now can I get the secret to the spinning box top?
Got to haul my shaving out to make room for more,

Chuck

Shop Talk

by Brian Libby

On November 26th and 27th an "Empty Bowls Turn-A-Thon" was held at the Rockler store in South Portland. All money raised from these events go to Good Shepherd Food Bank. This is the second turn-a-thon and about \$3000 has been raised to date.

Below are a few pictures of the event

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Maine Woodturners Officers

- President — Ken Shepherd
- V-President — Vacant
- Secretary — Tom Raymond
- Treasurer — Burt Truman
- Directors — Sheila Wiken
 - Dennis Curtis
 - Mac Ray
- Advisor to BOD — David Lancaster
- Librarians — Joan Coleman
 - Gene Beaupre
- Demo Scribe — Chuck Seguin
- Newsletter — Brian Libby

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



WOODTURNING CHAPTERS IN MAINE

Eastern Maine Woodturners

For more info contact

Chuck Seguin

cfseguin@midmaine.com

Western Mountain Woodturners

For more info contact

Gary Rowland

gjrowland@myfairpoint.net

Up There Woodturners of Aroostook County

For more info contact

Paul Porter

pgporter@mfx.net

Southern Maine Woodturners

For more info contact

Dick Shryock

dshryock@maine.rr.com

AAW membership benefits:

- Six issues of American Woodturner annually
- Automatic participation in periodic drawings for
- Access to all past issues of American Woodturner, online through the website Members Area. Note that the "online" American
- Woodturner may only be viewed through an active internet connection.
- Access to machine-readable American Woodturner issues for those members who are visually impaired, and use computer screen reading software - contact the webmaster if this applies to you.
- Marketing opportunities on our website for artists, collectors, galleries and museums
- Group rates for health and life insurance (US members only) (Not available in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Vermont due to state health insurance laws)
- Group rates for commercial business insurance (US members only)
- AAW members receive bodily injury insurance for chapter-affiliated demonstrations or events under the liability insurance that
- AAW provides to local chapters
 - Savings of up to 50% on AAW merchandise, including project books, DVDs, logo apparel and more!
 - Merchant discounts available exclusively to AAW members
 - Eligibility to apply for AAW Educational Opportunity Grants
- AAW Forum and member-only access to articles and resources on our website
- Eligible to vote in AAW board elections if a member prior to the end of August in that year
- Eligibility to apply for membership in the Professional Outreach Program (POP)
- Access to POP Fellowship grants
- Exhibit opportunities - AAW members may enter work for the annual juried member exhibit featured at the Symposium, the Gallery of Wood Art in St. Paul and other art venues
- Annual International AAW Woodturning Symposium
- Access to apply for demonstration opportunities at AAW Symposiums
- AAW Resource Directory, that contains a complete listing of contact information for members, local chapters, demonstrators, and other woodturning resources. Updated listings are also available to members through the AAW website.
- Over 300 AAW local chapters offer workshops, camaraderie, opportunities to share ideas and techniques, and access to lending libraries, discounts, and volume purchases