

John Ramsey

## Turning a box

NOVEMBER DEMO



John Ramsey is best known for his thin pierced turnings. Two years ago John demonstrated his finesse at turning THIN and pierced goblets.

***This month John will show us his way of turning boxes.***

### *Special Wood Sale*

Roughed out bowl blanks from Andy Hoyt's work for the benefit of his widow Chrystine.  
Bubinga will also be available from a carver friend of a member.

*These items will be at the November meeting*

November 16, 2011 - 7 PM at Erskine Academy  
*Show & Tell pictures at 6:30*



## *The Guy That Works in My Shop*

**By Ken Shepherd**

October's meeting was a great success with world class artists and demonstrators Jennifer Shirley & Clay Foster. It was interesting and inspiring to learn the thought processes that bring them to understand, appreciate and create the forms and embellishments of their trade.

A "sawdust session" or workshop was held at Lou Landry's down on Ocean Point road in Boothbay. It was so popular that we convinced Lou to do an encore for a second Saturday. Lou has a large shop and can accommodate quite a crowd. Starting with raw green logs he showed us how he has developed a process that is quick and easy starting with his electric mill. He has modified a small (18") gas powered bandsaw mill and converted it to an electric floor level 21" mill with end dogs instead of the usual side dogs to hold the logs for making his blanks. He has had multiple curved tool rests made up of different radiuses to assist in roughing the blank in readiness to core out the piece. Multiple people showed us how they went about roughing the outside and also helped core out the bowls. Lou also showed us the hollowing system which was impressive if only for the weight of the 2" bar that allows very deep hollowing with no vibration. With a tour of his gallery we saw some of the exquisite segmented pieces he is known for, then he showed us his process for making them and talked of the precision required. Thanks Lou for a great two days and for all the work you did to provide them.

Our website is still in the process of being updated and we hope to have it completed soon so that we can get it redesigned and Ann and Mark trained up to be able to do it at home more conveniently.

The next meeting on November 16 promises to be busy and interesting. John Ramsay will entertain us and show us how he does a box. There will be a sale of Andy Hoyt's bowl blanks to benefit his widow Chrystine. Some Bubinga wood will be available thanks to a carver friend of one of our members. We haven't had a "show & tell" for a while so I expect to see some examples of some of the work we have done over the summer.

Our website provided me a phone call and an adventure. I had a call from Mia Abbot and Fred Labe who have a very large wood lot where they live in Blanchard Maine. After chatting with them, Cheryl & I took a ride up to see them. It was a very unusual and entertaining tour of their lot. They have some spaulted maple, as well as cherry burls, lots of ash, maple, apple and a large variety of trees. I had a tour of the woodlot and had some wood custom cut for me. I know that this is hard to believe, but *I actually purchased some wood!* I came away with a large cherry burl and a couple of good sized ash log pieces. There are a lot of burls of various kinds (a lot of them a small). Anyone interested in contacting them can email them at [mobius@mainestream.us](mailto:mobius@mainestream.us).

This must have been a time for me to spend money (unusual as that sounds)! I have purchased a new lathe. It is a Jet 1220VS. I was attracted to it because I wanted to have a lathe small enough to transport to demos to promote the Maine Woodturners and because this new version of the lathe comes with a low end speed of 200 rpm. Most of the mini's come with a minimum of 500 or so rpm. It is a bit heavy (a little more than 100 lbs.) so I now need to come up with a cart/demo table to be able to get it to a demo site.

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Another purchase was a froe. (what's a froe?) I was looking for a way to get absolutely straight grain and people like chair makers and old fashioned shingle makers use this "L" shaped wedge to get the absolute straightest grain for any special purpose. It is much easier to use for that purpose than a wedge and sledge because you can wiggle the handle to keep the split open. When you find one people would want you to use a heavy steel hammer but that tends to spread the steel of the froe and damage it. This led me to turn a series of heavy duty hammers and mallets out of wood to drive the froe. The best one for the job seems to be a mallet which has a head of 4.5 to 5 inches diameter at the max tapering down over 6" length to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch less diameter at the base of the head. The overall length is 16".



**This all leads me into:**



## *Ken's Hint of the month*

Pay attention to grain. As mature as the guy that works in my shop gets he sometimes forget to pay strict attention to the grain of the wood and what he intends to use it for. He usually end up paying for it one way or another. Either the strength of the piece that he makes is weak or the warping produced in damp weather is bad.

# MEMBERSHIP DUES



**DUES are DUE !!**

See Burt Truman



# *Clay Foster and Jennifer Shirley*

October 8, 2011 Demo



Clay and Jennifer started the day with a slide show. The narration to the slides by Clay open the doors to why, why, what and how he makes his turnings and embellishes them. From his trip to distance place in Asia, Central and South America Clay as develop his unique style that requires contrast in the elements used; balance from one focal point or from a multi axis turning; endurance of the materials as they relate to each other. He also questions the nature of the object with his questions turning into metaphors. For example on viewing a door he asks "Am I coming or going? It open or Closed? Where do they come from and where are they going? What's on the other side? What am I doing on this side?"

Clay seems to start at a different place as he approaches the wood or idea for a project.

Jennifer's narration shared her work as textures, colors and simplicity in design. Being a part time turner she want to have that instant satisfaction in completing a project in one session. She works with dyes, burnings, beads, gems, copper, and readily available materials.

Clay demonstrated a multi axis vessel. Using soft Maple he quickly turned a cylinder and tenon on the tail end. He stopped several time to explain his techniques. His easy manner allowed him to express his turning opinions without being confrontational but more conversational. At one point he used a cabinet scraper and explained that;"When you try to sand green wood it clogs the sandpaper up just like that ( snapping his fingers). So what I found that a cabinet scrapper leaves me with a nice clean surface." This method acts as a still solid sandpaper that you can sharpen. Clay credits the Japanese Turners for this technique.



Next came the process of placing the wood on a different axis. Clay lead and in depth discussion on the balancing and placement of the center points to get the correct position for the next cuts.

Refining the sphere Clay added several beads to go all around the wood. Once beading is done he dismounted the piece and chucked it in the Talon Chuck to remove the end and get the piece ready for hollowing. Here the design work take center stage as Clay explained the reasons for the different thicknesses of the wall and how they affect the structure.

The hollowed piece is then rechucked on a jam chuck using the parted off end or a PVC pipe fitting. Bring up the tailstock and finish the bottom.

With the bands on the different level this allows for a visual effect that may be enhanced with other embellishments. Also, keep a record of what you did and how you did it so that when you find what is appealing to you, you will be able to repeat the process.

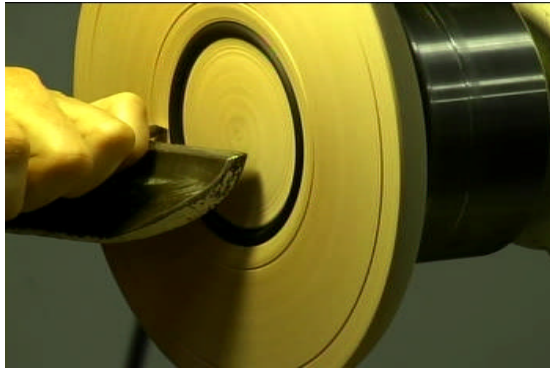


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Jennifer stepped up to present simple projects to make for gifts or craft shows. You can find all her demonstration resources and web sites for materials in the handout on our web page.

Throughout the time her small tool skills were light and delicate as she cleaned up the painting embellishments and joints.



Clay and Jennifer spent the rest of the day sharing ways to highlight and add texture to wood projects. From eggshells to pyrographics to burning with a torch to masking off and painting a design on wood they gave many tried and true suggestions to help lower our learning curve.

Clay and Jennifer stressed the importance of stretching your imagination and plan your ideas out.

*“Life is not clean, direct, and predictable. It is messy, it serpentine, and it is interrupted by cracks and voids. Sometimes the resolution of problems is a wonderful shift into a new pattern. Sometimes it is an abrupt change, with mismatched seams and obvious repairs. Sometimes there are problems that can’t be resolved, only endured. But, through it all there is rhythm, a cadence, a suspending and preserving of the beat. The pattern evolves, but the cycle continues, as we wind our way upward through life.”*

*Clay Foster*

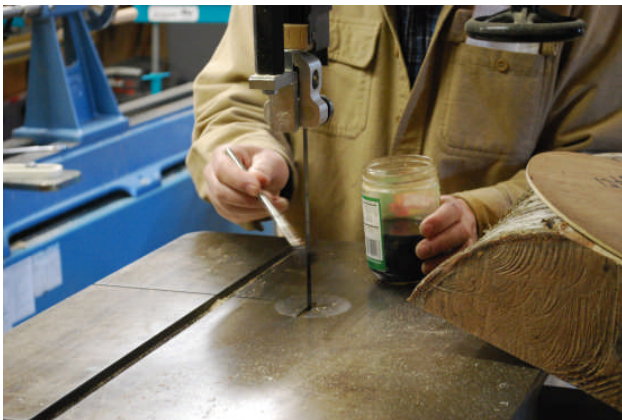
*Chuck Seguin*

# Shop Talk

by Brian Libby

*On November 5th I visited Lou Landry's shop in Boothbay with a few fellow woodturners. Lou showed us how he takes a green chunk of log and turns it into a bowl ready for his kiln.*

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# shop Talk

Continued



*A great day  
from a great host*

*Thank you Lou*



## 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



## Maine Woodturners Officers

- President — Ken Shepherd
- V-President — Vacant
- Secretary — Tom Raymond
- Treasurer — Burt Truman
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  - 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

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### Western Mountain Woodturners

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### Up There Woodturners of Aroostook County

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### Southern Maine Woodturners

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