
Minnesota Woodturners Association

Local Chapter of American Association of Woodturners

September 1995

Editors Letter

As summer is coming to a close and we prepare for our fall and winter schedules, now is a good time to look at what has happened this summer.

Our Association was invited to show some of our works and do demonstrations for the 23rd Annual Minnesota Crafts Festival held on June 24th & 25th at the College of St. Catherine in St Paul. Volunteers who talked to the public, handed out information, newsletters and application forms for the Association &/or demonstrated were: Don Wattenhofer, Ron Meilahn, Chuck Pitschka, Paul Kachelmyer, Gordon Miller, Steve Brown and myself. Thanks to everybody for volunteering their time.

The 9th Annual AAW Symposium was held at the University of California in Davis, California on July 6th, 7th & 8th. All aspects of Turning were covered from Basics to Ornamental Turning, a session by a doctor on Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Metal Spinning, an Instant Gallery that members can display their pieces (which is always impressive) and many more. All 14 demonstration rooms were in one air conditioned building this year. This was great as the temperatures got into the high 90s each day we were there,

although it did cool off nicely in the evenings. The quality of the demonstrators was excellent as always and there are always those tough choices as to what demonstrations you are going to attend. There were 4 rotations each day with other meetings and activities in the late afternoon and evening. Attendance from our chapter were members David & Ruth Waterbury, Chuck Pitschka, his wife and son, my bride Diane and myself. There were over 500 attendees and it is my understanding that this was the biggest Symposium to date.

Chuck and I attended the National Open Board meeting for the AAW. We were able to meet the board members and find out what was going on nationally. Next year will be the 10th Anniversary and the Symposium and will be held in Greensboro, NC on June 22nd, 23rd & 24th at the Kouray Convention Center with accommodations available right next door in a Holiday Inn-4 Seasons.

This is expected to be a very big event with demonstrators from all previous years and many new ideas. I would highly recommend attending this Symposium if at all possible.

I attended a meeting on Thursday evening for the local chapters of the AAW. It was stated that there are 74 local chapters as of that date, and growing, with 5275 members nationwide and in various countries and that there was an 85% renewal rate of members. The AAW said that if a local chapter wanted to put on a mini-symposium, they would help out with logistics and in a monetary way. This might be something for us to consider if we can get participation from our membership. (Please forward any ideas on this to myself or any board member.)

I also attended an impromptu meeting with 9 other newsletter editors from throughout the country and found that we as a chapter compare favorably with

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other chapters. (As it is true with everything in life, we still do have areas that we can improve in.)

This leads into our coming season and schedule of events. You will see we have our meetings scheduled thru December and announcements of shows thru February.

Because of the increase in postage, printing, demonstrations, etc, we will be raising our dues for 1996 to \$20 per year and would appreciate any positive or negative feedback on this issue. The dues have been \$15 since our inception and inflation has not been any kinder to us than anybody else.

I would like to extend an invitation to all members, at whatever skill level or interest level you are at, to become more active in the chapter by becoming a part of the necessary continuing improvements. We all have the need to continue learning, sharing in the knowledge we have & helping out our fellow members. Any suggestions will be appreciated and implemented wherever possible for the good of the membership. Your skill level is not anywhere near important as your enthusiasm and willingness to help out. Please contact myself or any Board Member by phone, mail or E-Mail with any ideas, suggestions or constructive criticism that you have. We would also like to find other options for meetings so we can accommodate members from all geographical locations and have a place for lathe, chainsaw and tool demonstrations. Thanks for reading and I hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Dave Schneider

1995 AAW Symposium held at the University of California at Davis

Following is the schedule of rotations that I attended while at the Symposium. This will give you an idea of the versatility of the demonstrators and variety of demonstrations.

7/6/95 Thursday

The opening talk and explanation of what was happening over the next 3 days was given by the president of the AAW. After this there were 3 rotations for Thursday.

Christian Burchard - Demonstration on the making of Spheres

Cup chucks are used to hold the spheres once they are roughed out. When making the cup chucks for holding the spheres, you have to use end grain to hold the sphere after the initial between centers turning.

When making the chuck for the tail stock, it should ride on a live center and be smaller than the headstock piece. Make the headstock piece large enough to put friction on the sphere but small enough to be able to turn the sphere.

Keep turning the sphere by changing axis back and forth, making sure you line it up and rotate by hand in the cup before you tighten up the tailstock. If you do not do this, it can throw the accuracy off and you will have to start from scratch.

Tips from Christian:

On finishing his pieces, Christian oils and then buffs thru the 3 stages of abrasives (Tripoli, Rouge, etc), and then applies carnuba wax to his pieces.

When turning, always use the triangle for control. (Gouge resting against leg or hip, arms close to body and the piece itself.)

Do not let the tool control you, if the tool starts bouncing, back it out and then come in with not as heavy a cut. Push with your body, not your arms.

After Lunch session with Al Stirt on Fluted and carved bowls.

Al really never got to the carving part.

He uses a dovetail cut into the base of his bowls and an expanding chuck to hold the piece.

When turning a carved bowl, make sure that the part to be carved is thicker than the non-carved so that the piece will come out balanced after carving.

On a wet bowl, use a heat or paint stripper gun to dry out the surface enough so that you can sand it.

Al uses Seal-a-cell from Craft supplies for his finishing; a 2x12 wood jaws on cole jaws for holding objects; a piece of plywood already marked to index the bowls for carving;

The tool that Al uses for carving is a stone cutting air tool made by "TRO Holding" in Barry, Vt. Type B, Short stroke

Next was David Ellsworth on creating an Open Bowl right from the Log

This was an exercise of getting a bowl from the tree. David is a master turner and also a master demonstrator.

David uses #14 self tapping sheetmetal screws to hold pieces on faceplates.

He uses a shearing cut from the bowl gouge at 30 deg to get the finishes on his bowls. (wet or dry).

This is also known as an Irish or modified Irish grind.

David stressed that cutting has to be done with the hips! You have to dance with the cut. (Stiff woodturners do not get anything done) Relax, float, use hips and legs, do not push it! You allow the material to glide by, do not push the tool in or use force. Draw the tool over the wood, do not push it!

According to David, on a longitudinal grain bowl (not endgrain) Cut downhill on the inside and uphill on the outside. Make a jam chuck that will handle both inside and outsides of bowls. Use 1/4" to 1/2" foam to protect the inside of a bowl or the outside of a hollow turning. (Insert drawing here)

Use a spoon type gouge to cut off the bottom nib. (To do this you shut off the lathe and then push in for the cut)

Following the last rotation I attended the AAW Chapter meeting and then the AAW Newsletter Editors meeting which made for a fairly extensive day which was followed by the outdoor barbeque for attendees and partners.

7/7/95 Friday

J. Paul Fennel gave a demonstration on Fiber optics in turning.

Paul had a handout for his source of materials. I will be glad to give a copy to anybody that is interested. He showed several of his hollow turnings that were mainly out of Olive and were very impressive. The walls were 3/32" to 1/16" thick and featherlight. He demonstrated his turning with the fiberoptic light inside the form and could tell by the amount of light showing through to the outside as

to when he had uniform and correct thickness.

Paul sands to 1200 grit and usually starts at 220 off the tool

He also makes his own tools out of pipe and glues HSS steel bits into the ends which he then uses for all of his hollow turnings.

Some tips from Paul:

Use small surgical/medical tubing in the end of you super glue bottle, you will never have to put the cap on, you can direct the glue into position easier and you will use less glue overall.

Paul sharpens his scrapers upside* down on the grinder to get a curl on the burr of a heavy duty scraper for final finishing. He also uses a machinists parting steel, sharpening it the same way.

He uses a small poly bag over his fingers to apply superglue to the finish of a piece as the glue does not stick to it.

Gene Pozzesi gave a demo on Basic Bowl Shear Scraping

Gene spent the majority of time explaining his curved top pieces that look like they have handles or wings on them. He stressed that a person should make a gentle a curve on the top of block to be turned, to prevent to large of a flair from developing.

Gene uses a honed edge rather than a burr. (He feels the burr is to aggressive). He uses Craftsman tools and the tools should go in or on at an angle.

Bruce Mitchell - Power Carving - Lancelot - Chain Saw

Bruce does turning to enhance his wood carved pieces. He used the Lancelot to form and shape a large piece of redwood burl, explaining the importance of dust collectors, masks, etc for safety.

He uses a Lancelot but feels that the Arbortech is a safer tool to use. (A Lancelot is a disk that mounts on a 4 1/2" hand grinder and has chainsaw teeth around its diameter.)

Next was an Experts Panel

The following people were on the panel and were open to the audience for all questions. This was a fun session as the questions were answered seriously but there was much humor injected.

John Jordon, David Ellsworth, Bruce Mitchell, Bill Hunter, Mark Sfirri, Stoney Lamar

7/8/95 Saturday

Ron Kent gave a slide show and talk on "How I Do It"

Ron is a StockBroker and Turner in Hawaii that does not always (sometimes?) follow the conventional wisdom imparted in the turning community. He has pieces displayed in the White House and also in the Vatican. He uses Watco, Varathane, etc all put into a single vat and then added to as needed. The vat has a refrigerator shelf over it so that when Ron puts on the Oil he can sand above the vat and have the oil drip back in.

He adds thinner if the mixture starts thickening

He uses an old freezer to stop spalting. He says that spalting will start up again when it is taken out of the freezer in his climate but will quit with the first application of oil.

Ron makes eggs 4"-6" @ \$200 each with a stand (\$3) and a leather bag (\$35)

One of Ron's closing comments was a quote from Leo Durocher: "You can see a lot by watching"

Clay Foster Gave an excellent talk on "The Creative Spirit"

Following are the major parts that I picked up from his talk:

It is not the Destination but the Journey that counts.
Do not be afraid to Draw or Color outside of the lines.
Be responsible for your actions,
Choose to be Creative
Associate yourself with Creative, Courageous people

Steps to problem solving

Define the problem

Knowing what you want to do -
Converging thinking (funneling)

Preparation

Why are you not doing it?
Divergent thinking, information gathering

Clay uses an idea book. He has cutout pictures, drawings and notes that he constantly refers to. He enters his quotes in their also.
Always ask the question *Why* Do not be afraid to try something different or to do something different. He told the story about cattleguards and how expensive they were so that there were fakes painted on the road and were effective when there were some real guards in place.

Be aware of functional fixedness - funnel or straight line thinking (Clay referred to this as Psychosclerosis). Do not let your inner self censorship or voice of judgement lead you. Know when to not feel guilty

Frustration

Darkness before the dawn, Normal part of the process, it is always part of this process.

Perseverance

Do not ever quit to soon. Be persistent. Have intrinsic motivation - do it because you want to and always have a passion for what you are doing.

Incubation

This is when no thoughts or ideas are coming.

Turn it over to your subconscious, This is not giving up, just giving it a rest.

The subconscious is very effective as it does not have the self judgmental part.

Daydreaming lets communication open up between the conscious and subconscious parts of the mind.

Illumination

Eureka!!!

Translation

Bring the idea to reality. You will now find out whether it works or not, and then it is time for the next cycle.

Quote: Socrates-Beware the Baroness of a busy life

Quote: Ignorance is bliss, but only for the ignorant

Bonnie Klien gave a demonstration on Duplicating

Bonnie showed the new duplicating jig she is marketing for approx \$100. She used this to show the duplicating of a Rook for a Chess set

Bonnie also showed patterns she made from original turnings and also brass that was used for forms. She uses a battery powered Dremel tool in a right angle jig to set up grooves, index etc

Bonnie buys 2" maple stock for her tops

ABC's of turning

- Anchor-angle
- Bevel
- Cut

She uses brush type felt pens for coloring her tops. They are available from art supply companies and 2 brand names are "Staedtler" & "TOMBO"

She wholesales her tops for \$6 ea Doubleback tape a 3/4" or less piece of wood to a faceplate and clamp for approx 15 min. You can

then use this over and over as you superglue pieces to it for turning. If the wood taped is over 3/4" there is to much play at the end for precision turning.

Chatter Tool - The faster the speed the further apart the pattern, the slower the speed the closer the pattern.

Use stainless steel wire for burnishing lines in pieces
Pressing to hard on the bevel will create spirals in or on the piece. If this happens, backout and come in slowly and not as aggressively. Rub the bevel but use very little pressure.

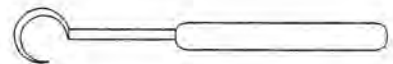
The last rotation I attended was Alan Lacer on Hooked and Ring Tools

Alan showed varying types of hook and ring tools and made the comparison to gouges. Watch the angle and they will work.

He made a tool with MAPP gas and then stated that the annealing could be done in the oven at home in the 450 to 500 deg range if the oven is even and has no varying areas,

He described melting sticks that will melt at a particular temp when touched to the tool.

Melt sticks and welding supplies can be purchased from MSC at 1-800-645-7270



One type of a hook tool that has been used for many years

This was followed by the Banquet and Auction. Even after all of this, I just can't wait for next years Symposium in Greensboro, NC!

Fall and Winter Meetings

September 16th, 1995, Saturday
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Craig
Lossing.

Craig has some larger roughed out bowls and will demonstrate to us how he takes them from this stage through completion and finishing.

Please bring a chair and "Show and Tell items". These can be anything from the best of, the worst of, mistakes we do not want to repeat, etc. Remember, we all learn continually.

We will also have a tool and woodswap so bring any tools/wood you are not using and see if there is somebody that would be interested in them.

Directions to Craig Lossings place: Craig lives in "Marine on the Saint Croix", approximately 10 miles north of Stillwater on Highway #95. To get to Craigs, take Hwy #95 to Marine. Go west (left) on County Rd #4, up the hill and around a couple of bends for a distance of approx 1/2 mile. Craig lives right on County Rd 4, but his address is actually 710 Broadway Street because the road changes names. If you reach the cemetery, you have gone to far. Craigs house is a large 2 story grey house on the north (right) side of the road.

October 10th, 1995, Tuesday.
7:00 Am to 9:00 PM - General
Meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Woodcraft Store, 9741 Lyndale Ave S., Bloomington, Mn (884-3634). Take 35W to S. 98th St and go east to Lyndale Ave S.

Jim Tracy will talk about the Duluth Art Institute show we are putting on

Paul Kachelmeyer will share with us some tools, tips, techniques and ideas of his.

Chuck Pitschka and Dave Schneider will discuss this years Symposium and the benefits of belonging to the AAW. There is the possibility that Steve Brown will be able to show us slides he took while on a trip to Vermont and the Granville Bowl Factory. Granville has been in business for more than 130 years making functional bowls up to 22".

Chapter wood raffle (Please bring a piece of wood for the raffle.)

November 18th, 1995, Saturday
12:00 to 5:00 PM -Don
Wattenhofer-

Don will demonstrate to us his methods for turning a Hollow Vessel



Don Wattenhofer wearing the box elder hat that he turned

Chapter wood raffle (Please bring a piece of wood for the raffle.)
 Wood Raffle

Directions to Don's house: 5312 Horizon Dr, Fridley, Mn If coming from the North or South, take University Ave N.E. to 53rd Ave. Go west 2 blocks to Horizon and North to the 2nd house on your left. If coming from Interstate # 694, take the South exit to University and go approx 1 block to 53rd Ave. Go west 2 blocks to Horizon and North to the 2nd house on your left. Please bring a chair and warm clothes.

December 5th, 1995, Tuesday
Woodcraft

The meeting will be held at the Woodcraft Store, 9741 Lyndale Ave S., Bloomington, Mn (884-3634). Take 35W to S. 98th St and go east to Lyndale Ave S.

Christmas Party, Show and Tell, Gift exchange

Chapter wood raffle (Please bring a piece of wood for the raffle.)

WOOD RAFFLE:

Starting with our October meeting, we would like to ask members to donate a piece or pieces of wood that are spare or surplus, for a wood raffle at that meeting. We will sell raffle tickets for \$1 each and as each winner is drawn they can pick out a piece from what was donated. This is an excellent opportunity to help the chapter out financially, give somebody a chance to try out a new piece of wood or possibly get a piece for yourself. Hopefully this will be successful and we will have it at every meeting.

Exhibitions and Shows**Phipps Institute Art Show**

Member Jim Tracy had a show of his work in Hudson, WI at the Phipps Institute or Gallery Aug 3 - 30th. The opening and Artists reception was on Friday, Aug 4th from 6:30 to 8:30PM. My wife and I attended the opening with some friends and were impressed with the setup of the show and especially Jims work.

Carleton College Exhibition.

Members David and Ruth Waterbury are having an exhibition of their collection of Wood Turned Bowls at the Carleton College Art Gallery. This will be a representative selection of turnings from their extensive collection. This exhibition, Oct. 13-Nov. 16, is the first in a series to focus on interests of collectors in the Carleton community.

The Woodworking Shows

October 13-14-15 @ Minnesota State Fairgrounds, Education Building, Snelling and Commonwealth Aves, St Paul MN 55108 We will be participating as special displayers at the Twin Cities Woodworking Show. This show generally attracts over 10,000 people in the 3 days and is very comprehensive in the variety of tools & equipment for sale We are looking for 15 volunteers to staff our booth in 1/2 day shifts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 13th, 14th and 15th. Admission for a staffer is free and you will have a chance to meet people and explain our club to them, pass out information and membership applications, demonstrate on the club lathe if you want (but not necessary) and a

chance to see one of the biggest woodworking shows around. There are also very good show discounts on equipment at the show that you can take advantage of. Please contact Dave Schneider (934-4667 or 229-2380) or Paul Kachelmyer (730-0166) if you would like to participate. This is a great opportunity for learning, sharing and promoting our association as well as getting to know your fellow members better.

Northern Woods Woodworking Exhibition.

A reminder to all members that the Northern Woods Woodworking Exhibition will be held October 19-22, 1995 at Southdale Center in the Garden Court. All members are eligible to enter up to 2 pieces in the show for an entry fee of \$25 and will be eligible for all awards including the Best Turning Award with a prize of \$100 which is being supplied by our club. This exhibition provides you with an opportunity to see some of the best woodworking and woodturning in Minnesota. You will be able to meet some of the artists and see demonstrations by Members of the Minnesota Woodturners association. If you are interested please contact Don Wattenhofer(572-1045) or Chuck Pitschka (935-0660)for further information.

Duluth Art Institute Show

Minnesota Woodturners Association is having a show at the Depot in Duluth sponsored by the Duluth Art Institute. It will start Feb 12, 1996 and last for approx 1 month. We would like to have at least 30 members submit from 1 to 3 items. There is a registration fee of \$10 that will help with costs of transportation and exhibiting. This

is a great opportunity for you to show off your work and to show what we do as an association. This is in the formative stages and we need input as to participation Please contact James Tracy, (612) 571-3374 for further information. Jim will also be talking about this in future meetings.

FOR SALE/WANTED

The FOR SALE and WANTED columns are available to MWA members at no charge. Call or send information to Dave Schneider, 16777 Thatcher Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55347-2261 - Tel: (612)-934-4667. I will then get it in the next newsletter

FOR SALE: DREMEL Mini-Lathe. Call Craig Lossing at 433-3516

MWA Helpline -

Need help with a problem turning or general questions? We are looking for volunteers to help out. This would be answering questions over the phone. If you would like to help your fellow members out, please call Dave Schneider to put you on this list. Hal Malmlov & Dave Schneider have volunteered so far. We will print names and phone numbers of volunteers in our next issue of the newsletter.

