

Shavings

DETROIT AREA
WOODTURNERS



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<http://www.DetroitAreaWoodturners.org>

November 21, 2004

President's Corner

Does the time fly? It seems like our picnic was just yesterday and Thanksgiving is around the corner. The last month has been very busy. It makes one reflect about what are the important things in life. Aside from turning of course.

Cancellation of the day-long Don Derry demonstration was disappointing, but we could not expose the club to the financial impact when only seven members had committed.

I had the opportunity this month to attend an event in Chicago called the International Expositions of Sculpture Objects & Functional Art (SOFA). This event is the highest level of 3 dimensional art in the country. There were only 4 galleries from Michigan. The event was like visiting a museum of contemporary art work, with prices ranging from \$1,000 to \$75,000.

Major wood sales included 4 cocobolo vessel forms by William Hunter sold by Del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles in the neighborhood of \$20,000 each. The major medium in the show was Glass and ceramics, with wood, metal and fiber well represented. To me, the opportunity to view such a broad range of shape and form in 3D work was outstanding. I think events like this can only help expand one's view of the form texture and color possibilities and related it to turning.

Learning skills, learning vision, meeting people and exploring new and areas of interest is what makes woodturning of such great interest.

The Woodworking show is coming up soon and we want to thank all the folks who have volunteered to staff the DAW booth. This is our big membership drive event so we will also be needing folks to help mentor any new turners that join. Be sure and let Chet know if you are available. Greg

Woodturning Talk at 3:00 AM ??

If the names "WoodMangler", "Old Griz", and "fireflex8263" are familiar to you, then you've already been to my favorite woodturning forum (or "Chat") site on the Net, www.woodworking.com. These are just a few of the helpful folks that make this site so useful. Whether you need information about installing your dust collection system or how to assemble the innards for a peppermill, there's always someone willing to help. The experience range of the turners who frequent this site includes absolute beginners and seasoned woodturners who turn for a living. In this respect, [woodworking.com](http://www.woodworking.com) is the cyber mirror of our own Detroit Area Woodturners. The site is also great for showing your work and a great place to see what others are doing. Pictures are frequently posted and critique is gentle and encouraging.

Most impressive to me is the site's archives. You can find pictures and detailed instructions for getting that finger-nail grind you've always wanted, a list of the best places to buy wood on the Internet, or what to look for when trying to make a shearing cut. There is information on shop layout and war stories that emphasize the importance of safety in the workplace. If you think that there's something that you want to buy, a trip to the archives will get you the opinions of those who have already purchased the item.

So next time you want to talk about turning at 3:00 AM, or have a question that just can't wait until tomorrow, drop by and visit. You won't be disappointed. Jim Allen

Woodturning Site of the Month.

This month's woodturning site is "Joe Woodworker's site at <http://www.joewoodworker.com/ruststain.htm>.

Another is: <http://www.newwoodworker.com/JWL1236tips.html>. I recommend it!

Join the AAW!!



Next Meeting -Nov. 21, 2004

Meeting Highlight will be "Woodturning Chucks" presented by Chet Bisno

Detroit Area Woodturners meets at the Shelby River Bends Park, Shadbrush Nature Center, Shelby Township, MI, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The Park is located on Ryan Road between 21 and 22 Mile Roads opposite the Hamlin Road junction.



Don Derry Infomertial



With cancellation of Donald Derry's full day demo at DAW, there remained an opportunity to sit in on a presentation he gave in Ann Arbor on Nov. 12. We arrived at the Michigan Woodturner's meeting site at about 4:00 PM and after a little chat, Don launched into his pitch. He was frank that he was promoting his tool for hollow vessel turning – an “infomertial.” More about that later.

Before proceeding, a possible misunderstanding should be cleared. Both the material in last month's “Shavings” and a visit to Don's website might have left the impression that his presentation would address fancy color application to turnings. It should be clarified that Don presented solid foundation material that's highly relevant to DAW level hobbyists.

Don's workshop philosophy is modification of thinking, not just tool use. Even presenting his “infomertial,” he offered numerous thoughts about basic changes in understanding. Here's what we got:

Shape and form –

- When starting a turning, take the time to understand your “intent” and what you want to accomplish first thing.
- There are four basic shapes or models from which to start: Sphere, egg, pear, and preg
- The Preg is a cross between the pear and egg.
- Use a shape as a starting point and develop the product you want clearly in your mind.
- It's easy to just copy from a previous work, but more creative to process your own design
- The skills to observe and apply (as opposed to copying) can be learned.
- Start by mounting the turning between centers – Rather than pounding the center into the end of the wood or pounding the wood onto the lathe mounted center, use the screw in the tailstock to press the blank onto the center. Give it a turn, then wiggle wood. Give it another turn and wiggle it again. If you do this four or five time, it'll engage well. And you won't be pounding the center or cracking you spindle bearings with the pounding.
- Holding tools – “Everybody holds tools too tight. Try to turn with tools held just between your fingertips. With sharp tools, this works well. Don had repetitive motion syndrome that resulted in loss of sensation in his arm. As a result he had to ease up. He now continuously adjusts his hold on tools. Try to cut with your palms open and the tool secured in your fingers. Give it a try.

Hollow vessel turning –

- Hollowing can be done through either the top or bottom
- Don gets away from conventional design by sometimes relocating the foot off center.
- In mounting for hollow turning, the diameter contact of the mounting to the faceplate must be 1/3 of the total length of the vessel for a secure mount.
- Because of increased ease of cut, he enjoys cutting slightly green wood.
- Green wood distorts with drying, that lends an ‘organic’ difference to his pieces
- The driving principle in Don's turning is to zero in on the high spots – NOT the low spots. Low spots define the largest dimension you can get in your product, so don't cut there to smooth a curve. Identify the high spot and blend that with the lows to prevent further deepening lows.
- To understand the essence of any form – you need to turn it many times.

At this point Don launched into his infomertial about his deep hollowing tool. **But what a tool!!** Unlike a boring bar, it's only about 20” long. As shown in the photo, the cutting bit is held in a square bar that is captured on a tool rest between two flat bars that adjust exactly to hold it and prevent twist. The size and manipulation benefits over a boring bar are obvious.

The tool is manageable with one hand - it doesn't require full time, concentrated attention. Several turners, including Greg



Smith, used it. They confirmed it's ease of use. It includes a laser for feedback on wall thickness. The laser is rigidly mounted with two axis adjustment. The laser dot was steady on the turning; there was little movement usually associated with boring operations. The two axis laser adjustment enables easily realigning the dot for accurate wall thickness awareness.

Incident to the tool demo, Don emphasized needs for a hollowing lathe. It should be reversible. By turning in the clockwise (as viewed from the tailstock), you can cut on the right side (as viewed from the tailstock), rather than the traditional left side. The

lathe should be variable speed to accommodate the turning circumference with an appropriate linear speed and the comfort speed for the turner. In response to audience concerns about the turning unscrewing from tool resistance while in reverse mode, Don replied he's not had any issue with this. Further, when a catch occurs, the reverse direction is considerably more forgiving in allowing the turning to unscrew and absorb energy.

Club Purchase at the Nov. 21 Meeting

Dave Wiltse and Len Kraska will be handling a bulk order for DAW members at the next meeting, so come prepared to turn in your orders with payment, including Michigan sales tax of 6%.

Mr. Wiltse will be ordering the supplies through his business, **Wiltse Auto Paint, 2618 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston, MI, 48346. phone # 2486744177.**

As usual, the order will be sent via internet to Craft Supplies. They will then determine the club discount we receive. We must have an order in excess of \$1000 to receive a discount. **There is no shipping charge.**

As in the past, all items may or may not be discounted. Items currently on sale, certain specialty signature gouges, large lathes or grinders, Oneway items and certain power tools will not normally receive a discount. The sales rep at Craft Supplies will inform us of all discounts prior to us finalizing the sale. So, if the item you order is not discounted, one of us will call you to get your approval before committing the purchase.

Your order pick-up can be arranged through Mr. Witse at his store or at the next scheduled DAW meeting, December 12. Purchases normally arrive 5 to 10 days from finalizing. One of us will call you when the items have been delivered. Note that items can be back ordered for later delivery.

This is a service DAW members are providing free of charge. If you have ANY "special order" items, deal with Craft Supply directly. We will not include it in our order unless approved by them. For any returned items, YOU will be responsible for shipping charges.

If you have any questions or concerns contact Len Kraska ((248) 649-3923 / fishkiller@hotmail.com) or Dave Witse at 248 674-4177.

Turn a piece of wood, let it live again.!

Len Kraska

Drying Alternative for Green Wood

Here's a potential answer to the green wood drying problem. . . and it can be a problem.

Turn a green wood bowl to about 1/2" to 3/4" sides, depending on the bowl size of course.

1. Put the bowl in a plastic bag and place it in the freezer for about 2 days or until it is frozen through.
2. Remove the bowl from the bag and allow to thaw out although I have found that this is not essential.
3. Weigh it and record the weight. This is not mandatory as I usually forget to follow up on the daily weighing.

Place the bowl, uncovered, in a domestic refrigerator for about 10 days. Might be a bit more or less. When it gets to the point of not losing any more weight (see item 3) it is dry.

5. When applying item 4, keep the spouse outside.

Freezing breaks down the cells and the refrigerant removes the moisture. (Ever had a slice of uncovered bread go hard ?)

This method is slower than zapping with a microwave (which I have found to be too erratic) but quicker than months in sawdust ! The result will please you, very few or no warps, checks or cracks !! It will probably take two weeks or so but the results are worth it !!

This item was found at the Woodturns

DAW 2005 Dues Letters

2005 DAW dues letters will soon be arriving. The notice will include an addressed return envelope. Please insure you use the envelope to either mail or hand your dues in at a meeting. The envelope is critical to controlling the payments and insuring all members receive credit for dues paid. Until the envelopes were instituted, there was occasional confusion in trying to control dues received in the flurry of meetings.

DAW Officers - Here to Help! Don't Hesitate to Call

President -	Greg Smith	(248) 649-3565	gregssmith@aol.com
1 st Vice President -	Bill Youngblood	(586) 727-9655	billandbon@ails.net
2 nd Vice President -	Ray Frase	(248) 673-1022	tableau-2@msn.com
Secretary -	Bill Schrodt	(586) 446-9539	wrchrord@aol.com
Treasurer -	John Fitzpatrick	(248) 608-6972	ECFJDF@aol.com
Librarian -	Steve Sharp	(586) 713-2612	
Len Kraska -	Retail Chairman	(248) 649-3923	fishkiller@hotmail.com
Editor -	Chet Bisno	(586) 254-7605	chet.bisno@comcast.net
WebMaster -	Matt Harber	(248) 669-0712	mcharber@comcast.net

For Sale

Jet Model 1442 brand new (used once), variable speed, cast iron stand \$650. This lathe lists for \$850-\$900. Contact Greg Smith if interested at 248 649-3565 or GregSSmith@aol.com

Basic Woodturning Mentor Program

We're getting a constant stream of new members - that's a great! Even better is contributing to their woodturning skill and enjoyment by expertise. In that vein, Mentor sign-up lists will be available at the November DAW meeting. If you are interested in helping our new members and making new friends, sign up.

Next month is the Novi woodworking show where we get the majority of our new members. If not this year, we'll really need you for the new year. Thanks!!

Door Prize Reminder

Don't miss the opportunity to move that unused stuff off your workbench and at the same time assist DAW keeping your dues down. Contributions to our meeting door prizes are enthusiastically received.

Safety Sam

Face Shields

I have been a long time advocate of face shields. My personal choice is the type that has a blower in the top and pulls air through a filter, across the shield, and out the bottom. It is great for people that wear glasses as it doesn't interfere with the glasses, it does not fog and it cleans the air.

While turning a segmented piece that was almost complete, the battery died. Since I was finished cutting and sanding and almost finished applying a friction polish, I took the unit off, set it on the bench and plugged in the charger.

I continued to polish and was just about finished when I felt a slight vibration. I was turning about 1200 rpm, admittedly, a little to fast, but it was really producing a nice glossy finish.

When I felt the vibration, my first thought was to slow down. It was only about 1 second later that it happened.

There was an explosion that sounded like a bullet. At the same instant I felt the shrapnel hitting my stomach and chest. I instinctively ducked as I really did think that I had been shot. I felt weak and sat down on a near by chair. I looked at the lathe and realized what had happened.

The bowl had disintegrated. What was once a beautiful 15-inch piece of art was now an 8-inch ragged edge piece of firewood. I felt a warm sensation on my stomach and removed my turning smock and pulled up my shirt. During this time I fully expected to see a stream of blood. Fortunately, there was no blood. However, there was a fantastic rainbow of a bruise. I removed my shirt and found more bruises on the upper left side of my chest and shoulder. As I looked around my shop, which is 24 feet by 26 feet, I saw pieces in every corner. The gooseneck light fixture on my lathe was bent and the bulb guard on the floor.

I couldn't help but think how fortunate I really was. I hate to think what I would have looked like had those projectiles hit me in the face. Needless to say, I will be buying another battery to keep as a spare and will not remove the face shield until all is completed. *It ain't over 'til it's over.* Bill Youngblood

Ebonizing Wood

It can be difficult for some craftsmen to stain a project made from a beautiful hardwood like walnut. A purist might say that staining any wood is unnatural and thoughtless. Sometimes though, a wood requires stain to bring out its hidden beauty.



And as woodworkers, most of us appreciate the beauty of grain in wood and it's uncommon for us to hide it.

Wouldn't it be nice to see this inner beauty develop without a can of commercial stain?

A few household ingredients will create a potent chemical stain that will profoundly change the color of a wood with a high tanin content... most notably, oak and walnut.

Details on this technique are available at <http://www.joewoodworker.com/ruststain.htm>

DAW Booth at Novi Woodworkers Show

Thanks to all the members that signed up to work in the DAW booth at the Novi Woodworkers Show on December 3-5. A list confirming your time slots will be handed out at the November meeting.

Mention you're there to work in the booth and you can get in without paying the entrance fee. Members with turnings to sell may display them with prices, but may not actively sell.

If you plan to demonstrate turning, bring tools, wood and face protection. If you're only going to attend the show, be sure to stop by and say hello!



3232 Essex
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Stamp



Happy Thanksgiving