

Shavings

DETROIT AREA
WOODTURNERS



Volume 2, Issue 11

<http://www.DetroitAreaWoodturners.org>

December 19, 2004

President's Corner

The snow is blowing as I write this, so we can safely assume winter is here. One would think that with the cold weather I could spend a lot of time in the shop/studio, but alas with all the Christmas activities I am getting to spend less time that I would like.

This has been an ornament year for me what with the small bird houses, snowmen, and hollow ball type that has been about it for the last month. It will soon be time to start making things for summer art shows.

Thanks to all the volunteers that worked The Woodworkers show in the club booth; it was a lot of fun and hopefully we are able to communicate with a lot of prospective members. For those folks that visited our booth and signed our guest register, we hope you will visit us at our next meeting which is Dec. 19th at 2 PM.

For those members that have not paid their 2005 dues, be sure to do so soon. Either send it in with the card to Bill Schrodt or bring it to the meeting. We will have renewal/new member forms at the meeting. Do not just give your dues to someone as we will loose track; fill out a form.

Now is a good time to start collecting winter-wood which will not contain to much moisture and make the best natural edge turnings. Be sure and bring your turned gift items in to share with the club before you wrap them up, we would like to see them too.

Don't forget to bring items for the door prize drawing, wood and tools are always good to bring.

Have fun and work safe.

Greg

Novi Woodworking Show a Smashing DAW Success

How do you measure the success of something like the Novi Show? One measure was the sign-up list of 76 visitors and potential members, who showed an interest in receiving a couple of "Shavings" issues. Another measure might be the fun enjoyed by those of us on booth duty. It was an opportunity to promote the club and meet a lot of potential members who appear as genuinely interested in woodturning as we are. It was also an opportunity to meet members of the Ann Arbor woodturning club and the woodworking guild. And finally, it was an opportunity to purchase numerous woodworking materials and supplies. In summary - when this opportunity appears next year - I recommend you "Go For it!" CB

AAW Professional Outreach Program (POP)

To better serve AAW members who have developed professional level skills, the organization has created the POP program. POP is a central registry database maintained by AAW to "promote the interests of the professional members of the woodturning community and, thus, promote turned wood art as a collectable art form. All data will be used to support professional turners, craft store and gallery owners/managers, teachers, scholars, writers involved with woodturning, and collectors of turned wood art."

To be included in the AAW Professional Outreach Program, one has to be a member of the American Association of Woodturners. Complete registration instructions are posted in the POP program letter at the DAW Website.

Join the AAW!!



Next Meeting -Dec. 19, 2004

Meeting Highlight will be "Turning Finial Lidded Boxes" by Bill Youngblood.

Detroit Area Woodturners meet at the Shelby River Bends Park, Shadbush 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.



Now is the Time to join AAW or Renew Your Membership

During the Orlando AAW Symposium, Delta International Machinery donated two new Delta X5 full size Model 46-756 lathes valued at \$2250 each. They were used as demo lathes during the Symposium. They turn 16" over the Steel Bed, and include the basic machine with 2 HP, variable speed 230V motor,

Your chapter can win one of these lathes. The AAW Board of Directors has decided that as an added bonus for our members, that one lathe will be awarded to an individual who either renews his/her AAW membership or joins the AAW between September 1, 2004 and January 15, 2005. The winner will be selected by a random drawing from a pool of members joining or renewing during this period. The winner will be called and asked the name of his/her chapter. That chapter will win the other lathe. That could be your chapter.

The winners will be responsible for shipping from Orlando.

DAW Six Month Meeting and Demonstration Schedule

DAW meets the third Sunday monthly unless adjusted for holidays, etc. Meetings are scheduled from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (the facility is open to DAW members from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM) on the following Sundays.

2004 - Dec. 19 - Finial Lidded Boxes -
2005 - Jan. 16 - Turning Plates & Platters

Feb. 20 - Turning Natural Edges
Mar. 20 - Sharpening Tools and Turning Oil Lamps
Apr. 17 - Turning end grain and using boring bars and hook and ring tools
May 22 - DAW Picnic and Chain Saw demo
June 26 - Demo to be determined

Bill's "Open Shop Tuesday"

In keeping with the educational objectives of the AAW and the DAW, Bill Youngblood continues to host an "Open Shop" session Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to answer questions and work projects. This informal gathering will address short subjects such as tools, tool sharpening, techniques, wood, finishes, or any other subject of interest.

We can even make chips and messes and not worry about cleanup. The coffee pot will be on and of course, there is always something cold in the fridge.

Directions: Take I-94 East to exit 248 (26 Mile Road/Marine City Highway). Turn right and go one mile to County Line Road. Turn left and go 3 miles to 29 Mile Road. Turn left and go to the second driveway on the left, that's the driveway to Bill's shop. If you get lost, call Bill at 586-291-5027. Hope to see you Tuesdays.

Bill Youngblood

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

President -	Greg Smith	(248) 649-3565	gregsmith@aol.com
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**Don't Forget the
December Meeting
Door Prizes!!**

Another Way to Dry Green Wood Quickly

**An extract from: Dave Smith,
Longview, WA , dav-
smith@woodnheart.com**

Turn the bowl to a thickness of 1/2" for small bowls (< 6 inches). Larger bowls may need to be thicker to allow for distortion.

Place the bowl in a container of denatured alcohol.

Let soak for 2 or more hours.

Remove the bowl and place it on a rack upside down for 1 hour to let the surface dry.

Wrap the bowl in heavy paper such as a grocery sack. On a bowl simply gather the paper around the rim and secure with a couple turns of masking tape. On a closed form the paper can be tucked into the opening and held in place with masking tape. The opening must be open to allow air circulation.

Place the bowl upside down on a rack so air can circulate into the opening.

Record the weight and date on the bottom of the paper. When the weight stops decreasing it is ready to finish turn.

Small bowls will stop losing weight in one week or less. Large bowls will take about two weeks. Hollow forms very in drying time due to the small opening which inhibits air exchange. It is not necessary to record the weight every day but initially you may want to check the progress to satisfy your curiosity. I keep my shop heated and dehumidified year round so my drying time may vary from what you may experience.

There have been some failures but they have been rare exceptions. So don't use a priceless irreplaceable piece of wood to test this drying protocol.

My First Year at Arts and Crafts Shows

Part 1 of 2 parts by Ken Riedel

2004 was the first year that I did Art and Craft Shows, seven of them. First I want to thank Matt Harber who partnered with me at shows. Having someone else with you at the booth is a great convenience. Another person gives you someone to talk to, an interchange of ideas on how to set up your displays and assistance to watch shopper reactions to the pieces. This also enables you to leave the booth briefly to explore other exhibitors' and assess/compare their sales to yours.

Not all Art and Craft Shows are created equal. Matt and I attended shows where there were resale vendors. Resale Vendors buy ready made products overseas for resale at the shows. That lowers the quality of the show, and we felt it made the difference in the type of buyer that was coming: They weren't looking for nice pieces of wood to purchase, but were looking for overseas bargains. Also, when the show is advertised as a "Craft" show, shoppers expect to find "garage sale" prices.

My experience is that Art Shows that mentioned that they were "Art" shows first, and then "Crafts", resulted in greater sales. The fees for the shows that I participated in was not an indicator of projected sales. For example, I did one show that was very expensive to participate in and I had very poor sales. I did another show that cost only \$60 to set up my booth and I did over \$300 in sales.

In the seven shows I won three ribbons, one of which was a "first" prize. I displayed a variety of pieces - plates and bowls of all different sizes and descriptions, hollow-forms, goblets, honey-dippers, pens and tops. But still, we needed something to make the people stop to take a look at what we had. The first show that Matt and I did together, I took my mini-lathe and set it up in front of the tent. We demonstrated turning; that induced people to stop.

Otherwise, shoppers were walking past, just glancing inside the tent as they went. But when I was doing the lathe demonstration, people would at least stop and watch what was going on with the lathe. At that particular show, the sales were extremely poor, but at least people were stopping.

We were interacting with them and finding out what was on their minds.

Another attraction that would make people stop was a table at the entrance of our booth with decorated tops. Children would stop to spin the tops, so naturally parents also stopped. Then they would often enter our booth to see what we had. So we needed something to attract people just walking past, to induce them to stop and look inside.

Some of the pieces I did sell - approximately 10 bowls, some pens, a lot of tops, hollow-forms and a couple of honey-dippers. The bowls that sold were highly-figured. They happened to be heavily spalted maple - that's what the people keyed-in on. So it seems that what sold wasn't necessarily the workmanship, because the workmanship was reasonable in all of the pieces. But what the buyers bought was the wood - it was the grain, the color and the unusual woods that sold.

Ken

DAW Logo Apparel

Reminder, DAW Logo apparel is available through Bill Youngblood at (586) 727-9655 or email to billandbon@ails.net

Item	Prices
Hats & T-Shirts*	\$13.00
Sweat Shirts*	\$19.00
Golf Shirts*	\$26.00
Jackets	\$53.00
*Add \$2.00 for 2XL and \$3.00 for 3XL	

Our Growing Mentor Program

If our efforts at the Novi Woodworking show attract a reasonable number of the persons to our meetings - from those that signed up to receive this newsletter, we can anticipate a boom in the mentor program. That forces us to reconsider how we've operated in the past and make changes to more efficiently serve additional learners.

To insure learners get the most benefit from the program we're going to provide a Learning Contract format to clarify expectations. This agreement on Basic skills will be between the mentor and learner. The contract will list learning subjects from which the learner and mentor agree on a course.

In addition, learners will be expected to meet a minimum level of participation to insure they get the most out of the effort.

Specifically, learners are expected to own a lathe, join the American Association of Woodturners, attend club functions (as many as possible) and participate in Show and Tell as they advance their skills.

Finally, we need additional experienced members to support the mentor program. It's not uncommon for some members to mentor two or three learners concurrently - and they're frequently the same members who organize other activities. If you want the club to prosper and sustain high standards, we need more participants to avoid burning out those already fully

Using a Skew

Found at: <http://www.turningtools.co.uk/wtintro/planing/planing.html>

Many think the packaging on a new skew chisel should carry a Government Health Warning. Perhaps they've adopted the wrong approach, or they've used an unsuitable tool, or someone told them spooky stories. Whatever the reason, it ain't so. The skew is highly flexible and great fun to use - once you

learn the basics and overcome your initial apprehension.

Read this internet item, implement, and see if I'm not correct. If you're still uncomfortable, come visit me and I'll personally walk you through it. Once you learn the skew, it's the about the best turning tool you'll have. CB

Woodworking & Tool Sources in NE Detroit

- **WoodCraft**, Sterling Heights, Sterling Place Shopping Center, 37864 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights.
- **Rockler Woodworking**, 29918 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak, (Woodward at 12-1/2 MI)
- **Performance Tools** - 26772 Dequindre, Warren, MI. (Just S. of 11 Mile Rd.)
- **Butki - Saw and Tool**, 26707 Van Dyke, Center Line, MI (Just S. of I-696)
- **Harbor Freight** - 34900 Grossbeck Hwy, Clinton Township, MI (SE Corner of Grossbeck and 15 Mi.)
- **Abrasive Brokers**, 1695 Rochester Road, Troy, MI (Just N of Maple Rd)
- **Wholesale Tool**, 12155 Stephens Rd, Warren, MI 48089 (S of 10 Mile, E of Hoover Rd.)
- **Glenn Wing Power Tools** 33656 Woodward Ave, Birmingham, MI 248-644-5790 (discount to DAW members).

Unusual Characteristics of Some Trees

- Wood that grows on the south side of the tree is more flexible and springy than that which grows on the north side. It tends to be harder and more dense on the north side.
- Basswood is excellent for carving due to its soft grain and its ability to deaden sound and so it is used in musical instruments. Another unusual property of basswood is that after soaking in water it can be compressed to about half of its size. It will go back to its original size on drying.
- Cherry trees produce sweet fruit but the inner bark contains concentrations of strychnine. Strangely enough, it has been used medicinally for sore throats.
- Willow contains salicylic acid (a component of aspirin).

Safety Sam Paper Towels & Sleeves

Insert finger in chuck. Tighten chuck. Now turn on lathe. How many revolutions will the lathe turn before your finger comes off?

That may sound a bit ridiculous, but that is exactly what can happen if your fingers get caught in a cloth or rag while applying finish to a piece with the lathe running.

Try using a paper towel instead. It will tear a lot easier than cloth in case of a "catch". The better grades are a little better. Don't fold them into a pad, as this will defeat the purpose. Single ply quality towel works great and will tear if it gets hung up. The cheaper brands will fall apart before you finish.

While we are on the subject of cloth, try wrapping a piece of cloth around your chuck, hold onto the end of it and turn on your lathe. How long did you hold it before your arm wrapped around the chuck? This is exactly what happens when your shirtsleeve or a glove gets caught in the chuck. You cannot move faster than a spinning lathe. I guarantee it. Most turning smocks have short sleeves with Velcro straps to close them tight against your arms. You should roll up your shirtsleeves to a point where they are shorter than your smock sleeves.

If you have allergies to some woods and need gloves, try using latex medical gloves. They will keep shavings off of your hands, but will tear in case of contact with the chuck.

Have a safe and happy holiday and don't drive or turn wood if you have been drinking.

Bill Youngblood

- You might take a branch of willow and place in your glue pot to prevent the formulation of mold.
- Spruce root is used to flavor root beer.
- Sassafras roots make a delicious tea and has been used as a blood thinner and tonic.
- Buckeye nut rubbed on sore joints has been used to alleviate pain.
- Ossage orange shavings can be used as a dye for textiles.



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Stamp

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!