

Shavings

DETROIT AREA
WOODTURNERS



December 2005

<http://www.DetroitAreaWoodturners.org>

Editor Ruby Cler

President's Message

I hope everyone has made a Christmas wish list, for all the tools and supplies needed in the New Year. I tell folks that gift certificates to HD, Woodcraft or Rockler are always good gifts to give to woodworkers.

I have been told that the Woodworkers show went well. I figured that since I have a pin sticking out of my toe, that such a big crowd was not a safe place to be. All it would take is a bump and I would not be a happy turner. I do plan on attending the next meeting, but will have Frank run the show again. He did a good job last month.

I am excited about the Alan Lacer demo and workshops, even though it required us to move the meeting date in February to 12, 2006. The demo is open to all, but the workshops are only open to 2005 members, until Jan 15th. Space is limited. Flyers for the event will be available at the meeting. If you are not at the meeting and have not received one via e-mail, please give me a call and I'll send one to you.

The Nature center will be having their Santa activities, on the same day as our meeting, so let's be sure and stay out of their way and be good tenants. Greg

The 2005 Woodworking Show

The 2005 Woodworking Show, held Dec. 2-4 at the new Rock Financial Centre, in Novi, was a great success. A large number of club members showed up to exhibit their skills, answer questions and solicit new members. We now have pages and pages of prospective members. Hopefully, many of them will turn out, at the next meeting. If you see new faces at the meeting, **please** go out of your way to say hello and welcome them.

Our thanks go to John Fitzpatrick and his crew of volunteers, who set up the booth and manned it all weekend.

Annual Elections

We will hold our Annual election of Officers at the December meeting. It is important to support the club by getting involved. By doing so, we have enough members to spread the work around and continue the good work done by the current officers and chairmen of our many activities.

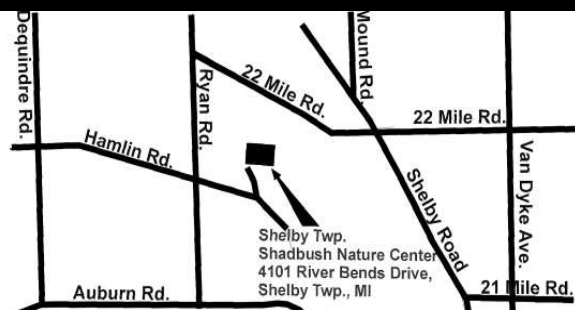
Our mentioning program has been noted as one of the best around and we'd like to continue to provide this activity. Chet, who has been doing a fantastic job, will need a lot of help this year. If you are interested, please contact Chet or Greg regarding this. Thanks.

Join the AAW!!



Next Meeting - December 18, 2005

Meeting Highlight will be turning a sphere demo. The Detroit Area Woodturners meet at the Shelby River Bends Park, Shadbush Nature Center, Shelby Township, MI, from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. The Park is located on Ryan Road between 21 and 22 Mile Roads opposite the Hamlin Road junction. All visitors are welcome.



Calendar of Events

DAW meets the third Sunday monthly, unless adjusted for holidays, September through June. General Meetings are scheduled from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Executive meetings are open to all club members:

Dec. 18/05 - General meeting. Demonstration on turning spheres by Bob Daily

Jan. 4/05 - Executive meeting 7:00 p.m. at Frank Marabate's house.

Jan. 15/06 - General meeting. Basic segmenting demo by Chet Bisno

Feb. 4/06 - Executive meeting 7:00 p.m. at Ron Sztumerski's house.

Feb. 12/06 - General Meeting. Demo to be announced. Please note this is not our usual week.

Feb. 18/06 - Demonstration by Alan Lacer at Troy Elks

Feb. 19&20th - Workshops with Alan Lacer. This event is open to 2005 members only.

March 8/06 - Executive meeting 7:00 p.m. at Bill Schrod's house.

March 19/06 - General Meeting. Demonstration on turning goblets.

April 5th/06 - Executive meeting 7:00 p.m. at John Fitzpatrick's house.

Don't Forget the Meeting Door Prizes!!

Door prizes are an important part of each meeting. Members enjoy getting the prizes. The monies, from the raffle, pay for things like operating expenses. Please bring along any extra wood, tools or other items you feel you can afford to donate to our prize table.

Library Donations

Gary Sutton donated the book "Woodturning with Ray Allen" and the DVD, "Lathe" from "the Shopclass Series".

The DVD covers turning fundamentals. A garden dibble is produced using a skew and a honey dipper, using primarily a roughing gouge. Sharpening the skew and gouges is illustrated. Also shown is turning a natural edge bowl from green wood and finishing the bottom using a jam chuck. The last project is making a plate.

Glenn

November Demonstration

At the November meeting, Ruby demonstrated to members how the club's duplicator for the mini-lathe works. Seen below, is Ray Frase following her directions. The duplicator is available for club members to borrow.



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

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A Course with Paul Ferrell by Loel Gnad

In June, I took a course at Appalachian Center for Craft, an extension of Tennessee Tech. University. The school was in a very nice scenic area between Nashville and Knoxville and has other course studies. I was most impressed with the glass blowing and metal working, which included blacksmithing and electroplating. College credits can be earned for courses if you pay the extra, for credit hours. The atmosphere is casual, as you can look in on the other courses and instructors tend to come back after dinner and have open sessions in the evenings with the students. I found about seven hours a day class time, leaning over a Powermatic lathe and sucking dust was enough for me. The lunches were very nice also. I choose this school and class because it fit into my schedule.

The course I took was Applying Studio Woodturning Techniques with 'bare foot' Paul Ferrell. Paul's uniform was shorts, t-shirt, and sometimes, sandals. Paul has a studio with his wife who does pottery in Kentucky. I felt the course was well rounded for beginners and those with some experience. We started with cutting a log, to maximize it for various projects. Paul mainly uses bowl gouge and a Sears parting tool. We went through turning between centers, roughing bowls and platters, using glue blocks, scroll chuck, and screw chuck. We got to experience using a decorating/spiral tool, burning with wire, using beading tools and a custom sharpened screwdriver, like the tip of a skew. Paul provided various woods and plenty of it, including a project with banksia pods. I felt we got a very good foundation and I got a good amount of needed practice with bowl gouges. Paul explained how he spalted his own wood and a few other techniques. Also, he had a session on setting up and displaying for art (and craft) shows.

A couple tips: If you don't want chips and liquids flying all over the shop or onto a finished wall, hang a cheap plastic Venetian blind behind your lathe and you can pull it up out of the way when you're finished or sweeping up. Wood can be darkened by putting steel wool in vinegar for at least four hours. Depending on the tannic acid in the wood, applying the liquid to the wood will give the surface a gray on lighter woods, and be near to black with walnut.

Side trips

Just a few hundred feet off of I-75, at least a half-hour south of Lexington Ky, there is a place for Artists of Kentucky. There were 3-5 wood turners displayed, including Paul Ferrell along with many other Artist's media.

On the way down I also stopped at Manny's in Lexington Ky, as found in the AAW resource guide. I found it easy to get to from I-75, even pulling a travel trailer. I recommend this nice independent woodworking shop which has a good variety of tools and some wood.

A Rookie's Perspective by Fran Marabate

As I drove out to Ray Frazee's to attend the Don Derry workshop, I felt a mixture of excitement for having the opportunity to attend and gratuity towards the anonymous donor(s) who made it possible. Having never been to a hands-on workshop, I wondered what it would be like and how much could really be learned in a mere eight hours. Well, let me tell you, in those eight hours I learned to turn a ball, an egg, a pear, a pegg (an Avocado shape), and a football – all between centers. Don also talked about visual perspective, and how deceptive our own perception can be. Throughout the day, he talked about looking for the "High-spot" to create smooth flowing curves. Armed with this new knowledge, I could see my turning skills improve as I incorporated the new concepts and practiced these new techniques.

To be honest, I didn't expect the day to be fun, as well as a good learning experience. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find it ended up being so much more. Don made the day interesting with his stories and jokes. The concepts and skills were presented in such a way, that each one built on the previous, making it easy to comprehend and learn. If asked if I thought it was worth the time and money to attend this type of workshop, I will answer whole-heartedly with a YES!

As a final note, I would again like to thank the person or persons that made it possible for me to attend this workshop. I will never forget the opportunity your generosity allowed me to experience.

Don Derry Insights on Sharpening Scrapers

Scrapers are a terrific woodturning tool. In fact there are a lot of turners completing magnificent projects using only scrapers. Like other tools, techniques exist to make scraper preparation and use more efficient. Don Derry explained some of those techniques at his demonstration regarding how shaper cutting edges are formed and how to maximize this tool through sharpening. He explained the composition of the shaper cutting burr just off the grinder. While the burr is highly aggressive just off the grinder, it has low durability. This is a result of how the burr is raised. The grinder burr is really an accumulation of material that is first deposited on the wheel, than scraped off the wheel and deposited on the scraper edge during grinding. That material might properly be described as junk – it's not integral to the scraper. Thus it has an exciting, if short lived efficiency, as the brittle material rapidly breaks off in the cutting process.

The better alternative is a burnished burr. Burnishing raises a burr, similar to that on a cabinet scraper, from the base metal itself. That results in longer cutting durability, and a more even, smoother cutting. Here's how I heard Don explain the sharpening process.

1. Grind your scraper in the usual manner. The object here is to form the bevel with its smooth angle that can be raised or burnished to a burr. It must be reground every time you re-sharpen the scraper. The good news is you need only make one pass – unless you're reforming the cutting edge.
2. Use a stone or diamond hone rubbed lightly along the flat, top surface of the scraper to smooth off only the grinder burr. This takes only a few light strokes. You can confirm the removal with your thumb.
3. Use a two pin burnisher to form the integral burr (see picture). The two pin burnisher (readily available from Lee Valley by Veritas) costs about \$30, but you can make your own from hardened dowels (available at Wholesale Tool).



Sample of work by Don Derry

Christmas ornaments by Greg Smith



The first pin is used as a fulcrum to multiply the pressure of the scraper tip cutting edge against the second pin. Lever the cutting edge against the second pin in one slow, strong, and deliberate movement. You can actually observe the formation of the burr as the edge passes the contact point. Multiple swipes are not a good idea as they can cause the burr to break off. The exception to that is when you have to shift the tool from one side of the first pin to the other because you can't get around the curved edge otherwise. I've used the two pin burnisher for years, but didn't used it efficiently. I've since re-sharpened all my scrapers – it works.



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Stamp



We wish each and every one of you, happy shavings over the Christmas Season