



Between Turns

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

November, 2004

Volume 16, Issue 11

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Please Note:

The December meeting will be held on **December 12, 2004**. The Chapter will be participating in the Woodworking Show in Novi December 3 – 5, 2004. Volunteers needed. Details TBA.

The January meeting will be held on January 9, 2005.

Meeting Announcements

- **The current Board** was re-elected by acclamation.
- **Tom handed out** this month's Craft Supply vouchers.
- **Treeline** will provide 5 \$10.00 gift certificates for future raffles.
- **Rob Roehrig and Bill Weber** have completed their inventory of the Chapter library. There are a number of videos missing/overdue:

Ed Moulthrop
From Tree to Table by Mike Mahoney
Rude Osolnik
Turned Boxes by Bonnie Klein
Turned Boxes and other Projects by Bonnie Klein
Making a Maple Burl Wall Sculpture
Lath Turned Wood IV
Instant Gallery, AAW Symposium 1996
Scenes from 1994 AAW Symposium
Segmented Wood Turning
Techniques from 1995 AAW Symposium
Please check your libraries for these titles.

- The Chapter Library currently contains these materials:

VHS VIDEOS

Tips for Turners David Ellsworth
Hollow Turnings
Woodturners Mentor – Dale Nish
Skew Chisel .Allen Batty
Wood Finishing Jerry Terhark
Fundamentals of Sharpening AAW Tape
Intro to Bowl Turning .Russ Hurt
Carlyn Galerie – 3rd Annual Exhibition
Who we are/What we Offer AAW
Fine Art of Wood Bohlen Collection
Palmer Sharpless, the Johnny Applesseed of

Turning

Ellsworth Signature Gouge David Ellsworth
Ray Huskey, A Turning Tradition .AAW
Natural Edge Hollow Forms .Chris Scott
Ed Moulthrop AAW
Son of Skew .Allan Batty
From Tree to the Table .Mike Mahoney
Rude Osolnik AAW
Skill Building Projects Mark St. Leger

WOODTURNING MAGAZINE– Back Issues:

Autumn 1991
Winter 1991
Jan/Feb 1992
Jan/Feb 1993
May/June 1993
April 1994
March 1994
September 1994
September 1995
November 1995
February 1996
March 1996

BOOKS

Harvesting Urban Lumber
Turning Miniatures in Wood
The Practical Wood Turner
Making Wood Boxes with a Bandsaw
Making Dinosaur Action Toys
Turning in Context
Wood Turning in North America since 1930
24 Woodturning Projects
Turning Points
Cabinets of Curiosities
International Lathe Turned Objects Challenge IV
International Lathe Turned Objects Challenge V
Insights & Inspirations in Contemporary Turned Objects
Lathe Turned Objects

Contact Us

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Treasurer:

Timothy Morris 810-229-7156

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Phil Clevenger 734-761-8737

Photographer:

Jeff Provost: Currently in Kuwait

Webmaster:

Paul Elert 734-769-5253

(Continued on page 2)

Announcements

(Continued from page 1)

Now would be a good time to see if you have any materials to donate to the chapter.

- **Norm Blake** announced he will have a quantity of maple and madrone burl for sale at the December meeting.
- **Tom Mogford** has maple burl available at \$2/pound.
- **Tom Mogford** asked us to pay our dues at the December 12 meeting so that we can all be entered into the AAW drawing for the Delta lathes in Orlando.
- **Don Koenig and Bill Shelt** are in the process of establishing a new AAW chapter in Bay City. Contact Don (989-684-6951) or Bill (517-655-3967) for more information.
- If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter by email please contact PhilClevenger@comcast.net. Also remember that the newsletter is posted on our website, www.michiganwoodturner.org, as well as on disc and in print in the Chapter Library.
- The Chapter's new photo setup will be available to members starting with the December 12 meeting, assuming we can make space for it. This will provide members the means to publish decent quality photos of their work in the newsletter and on the web. Anyone interested in making a similar setup can contact Phil Clevenger for some free advice. Worth every penny.
- **Richard Rowland** volunteered to bring refreshments to the December 12th meeting. Thanks Richard.

John Becker Turns Up, and Shares Some Thoughts

MAW member John Becker showed us how he makes the beakers, goblets, and mugs he sells at the Michigan Renaissance Festival.

He began by defining the forms he makes: a beaker is drinking vessel without a handle, a goblet is a beaker on a stem, a mug is a beaker with a handle. A l'ham'hog is an



Irish drinking vessel with one handle... John's version has a ring-shaped handle.

He started with a cylinder turned between centers, nominally 7" x 3". He chucks the blank after fashioning a tenon and proceeds to hollow the blank. The hollowing can, of course, be done with your tool of choice.

Over the years, John has developed a set of



scrapers that do the job for him in a quick and efficient manner. John sharpens his

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide education, information, and organization to those interested in woodturning. We meet on a monthly basis to share woodturning challenges, insights, and accomplishments. Our chapter accomplishes this through our mentoring program, library, mini-symposiums, monthly newsletters and friendship.

scrapers at about a 45-degree angle, and they are quite effective.

As he went about the rather straightforward task of hollowing he talked about production turning in general and his philosophies in particular. He makes things that are meant to be used, so they are sturdy and well put together. Thin doesn't cut it for his market. He guarantees his products for as long as he's around so that his products continue to speak well for him.

After hollowing, John talked about attaching the handles to the cylinder with studs fashioned from 8-32 machine screws, held in place with epoxy. This method results in handles that stand up to their intended use.



John finishes his wares in batches. He applies 5 coats over 5 days of General Finish's Arm-R-Seal, inside and out. After allowing the Arm-R-Seal to cure, John applies 2 coats of System 3 Clear Coat epoxy to the inside.

John's drinking vessels sell well at the Renfest, along with his bowls, canteens, swords, daggers, and new this year, pipes. All made to be used hard for a long time. Look for information on the 2005 Renaissance Festival on John's website: www.reincarnatedtrees.com.

Russ Fairfield Writes



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Phil,

Thank you for the kind words, and for letting me make the presentation to your group. You were a good and appreciative audience; and that makes a demonstration easier to do.

We traveled North for a few days and are finally getting on towards NY. Frankenmuth was all that everybody said it was and we ended up staying 2 days.

Again, thanks for your hospitality,

Russ Fairfield

My Tour With The Ash Utilization Options Project

By

James A. Madsen

Editing and additions

By

Jessica Simons

While working at the demonstration booth in the Ann Arbor Art Fair on University Street, our booth was visited by a very enthusiastic Jessica Simons, from the Southeast Michigan RC&D (Resource Conservation & Development Council). She was very interested in how we could transform a block of wood into a turned functional or artistic piece. She said that she was working on a project to help communities use the wood from trees killed by the Emerald Ash Borer and she would get a hold of me in the future.

On October 12th I received an email stating that Jessica would like me to

Chapter Mentors

General Woodturning:

Russ Clinard 734-663-9689

Basil Kelsey 734-572-9216

Metalworking:

Lynn Grenier 734-475-2305

Renaissance Woodturning:

John Becker 248-851-0437

Chainsaw use and maintenance:

Jim Madsen 517-645-4594

Chapter Mentors have offered to share their expertise with members. Contact them for help. If you have developed skills that you would be willing to share with our members, please contact Phil Clevenger at 734--761-8737 to be added to the Mentoring Program.

participate as part of the tour that she had put together for federal legislators.

This is the request:

“We are planning a tour for federal legislators on Wednesday, October 27, 2004. This tour will take our lawmakers to several different sites in Southeast Michigan to show them the various ways that removed ash trees can be utilized. We are taking them to several sawmills and large-scale production areas, but would like to also show them some of the beautiful fine art pieces that can be made from ash wood. We are planning a small, informal art show during their “working lunch” at the Lyon Oaks Golf Course. I’d like to invite local artists to bring in pieces made with ash wood for a one-hour display. This could be another way to showcase your work to a different audience (and get a free lunch as well!).”

I started my quest to entertain these officials with an art show to show what we, as turners and chainsaw carvers, can do with the blight-stricken ash trees of Michigan. I felt that we needed to show this group that there is more than one way to skin a cat. So I contacted as many turners and carvers that I could and put together what was received as a very diverse and educating show for the guests on the tour.

After running around and coordinating meets with fellow turners and carvers, I contacted Jessica with a “sure I’ll do it, can you squeeze me on the bus for this tour?” Jessica checked the list and luckily there was an opening. “Alright, I’m in!” On the 26th of October I took all of the pieces for the show to the golf course so that I didn’t have to drag it along all day during the tour. The golf course is unbelievable as well as the

room that they had reserved for this luncheon.

At 8:00 a.m., October 27, 2004, we all met at the Genesee Power Station in Flint, Michigan. This facility produces electricity to approximately 25,000 homes in the Flint area through Consumers Power Co., which buys the electricity from the Power Station. Most of the ground-up chips are supplied by Mid-Michigan Recycling. The chips are hauled in by semi-trailers and dumped on site into their holding yard until needed. Between 40-60 trucks are dumped per day at this facility. Each truck hauls 130 cubic yards of wood chips. Thirty to 35% of the chips used in this plant are from the EAB infected trees.

It is a non-stop operation 24/7 to keep this pile of chips manageable and moving with the rest of the plant. They have two methods of emptying all of these trailers on site. The lift station will lift the semi-



trailer hydraulically and dump it in three minutes. The walker trailers have a moving floor, which can take up to 20 minutes to unload. They burn between 325,000 to 400,000 tons of wood chips annually.

Upon entering the Power Station we were shown the brains of this operation, which are monitored by one person at the controls. It is a huge computer-generated operation, which monitors the amount of

material being fed into the furnace as well as electricity produced and all levels of pollutants that are escaping into the atmosphere. These things are monitored by EPA and other organizations, keeping them in compliance with their regulations on such matters.

After we saw the brains of the operation we were ushered into the heart of the plant, a big room that houses the furnace (which burns the chips at 2,000 degrees), boiler and turbine. This heats the water producing steam to drive a turbine, which creates the electricity. This is the science part of the project in a nutshell.

At the end of this tour of the Genesee Power Station the question arose as to why we would want to produce electricity from burning wood? They had some very good answers to this question:

- Replace Coal Energy
- Reduce Pollution
- Save Landfills
- Create Jobs
- Recycle Any Metal Found in the materials

The 26 invited guests boarded the bus for a short trip to the Lamont Brothers Tree Service marshalling yard and sawmill in Waterford, Michigan. We were entertained by Gordon Ruttan, St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission, with an overview of what the RC&D is about and what they do. Following his talk we were enlightened on the subject of RC&D application status by Steve Olds from the United States Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service. This explained where the money came from and where

it was being used to help out in the blight of ash trees in Southeastern Michigan.

Upon arrival at the Lamont Brothers site, we were greeted by Dan Lamont. He spoke to us on the mission of their company: to work with officials in this attempt to help quarantine the EAB-trees being removed from the area. The Lamont Brothers received a grant from the RC&D for \$50,000 to purchase a new Wood-Mizer sawmill and receive training on sawing for grade lumber.

Dan explained that they were one of several marshalling yards established to receive all of the trees and brush from the massive removal of ash trees in the area. This just means that they were chosen as a drop-off point for tree services, homeowners, and the like, for the EAB infested trees. They custom saw lumber for the area woodworkers and businesses as well as their contract to produce green railroad ties for Webster Industries in Wisconsin. All of the waste and brush is ground up and transported to the power station in Flint under a contract with the MDA (Michigan Department of Agriculture).



Gordon Ruttan and Anthony Weatherspoon quiz Dan Lamont about the railroad ties

Dues:

\$95.00/year, includes A.A.W. Membership. Remit at the December meeting or by mail to:

Timothy Morris, Treasurer
1673 Woodlake Circle
Brighton, MI 48116

Meetings:

are held at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at the workshop of:

Russ Clinard
2892 Bateson Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-663-9689

Next Meeting:

December 12, 2004

(Please note date change)

One thing stands out in what RC&D is doing: these projects are geared for the future after the EAB mess is cleared up. The Council hopes that the recycling programs set up to accommodate the EAB-affected wood will also be used for other species of removed urban trees (from streets, parks, etc.) in the future. This is not money just thrown at a special group for the quick fix. Every place is helping with the EAB problem but in no way are they living on the hopes that the ash tree problem is going to be the only means of operation. Dan suggested that this is just a foothold in the market and the use of urban wood, which has been managed very poorly for years. Certainly, the Lamont Brothers are working towards an operation that not only recycles this resource back into the area, but also creates more jobs.

After a question and answer session, we were off to Lyon Oaks Golf Course. This leg of the trip was filled with a video of "The Green Menace" which was played for us in the bus on the four monitors stationed throughout the bus. I failed to mention this was not a school bus and we were made very comfortable for this tour. Our gracious host Jessica Simons was on the ball and we thank her for what she put together.

Back to the subject of the Green Menace video, which showed us what this little green bug has done to the area and how quickly it can spread from the quarantine areas if not monitored by the MDA. Just a load of firewood delivered to a favorite camping site can carry this menace into another area and by the time it's found out, another county is under quarantine. So the transportation of firewood has been cut down to just the county in which you live is where it can be transported.

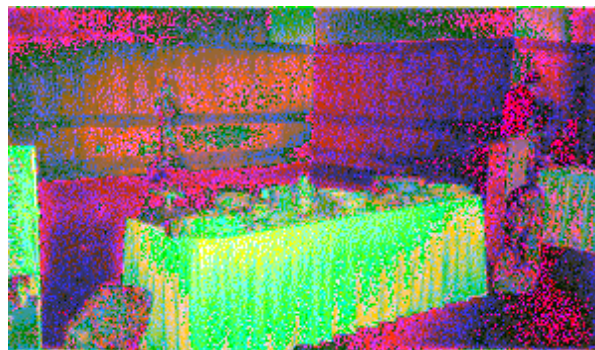
Upon arrival at the golf course, we were met by persons representing State legislators

for our working luncheon. This part of the tour was where I came into play. Dr. Pascal Nzokou gave a presentation on what MSU Forestry Research has discovered in their efforts to find new treatments for EAB-infested wood. His research team hopes that new log treatments will open up other possibilities for how these infected logs can be utilized. They also have worked with local wood products manufacturers to show how EAB-affected ash wood can still be used for flooring, cabinets, and a variety of other common wood pieces. Other researchers at MSU, led by Dr. Deborah McCullough and Dr. Dave Smitley, are working to learn more about the insect's life cycle, natural predators and effective insecticides. There is not a natural predator besides the woodpecker so back to the drawing board.



Ash wood turned by local turners from MAW & DAW

While this presentation was in progress, I set up the table with all of the turnings and a bulle-



tin board with the pictures of my chainsaw



carving friends and their work. I would like to thank members of both the Michigan Association of Woodturners and the Detroit Area Woodturners that made their turnings available to me so that I could give some sort of a show for these officials.

I opened the show with a few words that this just might be the pain pill for some of the residents that are just beside themselves because of the loss of their tree or trees. In hoping that I can promote our ability to turn and carve this wood into works of art and functional pieces, I went on with my intro. I was asked if this wood could be turned green and, as turners, we all know that the answer is “yes”, which surprised some of them. I was received by the group with great admiration for what we could do with this reusable resource. I then asked the group, which represented the USDA, DNR, Michigan Department of Agriculture, several county Conservation Districts, several county governments, Michigan State University Extension, the Governor’s Office, and two U.S. Senator’s Offices, to please come up and examine the pieces that I had brought for their viewing.

Will D. Stanford, a studio furniture designer and woodworker, showed some of his pieces also. He had a beautiful selection of some of his work and his portfolio to show to all of us. He is located in the Monroe area.

After everyone gathered to look at the pieces in the show, I had to tear all of this down and jump back on the bus. I’m sure glad I left my two-wheel cart there, because I broke a sweat getting all of this stuff packed away and back on the bus for Flat Rock to the Emerald Mills Inc. Or so we planned, then we were reminded of a member of the group that had to get back to the power plant so that he wouldn’t be late for his flight home to West Virginia.

Jessica took the lead and decided that we would go to Last Chance Logs to Lumber instead, because of the time issue. Anthony Weatherspoon, who is a Forest Product Specialist with the DNR talked on

some of the things that he has been doing to help in the containment of the EAB during the ride to Last Chance Logs to Lumber. He does a lot of work in supporting the local sawmills throughout Michigan. The grants that were given out to local sawmills had to apply through a pretty elaborate application process, and the best applications were chosen for funding.

Last Chance is a small, local, family-owned sawmill Tree-Cycling business outside of Howell, Michigan. Chris Last is the owner/operator of this sawmill, which turns the ash trees into lumber for homeowners, busi-



Steve Olds and Chris Last admiring a beautiful piece of freshly sawn ash from the Baker sawmill.

nesses, and public lands. He is quite the spokesperson for this effort to use this wood instead of grinding it up and burning it as a fuel, or just to be burning it to get rid of it. Last Chance received a \$50,000 grant through the RC&D to purchase the new Hudson log loader/trailer, a Kotter kiln and a Baker sawmill to make Chris’ vision to make all logs into lumber for every aspect of this resource usage. With this sawmill, which is portable, Last Chance is capable of coming out to the site of the wood to mill, giving them the flexibility to go to the job rather than to have all the wood transported to them. The loader/trailer gives them the opportunity to go out and pick up the logs on

(Continued from page 7)

site and bring them back to the site. He has been milling all the wood that is presently being used to construct the pole barn that houses the kiln and sawmill from the weather. The company intends to donate some of the lumber that they mill to local school districts for use in trade classes and vocational courses.

Loaded back on the bus, we were off to our point of origin (the Genesee Power Plant). On our way back to the power station we were given this time to reflect on the day that we spent touring the facilities that are working with Michigan officials to contain this blight. Lew McCreery, Program Coordinator for the USDA Forest Service Economic Action Programs, spoke to us on what his purpose is in these type of projects. Let me give you all a bit of insight about this man and what he does. He's the man that got the money to the RC&D to issue these grants to MSU, Lamont Brothers, and Last Chance Logs to Lumber. He spearheads these projects all over the Northeastern states. He gets help to people and businesses with grants and help from those groups, such as the RC&D. This helps move some of the projects forward in an attempt to bring the forest products to a forefront in the resource utilization projects across the country. Lew is the kind of guy to be heading up these kinds of programs; he is easy to talk to and very aware of what is needed to get the jobs done. It was a pleasure to sit in the back of the bus with him all day and talk about everything from hunting and fishing to chainsaw carving and woodturning. Yes, we even talked shop about a few other projects that he's connected to, like a hospital in the state of Vermont that is running on wood-fired power to sustain the whole hospital and a natural grains and perishables company in northern Minnesota.

He is the man to have on your side when it comes to getting your project pushed into the working phase.

On Wednesday, November 17, I received an invitation from Jessica to come to their scheduled meeting on the 18th for the RC&D. After the meeting we would go tour the Emerald Mills Inc., which we had to pass on because of the time issue on October 27. I was very anxious to be in the room to hear how and what this RC&D really has on the table for projects in the future, as well as the ongoing projects they are already working on. They aren't just working on the EAB projects; others include watersheds, park trail systems, and now a sink-hole problem in Monroe county that is getting very serious. Who would have thought that we have the problems like the left coasters here in Southeast Michigan.

We took our own vehicles for the trip to the EMI facility in Flat Rock, Michigan. The company only uses ash wood for their tool handles that they make. Steve Lamier and Darren Bradbury were our guides through this facility and they were very gracious, knowledgeable, and receptive to our questions. They contacted all the right people and set up a mill, right in the middle of this EAB problem. They are out of Ohio but the opportunity to get in on all of



Stockpiles of logs at the EMI site in Flat Rock, MI

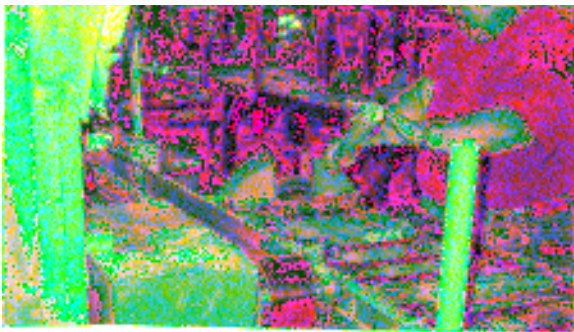
this ash wood for their handle business in Ohio was something that they thought would help out their company, and also help Michigan

(Continued from page 8)

with the blight of the EAB. They have the state-of-the-art equipment and this is all their money; no money was granted for this project. They took us from the yard to the debarking and metal detection area before it entered the building. Inside the building the logs were cut to length and sent down a series of tables by rollers, and then sent into a huge saw that slabs the logs.



After the logs are slabbed, those pieces of lumber are sent to the next stage, which re-saws the lumber into manageable pieces so the shapers can turn these boards into dow-



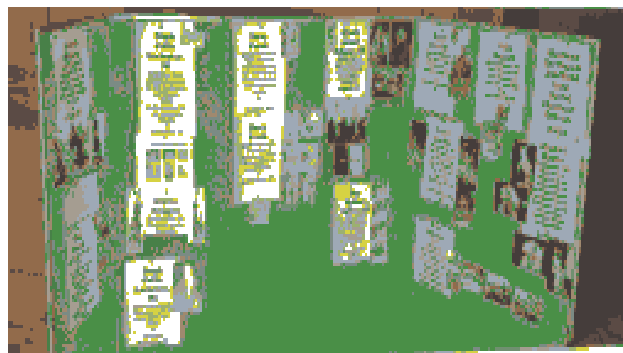
els of two inches for the stock for handles. Those dowels are sent to cutoff saw operators which inspect the dowels and cut them to size for handles. All of the scrap is then sent out on a conveyor to a grinder that grinds the scrap up for sale as mulch. Like all of the other facilities that we toured, they use all the wood down to the sawdust off of the saws from inside the building. All of

this stock for handles is shipped down to their kilns and shapers for the finishing of the handles in Ohio. As a parting gift, the company gave us leaf rakes for which they make the handles.

In closing, I'd like to thank Jessica Simons and all of the artists that gave me free rein on moving their pieces and getting them back to them in one piece. Thank you need to go out to the turners in Michigan Association of Woodturners, Basil Kelsey, Clarence Gordon, Joe Agosta. Detroit Area Woodturners, Leonard Kraska, Bill Youngblood and my chainsaw carving family from across the country and England: John Snyder, Steph Collin, Scott Kuefler, Chuck Jennett, Pat Holbert, Michael Blaine, Barry Frank, Dayton Scoggins, Bill Plant, and the famous Tree Pirates from England. Thank you all so much; I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you Lew McCreery, and I hope you make it to our chainsaw carving rendezvous in Ridgway, PA at the end of February. Thank you everyone on the tour for your support and interest in what my turning and carving families have to offer in response to this dilemma, by giving the people of Michigan another option to this serious problem of containing this EAB infestation.

May we be able to give new life to those trees and wood from the area? Carve a tree and give it new life, or turn the wood and hold a piece of that tree forever.

Gratefully Thankful for the Opportunity,



Chainsaw carvers and their work displayed at Lyon Gate Golf Course Art Show



925 Duncan Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Visit our Website: www.MichiganWoodturner.org

Do you have Something to sell? Something to buy?

Listing is free to members.

Please contact Phil Clevenger 734-761-8737 or PhilClevenger@comcast.net by the Friday following the monthly meeting.

Ads will run for three months unless you cancel.

Classified Ads

Metal Lathe, partially converted for woodturning. Contact Russ Clinard for details at 734-663-9689.

Cherry, Black Locust, Black Walnut, Red Oak timber available. Free. Contact Steve

St. Charles at 734-449-4148.

Maple Burl for sale. \$2.00/pound. Contact Tom Mogford at 810-629-6176.

Maple, Madrone Burl for sale. Contact Norm Blake at 517-626-7083.

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE: The December meeting has been rescheduled to December 12th, 2004 due to the Chapter's participation in the Woodworking Show in Novi December 3 – 5th. Details TBA.

Sunday, December 12th, 2004: Tom Mogford will demonstrate the use of the Ellsworth

grind and Show-and-Tell.

Sunday, January 9th, 2005 (please note date change): Basil Kelsey will demonstrate the use of the Batty grind and Show-and-tell.