



Between Turns

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



January, 2005

Volume 17, Issue 1

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Meeting Announcements

- **Greg Jensen will present a one-day demonstration** of the Kelton coring system, Mcnaughton tools, and P & N tools that he reps on Saturday, March 5th, 2005. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$25.00, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Tom Mogford at 810-629-6176 to sign up.
- **Bonnie Klein will present** a one day demo some Saturday in March, assuming she can work us into her busy schedule.. Details TBA. Cost will be \$50, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. **She will also present** a two-day workshop on the Sunday and Monday following the demo. The workshop will be on threaded boxes. Cost is \$200, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Tom Mogford at 810-629-6176 to sign up.
- **The Riverfolk Festival to be held August 8, 2005** in Manchester is soliciting Craft entries. Contact Bill Weber at 734-428-7008 for further information.
- Jessica Simons, a Natural Resources Specialist from the Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation & Development Council gave a brief update on the Ash Utilization Project. During the Q&A, it became apparent that a number of members had tried to obtain some of the Ash wood with limited suc-

cess. She said she would contact the vendors she was working with to make sure they were aware of the laws concerning distribution of the wood. She reminded us about the January 29, 2005 fair at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Volunteers are still needed to help with the Chapter's participation in the fair. Contact Jim Madsen at 517-645-4594 for more information.

- We had some discussion about adopting a set of By-Laws and incorporating the Chapter as a non-profit entity. If you have any expertise in incorporation, or would like to participate in drawing up the By-Laws please contact Phil Clevenger at 734-761-8737.
- Lynn Grenier brought the treats for the meeting this month. Gary Ernst will bring them next month. Thanks, gentlemen.

Basil Kelsey demos the Batty Grind Bowl Gouge

The Chapter's lead mentor Basil Kelsey demonstrated the use of a "Batty Grind" gouge in turning a green bowl.

The "Batty Grind" refers to a grind developed by Stuart Batty, a well-known second-generation English woodturner. Basil traveled to Provo, Utah to take a class from Stuart last July. Stuart grinds his spindle gouges to 30° and

Contact Us

President:

Tom Mogford 810-629-6176

Vice President:

Pete Buccellato 248-634-7622

Treasurer:

Timothy Morris 810-229-7156

Secretary:

Phil Clevenger 734-761-8737

Photographer:

Jeff Provost: Currently in Kuwait

Webmaster:

Paul Elert 734-769-5253



Using the Batty Grind

(Continued from page 1)

bowl gouges to a 40° angle (see figure 1) and cuts with the push cut resulting in a very smooth off-the-tool finish with little or no tearout when done properly.

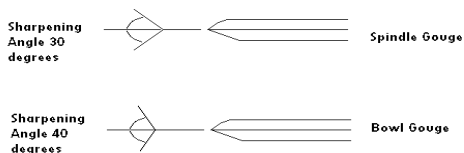


Figure 1

Basil began with a cherry blank between centers and proceeded to rough out the bowl in the usual manner. After chucking the blank, Basil began to form what would become the bottom of the bowl using a push cut.



Basil hollowed the bowl quickly, switching to a Ellsworth grind only to finish the very bottom of the bowl where the 40 degree grind simply wouldn't reach.



And finally, he reversed the bowl using a jam chuck and the tail stock and finished off the foot.



Although Basil made it look easy, the quality of the surface off-the-tool was remarkable, showing very little tearout, even given the punky little knot that revealed itself in that particular blank.

Along the way, Basil shared his thoughts on grinders (he likes the 8" Jet that the Chapter purchased), calipers (he likes the large ones available from Lee Valley), paper towels (Viva, for padding the jam chuck), and measuring (he likes to measure...a lot).

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Like any other technique, it takes a little time to get the hang of it. Control of the cut is difficult at first. The gouge has a tendency to “skate” when you first make contact with the surface, thus one has a tendency to overcontrol the tip which makes it difficult to establish an even curve and depth of cut. After a few cuts you’ll see the line and correct. The off-the-tool surface when the cut is done properly, as pronounced as the surface left by a good skew cut in spindle turning makes it well worth practicing. Basil suggests preparing several green bowl blanks for practicing the push cut on. Don’t expect to get many bowls from the first batch. Practice. It’s good to have a variety of techniques available for you to draw on when you encounter a particularly “challenging” piece of wood.

Turning 2005 Symposium Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild October 21-23, 2005

The Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild will sponsor its 4th biennial symposium "Turning 2005" on October 21-23, 2005 in suburban Cincinnati. **Featured turners will be Jimmy Clewes, J. Paul Fennell, John Jordan, Ray Key, Richard Raffan, Chris Ramsey and Chris Stott,** plus other local guest demonstrators. **There will be a trade show, auction and lots of good food.** Additional details will be announced later. Check out our web site at www.ovwg.org or contact Joe Keeler at 513.233.0493 or by email at Jgklr2732@aol.com if you would like to receive an application.

Emerald Ash Borer Information Fair

The Washtenaw County MSU Extension office is hosting an Emerald Ash Borer Information/Ash Wood Utilization Fair at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds on Saturday, January 29, 2005. Using a variety of educational displays and demonstrations, this event will address many of the questions that homeowners may have about the Emerald Ash Borer and the treatment/utilization options that exist for their trees.

Presenters at the fair will include representatives from many government agencies, area businesses (tree services, sawmills, woodworkers, wood products industries, etc.), and local municipalities. This event will run from 11:00 am - 5:00pm and is free to the general public. The Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds are located at 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road in Ann Arbor.

We need volunteers to staff the booth and demo some woodturning. If you are available, please contact Jim Madson at 517-645-4594.





MSU Extension Bulletin E-2892, New May 2003

Distinguishing Ash from other Common Trees

Diane Brown-Rytlewski and Rebecca Thompson
Michigan State University IPM Program

Identifying ash trees

Due to the recent discovery of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Michigan, it is important to be able to recognize and identify ash trees. To date, emerald ash borer has only

been found on ash trees (see page 4). Not sure if your tree is an ash? This simple key is intended to help you distinguish between some common deciduous landscape trees frequently confused with ash, including: elm, boxelder, mountainash, walnut and hickory.

Using the identification key

Begin at number 1 on the key and choose (a) or (b). Then proceed to the number listed in italics at the end of your choice. This number will give you a new set of choices. Continue this way through the key. We have listed enough characteristics to help you determine whether or not your tree is an ash. If it doesn't match the characteristics in the key, relax; it most likely isn't an ash. If you don't want to use the

key, tree ID photos are on pages 2-4.

If you are still curious about what kind of trees you have, consult Extension Bulletin E-2332, "Identifying Trees of Michigan," or a good field guide such as: "The Tree Identification Book," by George W.D. Symonds; "Tree Finder: A Manual for the Identification of Trees by Their Leaves," by May T. Watts; or "A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs" by George A. Petrides. There are many other good guides available; these are mentioned only as examples.

Identification key

1. a) Branches alternate (Fig. 1) – *go to 2*
b) Branches opposite (Fig. 2) – *go to 4*
2. a) Simple leaves, with irregular leaf base and toothed edge (Fig. 3). See **elm**, page 2.
b) Compound leaves (Fig. 4), with 9 to 15 leaflets, finely toothed around edge of leaf – *go to 3*
c) Compound leaves, 5 to 7 leaflets – *go to 3c*
3. a) Cut open twig lengthwise.
Chambered pith (Fig. 6). See **black walnut**, page 3.
b) If pith is not chambered, but has white flowers in May, orange or red berries in fall. See **mountainash**, page 3.
c) If pith is not chambered, but has three leaflets at end of leaf larger than the rest. See **hickory**, page 2.
4. a) Compound leaves, 5 to 9 leaflets, smooth or finely toothed around outer edge. See **ash**, page 4.
b) Compound leaves, 3 to 5 leaflets, few coarse teeth or none, end leaflet pointed (Fig. 5). See **boxelder**, page 4.



Fig. 1- Alternate branching

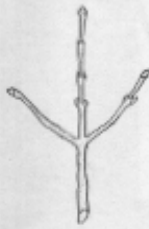


Fig. 2- Opposite branching



Fig. 3- Simple leaf (American elm)



Fig. 4- Compound leaf, 7 leaflets (White ash)



Fig. 5- Compound leaf, 3 leaflets (Boxelder)



Fig. 6- Chambered pith (Black walnut)

Line drawings: Steven Brown

Definitions

- Alternate – leaves/branches that are staggered or not directly across from each other, Fig 1.
- Opposite – leaves/branches that are directly across from each other, Fig. 2.
- Simple – a single leaf blade joined by its stalk to a woody stem, Fig 3.
- Compound – a leaf with more than one leaflet. All leaflets attached to a single leafstem, Fig. 4-5.

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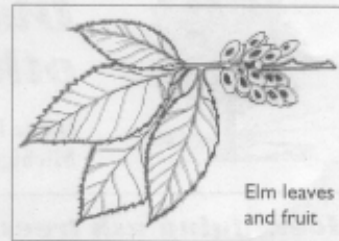
Elm, *Ulmus spp.*

Branches and buds are alternate and leaf bases are unequal. The leaves are simple, serrate (toothed) and 3 to 6 inches long and 1 to 3 inches wide (American elm) or 3/4 to 3 inches long and 1/3 to 1 inch wide (Siberian elm). The fruit is a winged seed.

Sandy Perry



Sandy Perry



Elm leaves and fruit



Unequal leaf base
Mary Wilson

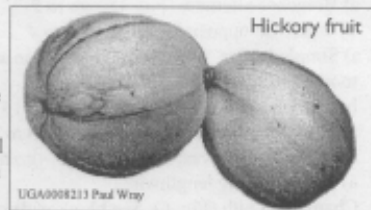


Alternate branching

Left: American elm has a vase-shaped growth habit. Right: Siberian elms are fast-growing, brittle trees that break easily. Other elms will have similar leaves and seeds, although leaf size and growth habit will vary.

Hickory, *Carya spp.*

Shagbark hickory has distinctive bark – long, loose, shaggy strips. Leaves are compound, 8 to 14 inches long with 5 to 7 leaflets. The three terminal leaflets are larger than the other leaflets. Other similar species (not shown) include bitternut, pignut and mockernut, which have similar leaves and fruits although leaf size will vary. They do not have distinctive shaggy bark. These trees are seldom planted in landscapes, but are native, and may be found growing in woods. Fruits are hard-shelled light brown nuts, in a green husk that splits into four parts.

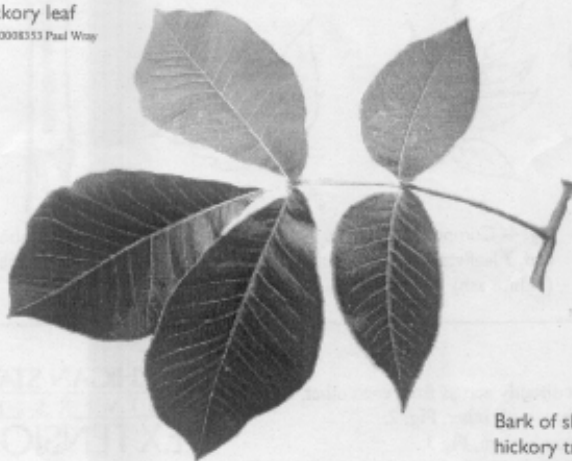


Hickory fruit

UGA0008213 Paul Wray

Hickory leaf

UGA0008553 Paul Wray



Bark of shagbark hickory tree
Diane Brown-Rydewski



To be continued...

Membership Questionnaire Results

Page 6

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:

**February 6,
2005**

Twenty-nine percent of our membership took the time to fill out at least portions of the questionnaire we circulated last month. This gives us a reasonable idea of where we are as a chapter and where we might be headed.

Of those that responded, our average turner has been, well, turning for a little more than five years, and most of us rate ourselves at novice (36%) or intermediate (55%) skill levels.

Most of us (67%) do not currently market our work.

What members would like to see more of (in order):

- Demos by other members
- Demos/workshops by outside turners
- Show-and-Tells/expanded video library (tie)
- Formal instruction/Community outreach/Social events (tie)
- Chapter-sponsored sales/cookies (tie)(...cookies...one in every crowd...ed)

Overall satisfaction with our current direction appears good, with 40% of the membership giving us a ranking of "5" (Best) and 43% a ranking of "4". Room for improvement of course, but encouraging none the less.

Lies Statistics being what they are, people's comments were even more useful. Some of the more common, in no particular order:

- A number of people indicated they enjoyed the picnic. So mark your

calendars, **the 2005 MAW picnic will be held on August 7 at the Hudson Mills Metropark, same as last year.** Details TBA.

- "More of the "Challenges"...excellent learning experience"
- "(more) advanced workshops or techniques. More critiques, either by outside artists or advanced turners."
- "More organization...mentoring help after the meeting. **See next page.**"
- "I'm meeting some nice people"
- "I'd like to see some general discussions on pricing all types of turnings..."
- One person suggested having members donate a piece to be raffled off at each meeting, the proceeds to be used to replace some of the "really bad lathes" in the shop.
- Limit the business portion of the meetings to maybe 15 minutes to allow more time for Show-and-Tells.

One person who made several good suggestions was a newer member Tim Leright, who is having both knees replaced over the next 6 months (ouch). Let's all send him our best.

A number of people indicated they might be able to volunteer some time which is a great thing because, as always, there are always more things to be done than people to do them.

Our continued success as a chapter depends on our being able to attract new members, bring them up to speed with the basic skills, increase the skill levels of the intermediate turners, and retain the interest and active participation of all of our members, especially our advanced turners. Thanks to all who participated.

Mentor's Corner

By Basil Kelsey

I have agreed to oversee the Chapter's Mentoring Program. I strongly believe in our Mission Statement. [*<cough>look right<cough>...Ed.*] One of the main benefits we can offer our members, new and old alike, is the opportunity to hone their woodturning skills and learn new ones in a supportive and focused environment.

While our meeting demos and workshops go a long way in accomplishing this, a number of people have come forward asking for additional help.

For the time being, I think we can provide this by spending a couple hours after each meeting to focus on a specific topic. These mentoring sessions will be free to members in good standing.

In the future, I will use this column to provide some background information related to the upcoming topics.

We passed a sheet around at the January meeting asking what tools and techniques you wanted help on. You mentioned some great topics, including bowl turning basics, making hollow vessels, using chattering and texturing tools, making wooden threads, box making, making bottle stoppers and other small items, boring long holes, using different jigs and sharpening techniques. Some of these will become the subject of upcoming demos and workshops. Some will become the subject of future mentoring sessions.

Needless to say, I can't do all of this alone. As a Chapter, we'll need the help of our more experienced turners to make our mission successful. **Please contact me if you can help in our mentoring program.** Eventually, I'd like to pair up new members, or members who need help on a specific issue, with a more experienced turner who has the requisite skills.

The mentoring session following the February meeting will be spindle turning basics. I will cover selection and preparation of the blanks, selection and sharpening of the roughing and spindle gouges, demonstrate the cuts, and try to answer any questions you may have. **Bring your tools so we can sharpen them properly.**

In general, the term "spindle turning" refers to work turned between centers. The grain of the blank usually runs along the axis of the lathe. Spindle turnings can run the gamut from spurtles and honey dippers, to rolling pins and end-grain boxes, vases or hollow forms, chair spindles to architectural columns.

Tools most often used in spindle turning include spindle gouges, skewers, the bedan, scrapers and parting tools. Calipers are used to measure critical diameters, as in making duplicates or sizing lids for boxes.

Mike Darlow does an excellent job in presenting information on spindle turning in his book [The Fundamentals of Woodturning](#). Highly recommended.

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.



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

Cherry, Black Locust, Black Walnut, Red Oak timber available.

Free. Contact Steve St. Charles at 734-449-4148.

Deft, semi gloss, \$18/gallon. Contact Bob Roehrig at 810-750-9132 or rroehrig@gfn.org.

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

Saturday, January 29, 2005: An Ash Utilization Fair at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. See page 3. Volunteers still needed, contact Jim Madsen at 517-645-4594 for more information.

Sunday, February 6, 2005: Tom Mogford will demonstrate the turning of a natural-edge vase.

Saturday, March 5th, 2005: Greg Jenson will present a one-day demonstration of the Kelton coring system, Menaughton tools, and P & N tools. \$25 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Tom Mogford at 810-629-6176 to sign up.