



Between Turns

A monthly publication of the Michigan Association of Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



April, 2005

Volume 17, Issue 4

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Meeting Announcements

- **Reasonable amounts of library materials** may be checked out by members, but please return them the next month.
- **Due to poor communications**, the Chapter will not be participating in the Ann Arbor Art Fair this year. Arrangements are being made to return in 2006.
- **Chapter gear is available** in the cabinet that houses the Chapter Library. Smocks are \$50, T-shirts and baseball caps are \$15. Your purchase of said gear supports the Chapter and makes Tom smile.
- **Lyle Jamieson is presenting a 1-day demo** at the Johnson's Workbench in Grand Rapids on Saturday, May 7, 2005. Cost is \$30.00 for the day, including a catered lunch. Contact Dick Wilson at 616-365-0405 or email dickwilsonwoods@sbcglobal.net for more information. Payment is due by May 1st. Check out Lyle's work at www.lylejamieson.com.
- **Now is the time** to be working on your masterpieces for the Studio 23 "Rings of Inspiration" show in November. Prizes TBA. **Entry forms are due June 15, 2005. Entry forms are on the back table in Russ's shop.** Studio 23 will jury up to five slide or 8 X 10 digital prints from each entrant. Entry fee is \$25.00. Remember that the Chapter has a Photo Set-up avail-

able for your use. Please contact Keith Fulmer at 810-695-4908 for more information.

- **The 19th Annual National AAW Symposium** will be held July 22 – 24, 2005 in suburban Kansas City, Kansas. For more information see the AAW website (www.woodturner.org) or the Spring 2005 issue of The American Woodturner.
- **The Riverfolk Festival to be held August 6, 2005** in Manchester is soliciting Craft entries. Contact Bill Weber at 734-428-7008 for further information.
- **The 2nd annual Chapter picnic** will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2005 at Hudson Mills Metropark. Details TBA.
- **Well-known Australian woodturner Richard Raffan** will present a 2-day demo and a 1, 2, or 3-day hands-on (your choice) at the Northwest Michigan Woodturners in Traverse City October 14 – 20, 2005. Cost is \$100.00 for the demo and \$150.00/day for the hands-on. Space is limited. Contact B. J. Harmon at 231-946-5787 to sign up.
- **The Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild will present their 4th biennial Symposium** October 21 – 23, 2005 in West Harrison, IN (30 minutes west of Cincinnati, OH). Featured Demonstrators include: Jimmy Clewes, J. Paul Fennell, John Jordan, Ray Key, Richard

Contact Us

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Announcements

(Continued from page 1)

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:

May 1, 2005

Raffan, Chris Ramsey, and Chris Stott. More information at www.ovwg.org/turning2005.

- **Cookies and brownies** for the April meeting courtesy the lovely Lady Pamela. Art Varady will provide refreshments for the May 1st meeting.
- **Late Note:** Tom has ordered 3 sizes of the closed-cell foam suggested by Dave Hout for vacuum chucking applications. Details at the May meet-



Gary sets up his back rest

ing.

Most of us are familiar by now with captive boring bars, but I've never seen one like this. Tools to turn on this scale are not available commercially, so Gary makes his own, and they are massive.

Gary Smith Doesn't Mess Around



Gary bores a hole prior to hollowing a vase. Note the shop-built steady rest



Now that's a boring bar

MAW member Gary Smith showed us how a grown-up farm boy tackles BIG hollow forms at the April meet-



Gary's front tool rest

After turning the outside of the vessel to shape, Gary wraps it in stretch wrap (available at your favorite Office Depot) to retard moisture loss and to keep things together in the event of a senior moment. He then bores out a center hole to the desired depth (1.5" bit available from www.msdirect.com), and then proceeds to assemble his rig. Not to belabor the point, but the bar alone is about 7 feet long and weighs more than 60 pounds. Might not work



"Anybody who grew up on a farm knows how to weld good enough to stick things together"



on my monster 8" Mercury.

All that mass makes for quick and aggressive waste removal with very little vibration.



Gary prepares to sand the interior

Gary shoots for 3/8" to 1/2 inch walls on his large vases.

In all, an impressive display of tool-making ability and a farmboy's ingenuity. Thanks, Gary, for making the effort to show us how the big dogs play. Now, back to my ornaments...

Shop Visits Wanted

We got mail, this time from South Africa:

Hi Phil.

Thank you so much for replying to my e-mail.

I need to tell you that I am a novice at woodturning and no expert but would love to meet the members of your club while I am in Jackson, MI.

I have just retired and during the last year purchased my first lathe, a second-hand Pool Wood lathe.

During my last visit to Michigan, I purchased a number of woodturning books; the one I have been poring over is Turning Wood with Richard Raffan. I have found it most helpful.

I am a member of Port Elizabeth Woodturners Guild and also of the Association of Woodturners of South Africa.

Thank you for inviting me to attend your June 5th meeting in Ann Arbor. It sounds great.

I would love to meet members of your Association and to arrange to visit their shops.

I will be staying with daughter and her family from 20 May to 19 June 2005. Their address is:

3160 Reynolds Road
Jackson, MI
Tel: 517 750 1891

I look forward to hearing from and meeting you in Ann Arbor.

Kind regards,

Brian Wells

I hope we can give Mr. Wells a warm MAW welcome. If you live near Jackson or know a woodturner who does, please contact his daughter at the above phone number or email him at Brian.Wells@telkomsa.net to arrange a visit.



We got more mail:

MAW, c/o Jim Madsen
Dear Jim and friends:

On behalf of the Michigan State University Extension and the Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation and Development Council, we would like to thank you for being a part of our Emerald Ash Borer Information/Ash Wood Utilization Fair. We were very pleased to include the Michigan Association of Woodturners in this event and hope that your involvement gave you the opportunity for increased visibility in our community. Your presence was essential for helping our area homeowners understand all of the options available to them when responding to the emerald ash borer.

We received excellent feedback from the 316 people who attended the event and feel that they had an enjoyable and informative day. Thanks to your participation, the fair visitors were able to have all of the questions about woodturning addressed. The fair just would not have been complete without your tremendous expertise and generous assistance in this area.

We would like to thank you for spending an entire Saturday welcoming the questions and concerns of our local residents, and even more, for providing such quality services to EAB-affected citizens. It was truly a pleasure working with you on this event.

In appreciation,

Karen Reynolds
EAB Education Coordinator
Washtenaw County MSU Extension

Jessica Simons
Natural Resources Specialist
Southeast Michigan RC & D Council

Dave Hout's Mega-Demo

Educator and DIY Television Network host Dave Hout was in town April 16 and 17 to demonstrate a wide variety of his tools and techniques to an interested audience.

Saturday morning started out with an excellent overview of metalspinning. Metalspinning is a metal forming technique that dates back 4000 years, yet wasn't commonly used in the US until about 1840. It is still used today to make components for a wide variety of industries, from aerospace to medical instrumentation. While commercial metalspinning has evolved into a world of computer-controlled hydraulic lathes, there is still a place for the craftsman, even in industry. Dave is one of the few teaching the craft today in an effort to revive its use in the decorative arts.

As you might guess, metalspinning is basically the process of forming conical, hemispherical, or cylindrical parts out of discs of sheet metal by forcing the spinning metal over a hardwood mandrel. With a little ingenuity and skill, moderately closed forms can be made as well. Complex forms are an assembly of component parts limited only by your imagination.



A pin in the toolrest acts as a fulcrum when forming the metal



Dave uses his spoon tool most of the time



A woodlathe can be used for spinning smaller items of copper, brass, aluminum and pewter by fabricating a new toolrest and some simple tools. Turning the hardwood mandrels requires only basic woodturning skills and standard woodturning tools.

The process itself is pretty straightforward.



MAW member Russ Clinard embarks on an exciting new career path with Dave's help...beats his day job...

A mandrel is turned to the desired shape and mounted in a chuck or on a faceplate. A lubricated metal disc is centered on the mandrel by bringing up a follower block mounted in the tailstock. A pin is placed in a hole drilled in the toolrest to act as a fulcrum, and the tool is levered against the disc to conform it to the shape of the mandrel. Simple, right?

Well, we all know there's more to it than that, but Dave was able to show us enough to get us started in a few short hours. MAW Vice-President Pete Buccellato has offered the use of his metal-working shop and equipment (and his expertise at a bargain rate) to any members interested in fabricating the rests and tools. If anyone is interested, let's get together after the May 1 meeting to talk about logistics.

After another tasty Morris-catered luncheon, Dave switched gears and talked about vacuum chucks.

Most vacuum chucking systems consist of a vacuum pump, a means of controlling the amount of vacuum in the system, a fitting that provides an

(Continued on page 10)

Making a Snap-Lid Box Part Two

By Jeffery A. Levine
Reprinted with Permission

(Continued from March newsletter)

Step 12:

Remount the body of the box on the lathe and carefully true the face. With a sharp skew turned on its side, using it as you would a scraper, turn a shallow coin shaped recess on what will be the top of the box. This recess should only be $1/28''$ to $64''$, just enough to feel when the lid sits firmly as shown in photo #25.

Then turn another coin shaped recess within the first, this one should be about $1/16''$ to $1/8''$ smaller in diameter than the first. The depth should be a bit shy of the size of the bull nose on the lid. This area will form the shelf that the bottom of lid will sit on as shown in photo #26. The remaining material between these two recesses will be turned later when fitting the lid.

The final lid fitting is done after hollowing and sanding to ensure that the fit is not affected by wood movement.
(Photo #25 & #26)



Photo 26

Step 13:

Use a $1/16''$ parting tool to cut a slot $1/4''$ deep beginning about $1/8''$ inside of the shelf left by the procedures in step #12 as shown in photo #27. Continue by hollowing out from the slot to about $1/2$ of the finished depth as shown in photo #28.

Using the same $1/16''$ parting tool, undercut a slot on the inside wall a bit thicker than your finished wall thickness, just beneath the shelf left by the previous operation. Cut to a depth that will be just shy of the finished wall thickness. I find that this relief cut helps in the hollowing process and provides a guide for gauging the wall thickness as shown in photo #29.

(Photos #27, #28 & #29)



Photo 25



Photo 27



Photo 28

to pad the tips of the clamps, to get where fingers can not reach as shown in photo #33. Finish the inside with a friction polish. (Photo #30, #31, #32 & #33)



Photo 29



Photo 30

Step 14:

At this point, set a depth gauge for the maximum interior depth, remember to add a hair so as not to end up turning a lidded funnel. You can always refine the bottom later as shown in photo #30. Hollow out the box to the finished wall thickness and depth.



Photo 31

I prefer to use formed scrapers, some I buy from tool suppliers and others I make in my shop. My favorite shape is the backwards P shape, see the tools photo. Use whatever hollowing method you are most comfortable with. Check as you go with calipers and the depth gauge.



Photo 32

Stop when you reach a satisfactory wall thickness. I usually turn them to anywhere between 1/32" to 1/8" . Keep in mind the thickness can vary due to the size of the box, stability of the material and the skill level of the turner.

Now sand the inside of the box to 2000 grit. Use surgical clamps with sand paper folded up





Photo 33

Step 15:

Now is the moment of truth. It is time to fit the lid, slowly. Use a sharp 1/4 " skew on its side. With the long point, begin to cut a dove tail recess, as you would when using a four jaw scroll chuck in the expansion mode. Start just shy of where you first sized the lid in step #12. Undercut the wood between the inner and outer recess to form the dovetail, compare between photos #29 and #34. Don't get ahead of yourself.

Begin to round over the sharp point of the dovetail with the skew on its side using the heel to lightly contour the surface. If you have not gone too far, the lid should not yet fit but the recess should have the right shape as shown in photo #32.

Slowly, begin to reduce the side profile of the dovetail recess without altering its overall shape. Scraping a little bit at a time and stopping the lathe frequently to check the fit. When the lid is getting close to fitting, it will start to make a creaking sound and feel as though it wants to pop in. Continue slowly but do not force the fit, with patience the lid will eventually pop into place. Stop and remove the lid and give the box a few minutes to cool off. Try the fit again and readjust if needed.

Very carefully, touch up with sandpaper the raised bead that remains proud of the box. Do not mess with the fitting surfaces, you can sand the shelf a bit but don't touch the sides. Finish up with some friction polish on the fitting surfaces and the raised bead.

The fit I prefer will firmly snap into place and will not requiring too much pressure to remove the lid. Also, it should be seated at a point at which the lid does not spin freely within its recess.

Again, this takes practice and is something you have to get a feel for as much as you are seeing what you are doing you must take your cues from the feel of the fit and the sound that it makes. In troubleshooting lid fitting problems take this into consideration, if the lid won't pop into place you have gone too far in opening up the fitting surface. If the lid pops into place but spins or rattles within its recess than the shelf on which it sits has been cut too deeply. (Photos #29, #34 & #35)



Photo 34



Photo 35

Step 16:

Part the box off from the lathe as shown in photo #36. Use the same jam chuck as before. Assuming there has been no lose of center, you should only have to open up the recess used for holding the lid a small amount, approximately the width of the raised bead. Fit the box into the recess in the jam chuck as shown in photo #37. Turn the foot as shown in photo #38.

(Photos #36, #37 & #38)

**Photo 36****Photo 37****Photo 38****Step 17:**

Remove the box from the jam chuck and buff with a buffing system.

(Photo #39)

**Photo 39****Step 18:**

DONE ! Admire your hard work.

(Photo #40)

**Photo 40**

Ed. Note: Jeff Lavine started turning in 1979, and is largely self-taught. He specializes in boxes and small-scale turnings. Jeff is a member of the AAW and the Association of Revolutionary Turners (ART), a Local Chapter of the AAW near Boston, MA. Jeff's website is <http://www.freewebs.com/jlavinewoodturner/index.htm>.

Hout Demo

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(Continued from page 5)

air-tight path for the vacuum through the headstock to the chuck, and tubing to connect everything up. Dave gave us sources for surplus vacuum pumps and other parts that we could put together for about \$250 and up, depending on the bells and whistles.

On this day, however, luck was a lady.



Dave discusses vacuum chucks

Turns out Dave is helping to develop a venturi system that will use a small air compressor as a vacuum source as well as the fittings and tubing that will allow it to connect to most lathes. Fortuitous, indeed. At an expected retail price of \$150 or so, it might serve as a less expensive and quieter vacuum chucking system for those of us who already have an air compressor. Dave expects the system to be available later this year through Craft Supplies and Packard Woodworks.

Sunday opened with a discussion that ranged from Dave's thoughts on plagiarism and design to his experiences mentoring under Rude Olsolnik and the early days of the AAW.

Sunday morning's demo began with a presentation on chasing threads on a

wooden box.



He pointed out that straight-grained hardwoods like boxwood and blackwood work the best. He showed us how to lay out the joint and proceeded to strike and chase the threads. Talking as he worked, he emphasized that, like anything else, only through practice could we expect to assimilate the movements and rhythm necessary for satisfactory threads. He talked about the alternatives available for threading wood and other turning materials.



MAW member Colleen Bruning-Fann finds it

The rest of the day was spent on general faceplate and spindle turning. Dave helped develop the "Hout Bowl Skew" for Crown Tools and we took turns finding the "sweet spot" that produces a superb surface on the inside of even the most difficult bowl. Works as advertised.

Another well-attended and informative demo in the house that Russ built. Thanks to Dave for sharing his expertise and thanks as well to Tom and Tim and all those who made it happen.



Member's Show-and-Tell Gallery

April, 2005

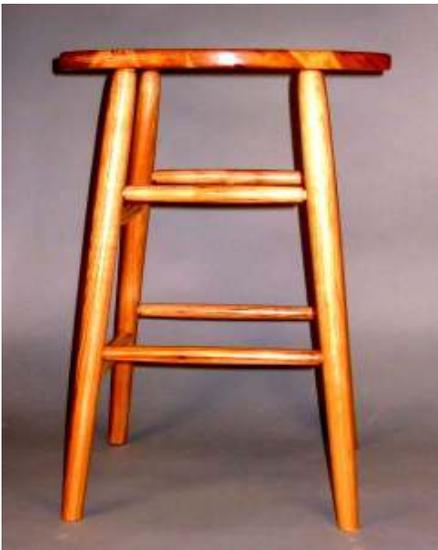
Photos by Jeff Provost, Chapter Photographer



Maple Burl Bowl
by
Joe Agoste



Walnut Crotch Bowl
by
David Pierce



Maple Plate with Dyed Rim
by
Paul Elert

Hickory Stool
By
Robert Anderson



Walnut Winged Bowl
by
David Pierce



Maple Plate with Inlaid
by
Paul Elert

Photographers note:

If you want your work photographed, please be at the meeting by noon.



925 Duncan Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Visit our Website: www.wichiganwoodturner.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, Madrone Burl for sale. Contact Norm Blake at 517-323-3887.

Upcoming Events

Lyle Jamieson will present a 1-day demo on Saturday, May 7, 2005 at the Johnson's Workbench in Grand Rapids. Cost is \$30, includes lunch. Contact Dick Wilson at 616-365-0405 for more information.

Studio 23 2005 Holiday Exhibit entry forms due June 15, 2005. Contact Keith Fulmer at 810-695-4908 for more information.

2nd annual MAW picnic scheduled for August 7, 2005 at Hudson Mills Metropark. Details TBA.

Well-known Australian woodturner Richard Raffan will present a 2-day demo and a 1, 2, or 3-day hands-on (your choice) at the Northwest Michigan Woodturners in Traverse City October 14 – 20, 2005. Details Page 1.