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Meeting Announcements

New Club Lathe: Done Deal

At the July club meeting options were laid out concerning the club's new lathe acquisition. Members voted to buy Pete Buccellato's Powermatic A lathe for \$1,600. The club has \$1,442.00 in the "New Lathe Raffle Fund" at present. Lathe should be setup and running by the September meeting.

Happy Winner



Richard Rowland was this month's winner in the "new lathe raffle". His prize was a signed mini-hat made by Chris Ramsey during Chris' two day demo with our club. Congratulations Richard.

Nick Cook Demo

Nick Cook two day demo date has been moved to December 9th & 10th. Cost will be \$80.00 for the two days. This includes breakfast and lunch. Signup sheet will be around at upcoming meetings or call Tom Mogford at 810-629-6176.

Planer Blades

The club store has planer blades for sale. These are nice blades of M2 tool steel and have many uses. See Tom if you would like to purchase any of these for \$5.00 each. Also, the club still has a nice supply of hats, T-shirts, turning smocks, CA glue, and various sanding supplies at very attractive prices.

Club Decal

The club will be having decals made of the club logo. These will be nice to mount on your vehicle or the like. Further information will be forthcoming.

This month's meeting treats were provided by Jeff Scott....thanks Jeff.

September meeting treats will be provided by Robbie Magee.



Bracelets by Gary Smith

Gary's Bracelet Demo



Gary Smith gave a very informative demonstration on making 3 different types of bracelets at our July meeting. He demonstrated and explained the plain, inlaid, and segmented type bracelets. If you did not get a handout, please visit the club's website at www.michiganwoodturner.org to download and view a color copy. You may also make copies from this download. The PDF format download is underneath the picture of Gary on the first page of the web site.



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS !

When entering the meeting grounds please drive **slowly (5mph)**. There are children and animals present on the property and we want everyone to be safe.



Calendar

The Calendar listings are an attempt to keep you up to date on upcoming MAW events, as well as other events of particular interest to woodturners.

- MAW Picnic and meeting: August 6 at Kensington Metro Park.
- September meeting will be held on the 10th of the month due to the holiday.
- Nick Cook two day demo will be on December 9th & 10th.

MAW WEBSITE

Please visit the clubs website at www.michiganwoodturner.org

If you have a favorite turning you would like to have posted in the GALLERY on the clubs website, please email a digital photograph of your project to:

rroehrig@charter.net

Photo's

- Photographs for this month's "Between Turns" were provided by Bob Roehrig and Jeff Provost. If you have digital photo's that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter, please send them to the editor at: rroehrig@charter.net

Dues:

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

Tim Morris, Treasurer
1673 Woodlake Circle
Brighton, MI 48116

Meetings:

will now be held from 1 – 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at the workshop of:

Dave Gordon

10621 Milford Rd.
Holly, Michigan 48442

Next Meeting: Picnic

August 6, 2006

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Third Annual Summer Picnic and August Meeting

Who: Members and their families

What: Family picnic and Woodturners show & tell

When: August 6, 2006 12:30 till 4:30 p.m.

Where: Kensington Metro Park, Picnic shelter J

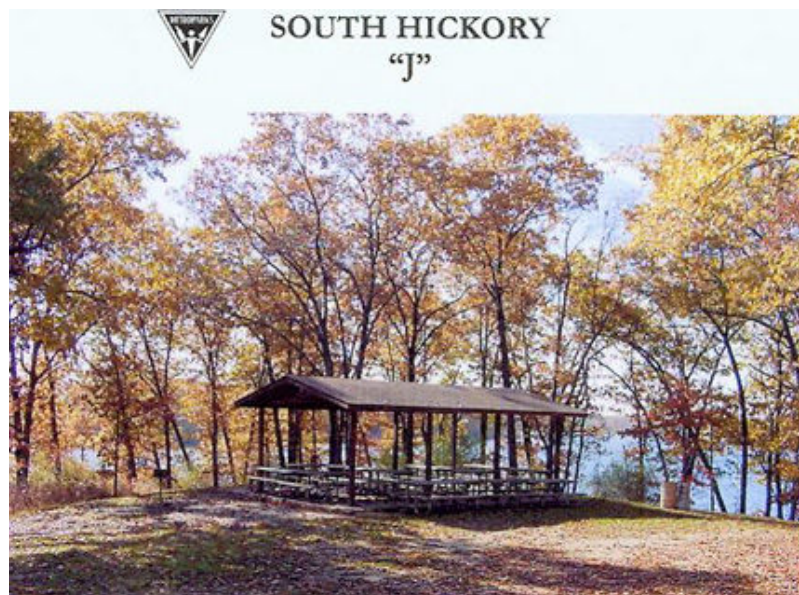
Directions to Picnic Shelter J: Exit I-96 at Kensington Road, exit 151. Follow signs into the park, after the tollbooth go approximately 1 3/4 miles into the park. Turn right on Island Road, Park Route #5. Turn left on the first drive on the left, at the top of the hill turn right into the shelter, you must walk slightly uphill and then downhill. The shelter is approximately 80 yards from the parking lot.

Show and Tell prizes will be awarded to winners. This year there will be one category for all.

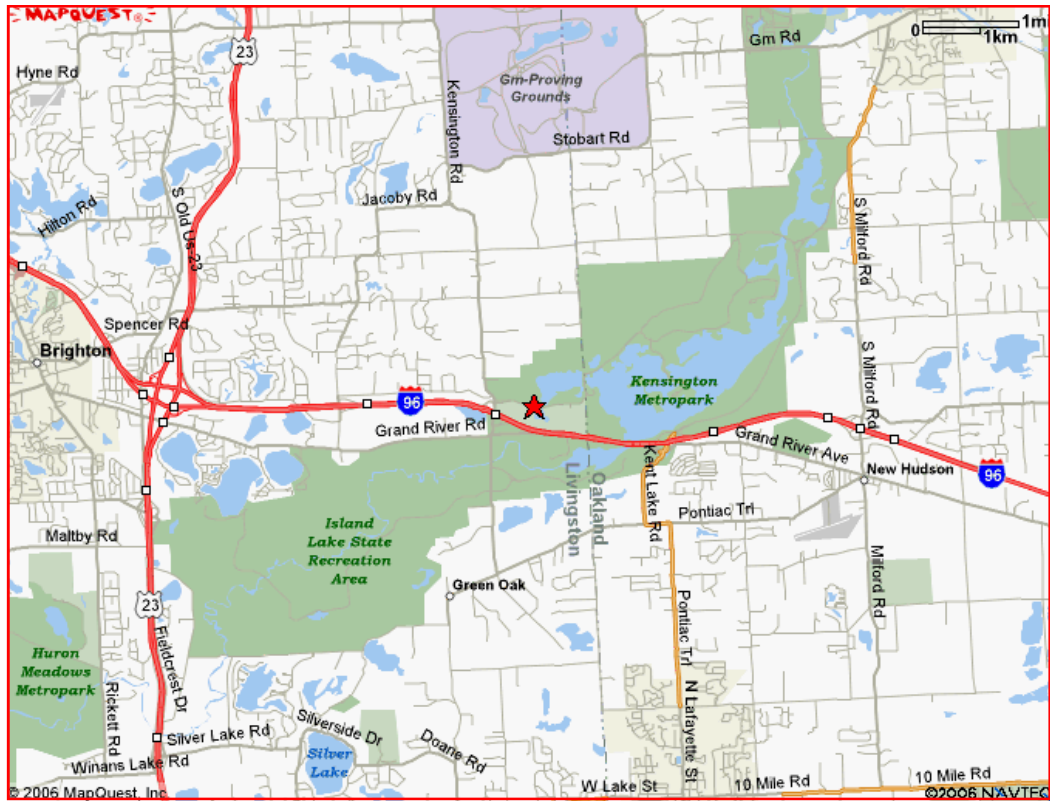
Each member will be allowed one entry piece.

The chapter will provide the burgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, and softdrinks.

Daily Permit will cost you \$4 if you don't have an annual Metropark sticker. **See maps on page 4.**



Summer Picnic Maps



Microwave Drying Scientifically

As an aid to green wood turning

Questions: Have you dried a turned wood piece only to have it check on you later? Do you wonder how long to "zot" a piece? How do I know when to stop microwaving? Will the microwave harm the wood? If you have asked yourself these questions then read on and hopefully I will be able to answer some of your questions.

If you heat wood continually in a microwave it is possible to harm the wood and even set it on fire so be careful not to overheat the wood.

Hypthesis: Let me talk a bit of theory to establish why the following microwave drying steps work. My theory based on what I have learned about wood over the years. A reminder though that theories are just that: *theories*. So if you have a theory that contrasts to mine I would welcome a discussion. However I do know that the technique described below works, so if that is all you want and forget the theory then scroll down to the next title which describes the process.

Factual item 1: Checking occurs in wood when the wood shrinks as it dries too rapidly. I theorize that this happens as the fibres shrink the "glue" or lignin that binds the fibres together fails and cracks develop between bundles of wood fibres. Some woods are much more prone to checking than others, apple wood being a prime example of a wood that checks very easily and quickly. Branch wood also checks more easily than the main stem of the tree.

Factual item 2: When wood is heated it bends more easily than when it is cold. My theory is that the wood fibres become "softened and flexible" and slide over each other when they are hot. This is what allows the wood to bend when it is heated and stay bent when it is cooled in the bent position.

Factual item 3: Wood may be heated to the boiling point of water - 100 C - without deterioration .

My theory of why the microwave heated wood does not check (as much as air dried wood of equivalent type): When the wood is hot the fibres are soft and the lignin allows the fibres to slide relative to one another thus the wood does not check while it is hot. However it will still check if it is allowed to lose moisture while cold or at room temperature even after it has been heated.

How to get the wood to the right temperature without a heat probe or thermometer: When water starts to boil it changes to steam - this is a good indicator of the temperature of the wood. (When steam is being produced.) The plastic bag will expand while steam is being generated.

Instructions for microwave drying wood.

First the disclaimer: This process has worked for me but I can assume no responsibility for how it works for you. And as a suggestion, do not start with a \$100 burl but rather try out some "junk" wood that you do not care that much for - you may even be surprised.

Second as an alternative to the technique described below: Some microwaves have a "Sure Simmer" setting which essentially allows you to keep the item in the oven at the boiling point for a set period of time. If you have and use this setting then the bag technique below is obsolete. Simply simmer the item for as long as required to drive off all the moisture. 3/4 inch thick wood requires about 15 minutes simmer time in my microwave. To keep the moisture level high place the wood in a plastic bag that has a few holes either pierced or just not tied too tightly. I now prefer this technique as it simplifies the whole process but it does require a microwave oven with the appropriate feature built in.

Here is the technique for "older" microwaves:

1. Weigh the wood and record the weight. (This is optional but a good thing to do initially as it will give you an idea of how much moisture is being driven off.)
2. Seal the wood inside a plastic bag. A ziploc bag works well. This also keeps the microwave oven clean.
3. Place wood (which is inside a bag) in the microwave. Set microwave at full power and the timer for two minutes.
4. Turn on the microwave. Watch the bag. When it starts to blow up - fill with steam not "go bang" - turn off the microwave. This is a good temperature indicator. If the wood is heated too long steam will be generated inside the fibres and strange effects occur such as hidden fissures.
5. Remove the bag and wood from the microwave. Open the bag and remove the wood from the bag. The wood should be hot. Cover the wood with a paper towel and allow to stand for 5 minutes. Dry the inside of the bag.
6. Seal the wood inside the plastic bag again (If you want to place some paper towel in the bag use dry paper towel).
7. Place wood (which is inside the bag) in the microwave. Set microwave at full power and the timer for two minutes.
8. Turn on the microwave. Watch the bag. When it starts to inflate turn off the microwave. Note how long it took to heat to "steam generation". For small pieces about 50 seconds.
9. Remove the bag and wood from the microwave. Open the bag and remove the wood from the bag. The wood should be hot. Allow the covered wood to stand for 5 minutes (Do not allow the wood to cool down too much). Dry the inside of the bag.
10. Now you have an idea of how long to heat the wood after a five minute cooldown. If you weighed the wood this is when you should reweigh it and see how much moisture you have lost. Note the new weight.

Note: When there is no longer a significant weight loss you will have dried the wood sufficiently. Over drying the wood does not harm the wood but it does waste electricity and the wood will take on moisture from the ambient air once it is allowed to rest.

11. Reheat the wood every five minutes for the time you established in step 8 until there is no significant weight loss OR until the wood "feels" dry after the five minute rest. You no longer need to place the wood in the bag except to keep the oven clean. Some woods leave a distinct odour which may not go with your reheated Kraft Dinner.

Remember that the wood needs to be kept hot while it loses moisture and moisture removal should be kept slow by keeping the wood in a relatively moist environment. (Use the pierced bag technique described above.)

Thin pieces may only have to be heated three times while thicker pieces will need several sessions in the microwave. The number of sessions depends more on the thickness of the wood than on the overall weight. Large thin pieces dry just as fast as small thin pieces. However the larger pieces will need slightly longer sessions in the oven as determined by the bag inflating with steam.