



Central Connecticut Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturning

Dedicated to the Advancement of Woodturning



April 2010

Next Meeting

Tuesday April 27th

6:30PM
Mini Clinic

Ken Rowe
Bow Knife

7PM meeting demo
Pepper Mills

Parkerville Woods
Manchester, CT

Upcoming Events

AAW
National Symposium
June 18-20, 2010
Hartford, CT
www.woodturner.org

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Deadline for the next issue is May 10th.

President's Note:



Many thanks to Jim Kephart for opening his shop to

CCW members on the last Sunday of the Month. Jim has offered his shop to club members on April 25th from 1p to

4p. Please contact me so I know how many people will be participating and I will bring an extra lathe if needed. Bring your tools, pieces of wood and your ideas for a project. At the end of the March session, most of the group went to Misaki restaurant for dinner.

Hope to see you at the next session.

~~Corey Anderson

CCW Open Shop

In hopes of encouraging others to volunteer, I am offering to open my shop some-time during the weekend of August 21/22 (Exact date to follow) for folks who would like access to a small (7x14) metal working lathe, milling machine and metal working band saw (4x6) to do any special machining tasks, Perhaps you would like make some special fixtures

to help make some woodturning jigs. There is not a lot of space in the room where those machines are, so folks can experiment with Polyurethane Resin (Alumilite) casting (make pen blanks, bottle stoppers or fill inclusions / inlay turnings) or just do some turning while they wait. Capacity, 2 at a time in the metalworking room and 3 or 4 in the garage where all my

woodworking equipment and casting supplies are. I have a Nova DVR XP and a Jet 1220 available for woodturning along with a Seig C3 Metal Lathe and X3 Milling Machine. Call me at (860) 654-9252 or email me at eric.holmquist@hs.utc.com to discuss your project.

~~Eric Holmquist

< New Member >

CCW welcome to:
Roger Albert, Bristol, CT
Gene Belanger, Cromwell, CT
Sandra Pierog, Bolton, CT

Web Sites!!!

Try these websites:
www.sawmillcreek.com
www.woodturningonline.com
www.monstertools.com

Just for You

Remember I'm looking for your articles, great websites, pictures, your gallery announcements, your opinions on new products/wood/techniques.

AAW News



Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2010 AAW Symposium here in Hartford! All volunteers must have paid their registration in order to attend the symposium demonstration rotations. Some committees may be staffed by non-registered guests and may attend all events that are open to the general public. For those committees, spouses and other guests

are encouraged to volunteer. These committees include Spouse Craft room, packet stuffing, registration desk, AAW product sales, Instant Gallery and other committees. Please see either Rick Meier or Lynda Zibbideo for more information.

AAW symposium registration costs: now til 5/15-

\$250, after 5/16-\$290, and at the door \$330.

New to this year, the Instant Gallery will also have a section for Non-Turned Art. If you are coming to the symposium now both you or your spouse can show off your talent!

~~Lynda Zibbideo

Duck Calls



calls is an easy project and a unique

Corey Anderson's demonstration was on the making of duck calls. Making duck

pieces of either a close grained hardwood or acrylic, both should be at least 1 1/2" square. The calls are likely to be used outdoors under wet conditions so it is important to select an appropriate material and finish. Turning tools used are Spindle Roughing Gouge, Spindle Gouge and Parting Tool. Special work holding equipment used is a pen mandrel with some expanding bushings (a pair of 3/4" and one 1/2"). a 3/4" and a 1/2" drill are both needed. Creative turners can probably make their own



experience. Inserts to make calls are sold by several sources, but HUT Products has been in the game call business the longest and has one of the best assortments. Most reed assemblies are around \$2.50 each with some as low as \$1.30 and some as high as \$7.30. HUT kits are turned on a 7mm pen mandrel. Duck calls are made up of 3 pieces: a barrel (tone chamber), a stopper and the reed assembly. Turning stock for the calls are just a 4" and a 2" long



work holding device in lieu of the mandrel and bushings. The most critical element of the project is a good fit between a tenon turned on the 2" piece fitting into the 3/4" hole in the 4" piece. Everything else can be fairly free form as long as you can



get your mouth on one end of the 2" piece to blow, and it is recommended that you incorporate some sort of groove in the 4-piece to accommodate a lanyard.

HUT has full kits, blanks, separate reeds and accessories. www.hutproducts.com

~~Eric Holmquist



Springpole Lathe



Ernie Conover invented and marketed substantial lathes for the professional turner and serious hobbyist in the 1980's. Since then he has written five books on turning for furniture and other woodturning related subjects.

In the 1600 and 1700's, nearly all the forests in Europe were owned by the nobility. Craftsman turners, known as bodgers, bid on contracts with the landowners for the rights to cut timber on designated parcels and turn chair parts and stair balusters. The bodger needed a lathe that he could knock down and carry on his mule or his back. Together with his helper or apprentice, the bodger set out into the woods to make a camp on his contracted forest parcel. At the camp he would construct a lean-to and set up his springpole lathe while his helper felled trees and bucked the logs to length, then split them into billets. The billets were made roughly cylindrical with an axe and draw shave. The bodger would then mount the billets on the lathe and turn chair legs, stretchers and other furniture parts from the fresh, green wood. They would return to work at the camp every day for a few weeks to a few months, or until they had accumulated enough parts to warrant a trip to town to sell the parts to furniture makers.

At his seminar, Ernie demonstrated a reproduction of an 18th century German designed spring pole lathe that he constructed from plans provided by the Colonial Williamsburg curator Roy Underhill.

Ernie started with a section of log about 20 inches long from which he split off a section to turn. He explained that splitting the billet made for a much stronger chair member than sawing. When split from a log, the grain fibers run in the direction of the split and all the way through the member. Sawyers cut logs for maximum yield, not necessarily for strength. In sawn timbers the grain often runs out the sides of the billet rather than straight through, from end to end. This creates short-grain weak areas and the potential for cracks when stresses are applied.

Once on the lathe, the rope from the overhead lever is looped twice around the billet and attached to the foot treadle. As the treadle is depressed the billet spins toward the turner. When the treadle is released the wooden spring pole at the center of the lathe raises the overhead lever, spinning the billet in the opposite direction. The bodger only applies his gouge on the down stroke, when the billet spins toward him. He moves the tool back, away from the wood on the return stroke. According to a British chair museum, a good craftsman with a competent apprentice in a decent stand of beech trees could produce 144 Windsor chair legs and all the necessary stretchers in just two weeks.



This may seem like a tedious way to turn chair legs, but remember, bodgers weren't competing against computer numeric controlled lathes and the whole pace of life was much more relaxed before the electronics industry convinced us we had to be connected.

~~John Lorch



Wood of the Month

Sassafras officinale and *S. albidum* (Lauraceae)

Grows: USA.

Health risks: Irritant to the skin & respiratory system and suspected carcinogen

Description: The heartwood is pale brown but will darken over time. The sapwood is light yellow and blends into the heartwood. It is straight grained with a coarse texture.

Properties: Sassafras is poor for steam bending. Works well with

both hand & machine tools, pre-boring advised.

Typical Uses: Furniture, boat building, boxes, crates, millwork, cooperage, mouldings and decorative veneers

Additional Info: Native Americans have used sassafras for centuries and told early settlers that it would cure a variety of illnesses. Over the years, the oil obtained from the roots and wood has been used as a scent in perfumes and soaps. Medicinally,

sassafras has been applied to insect bites and stings to relieve symptoms. The leaves and pith, when dried and powdered, have been used as a thickener in soups. The roots often are dried and steeped for tea, and sassafras formerly was used as a flavoring in root beer



Mini Monthly Club Challenge



This month's club challenge was Weed pots.

April & May challenge pieces will be donated to the AAW's local charity - Give back to the Community. The local charity is the Hartford Children's Hospital



See the results!!!

For the April challenge: Wooden boxes!



Photos by
Lynda Zibbideo

Final thoughts.....

Remember if you are working on the club collaborative, please bring your finished piece(s) to the May meeting (5/25 at CVS) for a final assembly. IF you are unable to finish or work on the item that you signed up to do, please contact Larry Graves-Douville as soon as possible, so that we can continue on with the collaborative.

My Odyssey in Box Elder (*Acer negundo*)

This is a 2 part article. Part Two will be in the May 2010 issue.

~~Gil Hite, Turning 70

When dry, Box Elder is punky (soft and porous). That and the inevitable worm holes (ambrosia beetles) make it difficult to hold on some types of lathe mountings. Although glue blocks do work well, it does not adequately anchor screws. While thin sections will not hold a vacuum, this can be overcome by filling worm holes with sanding dust and cyanoacrylate, and then applying a few coats of polyurethane to the vacuum surface. Even the sharpest tools pull out the grain fibers leaving pits on the surface of the wood. When turning at 2500 rpm (with courage and adequate protection) this is less of a problem. The application of cyanoacrylate to the troublesome areas also eliminates this problem although sanding (go to 600 grit) was still vigorously employed. The turnings are finished in 4-6 coats of solvent based polyurethane, wet sanded after each coat and finally buffed using the Beal System. Water based polyurethane fails to brighten the red spikes which are associated with the worm holes and which emanate from the center of the tree. Most Box Elder will have clouds of black specks. They are apparently dormant spores which, awakened from their sleep by water, eat right through the polyurethane no matter how many coats you apply. I was up to nine coats before I wised up! After washing the cloud with 70% ethyl alcohol, subsequent water coats did hold. The solvent based polyurethane will yellow the white wood; the water based polyurethane does this minimally.

The inevitable worm holes and the associated red spikes, as well as the frequent spalting (black fungal streaks and spores) and less frequent burls, add to the character of the woodturnings in exhibiting both chaos and local symmetry. Wet Box Elder, by contrast, turns easily, has a foul odor but tends to warp and crack particularly at the base when drying. A concave bottom treated with cyanoacrylate is an effective remedy.

My experience with Box Elder is restricted here to the dry variety, the very dry variety. Not because I wished it so, but because I have so many friends. Let me explain. Whenever they have an oversupply of wood, and even when they don't, I seem to get some. As you will see, I am now supremely grateful for their generosity. With all the contributions, much of this wood just sits around my shop until I can get around to it. My shop is as arid as the Sahara and, even though the wood was treated with Anchorseal to slow down the drying and cracking, time took its inevitable toll.

My first foray into turning Box Elder resulted from the observation of some symmetry in the exposed, outer surface of a log. It seemed that three evenly spaced red spikes looked like tail feathers of a Bird of Paradise (1). An 8" tall log segment was mounted on the lathe (glue block) and turned into a bowl. Using a mini jigsaw, the walls of the bowl were cut in the outline of a bird (head, beak, wings, and tail feathers). The cuts were sanded round and the bowl was finished and buffed. A taxidermist's eye was glued (cyanoacrylate) into a drilled impression. The glue block was removed and the base was finished.



Flush with success, a large (6") heal-over, the result of a very old pruning scar, was cut away from the trunk of a log then cut in half perpendicular to the scar. These were turned into two bowls. Alas, my enthusiasm had run amok for they were both lacking in the symmetry necessary for making bird bowls. No tail feathers! The two unfinished bowls were somberly set on a shelf about eye level. There they remained for several weeks. I don't know why, but I suspect it was because they seemed not even useful fodder for my fireplace. On entering the shop one morning, I passed the shelf,

looked awry at those bowls and did a double take. I could have sworn there were two frogs glowing at me. There were! They were each invested with the two taxidermist eyes - the better to glower with. Voila - Frog in a Log (2)! How very Seussian. They were finished as above.

Several birds later, I noticed a log end exhibiting a splay of red spikes which reminded me of lava flows. A vase fashioned from a 16' log segment and finished as above is reminiscent of Mount Etna (3) in full "boom".





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~ Legal Stuff ~

The Central Connecticut Woodturners (CCW) was founded in 1994 to support the needs of woodturners in the central Connecticut area. Its purpose is to promote a higher standard of excellence in woodturning by providing an ever expanding source of information and resources to its membership. Memberships are calendar basis from January 1 through December 31. Annual dues are \$35 or \$20 for six months or less.

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From 84E – Exit 63. Take left off exit. Take right at first light onto Parker St. Go straight thru two traffic lights, 1 mile. Take left onto Mitchell Dr. Road makes hard right turn, then forks. Stay to the left at the fork and our building is directly in front of you. We are in a brick building across from Manchester Movers. 580 Parker St.

From 84W - Exit 63. Take a right off exit. Go over highway and straight thru two traffic lights. Take a right onto Parker St. at 3rd light. Continue straight thru two traffic lights, 1 mile. Take a left onto Mitchell Dr. Road makes hard right turn, then forks. Stay to the left at the fork and our building is directly in front of you. We are in a brick building across from Manchester Movers. 580 Parker St.

From 384W – Exit 1. Continue on Rt. 44 for 2.5 miles. Take right onto Woodbridge St. Take slight right onto Parker St. Parker St. turns into Colonial Dr. Continue to traffic light. Take left onto Sheldon Road. Take first left onto Mitchell Dr. Road makes hard right turn, then forks. Stay to the left at the fork and our building is directly in front of you. We are in a brick building across from Manchester Movers. 580 Parker St.

Central Connecticut Woodturners - Membership Information

New: Renew:

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dues (\$35) payable to:

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