



DATE: JUNE 11, 2005
TIME: 10:00 – 12:00
WHERE: EARNIE'S SHOP
ADDRESS: 2402 SEABOARD
MIDLAND TEXAS

FROM THE PROJECT CHAIRMAN

This month's demo will be the use of the vacuum chuck with Ernie Showalter. Ernie is more than familiar with this chuck. He designed it! Among his credits is an article on its design and use in the AAW magazine. After the success he had in building several vacuum chucks, he demonstrated its use at several symposiums and club meeting across the Southwest. It would be interesting to know the number of chucks in existence in the woodturning community.

The use of the chuck is unique because it can hold objects on the lathe when no other chuck will suffice. Many turners still use the chuck exclusively and keep it continually hooked to the lathe.

This operation is one that everyone should attend. Ernie will explain, demonstrate, and help anyone who might have a need in owning this vacuum chuck. Anyone who turns bowls or boxes can use this chuck to enhance the bottoms of the bowls that will be as pleasing as any process available.

Don't miss this demo!! It is a must for the Woodturners. See ya there.

Don Farris

WOOD DUST FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Wood Dust From Your President

Soon another year will be on the downhill roll, and so far it's been a success. The May demonstration was another success. At least that is my opinion, and the opinion of the others I spoke with. Keith is a natural teacher, and has an enviable ability to communicate effectively.

The booth at the Celebration of The Arts the 21st and 22nd was another roaring success. We had people lined up both days to look at our wares and demonstrations. The only down side was the lack of participation by our members. While we had strong and adequate help, it would have been nice to have seen more of our members participating

for even an hour or so to give someone a break. I know some of you didn't get notice if you weren't at last month's meeting, so not knowing is a good excuse. Seriously, we do need to have a larger turnout for next year. I hope the Art's Committee gives us more advance notice on the schedule of next year's event. We need your participation!

As announced at the May meeting, we were allowed to sell our "works of art" this year, and we had some success. I don't know exactly how many pieces sold, but I only took four and sold two of them. The pen turners really missed an opportunity, as a number of people asked if we had pens for sale. We also needed small inexpensive items such as bottle stoppers. Participation in events like this is a learning and motivational experience.

There were out of town artists exhibiting and they didn't have anything better to show than items produced by our members.

Unfortunately it appears I may not be able to attend our June meeting, so Ernie has graciously offered to do the demonstration at his shop. If my plans change, I plan to be there.

The SWAT symposium is set for September 30 – Oct. 2 2005 located in the Multi-Purpose Events Center, 1000 Fifth St., Wichita Falls, TX 76301. For those of you who have attended previous symposiums in Wichita you know the great facility. This year we will have the complete building and a full three days of events. You can look at the schedule on the website: www.swaturners.com

There are a total of 77 demonstrations this year. This includes the duplicate demonstrations by some demonstrators. There is even a special event orientated especially for pen turners this year. The demonstrator slate is "World Class", and the symposium will undoubtedly be another memorable event.

You can be proud that our club member Jim Davis will be demonstrating, as will Ray Hughes from Lubbock (the bagpipe man). Also demonstrating is former club member Larry Zarra. If anyone doesn't have a computer and needs copies of the schedule or applications please ask me, Keith, Ernie, or Helen, and we will see you get a copy.

We can be proud of our club, and its accomplishments. Still, we need more and broader active participation. I know we are all busy, and it is easy to say "I just don't have time", but unless we all put forth an effort we cannot realize our full potential. Think about offering to demonstrate, offer to become a club officer, or just give a little time at special events. We are on a roll, let's keep the momentum going, and keep the chips flying!

George Hancock
President 2005

FINISHING YOUR TURNINGS PART III

Oil Finish

After working my way down through the various grits of sandpaper, and getting the finish that I am happy with, I soak the surface of the article in oil. In this case, the type of oil varies with the end use. For salad bowls and the like, I use salad oil. This can be re-coated after washing if needed, and is guaranteed food safe. For non food contact items, you can use any of the proprietary brand oils and treatments like Danish oil, Tung oil, Teak oil etc. You could also use the salad oil on these turnings.

A Cheap Homemade Wax

I use a lot of wax finishes, and one of my favorites is very simply to make, is very cheap, and wears quite well. It is a Beeswax polish. There are only two ingredients and it is very easy to make. The ingredients are beeswax, and vegetable turpentine (also known as artist's turps). You need to melt the wax, and then add an equal volume of turpentine to it and then mix it all together. A double boiler is handy here. This is a heating device that consists of two pots, one inside the other. The outer one is filled with water, and when heated, this water transfers the heat to the inner pot. Thus the maximum temperature of the inner pot is the boiling point of the water, thus adding the safety. Also, the heat is general over the entire surface, rather than localized at the element or heating source.

WARNING – Please be careful during this melting and combining process as the turpentine is a flammable liquid. The mixture will be hot and could cause burns.

You will need to store the mixture in an airtight container when it's not being used, or you will end up with plain beeswax again after a short while as turpentine evaporates easily.

A Good Cheap Wood Sealer

Looking for something to seal that “hungry dry wood” and stop those expensive finishes from soaking away out of site. Try this cheap sealer, which with a little work and polishing, can actually make a serviceable finish as well.

- 1 part of Polyurethane (polyurethane clear finish)
- 1 part of linseed oil (raw)
- 1 part of Tung oil
- 1 part of vegetable or gum turpentine. They thin the mix and acts as a drying agent. Do not use Mineral Turps here.

You just apply this, let it dry, give it a light sanding, and then apply your favorite wax or oil finish. If you're using the mix as a finish, buff and polish while wet. Also a bit of friction heat will bring up a luster. Watch out so you don't overheat it and cause heat cracks though.

DO NOT USE THIS ON FOOD ITEMS It is also not suitable for use under spirit based finishes, shellac, sanding sealer, etc.

WOODTURNING DEFINATIONS

Aluminum oxide abrasive.

A man-made abrasive produced by fusing bauxilite (which is made from bauxite) in an electric furnace. Used for grinding wheels, abrasive cloth etc. Common colors for aluminum oxide grinding wheels are grey (the cheap wheels on imported grinders), white (the pure form which is very friable and cuts cool) and pink (better for Woodturners - see pink wheels).

Arbor

A special shaft or mandrel used for holding drill chucks or grinding wheels etc. Morse

taper arbors are used to fit drill chucks etc into the Morse taper sockets in the lathe head or tailstock.

Arbortech

A power carving device using a cutting wheel with teeth designed similar to chainsaw teeth. +

Auger.

A lamp auger is a special long drill made to drill flex holes in lamps. It is passed through the hollow tailstock into the revolving wood through a special guide bush.

AWGB

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain.

B:

Backing up

Now called shear cutting or slicing - cleans up the surface finish.

Banjo

This clamps the toolrest to the bed. It can slide along or across the bed. It is usually a casting with a slot in it plus a hole for the T rest stalk.

Barrel

The part inside the tailstock which slides back and forth to clamp the wood between the centers.

Bead

A decorative convex feature or molding often seen on chair legs etc

Bed.

This supports the headstock and allows the tailstock and toolrest to slide along it.

Bedan

A turning chisel with a special wedge-like section. Handy for cutting beads and for hollowing boxes and for use with the sizing tool.

Between centers

Work held between the headstock and tailstock. It is driven around by the drive centre and supported by the tailstock centre which serves as a bearing. The maximum distance between centers appears in the lathe specifications.

Bevel

The surface, at a certain angle to the tool blade, generated by grinding and sharpening a tool.

Bits

Usually denotes a drill bit

Bobbin drive.

Lace bobbin drive uses a square tapered hole to grip lace bobbin blanks at the drive end.

Bocote

Mexican rosewood Dark brown with yellowish stripes. Goes very dark eventually.

Bodger

A chair maker using primitive equipment to turn chair spindles - a pole lathe turner.

