



MEETING DATE: 9-10-05
MEETING TIME: 10:00
MEETING PLACE: GEORGE HANCOCK'S SHOP
DEMO: FINISHING BOWLS

FROM THE PROJECT CHAIRMAN

It appears I missed an exciting time last month when I was out of town. As you know, Jim Ketcham had to postpone due to family sickness and Jim Davis agreed to step up to the plate and everything seemed in order. Jim Davis suddenly came down with medical problems and I was told George Hancock rescued the day with improvisation that turned into a great demo. Several people told me it was outstanding. I really expect it was. I want to thank you for the great effort in both volunteering to demo and to those that attended our meetings. I'm glad to report (I hope) that the schedule for demonstrations is back on track as for now. Jim Ketcham is ready to do the September demo. He will show us some great techniques relative to turning, finishing, and finishing the bottoms of some of his bowls. I'm looking forward to a great meeting. Please join me for our September meeting to be held at George Hancock's shop.

See you there.

Don Farris

WOODCHIPS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Recently as I walked through the shop, one of my employees was sawing some flange covers out of OSB using a cheap jig saw that had been laying around the shop for a while. It was laboring slowly and eventually the desired result was achieved. It took only a few minutes to realize at the current rate of production, I would have paid for a new top of the line saw at the end of the day. I threw the saw into the trash, and purchased a new DeWalt that increased production by at least a factor of four. It wasn't that the cheap didn't work, but it lacked power, and performed exactly like a "cheap tool."

Cheap tools are a pet peeve of mine, and I have purchased a good number over the years. Sometimes it was out of necessity, (all I could afford) and sometimes I was just being cheap, thinking, "oh well it will work and do the job." Too many times, I gave up and purchased a better quality tool to finish the job. I finally realized that by buying cheap tools, I was winding up with something that just takes up space in my shop or tool

chest, a mid range tool I used, and the total price paid would have bought me top of the line.

I'm certainly not advocating that a person never purchase a cheap tool. I fully realize that sometimes we have to compromise on quality due to our financial ability. What I am advocating is that, in my opinion, the tool purchased should be the best you can afford. It is disheartening to start a project, and have a chisel that won't keep an edge, or an electric motor that doesn't have the power to do the job expected of it. Fighting poor steel and low power can cause a person to lose interest in woodworking. When we start a project, we like it to move along at a reasonable pace. After all, many of us have limited hours we can devote to a hobby. If the hobby becomes frustrating, we are not going to continue. We will gradually lose interest, sometimes forgoing what could have been an enjoyable pastime.

My first lathe was an old Rockwell with a tube type frame, a 1/3 hp motor with a three speed pulley. I paid \$75 for it had visions of creating beautiful turnings. It came with the standard 6 piece tool set of questionable quality steel. Of course, I had no idea of where to begin, and I embarked on a set of four matched 30 inch long table legs out of Ash. After all it didn't look to be all that difficult. I put the glued up square in the lathe, and plugged it in. This model didn't have a switch. Through my logic I did pick the shallow roughing gouge in the set. Of course I jammed it into the work, and didn't hurt myself probably because the belt slipped. After a few more tries, I had some chips (dust) coming off, and eventually came up with something round. The diameter was about 1 1/4" in the coves, and soon I was getting vibration from the long skinny cylinder. I put one foot on the stand to try and keep it from moving across the floor. I had never heard of a steady rest. Anyway, I took a cheap set of calipers and tried to follow my drawing. Having been an engineering type for most of my life, I had thought to sketch out the leg and dimensions. After many frustrating hours, I finally came up with four legs that had at least a family resemblance to one another. From there the table progressed, and I sanded, varnished, and completed it. I still have it as a reminder of my first turning project.

That project was completed in about 1979 or 80. It was the last time I turned on that lathe for close to ten years when I made some spindles out of 1" dowels for another project. By that time I had acquired some old craftsman lathe tools in a bucket of junk I bought at an auction. I honed up the tools, and found they actually cut the wood. They weren't expensive. Obviously they were in a bucket of junk. However, they were a quality steel, and held an edge. The second project was somewhat more satisfying than the first. Still it was not that enjoyable, so on my furniture projects, I tried to buy spindles if I couldn't re-do the design. At that point in my life, I never considered a bowl.

I didn't touch the old lathe for a number of years. It collected whatever I could stack on top of it, until finally I moved it to the store room at Texas Incinerator. I have an aversion to putting a tool in the junk bin, even when it belongs there.

Sometime later, my wife was reading the paper about local events, and called my attention to a Woodturners club having a meeting at the Home Depot. "That might be interesting," I thought, and made plans to go. On arrival there wasn't a notice at the front door, and you all know how difficult it is to get a "box store" employee that knows anything. After three attempts, I was about to leave when I found another who said, "Try the break room." Finally, I found the meeting of the Comanche Trail Woodturners. I don't remember how many were present, but it seems 8 or 10. I don't remember the program either, but there were a few bowls that fired me up. Most important, I was made to feel welcome, and decided to join.

The following Monday, I uncovered the old Rockwell, looked it over, and covered it up again. I went to the next month's meeting, and watched Don Farris do a

demo. Sorry, Don, I don't remember what it was, but I was hooked. Later that afternoon, I went back to Home Depot and bought the floor model Delta Lathe, and a set of Delta turning tools. I set the lathe up and started feebly attempting to make something. It didn't look like much, but I screwed up my courage, and took it to the next meeting. I wasn't greeted by laughter or cat calls, but received help and encouragement. From that day forward, I have enjoyed the Club and woodturning as much or more than any other association.

Since the day in the Home Depot break room, I have been fortunate enough to build a shop, and acquire some quality tools including the 4224 Powermatic Lathe. Comparing it to the old Rockwell is like comparing a horse to a new car. Having the quality lathe and some good tools gives me encouragement and motivation to be a better turner. I'm still not where I want to be, (probably never will be) but I have fun.

The point of this rambling is to point out that besides having an interest in woodturning, or any other hobby, quality tools will not only turn out a better result, but also encourage and propel you into new frontiers.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting. Till then, keep the chips flying.

George Hancock
President, 2005

Announcement:

Your board has decided to have a Summer Social October 8, 2005 which would be our normal meeting date. As you know normally we skip our October meeting due to the SWAT symposium. A lot of people can't attend the SWAT meeting so we thought it would be a good time to just get together, visit, get to know one another, and eat some hamburgers and hot dogs. Just bring yourself, your wife, husband or significant other. The club will furnish the food and drink. If you can, bring a desert.

The location will be at George Hancock's shop, 1709 Clark Street, and start at 5:00 pm and last till?

We plant to have a special raffle item or two from the SWAT symposium. This raffle will also help cover the cost of the raffle items and food. The best part is you won't have to bring something back next month.

We are trying to give everyone as much notice as possible. Plan to attend for a good time.

Please RSVP to one of the following, or call with any questions: We need a good count.

George Hancock- 432-682-1477, gwh@apex2000.net
Ernie Showalter- 432-682-1700 ernmin3@cox.net
Helen Easley – 432-694-3323 hweasley@nts-online.net

COLLEGE CLASS UPDATE

The continuing education classes at the college, and sponsored by our club will start soon. We will be offering two six week (one day a week) classes this fall.

Beginning Woodturning:

This course is for those who think they want to learn to turn wood, or would like to obtain so basic instruction in lathe and tool operation.

August 31, 2005

Keith Hughes, Lead Instructor

Intermediate Woodturning:

This course is designed for those who already have some basic skills and would like to receive help in developing those skills. The student should have a project in mind that is reasonable to finish in the six week period, and is compatible with the Jet Midi lathes tools available in the classroom. The student will be expected to furnish the material for this project. It can be a small bowl, lidded box, candle stick, or any other items approved by the instructor.

September 1, 2005

Doug Mee, Lead Instructor

For more information contact the continuing education department at Midland College, or any of your board members.

The following people won the raffle items at the August Meeting Jeremy Strickland, George Hancock, Charles Swift, Tom Chandler, Keith Hughes, Bill Petteway, Tom Chandler, Aubrey Easley, Keith Hughes, and Max Richards.

WOODTURNING DEFINATIONS

G:

Glue film.

A thin sheet of hot melt adhesive designed for sticking veneer but used for the sticky chuck.

Glue Gun.

Dispenses hot melt adhesive through a nozzle. Essential kit for all Woodturners.

Gouge.

A cutting tool with a curved section as in spindle gouge, bowl gouge, roughing gouge etc.

Green timber.

Freshly cut wood with very high moisture content.

Green turning.

Now has three meanings. (a) The two stage process of turning green wood roughly to shape before drying (seasoning) and final shaping/finishing. (b) Turning green wood to a finished shape. (c) Using waste timber to respect and conserve the environment.