

The CNEW SKEW

Woodturning: Art or Craft - Part I?

Special points of interest:

- Woodturning: Art or Craft?
- Contact Points for New Officers
- Reports & Coming Events
- Open Shops Reports

Inside this issue:

Editorial: Woodturning	1
Club Officers	2
President's Message	2
Next Meeting Notice	3
Woodturning Magazine	3
Book & Video Reviews	3
Minutes from the Feb. 5 Meeting	4
Open Shop Reports	4,6
Open Shop Pictures	5
Coming Events	7
Newsletter Deadline	7
2004 Dues Last Notice	6
Classified Ads	8
More Pictures from Feb 5	8

Is there a final answer to this difficult but intriguing question? Certainly there will never be a definitive answer that satisfies everyone but it serves us well to consider the question carefully lest we fall into the trap of either providing a pat answer or no answer at all, neither of which does anyone any good.

Clearly we all aspire to be artistic woodturners, whether we achieve that aspiration or not. And, face it, without that aspiration to drive us, we will all reside in the hell that is mediocrity. But exactly what is that aspiration and where does it lead us? To answer this latter question requires us to understand our "*postio*", the place where we stand, or in the idiom of the times, where we're at.

For the neophyte woodturner, it is enough to aspire to modest levels of achievement. The presence of tool marks, thick walls and other signs of the beginner need not put us off since we were all there once, even if we would rather not remember it. For those new to the field of woodturning it is enough to aspire to making each successive undertaking better than the last. Indeed, we would all benefit from such a viewpoint. And, truth be told, we have all seen beginner-like

work being passed off as "art". I can remember seeing one such offering, which to me, at least, resembled nothing so much as a rusty golf club shaft impaling a dog turd. Beauty is always in the eye of the beholder and one is well-advised not to tell a dotting mother that her adored offspring looks like a monkey! Better to be silent in this latter case whereas in the former, we do a disservice to the profession or field of endeavor if we remain silent. (In the example given, another issue arises. Namely concerning the amount of time an object spends on the lathe which would seem to dictate whether it falls into the category of a woodturning. More about this later.)

For the expert woodturner, whose every piece (almost) is an artistic expression of the field, one expects the aspiration to remove the (almost) from the work produced. For those of us in the vast, well-populated area between the neophyte and the expert, there lies a multitude of aspirations, probably the least common of which is the production of works of art. It seems to me that one who is either untrained in or unappreciative of other art forms is unlikely to produce a woodturning which is a "work of

Continued Overleaf

Club Officers and Contact Info for 2004

President, Reid Gilmore	508-856-5894	<i>reid.gilmore@umassmed.edu</i>
VP, Internal, George Whippen	978-663-4693	<i>gwhippen@verizon.net</i>
VP, External, Charles Turnage	508-770-8072	
Secretary, Bob Iuliano	401-725-7284	<i>bobio@cox.net</i>
Treasurer, Richard DiPerna	508-358-2471	<i>richard@diperna.com</i>
Newsletter, Norm Mancuso	508-653-4195	<i>nrmancuso@comcast.net</i>
Video Librarian, Al Faul	978-534-3683	<i>alfaul@gis.net</i>
Book Librarian, Glenn Randall	508-836-3814	<i>ageminus@charter.net</i>
Webmaster, Dennis Daudelin	978-456-8005	<i>dennis@daudelin.net</i>

Woodturning: Art or Craft - Part I

(continued from page 1)

art". I acknowledge the occasional exception to this, bearing in mind that like all exceptions, it merely proves the rule. Likewise, one should not expect to see a larger number of woodturning artists or a wider bell-curve of artistic accomplishment than one would expect to see in the other fields of art. The simple production of an artistic woodturning does not convey the title of artist.

Another issue of great significance is the distinction of artistic woodturning as opposed to wood art, which in my view, may include but is not limited to those articles produced largely on a lathe. An object, work of art or not, that is produced by a woodturner is not necessarily a woodturning. Moreover, many of those non-woodturnings being passed off as art are also unworthy of the name.

So, what is an artistic woodturning, is it truly art and what exactly characterizes it? A hole in the side of a bowl doesn't make it art any more than something new and different is art simply because it is new and/or different. Indeed, as Richard Raffan has said; *"I think it is still the case that some people can't distinguish between what's different and what's good."* Therein lies the rub. In general, the object must contain the right shape, the right texture, the right parameters such as height, width, wall thickness, balance, etc. Each turning may contain one or more of these characteristics, but without all of them, it fails to achieve the level of art.

(continued in next column)

Clearly, it is a difficult undertaking to attempt to quantify these parameters except to say that they must all be present in levels approaching superlatives. In other words, given that we have the ability to judge these pieces, we will recognize them when we see them. Webster's Dictionary requires one-eighth of a page with ten definitions of "art", the best of which is: *"high quality of conception and execution as found in works of beauty"*. So we are left with minimal help in defining what constitutes a work of art, except to say that it is more uncommon than we would expect. However, let us not fall into the trap of confusing artful with art. A person can be artful or an artisan without also being an artist. *To be continued.* Norman R. Mancuso

The President's Message

February has been an eventful month for CNEW and its members. First there was the Woodworks show in Springfield where CNEW shared a booth with Central Connecticut Woodturners. This year's Open Shop meeting night did not coincide with a major blizzard, so I hope many of our members had a chance to visit one of the shops. On February 14th a beech tree was cut down in Grafton, and four CNEW members were there to harvest wood for bowls. By the time we left the tree owner's house there wasn't room for another piece of wood in any car or truck. Look for some of the beech to show up in the next few wood swaps.

Graeme Young notified CNEW members of a rule change for the Chapter Collaborative Project at the AAW Symposium. The total size limit for collabo-

rative projects is 12" x 12" x 12". That's right, it is TIME TO THINK SMALL. The item or collection of items can be functional or non-functional, but at least 6 members have to participate in the project. With a 1 cubic foot size limit, we can consider several approaches. We could try to make a single turned object that consists of parts made by at least 6 members. Alternatively, we could make a collection of small turnings of a single type. For example, the CNEW collaborative project for the Providence Symposium was a collection of tops. A third idea would be a collection of miniature turnings (small boxes, bowls and hollow forms). At the March meeting we will try to come up with a new idea for the Chapter Collaborative Project, since the walking stick idea won't work unless we are making miniature walking sticks.

This year's meeting schedule is shaping up nicely thanks to George Whippen.

Reid Gilmore

Woodturning Cheap!

In a package of postcards that we woodworkers usually get in large quantities, I discovered one card offering the British magazine, *Woodturning*, at a price lower than any I have ever seen. The card offered twelve issues for only \$59.95 **in the US**. I usually buy this at ca. \$8 per issue on the news stand (\$96/year) and it is available by subscription direct from the publishers at \$82.80 per year. If interested, contact Lightning Publications, 550 N. Reo St., Tampa FL 33609 or go to the website www.lightningpublications.com

Book & Video Reviews

Masterful Woodturning – Projects & Inspiration for the Skilled Turner By S. Gary Roberts
Copyright 2000 ISBN: 0-8069-8709-X

I recently purchased this book from *Amazon.com* and I must say, it is a "breath of fresh air" compared to others I have. The sub-title says it all. If you don't know how to turn, it won't help you much. But if you do, it's the closest thing to

Next meeting Thurs. Mar. 6th, 2004!

Program for the next meeting:

Peter Teubel will demonstrate the use and care of the Ellsworth gouge. Much has been written and said about this tool but it still remains of interest to many new and old turners.

As usual, *Show & Tell* and the perennial wood swap will be featured. Bring your work and some wood for the club to sell.

Book & Video Reviews - Continued

"plans" I've found to date. The projects are well described and presented with detailed dimensional diagrams. Short, sweet, and to the point. There's more than turning covered in this book. Intricate carving, shaping, even some "flatwood" work is present. I wouldn't call the pieces therein "high art", but certainly well beyond utilitarian. Recommended for skilled turners only.

Reviewed by Peter Teubel

Useful Techniques for Woodturners – The Best from Woodturner Magazine

Copyright 1998

ISBN: 1-86108-078-6

This book is packed with article reprints from *Woodturner magazine*, 1992-1997. All kinds of jigs and devices are covered, in addition to turning and finishing tips. Excellent photos abound. An excellent reference and source for inspiration...not just for turning, but for new tool ideas. No longer in print, but sometimes available from other sources such as like *addall.com*, *eBay* or *Amazon*.

Reviewed by Peter Teubel

This space available
Phone 508-653-4195

“Minutes” of the Feb. 5 Open Shop Meetings:

Since no formal meeting took place in February, there are no corresponding minutes to be presented. The “minutes” which follow take the form of informal reports on the various open shops held as outlined in the past newsletter. **Thanks are due once more to all of our friends who have generously opened their shops to the club.**

Ken Brannock’s Shop

CNEW members at my house were Dick Vose, Tim Elliot, and Ken. Two friends of mine, Bill and Jeff, and Donna Banfield from ART.

Ken Brannock



Donna Banfield of ART observes Ken’s work at close range. Other photos from Ken’s Open Shop are shown on the facing page.

Angelo Iafrate’s Shop

Besides Angelo and Frank, members Ken Dubay, Al Czellecz, Dennis Daudelin, Dennis' brother, Ken Lindgren, Ernie Grimes and Emilio Iannuccillo attended the evening at the shop of Angelo Iafrate. Angelo had several interesting turnings set out on his dining room table where we admired and discussed them. He also showed us several other prize turnings in his collection cabinet.

(continued in next column)

Following this, we went into Angelo’s shop where he demonstrated the process of turning a pen. Then Angelo set us up so we could turn some pens.

Emilio Iannuccillo



Angelo Iafrate shares a portion of his collection with visiting colleagues. Other pictures taken by Emilio Iannuccillo on that evening are shown on the following page.

Joe Harbey’s Shop

The shop open house meeting at 47 Lindbergh Blvd. in Westfield was held on Feb 6. Attending the function were CNEW members Jack Crean and Arnie Paye. Other guests were member-to-be Mark Lisowski, neighbor and photographer Carl Fisher and antique tool collector Russ Ellis.

We began with a demo by Arnie on inside-out turning. Arnie is a new turner and did a great job showing us the “ins and outs” of turning a tree ornament.

We were then treated to refreshments and were seated while Russ showed a display of some of his favorite old tools and discussed their history. Judging from the questions and enthusiasm displayed, it was enjoyed by all.

Our third event was a demo by Mark on segmented turning featuring a bowl made from over one hundred small pieces. Because of the lateness of the hour, we decided to have a return engagement by Mark on another night. My thanks to all for attending and to Carl for the photos.

Joe Harbey

February Open Shop Photos



Above and below left. At Ken Brannock's shop: Activity and interested observers near Ken's new Powermatic wood lathe.



Above center: Dennis Daudelin and Angelo discuss Angelo's collection. Right: Guests observe pen-turning activities.



Another view of Angelo's shop.

The crew at Joe Harbey's shop.

Above: Joe at work on his General lathe.



Jack Crean about to leap-frog Joe's lathe.

Joe's well-appointed workshop. Neat!!

Mark Lisowski's segmented bowl.

The pictures above have been taken by Tim Elliott, Emilio Iannuccillo and Carl Fisher. These and the other pictures in this issue are so nice in color that it's a shame we have to publish in B&W. Be certain to check the website to see them in color.



More Pictures from Joe Harbey's Open Shop

(Pictures by Carl Fisher)

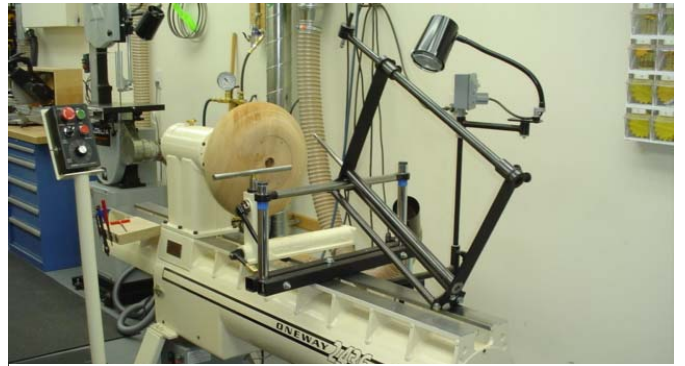
Left: Guests discuss the tool collection with collector Russ Ellis.

Right: Inside out turning by Arnie Paye in progress.



Richard DiPerna's Shop

Al Faul, Bill Frost, Bobbi Tornheim, Chris Ehrenfels, George Whippen, Norm Mancuso, Ray Harrold, Reid Gilmore, Stan Felton, and Will Hunt were hosted by Richard DiPerna in his spacious shop. In spite of the number of attendees, there was plenty of room. Richard started by telling us of the difficulty he dealt with in setting up his dust collection system as a result of shortcomings of the automated blast gates. Richard had also set up his Kelton hollowing rig at the prior request of many and it proved to be a popular choice. Several of those present tried their hand at hollowing. In my view, it was relatively easy to handle in spite of its size and seemed to perform its appointed task with ease. The laser pointer also seemed to perform well even though we were nowhere near the final wall thickness. After this, some were interested in the Ellsworth gouge and Richard obliged us by briefly demonstrating its use and sharpening. Many tried the gouge while others broke up into small discussion groups on various topics. During these events, Richard proved to be a gracious host and provided a nice selection of food and drink, which everyone enjoyed..



The Kelton Hollowing Rig with Laser Guide mounted on Richard's Oneway 2436.



Richard (behind ductwork) explains the problems with the automated blast gates and his solution.



Looking for Articles, Book & Video Reviews, etc.

Send to:

Norman R. Mancuso
24 Terrane Avenue
Natick, MA 01760

or:

nrmancuso@comcast.net

The deadline for ALL inclusions to the monthly newsletter is the 15th of the month

Next meeting Thurs. Mar. 6, 2004!

See page 3 for details of the meeting program.

2004 Dues-Last Notice!

Annual dues are \$20.00. If you have not yet paid your dues please attach a slip of paper with your name and address stapled to a twenty-dollar bill or a check for that amount and mail it to:

Richard DiPerna
3 Yeager Way
Wayland, MA 01778

Coming Events

Sat., February 21, 2004 Woodturning Demo

Ocean Woodturners will host a special all day demonstration by Richard Angus, noted bowl turner, President of the Connecticut Woodturners and frequent demonstrator at woodturning clubs and symposiums. Please meet at the library in North Kingstown around 9 a.m. The demo will commence around 10. Lunch around 12 and the demo will continue until 2 or 3 pm. The cost to club members is \$10 including lunch. Directions to the library can be found at: <http://www.lori.ri.gov/lori/public/nki.php>

Feb. 22, 23, 24, 2004 Market Square New England at the Royal Plaza Trade Mart in Marlborough, MA

Tuesday, February 24, 6-9pm Peter Teubel will be teaching "The Art of Pen Turning" at the Woodcraft store in Woburn, MA. In addition to making one pen in class, all students will take home 2 complete additional pen kits, a set of pen bushings, and a complete set of pen turning tools. Cost is \$80.

Sunday, February 29, 10am-4pm Peter Teubel will be teaching a special "Vacuum Chucking" class in his shop in Milford, MA. In this class, students will make their own vacuum chucking system. Peter will demonstrate how to "machine" and assemble the rotary bearing unit and turn an adapter to match your lathe's hollow spindle. Students will learn to make vacuum drum chucks of various sizes and will take home a completed ro-

tary bearing adapter, one or more finished vacuum drum chuck, and the materials needed for one or two additional vacuum drum chucks whose advantage lies in the fact that they can also be used as a superior friction drive chuck! Each such class is limited to 3 students. Contact info: pteubel@comcast.net or (508) 632-4932. Cost is \$130 (all materials included).

Saturday, March 27, 9am-5pm Beth Ireland is back to teach *Chucks, Chucks, and Chucks* at the Woodcraft store in Woburn, MA. She will be covering chucks of all kinds to solve virtually any problem you may be having. Jamb chucks, screw chucks, morse taper chucks, manufactured chucks and hand-made chucks. You will learn how to chuck wet bowls, natural edge bowls, odd shaped vessels, delicate work, heavy work and more. Students will also make their own chuck in class. Cost is \$100.

Thurs., Apr. 1, 2004 Monthly CNEW Meeting. 6:30 PM at the Worcester Center for Crafts. Program not yet established.

Thurs., May 6, 2004 Monthly CNEW Meeting. 6:30 PM at the Worcester Center for Crafts.

If you know of an event significant to woodturners, or of general interest to the members, please bring it to the attention of the editor. I can be reached at the regular monthly meetings, by phone at 508-647-4999 or via email at nrmancuso@comcast.net.

The CNEW SKEW

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND WOODTURNERS

Central New England
Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center for Crafts
25 Sagamore Road
Worcester, MA 01605

Phone: 508-753-8183
Fax: 508-797-5626
Email: nrmanuso@comcast.net



Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Central New England Woodturners

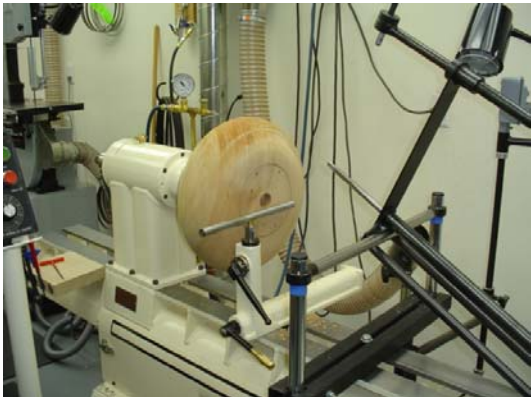
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



We're on the Web!
www.cnew.org

Fold line

More Pictures from the Open Shop Meetings



Classified Ads



For Sale: Set of 3 Sorby Hollowing Tools.

Good for small stuff. Replaceable, swiveling HSS cutting tips. Barely used. I recently acquired a complete set of Kelton Hollowers, so I have no need for these.

Price is \$50. Contact Peter Teubel at (508) 662-4932 or pteubel@comcast.net.