



Volume 21 Number 3

March 2008

Next Meeting Details
Topic: Photograph Your Art
Speaker: Mike Stone
Date: March 6, 2008

Presidents Message. *Charlie Croteau*

Spring is coming! Hopefully everyone has endured the winter season no worse for the wear.

This month I made the trip out to the "Wood Guys" with the help of Gene Spadi as my vehicle had a mechanical issue. Both shops were very quiet which does not bode well from the scrap wood perspective. We picked up a pretty good load, which Dave Eaton brought down to the Cape Cod club to bring them into the fold of Project Goodwill. (Thank you Dave and Gene)

Since things are slow in the woodworking business, I suggest that we make a raid on my land in Putnam CT. We can have a chainsaw jamboree, cut some Maple etc. cook up some dogs and basically have a fun time outside. We can put up a good supply of green wood for the club and what we don't want we'll turn into firewood.

I've spent a good part of this month sorting and stacking some of my wood in the "short room" more affectionately known as the "Candy Store." One would think it would be a relatively simple matter to sort out wood. Perhaps by type or length...right. After I got the new racks up the problems soon began. Obviously, you cannot store a 6' 1"x8" walnut with a 2' 3/4"x4" of walnut. So sorting by type was out. You can't put short pieces on a long rack. However, length had its problems too, and what about thickness? The first logistics problem was that I had put the longest boards standing on end against the walls first, followed by the shorter pieces. I built the longest racks first as they could only go where there was enough room for them. (I should mention that this is a room about 10'x12' with my table saw and jointer in it.) Once the new racks were in place, I had a path of about 3' going to the center of the room.

There were racks to my right and probably 300 various pieces of wood to my left. There was no room to turn around with a wheelchair. Now the fun begins. Have you ever done one of those Chinese puzzles where you have to move a piece five times before you get it where you want it? Picture that with me being one of the pieces. I know, everyone should have such a problem. With perseverance and a solid four hours of moving wood, I prevailed. Now all I have to do is reshuffle about 400 short pieces (under two feet long) to get everything in order. This of course is only a temporary illusion, like cleaning your desk off before the mail comes.

(More contributions for the wood swap? Ed.)
Enjoy the rest of winter.

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Obituary: Andy Motter *Dave Eaton*

Our friend Mr. Andrew Motter has passed away after a period of declining health as a result of a battle with bladder cancer.

His passing occurred on this last Thursday morning at his home in Keene, New Hampshire. Many of us knew Andy from local area woodturning clubs, his woodturning supply company "Butternut Tools" or through having taken a wood turning class under his keen guidance. Andy was 64 years of age. He attended Hanover Park High school in Hanover NY then went on to gain a Masters Degree at Boston University in the field of Urban Planning. He was

employed by the Federal Transit Authority in Cambridge Massachusetts as a Regional Transportation Planner. He leaves his surviving wife Signe and daughters Kaia (& Brett) Wilson of Somerville, MA and Kelda (& Devin) Mazzone with grandson Finn of Lannire NY.

The memorial service will be held this coming Monday, March 3rd, 4:00 PM at the Fletcher Funeral Home, 33 Marlboro Street in Keene New Hampshire. (603) 352-4541 See:

<http://www.fletcherfuneralhome.com/~fletcher//index.php>

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in Andrew Motter's name to the Monadnock Waldorf School, 98 Lincoln St, Keene, NH 03431; (603) 357-4442.

See: <http://www.monadnockwaldorfschool.org/>

We shall dearly miss Andy.

Next Meeting Details

Rick Angus

Mike is a professional photographer who will demonstrate simple methods for the average turner to use to take excellent pictures with common light sources and some low cost materials.

During an informal Open Shop, Mike Stone demonstrated his portable, inexpensive and simple to set-up photo studio at my studio. Dave Eaton and I were the guinea pigs and he worked out a few bugs. The result will be presented during the March meeting.

Using the apparatus shown below and sunlight from a south-facing open door, Mike created a very nice image of his curly vessel.

Garage Photo Studio



Results of Simple Studio Photography



Using a single 500 watt lamp and a simple reflector system, more control is possible. After a morning of explanation, I recreated Mike's studio for myself and found simple success with this pair of mushrooms:

Mushrooms photographed using a Single Lamp



As a teaser, Mike sent me a clever photo of a pen; we can ask him his secret during the meeting. (And no, It does not use a mirror!)

Mike's Secret Technique



Visit to Lexington Arts and Crafts Society

Steve Resnek

The woodturners of LACS invited both CNEW and ART members to visit the shop as part of CNEW's open shop meeting. Will Hunt, Bobbi Tornhiem and I hosted the evening. We had about 15 visitors. Al was one of the visitors and he took a few pictures. We did not have a sign in sheet so my poor memory for names does not let me name who came, but CNEW probably accounted for 10 or so. We hope everyone enjoyed the visit.

LACS is not just a wood shop. In fact, there are about nine "guilds" in such things as ceramics, painting, jewelry, weaving, polymer clay, etc. Each guild has its own area. The wood shop is quite large and very well equipped. The members of the wood workers guild are more or less evenly split between turners and furniture makers, including a group that makes wooden toys

Since Will and I were there, most of the conversations dealt with segmented turnings. Bobbi talked about her work including the cool carving she is doing. The LACS wood shop is well suited to segmented work. There is a ten-inch table saw, a 12-inch chop saw and quite a large band saw. Perhaps the two jewels are a twelve-inch jointer and a twenty-inch planer. There are a number of good sanders, including a belt and disc, as well as a 16/32 inch thickness sander. There are two lathes. The Woodfast has an 18 inch throw, and the brand new Powermatic has a 20 inch throw and can handle spindles up to 52 inches.

Will showed a number of really cool vessels that are his next step in trying to create curves in different ways. Many of them follow, but expand on, the ideas from CNEW's recent segmented demo. I had a few

of my "ringless" segmented bowls, which I had demo'ed at CNEW.

Now the commercial. LACS is looking members. (Really new members; we know where to find the old ones.) One mistaken idea expressed a couple of times was that you have to be a Lexington resident. Not so! I would guess it is about half the wood workers aren't. There is a monthly meeting with lectures that have varied from boat building, to finishing, to violin making, to bird carving and everything in between. Instruction is also available. Will has a class, or really a supervised work period, twice a week for turners. Another feature is that there is a sale and an exhibit each year. The craftsman gets 70%. So for about \$200 per year you get a very good shop, lectures, instruction if you want it, and a pretty good Christmas sale.

Open shop with Rick Angus

Rick Angus

During my open shop days—it's so much fun that I had two days—Dave Eaton and Mike Stone attended one and we all practiced gouge and scraper cuts on a conventional bowl. Later, Mike Peters came by and we worked on natural edge bowl technique. We got so busy, we forgot to photograph anything.

Open shop with Mike Peters

Mike Stone

Mike Peters and his family were gracious hosts to Rick Angus and me on February 16. Mike gave us a tour of his shop, showed us many tools he has made, explained details of steel makeup, and got us started making our own tools.

Some of Mike's Home-made or Modified Tools



A cut off wheel was used to get the steel to length, followed by grinders and belt sanders to rough shape the tools. Mike built a fire outdoors while Rick and I put the finishing touches on our grinding, and before long the fire was ready to heat the tools. Rick and I

were impressed by Mike's ingenious method of using a blower to heat the coals, bringing the half-inch steel to red-hot temperatures quickly.

Mike showed how to use his bending jig to shape the tools fresh from the coals, and the proper method for quenching to ensure even cooling.

After a delicious dinner prepared by Mike's wife Jenni and daughters Emma and Grace, Mike put the freshly shaped and quenched tools into a 475-degree oven to temper. Meanwhile, Rick and I set about making tool handles from blanks that Mike had prepared.

The handles were soon turned and fitted with threaded inserts for interchangeable tools. Rick and I each left with a handle and 4 new tools, ready for final sharpening. A lot of information was shared throughout the day, and Mike clearly has a lot of knowledge about tool making that he is happy to pass along.

Many thanks Mike, Jenni, Emma, and Grace for a great day of learning and friendship!

Open shops is a terrific opportunity to meet your fellow woodturners, share some knowledge, and build friendships. Please consider attending an open shop in the future, you'll be glad you did!

Heating Tool Tips in Preparation for Hardening



Bending to Prepare a Hook



Shaping Red-Hot Tool Steel



Grinding to Shape



Mike's Backyard Forge



Rick and Mike Made Tool Handles



Emma and Mike watch Rick Quenching Hot Tool Steel to Harden It



Tempering Was Done in Jenni's Oven—Thanks Jenni!



Turning and Learning Shop Time *Dave Eaton*

On most meeting nights we are trying to hold an "Turning and Learning" session an hour before the meeting for anyone who is interested in making a few chips or learning from others. There are seven full size lathes available for us to use courtesy of the WCC. See the schedule at:

http://www.cnew.org/events/meeting_schedule/meeting_schedule.htm

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to share and have fun! A general selection of turning tools is available at each lathe station, along with a limited number of scroll jaw chucks. The spindles are 1-1/4" x 8tpi and have MT#2 tapers on the head and tailstocks.

You must supply your own wood to turn. If you turn, please sweep-up. We need to insure that we leave the woodshop's lathe area cleaner than we found it that night.

Learning and Turning runs from 5:35 to 6:25 ONLY! Classes are in session before and after; students have paid for their time and CNEW takes the position that we will not interfere with class time.

Silicone Bottle Stoppers an Alternate Turning Method *Joe Beaton*

As I am still a relatively new Turner, I tend to follow the directions given for specific projects, ie: Pens, Bottle Stoppers, Whistle Keyrings, Toothpick Holders, etc.

The Crafts Supply Silicone Stopper calls for a 3/8" hole to be drilled in the blank, glue the Maple Dowel in the blank, mount the dowel in the Dowel Chuck and turn. If you remember my opening statement in the Smart Shopper Article, we Turner's are a frugal bunch. Well, that Dowel Chuck is an additional \$40 + S&H and I didn't want to go there!

So, I thought I could use my Jacob's Chuck or a Collet; neither method worked as I imagine. After all, it's not a Dowel Chuck. As much as I tightened the Jacob's Chuck, even to the point of biting in, it still didn't hold! On top of that, I had instances of the Dowels breaking off, shredding, slipping, etc. Not being one to waist Exotic Wood, I drilled out the hole undersized, tapped it and mounted it to threaded stock that enabled me to turn with success.

If you don't want to spend an additional \$40 for the Dowel Chuck, and you have a Jacob's Chuck or Collet Set, this is the process I used with great success.

1. Drill an 21/64" hole in the blank

2. Tap the hole with a 3/8"x16tpi tap
3. Insert a piece of 3/8"x16tpi threaded rod into the Jacob's Chuck
 - Threaded Rod becomes your Mandrel
4. Screw the blank on the threaded rod and turn
5. When turning is complete, ream the hole with a 3/8" drill bit or
 - reamer; I do it by hand

Super Glue the dowel to the blank and install the Silicone Stopper.

Finish can be applied on the Lathe or Beale Wheel. Use your preferred method

I hope you found this article to be informative; and, hopefully, prevent you from falling into the same pitfalls that beset me.

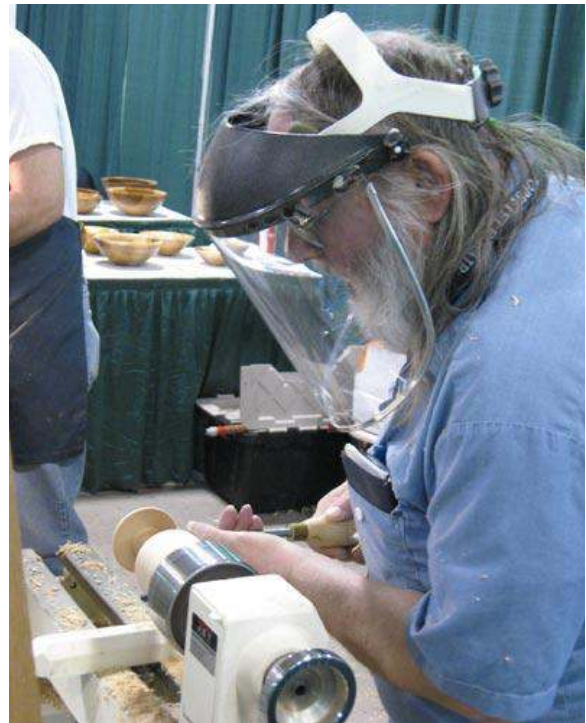
Joe's Stoppers



Photos from Woodworks 2008 *Mike Stone*
An Admirer of Ray's Hat



Richard Voss Turns



Gene Spadi and Project Goodwill



Ray Boutotte and Mike Peters at Work



Joe Harby Showing His Technique



Wheelchairs Donated with Proceeds from Project Goodwill



Ray Boutotte and Gene Spadi Making Deals



More Goodwill Items Donated by CNEW Members



Project Goodwill Donations to be Exchanged for Wheelchairs



The CNEW Skew

Central New England Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center for Crafts
25 Sagamore Rd.
Worcester MA 01605
Phone: 508 753 8183
Fax: 508 797 5626
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Central New England Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



Find us on the web @ www.cnew.org

Membership Application

To join or renew membership, please complete this form and a check made payable to CNEW and bring it to a CNEW meeting or mail it to:

Treasurer, Central New England Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center for Crafts
25 Sagamore Rd.
Worcester MA 01650

Annual dues: \$20 including e-mail delivery of newsletter; \$25 for postal delivery of newsletter.

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____
State: _____ & Zip: _____
e-Mail: _____

Please check one category below

- New Member
- Returning Member
- e-Mail Newsletter (\$20.00)
- Snail Mail Newsletter (\$25.00)

Please let us know of your interests:

How long have you been turning? _____

What programs would you like to see at meetings? _____

Would you like to demonstrate at a meeting? Yes/No If so, what topics do you offer? _____
