CNEW Skew: Volume 24; Number 1, January 2011

Next Meeting Details
Topic: Rick Angus will demonstrate finishing a bowl by creating a foot from the tenon used when cutting the inside. Rick's intention is "to demonstrate the cutting process once and a number of holding techniques including: rim jam chuck, compression jam chuck, Cole jaws and vacuum chuck (if I can get one prepared in time."
Speaker: Rick Angus
Date: January 6, 2011 6:30 p.m.
Learn & Turn
5:00 to 6:25 p.m.
Topic: *TDB*
Leader: TBD

President's Message ***Charlie Croteau***

Happy New Year,

I'm really looking forward to the year ahead. I think we have a great slate of officers to help keep the club growing. Jerry and Chris, did a super job keeping things on track and bringing in big name turners to keep the education level high. I'm confident that Rick (Who know just about everybody in the turning world.) will bring in some fun presenters, and Reid will keep us in the loop on the local and internal goings on.

Some things to be thinking about is whether we want to do some more field trips. I'm just looking at a guide book of "Woods of the World" from Smith College where they have 178 different species on display. That's more than my own collection in the cellar!

Whatever we do, let's have a great year.

Charlie

Minutes 12/02/2010 *Tim Elliott*

New/visitors:
Bill Oliver, newly moved to Massachusetts from North Carolina.
Don Pillsbury

After our traditional December pot-luck, Rick Angus called a very abbreviated business meeting.

CNEW will participate in the Woodworking show at the Big E fairgrounds the weekend of January 14-16. Several shifts of volunteers will be needed to ensure that we collectively cover all show hours. Volunteers named in advance to the show organizers typically get free show admission. Rick asked members to either sign up tonight or plan to sign up at the January CNEW meeting.

Rick noted that starting January, longtime CNEW member and outgoing secretary Tim Elliott plans to move his AAW home chapter to the *Granite State Woodturners*, closer to where he lives.

Mary Maguire asked if there was any interest in creating an online CNEW fan page on *Facebook*. Discussion was short. There were no objections, but Mary seemed to be the only one present who understood how to create this. She will follow up with CNEW webmaster Dave Eaton.

Table of Contents

The business meeting was adjourned and we moved on to our annual gift-swap.

Program: Pot-luck and gift swap
Attendance: 29

Show & Tell:

Buzz Hawes brought in two large segmented bowls for display, but did not discuss them

Editor's Notes *Ron Rocheleau*

This edition of the CNEW Newsletter marks my first attempt at this. I hope you will be patient with me. Joe McGill has been enormously helpful in getting me started, answering my questions, and giving me ideas. Thanks for everything Joe. As of a few days ago I had almost nothing to fill the pages of the newsletter. I send an email to the club mailing list and several people stepped forward with articles. Thank you Steve Reznek and Alan Gilburg. You are all invited to share your knowledge and experience with the rest of us by submitting an article, short or long, for future newsletters. This is one of the most important benefits of CNEW, to learn from each other.

Upcoming Events

In January, our club will have a booth at The Woodworking Show, Friday to Sunday, 14-16 January to promote the club and demonstrate woodturning to the crowd.

For coupons to save $2 on admission to the Woodworking Show, discounts and freebees, check out this link: http://cms.thewoodworkingshows.com/cms/Coupons/tabid/215/Default.aspx

In February, we have our traditional open shop visits. A few members of the club open their shops for a day, afternoon or evening of fun for club members. It's a great time to see someone else's tool arrangements and learn a few tricks. Each shop does something different and it can be anything related to woodturning. I have been to many and enjoyed them all. Think about volunteering your shop for this event. Don't feel that you need to be an expert at woodturning to have fun at this event. Anyone with an interest in turning is qualified. In fact, as a beginner, you could have an event at your shop where you ask experienced woodturners how best to set-up in your space. It's all about helping others with woodturning!

Some Thoughts and Tricks for High Gloss Finishes

By Steve Reznek

High gloss finishes have a number of disadvantages. They take a lot of time. And I mean a **lot** of time. Our recent demo'ers used friction polish and completed their sanding **and** finishing in about five minutes. Forget that!! Another problem is that high gloss finishes lose their gloss over time. Like any piece of fine furniture, turned pieces require touch ups every once in a while. I guess you should think about pieces with high gloss finishes as art, and not as anything useful. So do you warn your customer or assume that the fading will be so slow that he or she won't notice? Of course you could assume that the customers would have the good sense to wax the thing every year or so.

One more thing and it is perhaps the important point. If you want to show all, and I mean **all**, the scratches in your sanding job, use high gloss finish. As Will Hunt says, "The first one or two coats are just to show you what you missed". And as Frank White said, "Finishing takes three times as long as turning". He must have been thinking of high gloss.

OK. So why bother? There are a couple of possible answers. Perhaps your spouse thinks you do not spend enough time on our hobby. Perhaps you are a driven perfectionist. Perhaps you are a sucker for a challenge. Or perhaps you really do like the look of beautiful wood.

This article is not meant as a complete "how to" in high gloss finishing. There is a pretty good video in our library on sanding and finishing. If you want a detailed discussion take a look at it. I learned from it. But in this article I do want to tell about two products that I have found quite useful. And one that is sort of useful at least at times.

Before I talk about these two products, let me first cover two points from the numerous ideas in the video. The first is that you should sand slowly. If your object is revolving when you sand it, make sure it is turning pretty slowly, and if you are using a power sander make sure it too is turning slowly. Of course you can go too slowly; nothing happens if nothing moves at all. The second point is that you

should remove the dust after sanding with each grade. Do not leave the coarser dust and grit on the object when you go to the next finer grade. And of course be sure to wipe off that last coat of dust before applying the first coat of finish.

The two products that really helped me are CrystaLac and Abrasive Wool. The one that I only use occasionally is Micro-Mesh. Micro-Mesh is a set of nine, soft cloth backed sanding sheets. The coarsest is 1500 grit and the finest is 12000. Among other things it is used to polish erosion out of plastic airplane windows. First the good news. It really works! If you go through the nine grits, you get a good, glossy finish. If you stop at five or six sheets, you get a good satin finish. Now the bad news. Even though they tell you that you can wash out the dust "for longer life", I have found that you can only use a sheet a few times. The sheets do not wash out whether you use them in wet or dry sanding. And the stuff is expensive, about two dollars for a small sheet. I do use the system to solve one problem. If I have achieved a really nice finish, but I have made a small defect like a scratch or a piece of lint at the end, I polish the spot out with Micro-Mesh.

OK we are finally at the point where I give the two tricks that have helped me. The first, discovered by Will Hunt, is what to do when you have large opened grained wood. I have used many different woods that can have quite large pores, for example mahogany, walnut and bloodwood. Normal sanding sealers or finishes either require numerous coats or simply don't make it. But there is a product that does – CrystaLac. It looks like snot, but it really works. It doesn't color the wood at all and it fills the pores. Rockler carries it. It is a dispersion of very fine silica in a finish. (I think the finish is an acrylic, but they don't tell you.) You have to really smear it on, let it dry and then come back and sand it down. It dries quickly and you should use something like 180 grit to start sanding. Please note as it says on the tub, the high silica content means that you don't want to breathe the sanding dust. You can use breathing filters and/or wet sand. You don't need this stuff on maple or cherry, but for open grains it works miracles.

The second trick is a sanding material called Abrasive Wool. It is a non-metallic steel wool. You can find it on the web from at least two vendors – Beall and Woodworker's Source. It comes in three grades and they give you the grit equivalence for each grade. The finest grade is equivalent to, but much better than, 800 grit sand paper. The really great thing about the abrasive wool is that it picks up the dust and doesn't clog up easily. I almost always use the finest grade before my last coat of finish. It works great. By the way the rule about removing the dust after each sanding holds as true for the abrasive wool. One question might be, "Why not use steel wool?" One answer is that if you leave any small specs of steel in your finish, they will eventually rust and look lousy.

These are the two tricks – CrystaLac and Abrasive Wool – that have helped me with high gloss finishes. Of course there are still problems. One of which is that my source of urethane oil has dried up. Now I have to find another "go-to" finish.

LATHE POSTURE

By Alan Gilburg

We hear lots of advice about holding tools at the lathe, but little about body posture. I have had to learn this the hard way. And maybe my experience can benefit some of you.For the past year or more I have been noticing that my right hip has kept getting sorer and sorer. In the last few months I have been limping and had to stop taking walks.

After many visits to my chiropractor and a massage therapist I learned that the condition is in the muscles, not the bones. So, what could be causing this increasingly painful condition? After a well-administered dope slap I began to see that I was creating this condition by the way I was holding my body when working the lathe. After all, I spend a good 2-3 hours at my lathe nearly every day.

I have a Nova DVR-XP and generally swivel the motor 22.5° so I can face my bowls square on and use my body fully in hollowing out the bowls. In the process I had been cocking my right hip out as I used my body to guide the gouges. I asked my chiropractor if this could be causing my problem. Another dope slap! He gave me a couple of stretching exercises and I left determined to address my posture problem.

In the last month I have become very conscious of my posture at the lathe and no longer cock my right hip out. I

.keep my body square to the lathe with my knees slightly bent. After about 3 weeks I no longer walk with a limp and my hip is clearly healing.

Lathe Safety Guidelines

From AAW Website

(Ed. It never hurts to review safety guidelines, so to start the New Year thinking about safety as we enjoy woodturning, here are some recommended guidelines from AAW.)

1. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors. Use a full faceshield for bowl, vessel or any turning involving chucks and faceplates.

2. Fine particles from a grinder and wood dust are harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask, air filtration helmet, proper ventilation, dust collection system or a combination of these to deal with this serious issue. Be especially mindful of dust from many exotic woods, spalted woods or any wood from which you notice a skin or respiratory reaction.

3. Wear hearing protection during extended periods of turning time.

4. Turn the lathe "off" before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base (banjo).

5. Remove chuck keys, adjusting wrenches and knockout bars. Form a habit of checking for these before turning on the lathe.

6. Tie back long hair, do not wear gloves, and avoid loose clothing, jewelry or any dangling objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories.

7. When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted with stout screws (#10 or #12 sheet metal screws as a minimum). Do not use dry wall or deck screws. When turning between centers, be certain the workpiece is firmly mounted between the headstock driving center and tailstock center.

8. Make certain that the belt guard or cover is in place.

9. Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.

10. Make sure the blank is securely fastened.

11. Rotate your workpiece by hand to make sure it clears the toolrest and bed before turning the lathe "on". Be certain that the workpiece turns freely and is firmly mounted. A handwheel on the headstock simplifies this process of spinning the lathe by hand before turning on the switch.

12. Be aware of what turners call the "red zone" or "firing zone." This is the area directly behind and in front of the workpiece—the areas most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when turning on the lathe, keeping your hand on the switch in case you need to turn the machine off. When observing someone else turn, stay out of this zone.

13. **ALWAYS CHECK THE SPEED OF THE LATHE BEFORE TURNING IT ON**. Use slower speeds for larger diameters or rough pieces, and higher speeds for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the workpiece is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the workpiece vibrates, always stop the machine to check the reason. As a starting point, consult your operator's manual for recommended speeds for a particular lathe. Make sure the lathe speed is compatible with the size of the blank.

14. Exercise extra caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark pockets, knots, irregular shapes, or protuberances. Beginners should avoid these types of stock until they have greater knowledge of working such wood.

15. Hold turning tools securely on the tool-rest, holding the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.

16. When running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened or locked on the lathe spindle.

17. Know your capabilities and limitations. An experienced woodturner is capable of lathe speeds, techniques and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.

18. Always remove the tool rest before sanding, finishing or polishing operations.

19. Don't overreach, keep proper footing and balance at all times.

20. Keep lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts and other conditions that may affect its operation.

21. Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose it was not designed or intended.

22. Consider your work environment. Don't use a lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of flammable liquids or gases, and always keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher close at hand. Keep your work area well lit.

23. Stay alert. Watch what you are doing, pay close attention to unusual sounds or vibrations - stop the lathe to investigate the cause. Don't operate machines when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

24. Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.

25. **Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off**. Don't leave lathe until it comes to a complete stop.

26. A significant number of accidents to woodturners occur while using saws, especially band and chain saws. Learn and follow the safety guidelines for these machines before operation.

Holiday Party Show and Tell Pictures

(No descriptions available.)

Holiday Party Gift Swap Pictures!

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 Mike Peters
3 Forge Lane
Sutton, MA 01590

Annual dues: $30 including e-mail delivery of newsletter; $35 for postal delivery of newsletter.

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 Mike Peters
3 Forge Lane
Sutton, MA 01590

Annual dues: $30 including e-mail delivery of newsletter; $35 for postal delivery of newsletter.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____& Zip: _____

e-Mail: _____

Please check appropriately below

__ New Member

__ Returning Member

__ e-Mail Newsletter ($30.00)

__ Snail Mail Newsletter ($35.00)

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? _____
_____