

Established 1987

First Woodturning Club in New England, AAW #26

**Next Meeting
April 6th 2017
6:30 PM**

**Learn N Turn
Richard Hunt**

Demonstration

President's Message March, 2017

Special thanks to Rick, Todd, Guillermo, Ralph, Bob and others who participated in the Dogwood weekend at the Wakefield Estate in Milton. At this writing I have not heard back from Rick about how the weekend went, and I was only able to dedicate some time for the set up on Saturday morning, but I suspect it was successful. Perhaps it may become a yearly event and there will be more member involvement in the future.



Speaking of yearly events, the Arnold Arboretum is a go again for this year. This year it is scheduled for a week earlier than prior years with an opening reception on October 13 and the show on the 14th and 15th. Unfortunately, I will be unable to participate as I was counting on it occurring the following weekend and accepted a wedding invitation, coupled with a brief vacation at that time. I will be going to the planning meeting in July but will need someone to take the lead for organizing the rest, including the setup, reception, sales, and take down during the event. At this stage, many of the needs and responsibilities are pretty well set. I anticipate that we will need at least one person per day, Saturday and Sunday to do demonstrations. It looks like we should select pieces for the show at the September meeting as they will want to put some pieces in the exhibit cases at least a month prior to the event.

The last club picnic I will be hosting (hint, hint) will be Saturday, July 22 at my house, starting at noon. I will supply either chicken or sausages as the protein base but others should bring fruit, vegetables, beer, soda, deserts, and a chair. Remember, bring only a modest amount, as you will have take home whatever is leftover. Partners, spouses, children, and well behaved pets are very welcome. I will send out an email before the picnic asking for folks to respond so I can get an approximate count of folks.

I had a conversation with my wife tonight. She is an architect who is gradually transitioning to being an artist. She has a studio in Framingham with a number of other artists. We discussed the benefit of getting together with other artists and crafts people to talk about what we do, and that triggered more thinking. When we have folks do demonstrations and participate in Show and Tell the primary focus on is on "how" something is made. Rarely do we talk about the "why" of our work. What were we trying to do with the chunk of wood when we mounted it on the lathe? Were we inspired by a photo we saw of Egyptian artifacts, a Southwestern Native American vessel, a flower in the garden, the arch of a cable stay bridge, or a mushroom growing in the woods? We never share those things and perhaps we should. Maybe some of us can get together once in a while to discuss the "why." Just a thought.

That is all for now. Stay well, keep turning.

Be Well, *Joe*

Inside this issue:

Meeting Minutes And show'n tell	2, 3
	4
	5
	6, 7
Officers Membership Application	8

Minutes February 2nd, 2017 Meeting

Mike Smith, Secretary

President: Joe McGill

- Attendance: 45 members
- President Joe McGill opened the meeting at 6:30 pm
- External VP ,Rick Angus, laid out plans for the Dogwood festival with a sheet passed around for volunteers to sign up to help with the show. A report on the show will be given at the July meeting.
- Internal VP Steve Reznek discussed the demonstrations for upcoming meetings with the focus being on the turning extravaganza in August. As of now there will be 7 lathes with various activities going on, as well as a sharpening station manned by Rick Angus. Members are encouraged to try the various things being presented as well as bringing any tools that may need sharpening.
- Treasurer report read and accepted.
- The club picnic was discussed with a date to be determined. (the date is July 22nd).
- The issue of looking into a better spot for our meetings was discussed and Victor Thiffault offered to take over as chairman of the committee from Ben Kline. Ben's work time right now does not allow him to be chair.
- Thank you to Victor and all the members of the committee for taking this on. Michael Peters offered to collect the turnings for the annual auction to support the Wheel Chair Mission. They will be delivered to Charlie Croteau sometime in the next few weeks.
- Discussion was had regarding the late fees on video rentals and quite honestly I don't recall what the outcome was. Just please try to remember to return the videos to the club.
- Meeting adjourned for Show and Tell at 7:03 pm



Sorry but no photos for "Show and Tell " this time around. Fraser (our photographer) had to miss the last meeting as he is preparing for a new addition to his family.

Congratulations Fraser!

Another Use for Wood Shavings

When you turn lots of bowls you get lots of shavings. They are good for mulch, but they can also be used for holding a log while you cut it into a bowl blank. This method works especially well for odd-shaped pieces of wood or tree crotches. The shavings keep the round stable and safe while it is being cut.

Bury the piece to a depth of about one-half to three-quarters into the shavings and position it so you are cutting straight down. Make sure you have enough shavings below the piece you are cutting so the chain-saw teeth don't contact the ground. In addition, make sure there are no other pieces of wood in the shavings as this could cause a kickback.

After cutting the length round on the bandsaw, I bury the blanks in shavings until I am ready to turn them. It can take a few days to make it through a large batch and the wet shavings keep the turning blanks from drying out without having to paint them with sealer. Also, my dogs like the shavings for a bed.



AAW
EDUCATION

Dan Burleson
Troy, Missouri

Hanging with a few turning buddies, by Joe McGill

A couple of weeks ago I accompanied Mike Smith to Jon Burke's house to look at his 11,000 lbs. of Australian burls. Quite impressive! Jon explained that this primary purpose for purchasing such a large and expensive amount of burls was to offer them at a price that allows him to break even, (or maybe make a small profit) through selling them to club members and on eBay. Mike purchased a few burls but I kept a tight hold on my wallet. It's not as if I'm cheap or anything but yes, I'm cheap. I kept looking and looking at the expansive collection of burls and thought, "If I'm going to buy a burl it's going to be a massive, magnificent one." Unfortunately, massive, magnificent burls are expensive. My wallet stayed in my pocket.

What did come from the visit was a planned turning session at my house with Jon and Mike. Jon wanted to try my McNaughton coring system and brought along a burl purchased many years ago from Bad Dog. After a caffeine fueled discussion of how to go about setting up the burl to perform the coring, Jon went to work. While Jon was figuring out the idiosyncrasies of the McNaughton system, (with minimal input from me), Mike became captivated with the fact that the pin from a drive center on my Jet midi was bent. Jon's initial attempts were punctuated with squealing belts and a couple of bangs, nonetheless he persisted. Mike set about fixing the pin. While my attention focused on Mike's work, the burl flew off the lathe.

"The Dead" was playing in the background while Clyde graced us with his presence a couple of times. At first, Jon was tentative while using the coring system, which is not surprising since the McNaughton system is a beast to learn how to use and is unforgiving. Learning to keep clearing a path for the cutter, accounting for a continually variable radius, and controlling the rate of feed are not easy individually, let alone all at once. Jon figured it all out much more quickly than I initially did. Satisfied that he was becoming proficient, I asked Mike for help with my negative rake scraper. He mentioned that perhaps I was using the tool upside down and it was not properly ground! Lordy, how could I have been wrong on both accounts? Well, regardless how much I wanted to channel James Comey, he was right. Mike reground the bevels, flipped the tool over, and produced shavings that left a surface that ached for 320 grit sandpaper.

Meanwhile, Jon's proficiency, as evidenced by an absence of squealing belts and loud bangs, continued to improve. It became clear that he was going to get two bowls from the burl, one about 5" in diameter and another about 8" in diameter. We checked the depth of the cut on the core a couple of times by hitting it with the heel of our hands but the core did not move. After a few more minutes Jon took a wooden mallet, hit the core gently, and the core popped out. Voila! Two bowls! A visit to a local sandwich shop and good conversation ended the day. Jon left with two bowls and a Carter Circle Cutting Jig to test out, Mike with a couple of blades for a band saw I had no use for, and I ended with two Old Fashioned Dunkin Donuts, and a well tuned negative scraper.



Joe McGill

Golf Ball Depth Stop



Many woodturners begin hollowing a bowl by drilling a depth hole. However, this method requires that the drill bit to be marked in some manner to indicate the depth to drill. Marks can be added to drill bits with pen, pencil, chalk, or pieces of tape, none of which are easy to use with any degree of precision.

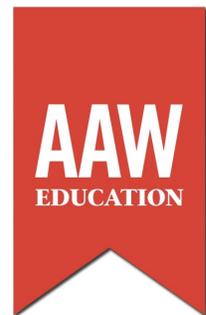
Because I have used drilled golf balls for tail-stock support and numerous other applications, I wondered if a golf ball could serve as an adjustable sleeve to mark the depth point on a drill bit. Most of my bowls are drilled with a $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19 mm) Morse taper bit, so I used the same bit to drill a $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19 mm) hole through a golf ball.

I can adjust the position of the ball on the drill bit to indicate the desired depth.

This system worked even better than I expected. The thick tough rubber on the golf ball keeps a snug fit. The position of the ball can be easily adjusted, yet it does not move as the depth hole is drilled. I have also used this system with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " (10 mm) tapered drill bit.

~ Emmett Manley, Lakeland, TN

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OF WOODTURNERS



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Once you get labelled a “woodworker” by your circle of friends, colleagues, acquaintances, etc you often get asked (at the last minute) to create gifts for birthdays, retirements, or colonoscopy appointments. So it was natural when a colleague of mine at the lumber yard retired that I found myself at the lathe pedaling away and making a Teak bowl.

I’m not a prolific bowl maker but I do enjoy face plate work from time to time. This was actually my first opportunity to do a bowl on my new Barnes No 3 lathe so I was anxious to see how she performed. And because I’m always looking to try new techniques I decided to do something different during the turning. It ended up being one of those “learning experiences” that are usually accompanied by colorful language and forced timeout in the corner to think about what you have done. But in the end this bowl illustrated the required skill for all woodworkers: the ability to shake it off and fix a mistake without chucking the whole project and starting over.



Let’s Start From the Beginning

I used my bowsaw to cut out a round-ish blank from a 12/4×9 hunk of Teak and mounted it on the lathe with a faceplate and screws to begin truing it. The mass of the Barnes handled the extra vibration nicely of an eccentrically turning large blank. Moreover I got no belt slippage at all as I was turning that outermost edge where the leverage is high as is the velocity. This was a concern going into the project and the Barnes didn’t let me down.



Once round I began to shape outside of the bowl. I was shooting for a deeper fruit bowl shape and this is where I deviated from my usual approach. Instead of creating a tenon for the chuck to hold the bowl while hollowing, I turned a dovetailed recess. This way I would expand the chuck into the recess and the end result would be hidden and tucked up inside the “foot” of the bowl in the finished product. It made for a cool line to the bowl with a fast S curve tucked in at the bottom. I even added a few decorative details for fun that also act as lines to write an inscription upon later. I then went to work sanding and polishing the outside before flipping around to begin the hollowing.

With the bowl flipped around I expanded the dovetail jaws of the chuck into the recess and got a perfect fit on the angle and a secure hold. My chuck jaws were taller than the recess so I was a little concerned that I couldn’t fit the shoulder of the recess tight up against the chuck like I usually do. Still the hold was solid so I went to work with the bowl gouge.

...and with a sickening crack the recess cracked off and the bowl went flying. Right into my faceplate actually. **Wear your safety gear kids!** Even this foot powered lathe can turn things at over 1500 rpms.



I said loud enough for the mother walking her child across the street from my open garage, to turn and quickly herd her child the other direction.
***this is not what I actually said, but rather an expletive often heard from my wife who spends her days teaching 5th grade girls*

It is always frustrating when a screw up ruins work you have already done, but when that work was done by furiously pedaling a lathe on a hot and humid day, it stings just a bit more. And so after feeling sorry for myself, eating a sandwich to replenish my lost calories, and getting a pep talk from my puppy, Kenny, I was back at the lathe with the broken bowl mounted once again to a face plate to assess the damage.



This is one thing about woodturning that is liberating, it is so easy to reshape something on a whim. And when the whim becomes necessity this flexibility can save a project. With a deadline looming I was hesitant to try this recess method again so I grabbed a parting tool and quickly made a dovetailed tenon. Then I just have to reshape the curve of the bowl to eliminate the flat and hopefully end up with a pleasing form again. After a few minutes more of pedaling I was happy with my somewhat squatter yet still fruit bowl like shape.

With a little clean up on the outside, I was chucked up and ready to start hollowing once again. This time I lasted more than 30 seconds and was able to hollow the bowl to completion without incident. In the end I was happy with the overall shape and I think the bowl looks lighter and flatter even though it still have the original depth I was going for. It funny how a dramatic change still yields the same functional space.

So What Did I Learn?

No lesson will ever be learned unless some reflection of the incident is done. At first I figured I had just turned the recess wall too thin and exerted too much pressure from the jaws of the chuck. It was through sharing my disaster pictures online that I was given the head slappingly obvious advice that I should have matched my chuck jaws to the radius of the recess. *Thanks Shawn* After all, I'm always seeing incredibly thin walled bowls coming out of the shops of people who actually know what they are doing.

Y'see by using jaws with a tighter curve I wasn't pressing out equally on the walls of the recess but rather concentrating the force in 3 or 4 small points which was bound to fail. This fact was strengthened the next day when I found a perfectly intact dovetailed wall that had been snapped off between two pressure points. I started to realize why lath chuck manufacturers make so many different accessory jaws. Of course I'm even more upset with myself because thanks to the generosity of Easy Wood Tools I happen to have several different jaws that are stupid easy to snap in and out in seconds with their Easy Chuck (excuse the impromptu commercial). Had I matched the radius I would have been able to keep my thin walled recess and evenly distribute the force of the chuck around the bowl and not turned my bowl into a missile. More likely, I would have turned the radius of the recess to match the jaws that I have.

In hindsight its pretty obvious and I think I've been lucky up until now using my tenon method that I haven't messed up the tenons with unsightly pinch points. I guess I'm even happier now that I have a chuck that makes switching the jaws in and out so quick...now I just have to remember to do it.

But with any project, it is the end result that matters. I like the bowl and more importantly the recipient of this retirement gift was very happy.

Shannon Rogers



RENAISSANCE
WOODWORKER

So Many Projects...
...So Little Time



Central New England Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



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Membership

To join or renew membership, please complete the form below and a check made payable to CNEW and bring it to a CNEW meeting, or pay online at the CNEW website under "join/renew" or mail to: Treasurer, Central New England Woodturners
c/o Todd Heino, 148 Howe St, Natick, MA 01760

Membership Application

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Treasurer, Central New England Woodturners

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Please let us know of your interests:

How long have you been turning? _____

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