



# The Turning Point

The newsletter of the Siouxland Woodturners  
Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

June 2012

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## **SF Sidewalk Arts Festival**

The Siouxland Woodturners will be having a booth at the Sioux Falls Sidewalk Arts Festival on Saturday, September 8. We will be looking for volunteers to man our booth during this event. Check your calendar to see if you will be available to help out. We will also be soliciting ideas on how to use this booth to best showcase our club. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

## **Check Out These Items...**

This month's GETTING TO KNOW OUR US column features John Olson.

The WOODTURNING BASICS column focuses on topics of interest for members wanting information on basic skills and techniques. This month's column discusses some very important woodturning **safety tips**.

These columns can be found on page 3 and 4 of the newsletter.

## **Upcoming Meeting Notes**

**Saturday, July 14, 2012**  
**10:00 AM**

### **Picnic at Corky Miles' Home**

One mile west of Tea on Hwy 106 to 467th Ave. Turn south on 467th Ave and go 1/4 mile to Robin Place. Turn west on Robin Place and go two houses west.



## **July Picnic & Potluck**

The July meeting will be our annual picnic & potluck meeting at the home of Corky Miles (see above). Barbeques and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish, chips, etc. to share. You may also wish to bring a chair.

The festivities will begin with some turning about 10:00 AM followed by lunch and a short business meeting and then more turning.

Hope to see you there!

## **From the President...**

Everybody who fishes that I know is catching fish and therefore not much shop work going on. However there are weeds to conquer and lawns to mow, which also cut into fun time. But I also know that wood turning, pen kits and “more wood” is also on your mind if you have the addiction that I do for saw dust. My saw mill vertical control literally burned up this month so a new hydraulic system is now in place. A 300lb walnut natural edged slab 2.75 inches thick 2’X10’ was fork lifted into the shop to make a waterfall desk that my wife wants in the office. I am mulling over making a 30” high by 10” inch oval support leg to be turned by two offsets on my lathe leaving two natural edged areas on each end of the oval. I am always thinking of ways of incorporating my lathe into my projects. I hope it works and will bring it in if it does. My eye doctor wants two pens for his pastor who is moving on. My nephew needs 300bd ft. of quarter sawn oak. And a person wonders why the days are getting shorter. But we are having fun. Many times during the month I do wonder what the rest of you are doing in the shop and on the lathe. Life is too short not to start a new project or two even if it is too hot. My farmer dad wore long under wear most of the summer, sweat no more than I do, but got a lot of work done with little complaining. So get out there and make something.

On the more interesting note for me, I will be in Alaska during the next meeting so please join Corky at his place. He will have three lathes turning and every question ready to be answered. Plus a picnic, all this starting at 10 o’clock on Saturday and ending when the food is gone and the questions answered. I can’t end this without a comment on last month’s trip to the Steen saw mill operation, great turn out, lots to look at, the plaque turned out great, and we now know where some wood log are at. WOW. Looking ahead to next month at Brookings at Dan’s place will be my first time at his place, and something else new, two months out is the Sidewalk Art Festival then the next week our regular meeting back at the high school. I received official notice that we are “in” as an arts booth, so start thinking about what we can do to showcase the club and make new friends.

Have a great summer and keep turning.

Doug



## **Getting to Know Us...**

### John Olson

Been wood turning since about 1980 when I bought a used 8 inch Rockwell bench top lathe without a motor from a friend at work. I put an old washing machine motor on it and used it for many years and sort of learned how to turn from what I could get from books and magazines. Turned a lot of small bowls and vases and stuff like that but was never really satisfied with it and the quality was pretty bad I think. I still have the first vase that I made if you can call it that. I found a General variable speed 10 inch I think in about 1987 and had a lot more luck with that one and actually got into the craft fair business for a while. I did the Sioux Falls art Festival and Brooking Art Festival and several smaller ones around the Sioux Falls area for about 5-6 years and did quite well and made enough money to buy a lot of new tools for my shop. I once had a local business man at the Sioux Falls Art Festival in August ask me to make 85 bowls that he wanted to give as x-mas gift to his employees. I had to turn him down because there was no way that I could get that many done in four months. At the time I was working full time at the Sheriff's office and teaching part time at Kilian College and turning evenings and weekends to make enough things for the craft fairs. That is when I figured out that turning was no longer any fun, it was just another job and that's not why I got into turning. So I stopped doing the shows and just turned things for the house and gifts and started having fun again. I wanted to get into big stuff so I built a lathe with a 27 inch swing with a 2 horse computer operated reversible DC motor, I used two 8 inch I-beams for the bed if you can believe that and used that for a while. Sue now has that lathe in her basement when I bought my Powermatic 3520 and I just love it. I still do occasional jobs like the 37 cedar finials I made for a contractor who wanted them for a cedar home he was building, kind of fun but took me about 3 weeks to complete and reminded me why I stopped doing things like that.

The Sioux Land Woodturners has been a really great experience for me and has really put back the fun into turning. Having someone to talk to about what you are doing or things that you would like to do is what it's all about for me now and although I can't make as many meeting as I would like I keep in contact with some of the other members and am just having fun turning again. Projects like the Christmas Tree and tool making and the bowl challenge are what keep me interested now. Last year I decided that I was going to pick one project out of each new AAW magazine and complete it just to try and learn new skills and although I have not been able to keep that up completely it has been fun.

# **WOODTURNING BASICS**

## **WOOD TURNING SAFETY RULES** by Jim Rodger from [www.woodturningonline.com](http://www.woodturningonline.com)

### **1. Know Your Equipment and Yourself:**

Never operate a lathe or use a cutting tool, chuck or other accessory without first understanding its operation and limitations. Read and know the instruction manual of any lathe that you use. Never perform a procedure or technique that you are unclear about or uncomfortable with. If you are in doubt, stop and ask for instruction. Know your personal limitations.

### **2. Police Your Environment.**

Keep your work area clean. Store tools safely. Don't allow cords to run across circulation ways. Don't start your lathe if people are in harm's way. Ensure that there is adequate light and ventilation. If you are observing someone else, don't place yourself in harm's way.

### **3. Keep Yourself Catch Free.**

Long hair must be tied back. No clothing, gloves, jewelry or watches may be worn below the elbow. Necklaces and loose clothing that could be caught by spinning parts must not be worn...

### **4. Inspect Your Lathe.**

Inspect the lathe for damaged or missing parts before operating it. Before you start, check to ensure that the speed is appropriate, the drive belt is tight, all locking devices are secure and all chuck keys and adjusting wenchers are removed.

a. *Always spin the wood at least one full turn before turning the lathe on every time.*

b. Always stand to the side when starting up a lathe.

c. Always unplug the power supply before adjusting the belts or touching parts that spin.

d. Never leave a spinning lathe unattended.

5. **Wear Safety Equipment.** To operate a lathe or stand near an operating lathe, you must wear eye protection; full face protection when turning bowls. Dust masks are highly recommended.

### **5. Secure the Wood.**

Ensure that the wood is securely held. Turn between centers whenever possible and always with imbalanced pieces. Use a slow speed when first roughing out a piece. Never use wood that is cracked or has other serious defects or significant protrusions.

### **7. Practice Safe Techniques.**

a. Keep your tools sharp. Don't force a tool or use it for an unintended purpose. Reposition the tool rest frequently to keep it close to the work.

b. Keep your balance and don't overreach.

c. Always turn the lathe off and allow it to come to a complete stop before adjusting the tool rest.

d. Always keep your hands behind the plane of the tool rest. Always keep the tool firmly against the tool rest. Always hold the tool firmly with both hands.

e. When using a shear cut, rub the bevel. When using a scraping cut, always keep the angle between the wood and cutting edge at less than 90 degrees.

f. When finishing, always remove the tool rest. Use only paper towels, never woven fabric. On exterior surfaces, apply the towel to the underside of the piece with the wood spinning counterclockwise. On interior surfaces, apply the towel in the lower left-hand quadrant also with the wood spinning counterclockwise.

### **8. Focus on Your Work.**

You may not operate a lathe if you have drunk alcohol or taken medication that carries an equipment operations warning. Don't operate a lathe if you are tired or emotionally upset.



## At the June Meeting...

There was no formal business meeting in June. Below are several pictures from our trip to FBT Sawmill in Steen, MN.







