



The Turning Point

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

August 2012

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SF Sidewalk Arts Festival

Don't forget that we will be having a booth at the Sioux Falls Sidewalk Arts Festival on Saturday, September 8. We are looking for volunteers to man our booth during this event. We hope to have several lathes running during this time. If you don't wish to do turning demonstrations you can still help by talking to attendees about woodturning and our club.

Please contact Doug Noteboom if you would be able to help.

Getting to Know Us and Woodturning Basics Columns...

This month's GETTING TO KNOW OUR US column features Dan Humburg.

The WOODTURNING BASICS column this month focuses on the use of the **parting tool**.

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

Upcoming Meeting Notes

Saturday, September 15, 2012

1:00 PM

**Ag Education Shop
Harrisburg High School**

Harrisburg High School is located approximately ¾ of a mile west of Harrisburg. The Ag Ed shop is located around back in the northeast corner of the building. If you have trouble finding the place call Royce at (605) 351-9435.

Alabaster, Natural Edge Bowls & Sharpening along with shop-made tools, jigs & gadgets.

August Meeting at Dan Humburg's

Thanks to Dan Humburg for hosting the club at his shop for the August meeting. It is always an enjoyable time to visit Dan's shop.

Dan always seems to impress with his tool making ability. Most of us just need to work up the courage to try the things Dan shows us.

Thanks also to Dan (or some other member of his family) for the refreshments!

From the President...

Greetings: It is an exciting time of year for me. Fall has always been my favorite season, with the cooler days, hunting, good fishing and shop time. Growing up it meant harvest time. The garden is winding down but the flowers are great. But there is always something to make or turn, especially this fall with my commitment to the Side Walk Arts Festival on the 8th. It is like the Christmas rush for the Elf's, only in August. It will be my first time at an art festival and with the Sioux Land Wood Turners working under the big tent, it should be exciting. The Stan Houston experience all over again with thousand more to watch, and be encouraging people to join in on our passion. So come, turn or hand out some brochures. We do need a few more to help out, especially with the pens for donation to the youth program, that we have to offer to the public. Give me a call if you are interested 605-359-2991

I have a couple of more alabaster bowls turned and for me candle holders have been very good ticket items for me. Bring your items to show at the festival and to the meeting on the 15th at the Harrisburg High School, especially if you have made some jigs, tools or handy shop gadgets to share with us.

On the 15th we will have turning Alabaster, natural edge bowl demonstration, and tool sharpening going on. Methanol and anchor seal available, there is always some wood to share, and plans for the fall to be discussed. We are planning a fall turn-off for the club members. This time spindle turning with a more open ended variety of things you want to make. Let us know if you need wood. I envision items from pens, to bats, to thing only in your imagination as yet. So get ready for some tuning. Come with question, answers, and advice to make out time in the shop even more exciting.

Doug Noteboom



Getting to Know Us...

Dan Humburg...

I have been a member of the Siouxland Woodturners since the chapter was formed. Jim Sample called me and asked if I would come to the first organizational meeting and I wound up serving as secretary for the group for several years before we had a web site to disseminate information to members. I'm happy to have others take that responsibility as I'm an "organizationally challenged professor type".

I have been turning off and on for about 43 years. My parents gave me an old lathe for my 12th birthday that they bought from a local carpenter where I had seen it while mowing lawns. I turned walnut candleholders for teachers at the school and gradually learned to turn bowls and other items. There was no AAW at the time but Fine Woodworking did an occasion bit on turning.

I currently have 4 lathes in my backyard shop. Two are Delta lathes from high schools and the others are "no name" simple lathes, also from schools. Perhaps someday I will buy a new machine, but for now these do the job. I have configured one to run 3-Phase with a variable frequency drive so that it is variable speed. My shop has lots of other equipment and we have traditionally held one meeting each year there. I have metal working equipment that allows us to explore tool making as well as turning. My other interests include gunsmithing, hunting, and other forms of woodworking, which will probably be apparent to anyone visiting the shop.

I am delighted to see the Siouxland Woodturners grow to a critical mass where we have all ranges of skill levels and interests. I'd like to see us find ways to educate more young people about turning so that more might be able to enjoy it over a lifetime.

WOODTURNING BASICS

How to Use a Parting Tool By Chris Baylor, About.com Guide

The parting tool, which really is a uniquely-shaped chisel, gets its name from the tool's ability to remove finished parts from a spindle turning on the lathe. More commonly, though, it simply is used for cutting grooves to specific depths in a spindle turning. By turning a narrow groove square to the axis of the spindle down to a certain thickness, the woodturner can then use other tools to cut tapers or beads down to the required depth without danger of cutting too far.

Using a Parting Tool:

Using a parting tool is very similar to using any other woodturning tool safely. Your back hand will typically be used to gauge the depth and aggressiveness of the tool, while the front hand will be holding the parting tool onto the tool rest, guiding the tool into the stock. When parting or cutting grooves, the parting tool should remain square to the axis of the spindle. As with gouges and skew chisels, always present the bevel underneath the cutting edge to the wood first. Then slowly ease the tool backwards while raising the rear hand to introduce the cutting edge to the wood.

Checking Thickness of Your Cut:

While using your parting tool, you may need to check the thickness of the stock remaining in the groove with a caliper. While you could remove the parting tool to check the thickness with the caliper, you can just as easily hold the parting tool in place with your rear hand, and check thickness from the backside (opposite the turning from the tool rest) with the caliper. Merely ease the parting tool forward onto its beveled edge inside the groove without actually cutting while using your free hand to check the thickness with the caliper.

Do not attempt to perform major cutting or remove the parting tool without first putting the caliper down and returning your front hand to the tool and the tool rest. If you attempt to cut one-handed, the tool will not be supported well, which could result in a dig-in. Similarly, if you attempt to remove the parting tool one-handed, you could accidentally dig into the wood on either side of the groove.

Parting:

When parting with your parting tool, simply begin as you would cutting a groove. When you get close to the point where the part would be cut off of the remaining spindle, remove your front hand from the tool rest and reach over and to the right side of the spindle and, with your palm facing your body, cup the part being removed. Then, slowly continue cutting with the parting tool. The part should gently fall into your hand. When parting one-handed, be very slow and methodical with your cuts, since you only have one hand controlling the parting tool. Also, for your safety, never reach under the spindle and tool rest from the front side of the lathe to cradle the part in your hand as it is being removed.

Sharpening your Parting Tool:

Your parting tool should be sharpened just like the rest of your woodturning tools. Use a slow speed wet sharpening station or a bench grinder with a tool rest set at the proper angle. Be sure to cut the entire bevel on each side of the tool evenly to create a precise cutting edge. If you choose to use a bench grinder to sharpen your parting tool, cut in short bursts and cool the tool off in a cup of water in between cuts. Do not grind for more than a few seconds at a time, or you will possibly cause the steel in the tool to lose its temper. Steel that has lost temper will not hold a cutting edge well.

Cutting Tips:

When beginning a cut with a parting tool, particularly on soft woods, the edges of the groove will tend to fray. This can be offset somewhat by making the initial cut into the wood using a scraping cut. Instead of presenting the bevel first, then easing the cutting edge into the wood (with your rear hand beneath your fore hand), try cutting from the opposite bevel. In other words, keep your rear hand higher than your fore hand, and introduce the parting tool's upper bevel to the wood. Then, ease the tool backwards and slowly move the rear hand down, so the tool is scraping instead of digging into the wood. Once you've begun the initial cut into the spindle, you can switch to the more aggressive (and normal) bevel cutting technique. Since you've already started the cut, you should not see any further fraying of the edges of the cut.

**One safety note: *NEVER* free-hand with a parting tool.
Always hold the tool firmly against the tool rest before presenting it to the wood.**

At the August Meeting...

Siouxland Woodturners

August 4, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Doug Noteboom at Dan Humburg's shop in Brookings. Twenty-one members in attendance.

July minutes approved.

Committee Reports

-Frank Denton advised that we have \$702.44 in the treasury.

-No library report.

-Sue advised that she had talked to Matt Zimel who has a store/shop that we could set up classes in.

Motion made to set up a fall class schedule. Sue will coordinate.

Old Business

-Doug reported on the upcoming Sioux Falls Sidewalk Arts Festival to be held on September 8th. We will have a booth set up in front of the Congregational Church. Looking for volunteers to work the 3 lathes and visit with people from 8 – 12 and 12 – 5.

-Doug will bring anchor seal and ethanol to the next meeting

New Business

-Doug suggested we have a Fall spindle turn off. Just about any item turned between centers will qualify. Questions will be addressed at the September meeting.

-We will be decorating a Christmas tree again this year so start turning ornaments. Royce, Corky and Ron will pick up the tree.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned to show and tell.

P.S. A special thank you to Dan Humburg for hosting the meeting and demonstrating how to make a small skew chisel from old planer knives.

Respectfully submitted

Ron Seim , Secretary

Show and Tell Items at the August Meeting...



Dan Making a Skewer from an Old Planer Blade



Dan Showing How to Turn a Simple Tool Handle



Socializing at the August Meeting...

