



# The Turning Point

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

May 2013

## ***In this issue...***

*News Items . . . . . Page 1*  
*Upcoming Meeting Notes . . . . Page 1*  
*President's Column . . . . . Page 2*  
*Woodturning Basics . . . . . Page 3*  
*At the Last Meeting . . . . . Page 4-6*

## **Thank You!**

Thanks to everyone who brought items for our first ever rummage sale and silent auction event and also to the people who purchased the items up for sale. We raised some money for our worthwhile causes.

Thanks also to Alistair for manning the chain saw. Thanks to Al's efforts, some folks went home with some nice turning blanks.

Lastly, thanks to Doug and Carol Noteboom for hosting our May meeting.

## **Woodturning Basics**

This month's WOODTURNING BASICS column features a brief description of using the alcohol soaking method for drying green wood in preparation for turning.

## **Upcoming Meeting Notes**

**Saturday, June 1, 2013**

**1:00 PM**

**Monte's Woodshop**

**2901 N. Six Mile Road  
Sioux Falls**

From the Rice Street exit on I-229, go east to Six Mile Road; go south on Six Mile Road approximately 1 mile. Monte's Woodshop is on the west side of the road.

## **"Pens for the Deployed" update...**

Doug received the following email and asked that it be included in the newsletter for everyone to see.

*Dear Siouxland Woodturners,*  
*I would like to thank you for the generous gift of the bullet pens; every little piece of home boosts the morale of all of the troops here in Afghanistan. NMCB 15 is a Reserve Seabee Battalion based out of the Midwest, South Dakota, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. We have been in country for about 2 1/2 months and already we miss the things that we so often take for granted like green grass and the lakes. We do what we do for the great Americans like yourselves. Please take care and may God bless.*

*Respectfully,*  
*Rick*

*CMDCM(SCW/FMF) Rick Cousins  
Command Master Chief/NMCB 15  
Task Force True Grit*

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

May 2013

The grass is growing, fish are biting, chips are flying, the garden is planted and making a living goes on. Five for five is batting a pretty good percentage. Rain and green things are so much more uplifting than dry and brown. I always say in South Dakota we take all the rain we can get, with a couple of exceptions.

Another thing I am very great full for is your participation in the fund raiser last month. It was fun, and we took in over \$500 for some startup money for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Way to go. Whomever I bought a tool set from, thank you, they are far better than the ones I call my every day turning chisels. They will/are being used.

The Arizona wood I cut up on the saw mill is wonderful. It is so much fun playing with new species' of wood and marveling at the uniqueness of the various tree of a region. I was excited about our discussion of some of the "weed" trees of our area that I am not familiar with, and hoping there are those out there that can make some available to the club. If you need help, let me know.

Monty's Wood shop should be very interesting. Not so much turning, but engraving and rock figure carving. See some turned bats being engraved, get ideas for wood projects, displays and a great shop set up. I am sure you will take home a couple of ideas you would not perceive if you do not come to our June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

The summer picnic date and place are set, and again thank you, we get to see another shop set up and again gain more ideas and observe how a craftsman applies his trade. That date is June 29<sup>th</sup>. We need to spread the word on these date changes that are not on the first Saturday of the month. I like to keep change to a minimum but June 29<sup>th</sup> is the right thing to do for the July meeting. I will see you twice in June, and that is good.

Thank you again for all you do.

Doug Noteboom



**Using Alcohol to Aid in Drying Green Wood**

With the addition of many new members to our club over the past few months there have been a number of questions arise as to how to use alcohol to better prepare green (wet) wood for final turning. In this column I will briefly describe how I have used this technique. Bear in mind that I am by no means an expert. I have, however, used this method of drying wood with a great deal of success. Some people use this method with slight variations but the general principles are the same.

Green wood is usually much easier to turn than dry wood. The problem with turning green wood is that, often, as the wood dries, it will warp and crack. Using alcohol to dry the wood will help control the warping and cracking and also allow the wood to dry to a stable moisture level much faster. Below are the steps I use when using the alcohol method of drying turning wood. For this discussion we will assume I am turning a bowl.

1. Mount the green bowl blank between centers and rough-turn it round. Then, on one end of the blank, turn a tenon to fit your wood-turning chuck. Remove the blank from between centers.
2. Install your chuck on the headstock of your lathe and mount the blank in the chuck. Bring the tailstock up to provide support and rough turn the outside of the bowl to the basic shape you want.
3. Remove the tailstock and rough turn the inside of the bowl. Leave the wall thickness of your bowl thicker than the final dimension. A good rule of thumb is to leave the wall thickness about 10% of the overall diameter of the bowl. For example, if you are turning a 10" bowl, leave the walls about 1" thick.
4. Regardless of how thick you leave the walls of your bowl, strive to maintain a consistent thickness throughout the wall itself. This will minimize future cracking and warping.
5. Once you have the bowl blank turned to rough shape remove it from the chuck and submerge it in enough denatured alcohol to completely cover the blank. I use a 5 gallon bucket with a tight fitting lid. If your blank is larger than this you can use a large trash can lined with a heavy-duty trash bag. Denatured alcohol can be purchased at most hardware or paint supply stores. Our chapter buys methanol in large quantities for resale to our members at a very reasonable price. The methanol seems to work every bit as well as the more expensive denatured alcohol from the hardware store.
6. Leave your bowl blank in the alcohol at least overnight. Twenty four hours is probably better. In my case I usually forget I have something soaking in the alcohol for a couple of days. That doesn't seem to matter. In simple terms, the alcohol is displacing the water trapped in the wood and the wood can only absorb a given amount so leaving the blank to soak for several days doesn't have any adverse effect.
7. Remove the blank from the alcohol and place it in a paper bag and roll the bag closed and seal it shut. I use a small spring clamp to hold the bag shut. I also write the date on the outside of the bag. You can re-use the alcohol so once you have removed your blank make sure to store the alcohol in an enclosed container to minimize evaporation. I have been using the same alcohol for several months and only occasionally have to add a small amount of new alcohol.
8. I usually wait about 2 weeks and then find that my rough turned blank will have dried to stable moisture content. In fact I have found that a bowl blank that went into the alcohol at well over 20% moisture will, at that time be down to about 7% or 8% moisture. This is more than adequate for most turnings. For comparison, a bowl blank left to air dry without being rough-turned and dried using the alcohol drying method may take several months to dry to a stable moisture level.
9. At this point the now dried blank can be remounted and be finished. Depending on the size of the blank and the wood species, a small amount of warping may have occurred and there may be some small cracks that have developed. However, since the wall thickness has been left oversized this can usually be turned away as the bowl is finish-turned.

# At the May Meeting...

Siouxland Woodturners  
May 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was called to order by President Doug Noteboom at 1:05 P.M. Good to see many new faces and introductions were made.
- Minutes from the April meeting were approved as per web-site.
- Treasurer Frank Denton was unable to be there but advised that our account has a balance of \$1,512.85.
- Sue reported on Fall classes – advised that she needs demonstrators for making duck calls and sharpening tools. Asked for input on the type of classes people are interested in. Contact Sue Smith.

## **Old Business**

1. Anchor seal and methanol available at \$10 and \$5 respectively.
2. Doug has Freedom Pen Kits available to work on at home or available for \$9 for 5 kits for personal use.
3. Reminder to pay 2013 dues of \$25 to Frank Denton or leave dues with President or Secretary. Pro-rate if you are just joining.
4. Received mobile lathe stand from Stan Houston for working at the annual trade show.
5. Plans for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the woodworking club are still ongoing. Trying to get other clubs interested so we will be able to bring in Alan Lacer.
6. June meeting will be held at Monte's Woodshop at 2901 N. Six Mile Road, 1:00 P.M. Saturday June 1. To get to Monte's Woodshop take the Rice Street exit off 229, turn East and go about 3 miles to Six Mile Road. Then turn right and go about a mile or so and he is on the West side of the road or you can take 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Six Mile Road and turn left and go about 3 miles and he is on the West side of the road. He has a large sign out by the road.

## **New Business**

1. See Doug about Doctor's Woodshop group order if you are interested.
  2. The July meeting/picnic will be at Al Schroeder's.
- Meeting was adjourned and we moved on to show and tell and the silent auction.  
\*Special thank you to Doug Noteboom for hosting the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Seim, Secretary

**Show and Tell items from the May meeting...**



**Alistair cuttin' up some logs...**



**Rummage sale deals & free turning wood!**



Lots of silent auction items...



Doug fired up his saw mill.

