



# The Turning Point

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

February 2012

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## **Education Program**

Our club will be implementing an education program geared toward getting more people (particularly youth) involved in the art of woodturning. Throughout the year we will be involved in various activities designed to introduce woodturning to more people as well as to raise funds to finance these activities. If you have any ideas for this program please let one of the officers know.

## **New Features...**

Starting with this issue there are two new additions to the newsletter.

The **GETTING TO KNOW OUR US SECTION** will give you an opportunity to learn a bit more about your fellow members.

The **WOODTURNING BASICS COLUMN** will focus on topics of interest for members wanting more information on basic skills and techniques.

If you have any ideas for either of these columns please let the newsletter editor know.

These 2 features can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

## **Upcoming Meeting Notes**

**Saturday, March 3, 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.*

**Group Buying Opportunities  
Plus Basic Bowl Turning**

## **Woodturning Basics**

This month's woodturning basics topic is **BASIC BOWL TURNING**. At the March meeting Frank Denton will start things off by turning a natural edge bowl. Other members will be encouraged to demonstrate techniques that work for them when turning bowls. If you have a particular technique or tool that works for you please consider sharing that during this demonstration. Also, if there is an aspect of bowl turning that sometimes frustrates you please ask a more experienced member for advice. We have plenty of lathes available during our meetings. It would be great to see several of them being used!

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

I am sure the wood curls and dust is flying in most shops these day with the weather really nice, but not so nice to pull us out of the shops. Bowls and pens are my choice of the month with some alabaster turning an ongoing challenge for me, but the results are so much fun. I grabbed a couple of rough turned bowls from last fall and had my way with them. It is always interesting to see the end results of something that started months back.

In an effort to demonstrate turning at the meeting I am encouraging you to come a little early to the meetings and watch the start-up of the demonstrators on the day. This month I have asked Frank Denton to turn a natural edge bowl, as only he does, and that is GREAT. From set up to near finish is my goal for Frank. So come 15 minutes early and stay to the end to watch beauty unfold.

On the schedule for this month's topic, along with the basic bowl turning is group buying opportunities, so bring you wish list, can't live without list, and we will see if we can put something together. Also, if you know of good places to purchase items, bring the catalogs, flyers, web sites or e-mail addresses.

I am laying out a challenge to all of you to take part in a bowl turn off. I know some of you have maybe never turned a larger bowl and for others you are saying, not another bowl. But here is the challenge. The club is providing for every member interested an 8.5X8.5X6.5 walnut bowl blank with 20+ moisture for each to turn in any

resulting manner the turner desires. We will have different group to turn in, from a first time group, basic bowls, vase, box, hollow form, whatever you can come up with will be accepted, For some of us it might just be a bag of shavings, but let's all have a go at it. Come pick up your blank and learn more. Another guest will speak to us for 15 min. that is a young man named Matt Zimblemann. He has a shop at 41<sup>st</sup> and Prairie in Sioux Fall. He will tell us about the classes he teaches and about an opportunity to possibly join together and offer some turning classes, to the community, at his shop. We had talked about use of scholarship money to get youth involved in tuning thought membership in AAW. With our help, lathes, and insurance we can make this happen but it is up to you to come, have input and volunteer. Matt also is a wood distributor for the LeMars Iowa DR who has the shed full of wood. Matt has some samples at his business.

Other items for discussion are the summer arts festivals and our involvement!! I will be offering to pick up Alabaster rock from Colorado for the group. Google "Serious lathes" and follow the demonstrators link on alabaster turning. Could open up some more fun for us!!! See you March 3<sup>rd</sup>, sometime before 1:00 PM.

Doug Noteboom, President

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

Royce Meritt

Since I wanted to start this “getting to know us” section of the newsletter, I thought it best to start with myself. I have been a member of the Siouxland Woodturners since its inception. At that time I was not an experienced turner by any means. In high school wood shop I turned a REALLY ugly lamp. I did not touch a lathe again for at least 25 years. Being an avid hunter, I decided I wanted to see if I could make my own duck and goose calls. I bought an old Craftsman lathe at an auction and some game call kits and gave it a go. After a little trial and error I figured it out. From there I have tried to expand my woodturning into a little bit of everything. I have a lot to learn!

My shop is in an addition off the back of my garage. It is a nice shop but, like most people, I wish I would have built it a little bigger. My lathe is a Jet 1442. So far it has done everything I’ve wanted it to do. I do a lot of other types of woodworking as well so I have the usual assortment of woodworking tools and machinery.

My other interests include hunting, fishing and reading. I hunt mostly pheasants and deer. I don’t do as much waterfowl hunting as I used to. Although I will fish anywhere or anything, my real fishing passion is fly fishing. I make a trip to the Black Hills once or twice a year and try to make a couple other fly fishing trips throughout the year. In the past I has fly fished in Alaska (twice), Washington, Oregon, Montana (twice), Wyoming, Minnesota, Iowa and Utah. If you have not seen them, ask me about the wood-strip fly rods I have made on the lathe.

What I enjoy most about being a member of the Siouxland Woodturners is the friendships I have made through this club. I enjoy visiting with each of you at the meetings and seeing the things you have been working on. The things our club members turn are a real inspiration to me.

## **WOODTURNING BASICS**

**Tips for Woodturning Beginners by Patrick Fulton**

(From [www.woodturningonline.com](http://www.woodturningonline.com))

### **Use sharp tools**

This makes turning much easier and quicker, and means that the wood is cut smoothly. My bowl gouge needs sharpening about four times for one bowl, so you may wish to buy an electric grinder to make sharpening quick and easy.

### **Practice with each tool**

It took me a while before I could cut smoothly and without dig-ins. So get yourself a piece of scrap wood and practice different techniques on it until you get good at them. For between centres work, you need to be able to: rough out (gouge), smooth (skew chisel), and form shapes (parting/beading tool, spindle gouge). When I make bowls, I use only one tool (a bowl gouge) for almost everything, so don't feel that you must have loads of tools to begin with! Also, try not to be put off if a tool snatches (usually the skew chisel) as this will be remedied with practice.

### **Get a book or video**

There are lots of woodturning books and videos which I found very useful. If there is another woodturner in your area, get in touch, but if not, books and videos give lots of advice and tips. They also show people actually woodturning so you can see what to do. There are lots of woodturning sites on the internet too.

### **Use different grades of sandpaper**

Start with the roughest, sanding until all tool marks are gone. Change to a finer grade to get rid of the rough sandpaper scratches. Finally, use an even finer grade to get the wood glassy smooth. I use '150', '240', and '320' sandpaper. You can get the wood even better still if you hold a handful of wood shavings against it to 'burnish' the surface.

### **Check before switching on**

Before you start the lathe, spin the wood to check that it won't hit anything on the way round. Check that all bolts/clamps are tight too. Remember your safety glasses just in case the unexpected happens! If you are sanding the wood wear a dust mask, especially with exotic hardwoods.

# At the February Meeting...

Siouxland Woodturners  
February 2012 Minutes

- Call meeting to order
- Introductions
- Approve previous minutes
- Approve treasurer's report \$1644.00
- Newsletter Report: Nothing to report
- Library Report: Gene reported that he has updated the library list and is trying to track down a few titles that have been checked out but not returned.

## Old Business

1. Doug would like to mail remaining name badges to members who have not been to a meeting to pick them up
2. Discussion of "50 State Tree" project
  - a. Royce distributed list of state trees showing which woods we have received along with which members have taken a piece to turn.
  - b. State tree woods are in a tub located at the school. Members are encouraged to take some with them.
3. Doug reported on "Woods of Wisdom" web site from Rapid City.

## New Business

1. Members were encouraged to become AAW members if not already.
  2. Member profile and interest sheets were distributed
  3. Discussion was held regarding establishing a fund for expanding woodturning education in our area.
    - a. Motion by Gene W.; second by Alistair H. to establish fund; motion carried
    - b. Discussion of gathering names of local youth (particularly member's kids, grandkids, etc.) and possibly providing youth memberships in AAW for as many of these as possible.
  4. Motion by Sue S.; Second by Rex P. to solicit donations at Stan Houston demo to help establish above fund
    - a. Persons making "suggested" donation would receive a turned pen or other item. Motion carried
  5. Doug provided a number of pen kits for members willing to turn pens for the Stan Houston demo
    - a. Motion by Corky M; second by Paul S. to reimburse Doug for the cost of these kits. Motion carried
  6. Jim S. reported on plans for Stan Houston demo.
    - a. February 24 & 25
    - b. Will have Powermatic lathe and one other mini or midi lathe
  7. Gene W. showed sample of color brochure he has been working on.
    - a. Motion by Sue S.; second by Rex P. to move forward with having color brochure made for use at Stan Houston demo as well for placement in other area businesses. Motion carried
  8. Members were asked to sign up for days and time they would be able to help with Stan Houston demo.
  9. Motion by Frank D.; second by Corky M. to allocate \$200/year for purchase of educational materials for club library.
    - a. Motion carried
  10. Frank D. discussed "production turning" opportunity for any member who might be interested
    - a. Person is wanting someone to turn several hundred simple vases from "bug wood" from Black Hills
      - i. Possible club project?
      - ii. Frank will get more information
  11. Royce M. reported that he received phone call from Lutheran Social Services asking for donation for upcoming silent auction,
    - a. Tabled until March meeting
  12. Doug showed sample of tool rest he has made and offered to make some for other members
  13. Jim S. reported on upcoming symposiums and events.
    - a. Rocky Mountain Symposium Labor Day weekend
    - b. Utah Symposium in May
  14. Motion by Sue S.; second by Paul to adjourn. Motion carried.
- Show and Tell
  - Royce led a discussion of tree and wood identification and drying of wood. Many members provided information on resources and techniques they use.

Respectfully submitted  
Royce Meritt, Acting Secretary

Show and Tell items from the February meeting...



One of Paul's latest segmented bowls



Corky tries some "off-center" turning



A couple very nice bowls



Various items turned by members



Some large commissioned pieces by Frank