



The Turning Point

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

May 2012

In this issue...

News Items Page 1
Upcoming Meeting Notes Page 1
President's Column Page 2
Getting to Know Us Page 3
Woodturning Basics Page 4
At the Last Meeting Page 5-7

Club Library

The Siouxland Woodturners has a very nice selection of woodturning DVD's, videos and books that members can check out. Contact club librarian, Gene Wubben to find out what is available. If there are specific items that you would like to see added to our collection let Gene know.

Check Out These Items...

This month's GETTING TO KNOW OUR US column features Vern Monson.

The WOODTURNING BASICS column focuses on topics of interest for members wanting information on basic skills and techniques. This month's column discusses Having a Plan!

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

Upcoming Meeting Notes

Saturday, June 2, 2012

1:00 PM

**FBT Sawmill
Steen, MN**

FBT Sawmill is located just South and East of Steen, MN, right on the Minnesota/Iowa border.

**Meet at east Menards parking lot
at 12:30 for car-pooling.**

Sanding Pads, Anchorseal & Alcohol

The club still has alcohol (for wood drying), Anchorseal (for sealing green wood) and sanding pads available for purchase. If you would like some of the alcohol or Anchorseal, bring a container to an upcoming meeting.

Prices are:

Anchorseal: \$10/gallon

Alcohol: \$5/gallon

Sanding Pads: 7/\$5

Turning Kits "Group Buy"

We are continuing to discuss the possibility of putting together a "group buy" of tuning kits. By purchasing in larger quantities we can often save some money. Bring your thoughts and ideas to the June meeting.

From the President...

Between alabaster, black ash burls, and loads of other woods it is very hard to keep my mind on my work and trying to make a living. Every week I will use the anchorseal, methanol, or new ideas I monthly pick up, I am so grateful for all your expertise, experiences, and opportunities we have as a club working together. I hope you have enjoyed the burls as much as I have and the process of putting together the steps to ensure a good product that we have been learning. Those burls do have weak spots and will fly apart as I learned the hard way. But are they wild or what??

In the summer months I do not plan to take the full barrel with me each time, but will bring some gallon jugs of sealer and methanol along. If you know you need more let me know, and I can get it to you. If any of you have a need for any specific size wood pieces for turning, let me know and I can cut some up for you. I just cut up some 5X5X16 hackberry blanks for some candle holders I am making for my wife's birthday gift and planning on "ebonizing" then with the vinegar and steel wool solution and the African Tanning Bark I got from Woonsocket. It really gives a rich look to the wood. I have ash, oak, walnut, maple, box elder, elm, pine, birch and a few others, so don't be afraid to contact me for a turning blank for bowls or spindle turning of any size. That is if I can provide it in the size you need. Do not let the lack of a piece of wood prevent you from having some fun.

I just confirmed our visit at the FBT saw mill in Steen MN. It should be great. We will have a short meeting between the tours, demos and sawing. I have asked if they would demo the CNC router machine and

make us a "Siouxland Woodturners" sign, so if any of you have a graphic design in mind for a wood sign, let me know, It should be very educational watching that set up as well as the sawyers in action. Bring you turned projects, shop ideas etc. along also, we always need encouragement and ideas. They make custom furniture, tables, benches, etc. so come for some new ideas and see lots of logs, dryers, and a great shop set up.

Sometimes thing are lost due to timing, opportunity or lack of knowledge. So if you read, see, hear or run across any items for sale, auction, news articles, on line demos, etc., we should have a way of getting the word out. Can we add a chat room for members on the web site? Email links/items to be passed on. Post things on the site members could check on from time to time? Something to work on, but in the meantime my address at dnoteboom@qwestoffice.net could work until we get things on line if it would work. Or call me at 605-359-2991 for those things that just cannot wait.

Until Sat June 2nd at 1:00 at Steen MN or at 12:30 at the East Menards store for the car pool, keep those lathes running.

Doug



Getting to Know Us...

Vernon Monson...

I am retired from IBM, retired from farming, and am now a snowbird during the winter. We live in Leisure World in Mesa, AZ which has a fully equipped wood shop that includes 2 mini lathes and 2 large lathes, along with a host of other woodworking equipment.

When we started going south for the winter I began spending time in the wood shop. While I enjoyed small boxes and other projects I kept looking at the lathes and thinking I want to do that. There didn't seem to be any support for helping newbies so I purchased a mini lathe for my garage. Like many other lathes it soon sat because of the lack of capability on my part. I finally began to figure things out and started by making lots of pens using various tools and sandpaper. I sold the mini lathe and purchased a Nova DVR which I still have.

In addition to the Siouxland Woodturners I also belong to the Arizona Woodturners. While attending these meetings provides a wealth of knowledge and introduction to new techniques and ideas I still felt like there is more to learn. I took a 3 day class with Stuart Batty and was amazed at what that did to move my skills in a positive direction. While I am not a pro by any means I now have confidence to try new ideas. You can read books and watch demos but nothing helps as much as a hands-on class with someone to give you advice as you go. I say if you get a chance for a similar class you will never regret the time and expense (go for it).

I brought my lathe back to SD however my shop is a steel building with no environmental control so it is either hot or cold. My project this summer is to upgrade the shop so I can spend more time turning and less time wiping off sweat. I primarily turn small projects and segmented things. I want to do more with green wood while in SD and hollowing larger items.

My other hobbies that inspire me are golf both in SD and Arizona, reading, watching turning videos on the internet, and occasionally back to the farm to keep up on what is new. I really enjoy our meetings and am glad we expanded to have more summer meetings. Viewing other member projects and demos are a big help in advancing my capability.

WOODTURNING BASICS

Have a Plan! By Royce Meritt

I do not consider myself to be an expert when it comes to woodturning. Far from it! There are elements of woodturning about which I am reasonably comfortable and proficient but there are also things about which I have a lot to learn.

If you're like me, sometimes you're just not happy with how a turning project looks when it is done. I know this is true when it comes to my turning, anyway. In my case, this is often the result of not having a clear, well thought out plan in mind before I mount that piece of wood on the lathe. I am often guilty of just mounting the piece of wood on the lathe, hacking away at it and seeing what it looks like when I'm "done". This type of woodturning presents a couple of problems.

First of all we probably are not taking full advantage of the natural beauty in the wood. It's little wonder we are not happy with how the project turns out. We quite possibly turned away the best looking part of the wood. Take the time to really examine the wood before you mount it on the lathe. Plan your project to make the best use of the grain patterns, size of the blank and to intentionally turn away the less desirable areas.

Secondly, attacking a piece of wood without a well thought out plan does very little to help us improve our turning techniques. This "haphazard" type of turning also teaches us nothing about elements of design. Specific tools used in a specific way yield very specific results. Don't get me wrong, there is more than one way to skin a cat. I can think of at least three tools that can be used to turn a bead and any one of these tools, when used properly, will work just fine. My point is this...If you want a 1/4" wide bead located 1/2" from the top of your object and you want that bead to be 1/4" high, then MAKE THAT HAPPEN! This attention to detail will go a long way toward teaching you tool control as well as helping you learn what looks good and what doesn't.

Last summer I was fortunate enough to attend the national AAW symposium in St. Paul. I attended sessions by many turners whose work I would consider superior to mine. One thing that impressed me was that no matter how simple or complex their work seemed to be, they all approached each piece with a very specific idea of how that piece was going to look when they were done.

So, how do you arrive at your plan? Make a sketch. You don't have to be a great artist. A simple sketch showing the basic shape of your project with dimensions written on it will get you headed in the right direction. Use a picture of another object you like as a guide. You aren't necessarily trying to copy that existing piece exactly, however, if you like the general shape and detail in a piece, trying to turn something that pleases you just as much is a great goal.

One of my personal goals is to approach my turning in a more purposeful way. Have a plan in mind before you ever mount a piece of wood on your lathe and you might just find that you are happier with the results when you are done.

Happy turning!

At the May Meeting...

Siouxland Woodturners
5/5/2012 Minutes

*Meeting called to order by President Doug Noteboom

*Drawing for door prize of 2 blocks of bees wax and boiled linseed oil donated by Doug Noteboom and won by Kermit Limesand and Leroy Boggs.

*Motion to approve the April minutes was passed.

Committee Reports

- A. Frank called in and advised that there was about \$1,200. in the bank.
- B. Gene Wubben advised he had updated the library. He has numbered each item and asked that we also put down the number when checking in and out items.
- C. Royce again stated that if anyone wants to put something in the newsletter to contact him. Alistair Hird was featured in the "Bio of the Month" column.
- D. No new info on the youth/scholarship committee.

Old Business:

- A. Can purchase anchor seal \$10/gal, methanol \$5/gal and sanding pads 7/\$5 after the meeting.
- B. Will talk more about group order at the next meeting
- C. National Symposium in San Jose, California this year.

New Business

June 2nd meeting will be at the FBT sawmill in Steen, MN. Anyone interested in car-pooling meet at the East Menards parking lot by 12:30 pm. July meeting and picnic will be at Corky Miles shop. Directions to be posted. The meeting will be on July 14th starting at 10:00 am with a tool sharpening demo. Potluck at noon. Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair. August 4th meeting will be at Dan Humburg's in Brookings.

- A. It was noted that Hobby Lobby and Michaels has up to 40% off coupons in the paper that could be used for purchasing poly resin for making pens.
- B. Doug's children judged the walnut bowl contest. The winners were:
 - ...Best Basic Bowl – Al Schroeder
 - ...Most Unique – Corky Miles
 - ...Best Finish – Ron Erickson
 - ...Best Overall – Gene Wubben
- C. Show & Tell – items explained and passed around.
- D. With no further business the meeting was adjourned and moved to the shop for kit demonstrations.

Respectfully submitted
Ron Seim, Secretary

Show and Tell items at the May meeting...



Bowl Challenge Entries...



Burls for Sale...



Roughing out a donated burl...



Turning With Kits...



Gene working on a screwdriver



Ron crafting a bottle stopper