

## DEL VAL WOODTURNERS

# Newsletter

The Del Val Woodturners meeting was held Tuesday, April 12, 2005. The meeting was held in The Woodturning Center in Philadelphia. There were 13 members in attendance, including two new members.

Phil Hauser's Open House turning session will be one week from our club meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2005. Phil will be available to help out with your turning problems. In the past, he has advised members on how to chuck a particular piece of wood, or how to sharpen a tool, etc. Phil would like to receive an E-Mail, if you are coming, to know how many members to prepare for. I've found these sessions to be very informative.

Our main topic for last night's meeting was: Drying wood. James Aguanno covered just about every conceivable way to dry wood. He presented information on micro-waving wood, and the dangers of too much heat, resulting in charred wood, also not enough heat, and the wood being too wet and warping later. Liquid Dishwashing Detergent was discussed, but didn't seem to be what the majority was looking for. Also discussed was soaking in De-natured Alcohol. That's soaking the wood in alcohol not the turner. It seemed like a lot of alcohol to handle. We also discussed PEG, (Polyethylene Glycol). This method is also a bit of work. The pieces must be soaked in the PEG solution for quite awhile, and the PEG must be kept at a constant temperature. There are only certain finishes that are compatible with the PEG. Some of the members use Anchor-Seal, which seals the wood, and lets the moisture out uniformly, which is what we are after. Some members use plastic bags and slowly let the moisture out by providing holes in the bag. Some members use the Brown Bag method of drying. Whatever method you use, you need to turn the rough-turned piece to uniform thickness, and leave enough wood to re-turn the piece once it is dry. The members felt that James had covered just about everything to dry a piece successfully. Nice job James.

The next event that I found very exciting was the President's Challenge. Novices were asked to turn a tool handle. Intermediate turners were asked to turn a scoop. The Advanced turners were asked to turn a lidded box or vessel.

All of the pieces were very nice. We had nice handles, and nice scoops, and also some nice boxes and lidded vessels, but the one that out-did us all was Brad Whitman. His piece was a lidded vessel turned from Tiger Maple. The wood was outstanding, and the piece was turned to perfection. The lid fit so well, that Brad had made a place to put your finger in to lift it. This piece should be entered in some further competition. It would be great to see this lidded vessel placed where more people could view it. **Great job Brad!** Brad now has a web-site. [www.bradturnsgreen.com](http://www.bradturnsgreen.com)

The next important topic discussed was a possible new location to meet. We have been enjoying the hospitality of Albert LeCoff and the Woodturning Center. It has been a great location for us, but unsuitable for a lathe. With this in mind, we have been looking for a place to meet where we can have a

lathe to turn on when our topics include a turning demonstration. Steve Leichner has found what should be the ideal place for this to happen. His Church has a basement storage area available. It will require some clean-up and re-arrangements to be made. It was the consensus of the members present that this was something that we could do. The Church is located in Haddonfield near the Speed line. It is easy to get to from the Ben Franklin Bridge if you want to drive from Philly. It is not far from 295, if you are from Jersey. We are making plans to have more members view this location and we'll probably be using this location soon. If you want to see the location in the next couple of weeks, please call Steve Leichner at 856-854-2051 to arrange for a visit.

The Del Val Woodturners would like to thank Albert for his hospitality. With this in mind, Albert is in need of some volunteers. If anyone is interested in helping out at the Woodturning Center, please give Albert a call. The number at the Woodturning Center is: 215 923 8000.

One of the topics discussed was the fact that Craft Supplies no longer give club chapters gift certificates. They have a new policy where any club members calling in orders must mention that they belong to a club to get discounts. Belonging to a local chapter still has an advantage, but no more gift certificates.

On a happier note, Tom Toner won the 50/50. He received \$26.50. Good going Tom!

Our next meeting's topic will be what we all love the most. SANDING! UGH!! What we are looking for is: What do you use to do your sanding? Do you use a flexible shaft? Do you use something you made up yourself? What ever it is bring it in and share with your fellow club members.

The next meeting is held on: May 10, 2005 at the Woodturning Center in Philadelphia. Hope to see you all there.

Don Hart

