

DEL VAL WOODTURNERS

NEWSLETTER

March 14, 2006

The monthly meeting was held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. which was March 14, 2006. We had 21 members present, including 3 new members.

Hands On Workshop: So far 5 members have paid up for the HOW workshop. One member has already paid for and had his workshop. Anyone interested in a workshop, please see Mike Zickler. Mike's phone is 856-234-5063.

There is another trip scheduled to see Walter Balliet's cellar workshop. Walter has a great workshop, which includes a self-built Ornamental lathe, with a rose engine. Walter designs and makes cams for this lathe, and for a friend's lathe. The pieces produced by these lathes are quite spectacular. If you get a chance, you should see his workshop and lathe. Please call Anthony Christaldi at 856-547-8800 to sign up. The date is March 25th, leaving at 1 PM from the Church Parish house.

The Del Val Woodturners still have a Web-Site, and we are in the process of updating it. We hope to include some Links that will pay the club for including them. Anyone having ideas on what else could be added please speak to our club new point man for the Website, Keith Davis, or bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Phil Hauser will have an "Open House" for Turners next Tuesday, March 21, 2006. Anyone with any turning problems, please bring them to the Open House for help.

Anyone needing CA glue, we have a source at a good price. You can buy it yourself, or we can have a Club Buy if you are interested. The glue is very reasonably priced, and it comes with a small tip that seems to keep the glue from setting up in the spout. The name is "Starbond". Call 800-900-4583 to order.

On April 29, 2006, Siegfried Schreiber a Master Turner from Germany will give a demonstration, making small pieces at the Woodturning Center in Philadelphia. There will also be an opportunity to tour the John Grass Woodturning Shop, a short distance from The Woodturning Center. The John Grass Shop is one of the oldest shops in the country, and looks as if it was working until yesterday.

The Utah Woodturning Symposium is held in Provo, Utah, June, 15, 16, 17. I have been attending for the last 10 years, and will be going again this year. The AAW Symposium is the following week in Louisville Kentucky. Anyone going to either of these Symposiums, kindly let me know.

Our Treasurer, Herb Kurtz, who takes such good care of our finances, is convalescing after having eye surgery. Get well soon Herb, we need you to keep a “good” eye on our finances.

One of our Vice-Presidents, Steve Leichner has a great idea for a Bulletin Board. Have a picture taken of yourself at the lathe, and bring it to be placed on the Bulletin Board. This will enable the club members to view a portion of one another’s shop, and see us in action. I can’t wait to bring a picture of myself in my crowded shop. You will be in for a real treat. My shop is patterned after my “Hero”, the great “Bill Jones” from England. Bill wrote for the Woodturning magazine from England for many years, and has also written two or three books. His small crowded shop has a collection of three or more lathes, and 30 or more years of home-made tools and bone, ivory, and wood too good to throw away.

We had a nice “Show and Tell”, but we were anxious to see Tom Jackson demo, and didn’t get around to discussing it. There was a nice Walnut bowl, a laminated bowl, two walking sticks, and a ladies necklace watch. Also included was the bowl Phil had last month that was a bit thin on the bottom. Phil found a solution, and the bowl looks as if it was never altered.

We now have a club library of both tapes, and books. Robert Jay is our Librarian. The club voted to have a \$3.00 fee for tape rentals for one month. We are going to have a list of books that are available, and we will be able to go on our Web-Site and reserve a book which will be brought in to the following meeting. Handled this way, Robert won’t have to carry all of the books to each meeting. We haven’t discussed fees for the books at this time.

Anthony Christaldi won the 50/50, and generously donated a portion to the club. Thanks Anthony.

Now for the good part. Tom Jackson, a member of our sister club, The First State Woodturners, was our demonstrator. Tom has been turning roughly 10 years now, and has been teaching for 3 or more years. If you have ever heard the term “No Fear”, that’s Tom with the “Skew”. Tom is a friend of the Skew, and with some help from him and a lot of practice, we could all be friends with our Skew.

Tom fearlessly roughs down squares with the skew as if it were a “Roughing Gouge”. Tom explains how the tool must be sharp, and rubbing the bevel is essential with the skew as with any tool. The tool needs to be supported as near directly under the portion doing the cutting as possible. Tom forces the tool through the wood when he is roughing down, and then gently and smoothly takes a cut which leaves the wood with very little sanding. Which is something we are all looking forward to doing. Tom emphasizes to keep the skew and all tools sharp, and rub the bevel.

One of Tom’s tricks is to turn the lathe off, and then walk himself through the movements that he will be doing when he is making a cut. With a bead, he puts himself

through the movements while the lathe is not running, and then he can see just where the tool will be in relation to the wood while rolling the bead. I feel that even if you couldn't grasp all of Tom's demo, this portion alone will help you become much friendlier with your skew.

Tom used the bowl gouge and the parting tool, to show how many tools can do the same thing. Some tools do a better job in a particular area. The skew does not do a very narrow deep cove, because it won't physically fit in the area needing to be cut. A large spindle gouge won't either, because of its size. A small spindle gouge is needed to do a narrow deep cove, but a skew can be used to make a wide shallow cove. Tom also turned beads with a parting tool. An efficient turner will make whatever shape he can with the tool that he already has in his hand. This will save time and energy.

Tom also used the "Point" tool. This tool is made from round stock and has three flats ground converging to a point at the tip. This tool is handled just backward from most other tools, and takes a little getting used to. Tom plunges the point in to the wood, and then rolls it "uphill" and makes one side of the bead. He then plunges the point in to the wood on the other side and rolls it "uphill" again to cut the other side of the bead. With a little practice, this tool will make beads fast and without "catches". Something we would all like to avoid.

I've had the good fortune of seeing Tom demo a few times now, and I always pick up something useful. Tom took the time to allow members to try the skew under his guidance. I think this helped the members build confidence in themselves, which will help them become better turners.

Thanks Tom, for a job well done!!

Don't forget! On April 11th, our next meeting date, the Club Challenge is due. This time it is a piece that must have some sort of surface decoration, carving, painting burning etc. I look forward to a variety of interesting pieces.

Don Hart