

DEL VAL NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Del Val Woodturner's
September 12, 2006

The monthly meeting was held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., which was September 12, 2006. We had 22 members present, including two new members. Welcome aboard fellows.

Our club president, Phil Hauser, opened the meeting and welcomed all members. Phil spoke about the upcoming visit to a collector of wood turning in Philadelphia by the name of Joe Seltzer. Joe had visited our club, and brought a few pieces, when we used to meet in Cinaminson NJ. If you are interested in visiting Joe, E-Mail Phil and let him know. spartakus@comcast.net

Phil introduced a letter from Lyle Jameson, a world renowned turner, who has a jig for sale to keep a constant length when you place your tool in the Wolvering jig. Anyone interested in purchasing this jig, kindly inform Phil.

Phil raised the possibility of having David Nittmann, Cindy Drozda's companion, do a workshop on his beautiful basket illusion pieces. Anyone interested please contact Phil. We need to know if there are enough people interested to make it cost efficient.

Mike Zickler who is heading up our HOW workshop again this year, was asked if there was enough interest to have a workshop before the end of this year. It looks as if it won't happen until next year, probably in April.

Club member, Robert Jay, a local artist using wood as a medium, informed us of a gallery in Collingswood who would be interested in showing woodturned pieces for a month in their Gallery. Perkins Art Gallery has 2000 square foot of space to show galleried pieces. We would probably have to make a few stands for some of the pieces. The pieces would not necessarily have to be for sale, but if you want to sell them, there would be a 30 % charge. The time has not been decided, but will probably be in April, May, or June. We would probably include members from other local turning clubs.

One of our long standing club members, Phil Snyder, is going to discontinue turning wood, but will be collecting turned pieces, and will continue to be a member. Phil has a Vic-Mark VL 100 with a variable speed motor, that will be for sale along with some tools and accessories. If interested please contact Phil. I know from experience that the Vic-Mark VL 100 is a great lathe. Contact Phil pasidingo@aol.com (856) 231-9031. Phil lives in Mount Laurel, NJ.

A club member mentioned that Robert Cutler, who is known for the fantastic finish that he puts on his pieces would like to have some hits on his Web-Site which is

www.rjcutler.com , his e- mail is Woodturner_1999@yahoo.com

Our Show and Tell was great as usual. We had some low silhouette outstanding pieces hollowed from a small opening, and somewhat similar shaped hollow pieces with pyrography. We had maple burl hollow pieces with natural edge, and we had tall hollow pieces with a small opening. All were very nice, and each one unique. We also had a large Walnut bowl with lots of “character”.

I felt that the highlight of the evening was the response to our President’s Challenge. The challenge was to make whatever you wanted from a construction grade 2X4 8 foot long. One other type of wood could be used, as long as it was one square foot or less. There were three pieces that were about 3 foot tall. One was a copy of a bird house in the Woodturning Design book, and one was a free standing table with spirals cut in the column. The other one was a column that was decorated with different sized spheres that were painted in many colors. We had a hanging birdhouse made from segmented pieces, and a couple of segmented hollow vessels with larger sized openings.. We even had a large platter. They were all winners, but the one that took the \$25.00 prize was a “lazy susan”. It had four rails supported by spindles. Two of the rails were of a contrasting piece of walnut. It was very well done, and was a real eye catcher. Then came the surprise. The piece had a secret compartment. Well done Jason.

The rest of our program was “Sharpening”. In my humble opinion learning to sharpen is harder than learning to turn wood. There was a sharpening DVD from the AAW being played upstairs for anyone who wished to see it. We also had grinders available for anyone who wanted some help on sharpening. Of course, each one of us has our own ideas on how a gouge should be sharpened. Woe to the fellow who asked more than one turner for help. Many of us use the Wolverine System, and this advice I offer is based on that system. I think that the best way to go is to look at a gouge that you would like to imitate, and then draw a pattern of the jig that was used, and make or adjust your jig to match it. This way you can start out with the correct angle for that particular grind. Another way that works for me, is to borrow the gouge that you like, and put it in your jig. Then with the grinder off, put black ink on the part that was ground. By adjusting the Vari- arm jig up or down, and the V-arm in or out, you can tell by rotating the wheel by hand, when you are touching the wheel correctly. This takes a little time, because when you move one, the other is off. A little perseverance is necessary, but in time it will work. Then just replace the borrowed gouge with your gouge, and start grinding. Don’t forget to mark the jig, with a vibrating tool, file, or with “white-out” so that you can find it again. I mark mine with all three. I also trace the vari-arm jig onto a card with the name of the gouge for a back-up.

Phil also showed us how a very famous turner from England, Stuart Batty, sharpens scrapers with a negative angle. If the scraper has a negative angle ground on the top side before you do the regular grind on the scraper, it miraculously stops being grabby, and making the dreaded “catches” that we all worry about. This works especially

well on the top inside of natural edged pieces. The only draw back, is that the scraper needs sharpening more often than usual. This is a small price to pay to keep from having the dreaded "catch". Thanks for the Info Phil.

Phil's "Open House" will be one week from our meeting night, which will be Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be on October 10, 2006. Hope to see all of you there.