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# AS THE WOOD TURNS

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**July 2013 - Issue number 190 - Minutes of the June 25, 2013 meeting**

**Nigel's annual party on July 20<sup>th</sup> takes the place of our regular July meeting and hands-on** from 10am until the last person leaves. There will also be a tool sale. *Beginning turners are invited to a learning opportunity at the next Hands On. This instruction will be one on one. Spindle or bowl turning techniques will be covered. Please reserve your lathe with David Rice at [dergas5@aol.com](mailto:dergas5@aol.com)*



Pictured is a sampling of Jim Leatherwood's bird house and acorn ornaments along with his latest, a toadstool with a natural edge. They can be on a stand or hanging from a tree. Different sizes, different wood, different prices.

Visitors : Sue, Jim Leatherwood's wife

Ernie's passing was briefly discussed. Emilio brought in some of Ernie's articles as editor of the Central New England Woodturners Assn. and read excerpts to everyone. Some of Ernie's tools and woodturning equipment were on display for sale to members at "make an offer" prices per his wishes. Time was allotted for members to relate stories about Ernie as a remembrance. {see "items for sale" at the end of this newsletter for information about Ernie's lathes}.

Wayne said that the club currently has \$3256.26 on account.

Nigel announced that there is a show in Plymouth. It is juried and items on display are to be for sale. However they have no insurance against damage or theft. If interested contact Nigel for more information.

## 2013 MSSW Officers

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## Next Summer party

**Saturday, July 20, 2013** at Nigel's address - 9 Wallace St., Berkeley, Ma.

**From 10am until last person leaves**  
**Refreshments** – bring dessert or appetizers or? To Nigel's place

**Member Challenge** - show up and have a good time,

**Demonstration** – : non scheduled

Nigel announced that through the AAW, Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sarah Robinson will give a talk on the “Spalting of Wood”. It will be live on the internet at 10 am our time consisting of an hour and a half demo and a half hour for Q & A. You will be able to talk to her through interactive video. There is a \$200 fee per club. Nigel proposed that the club pay for it and make it free to members and also take the place of the Hands On. It was voted on and passed by members.

Nigel also announced that the club has received gift vouchers of \$10 each from Craft Supplies and will make them available to members at future events.

Bob Allen reported on the South Shore Arts Festival in Cohasset. He said it was a good show, good weather and we had good quality items for sale. The exhibitors took in a total of \$4048. gross. Only two checks were written, the rest being either cash or credit card. Contributing to the success was the second tent used for demonstrations being set up alongside the sales tent on the sidewalk rather than positioned to the rear as in the past. It generated a great deal of interest. Ian was turning tops so fast, he burned up the motor on his lathe.

Ian spoke up and mentioned that the replacement motor should be equipped with a variable speed switch going forward.

Wally asked the group for any comments on the pricing of items for sale. Nigel replied that pricing is the hardest part. John Voloudakis mentioned that it depends on the show, if it is an art show prices are expected to be high. If it is a county fair they need to be low. Jim Leatherwood said that he prices his items to be more than he would pay to have them in his home.

Nigel held up his hollowform turning of black ash burl. The wood being given to him after he refused payment from the president of the Rhode Island club and said it would be a \$600 piece for sale at the next event he attended.

Dave Rice mentioned that the July 20<sup>th</sup> picnic at Nigels will feature a tool sale and members are welcome to bring tools to sell. If it is a large piece (i.e. a lathe) bring a photo of it instead. If it doesn't sell, take it home with you. There is no club donation involved.

Steve Wiseman announced that the club has CA glue again available for sale to members.

Dave Rice announced that Jesse Meyer was in the Brockton Hospital and has been for about a month. (Actually his wife says it was for six weeks) but that as of today (June 27<sup>th</sup>) Jesse is now in rehab and is coming home next Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. –and that is good news!

## **Demonstration**

Demo by Jim Leatherwood on small birdhouses as ornaments



Jim explained that he turns a variety of small birdhouses for sale at shows out of whatever wood is handy. He prices the dyed ones at \$35 - 40, the plain ones at \$30, little acorns are \$25 and his newest, mushrooms with a bark natural edge at \$25.

**Jim's handout :** I save small blocks of wood as I part them off or cut them off larger billets I prepare, just because I am so frugal or to be more exact, too cheap! I will cut these blocks up as described below and fashion small to medium size bird houses, some ornate, some like acorns etc. I will sell these at various vendor fairs from 25 to 35 dollars on a regular basis. They sell quite well at the Fall fairs for Christmas. I also have made some simple stands and will sell them with the houses throughout the year! These Bird Houses are quite simple;

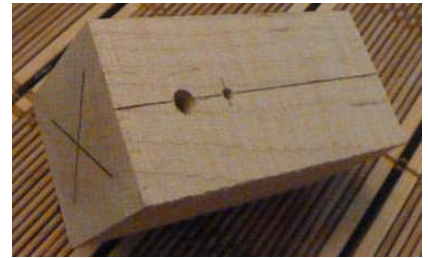
Blank preparations: Bottom Blank:  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " to 4 - 5" long in dimension. Mark or scribe a line laterally down the center of the blank (from top to bottom). Find and mark the center of the top (engrain) of the blank with a pencil using intersecting crossing lines

Now locate the centers for the holes that need to be drilled.

Top hole is to be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " down from top of blank intersecting the middle on the centering line marked in the middle of the blank

Bottom hole is to be  $\frac{1}{8}$ " in diameter,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " down from top of blank below the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole on the centering line marked in the middle of the blank above it.

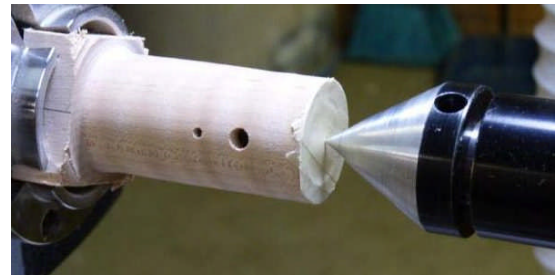
Drill both respective holes into the middle of the blank as shown in



Top Blank: 2" x 2" x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " to 4" long in dimension. Mark the center on the endgrain. There are no other specific preparations for the top blank other than to use a contrasting color of Wood.

**Prepare the bottom of the birdhouse:**

1.) Chuck up bottom blank with drill holes outwards towards the tail stock. Be careful to center the blank at the live center end using the "X" marked in the engrain. Note: With standard 50 mm jaws I frequently chuck up square stock up to 2" square.



2.) Turn bottom blank approximately  $1\frac{3}{8}$ " —  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. This diameter can vary according to your desires but, DO NOT begin to turn the bottom of the birdhouse yet. Just turn your best finish diameter.



3.) Remove tail stock, insert a chuck with 1" Forstner Bit. Drill engrain approximately  $1\frac{3}{8}$ " deep just enough to clear smaller (post)  $\frac{1}{8}$ " hole.

Again, if you make a smaller diameter house/bowl you'll need a smaller bit.

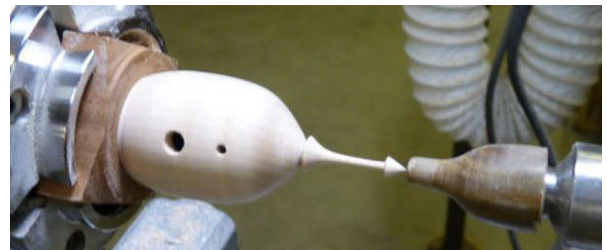
4.) I cut out a small square tenon at the top of the opening to accommodate the top.

Turn the bottom bowl of the Birdhouse as desired with or Without a finial. Before parting off, sand and finish as desired  
NOTE: If a friction polish is going to be your desired finish, NOW would be the time to apply it! ! ! !



5.) Part off the house/bowl. I use a large cone center positioned inside the hollowed out bowl and with slight pressure from the live center I part and finish off the bottom with a detail gouge. A parting tool is the other option.

6.) Now make a 1" jamb chuck out of the remaining stock or a piece of scrap. Place the open end of the birdhouse on the jamb chuck. I save and keep several of these around just for this purpose. I also have made a flat blunt cone that fits over my live center to move up and put slight pressure in the tip of the bottom of birdhouse if a more refined tip is needed to be cut. Also helpful for a friction polish. Finish off the bottom of the birdhouse.





### Now prepare the top of the birdhouse:

7.) Now I chuck up the 2" square top stock and turn the desired diameter — In this case 1 3/4" — 1 7/8". True up the engrain and make a mortise to receive the tenon you made and left on the body. Fit the body into the top, a tight snap fit is not necessary as this will be glued later



8.) Turn the top to your desired shape, sand, finish and part off.

NOTE: If a friction polish is going to be your desired finish, NOW would be the time to apply it.

9.) For the Post, I use a branch from a tree or twig however I have also turned small 1/8" diameter post. However, I think they look too contrived and I prefer the look of the twig. Your choice that's why they have black, red, blue, yellow, etc.. Assemble the top to the bottom using medium CA glue and the post to the bottom 1/8" hole of the birdhouse.



10.) I now put a drill chuck in the drive of the lathe and using a number # 56 drill bit I drill a hole in the top of the roof of the bird house to receive an eye.

I use an Eagle Claw plain shank # 2 hook. Cut the hook at the bend and fit the eye into the hole drilled with the #56 drill bit and secure with medium CA glue. I finish by dipping the entire birdhouse in 1/2 lacquer and 1/2 lacquer thinner, 3 times a charm.

*(The Eagle Claw hook and 1/2 and 1/2 solution of lacquer & thinner is an Ian Manley method, THANKS Ian! !)*

I have attempted to be as thorough as I can, not to bore you with detail but to include all. Good luck and Thanks Again!! Jim Leatherwood

**Challenge for the June meeting** – (1)there were more blanks of the Downes & Reeder Lumber handed out so the May challenge is continued to June.&/or (2)glue some pen blanks, or 4 like size pieces of different wood together, and turn a small box or bowl.



Wally's challenge piece with multi axis turning into a feminine shape and some more multi axis pieces.

Ben Natale's challenge consisted of two blanks glued together and turned as a hollowform.

## Show and Tell



Some of the Show & Tell items



Bill Dooley showed a Maple burl box w/outstanding figure, and a natural edge Maple burl box with a pink golf ball on the top, "next year's golf trophy for his friends and relatives in Ohio".



Nigel's Black Ash burl hollowform from wood given him by the Rhode Island woodturners club president



Jim Flannery has an inside out turning to which he added a top and bottom finial and finished with tung oil



Bill George showed us a Black Walnut natural edge bowl with the bark removed. He finished it with tung oil.



Wayne is holding donut shaped weed pots. The first is Lacewood finished w/Spar varnish, the second is segmented Yellowheart and Bubinga, finished w/Spar varnish. The test tube's were acquired at a previous club meeting here.

Jim Leatherwood's hollowform of Cedar which gets thicker as you go toward the bottom. The opening is a natural edge



Andy showed a Maple vessel, dyed initially with black, then followed that with other colors. It's finial is Tulipwood, & it is finished w/Urethane oil & buffed. A second vessel (from a piece of Pine from his yard) was bug infested, dyed blue, & then torched which vaporized the dye, and finally sprayed w/Krylon sealer.

Ken showed a commissioned piece, turned a piece of Maple, he bleached it and dyed it between the spalted areas. Then he outlined where the dye ended with a Sharpie. Cracks got the same Sharpie treatment. "-if you can't hide it, embellish it", he says.





Steve Wiseman has two demo bowls from the Cohasset festival  
One is Cherry with a natural edge, the other is Spalted Maple.



Jeff's carved lion head from an antique shop on the Cape. *Looks like the Penn State mascot to me.*

## June Hands-on



Bob Courchesne



Bob Courchesne and Ian Manley



Ken Whiting and Wayne Miller



Bob Allen and Bob Sutter



Nigel Howe and Wally Kemp



Glenn Schaefer

## Coming events and shows

See Michael Veno for more information - the Summerfest in Brockton {aka Brockton Arts & Craft Show} is August 17<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm. We will turn tops and sell - it costs \$25 to sell your turned items. We can demo indoors. The club will participate as voted by members.

Fuller Craft Museum exhibit Across the Grain: Turned and Carved Wood (April 7 - September 15, 2013)

Central CT club is hosting Jimmy Clewes on Aug 17 for a demo day – cost is \$20 and includes lunch. Demo is probably in Manchester, CT

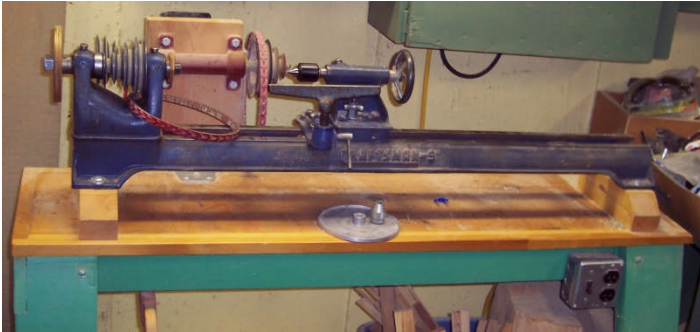
## Items for sale

**Club store :** We have CA glue 2 oz \$4, 8 oz \$12, 16oz \$21. Accelerator 2 oz spray \$3, 8 oz refill \$5. Debonder 2 oz \$3. Anchor seal \$15/gallon. Hats \$15. Sanding discs, Steve Worcester 2" \$2.50, 3" \$4/10 PAC, Klingspor 2" \$2.25, 3" \$3.25.

**stevwsmn@aol.com** Steve Wiseman

Ernie Grimes had 7 lathes. The lathes will be available for inspection and purchase at the club cookout at Nigel's Saturday, July 20th as part of the member tool sale. If you want to buy one before the party, call Nigel at 508-837-3394.

Pictured below are lathes for sale - please come to the party and take them away.



551- Craftsman with a 9" swing, 40" bed \$10.



552- Delta with a 14" swing and a 48" bed \$50



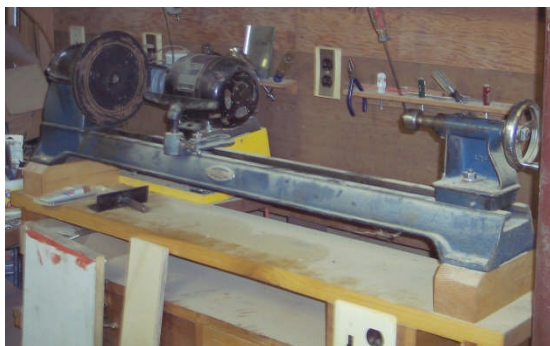
553- Walker- Turner Co. with a 14" swing, 44" bed \$10.



556- small metal Craftsman lathe \$10



560- Craftsman lathe 8-10" swing, 38" bed \$10



557- Craftsman lathe 8" swing, 36" bed \$10



559- Delta lathe 10" swing, 25" bed needs motor but a motor might be available at the party. \$10

**Blue Mule lathe** - \$300 o.b.o Peter Cahill

**Jet Mortiser** - retail \$355, buy now for \$200 From [charlesrosen@comcast.net](mailto:charlesrosen@comcast.net)

**Jet 126 lathe** \$350 – Bernie Feinerman, 508-990-0863, [feinerman@comcast.net](mailto:feinerman@comcast.net)

**Most of the items listed in previous newsletters for sale are still available.  
We are having a tool sale at the July party/meeting at Nigel's.**