

AS THE WOOD TURNS

May 2018 - Issue number 243

Next Hands On's are May 19th and June 9th.

We invite beginning turners to a learning opportunity at the Hands On for one on one instruction. Spindle or bowl turning techniques will be covered. Please reserve your lathe with Pablo Gazmuri @ pgazmuri@comcast.net



Pictured is the Sunday Hands On group following Derek Weidman's Saturday turning presentation.

Left to right are Joe Centrino, Tim Rix, Derek Weidman, Fred Johnson, Bob Allen and Steve Wiseman.

Bob is holding the challenge piece they will be turning. Just to the right is the Owl Derek turned in his presentation

Minutes of the April 24th meeting

Nigel announced that he is putting his house on the market and he plans to move to Maryland to be closer to his two daughters there. Nigel also said he needs someone to take care of procuring and storing the Anchor Seal supply for the club.

Steve told us the Cape Cod club is planning a Video Demo Day with Mike Mahoney on the other end. This is probably the wave of the future as professional turners are expensive to fly in, house and pay for two days of presentations.

On a separate note we need people to demo for the Arnold Arboretum show. Nigel asked Steve if he could relay to the Arboretum people that the wood we were supplied to turn for their show was branch wood and hence straight grained. Steve replied that their arborist belongs to a different woodturning club.

Steve mentioned that the House of Prayer Lutheran church on Route 228 in Hingham has changed their Octoberfest event. I called the church and was told that it will be just a one day event this year taking place on

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Tuesday May 22, 2018

- at Hank's dust bowl at 409
Washington St., Abington, MA at 7 pm

Refreshments – by Skip Brown

Demo – A bird's mouth bowl will
be turned by Steve Wiseman.

June demo will be a winged bowl
turned by Ian.

Saturday, September 29th. There will still be a tent set up for the German band and tables for food and inside the church will be booth space for a reduced number of crafters.

Steve said that the club display with a train and supporting area that we erected for the AAW event in Pittsburgh is in need of a new storage place. It was decided that Charlie McCarthy will bring it to the next meeting for disposition.

Also the proposal to make the latter part of our meetings a focus for the business end of the discussion is not going to happen. The format will remain the same as it has been.

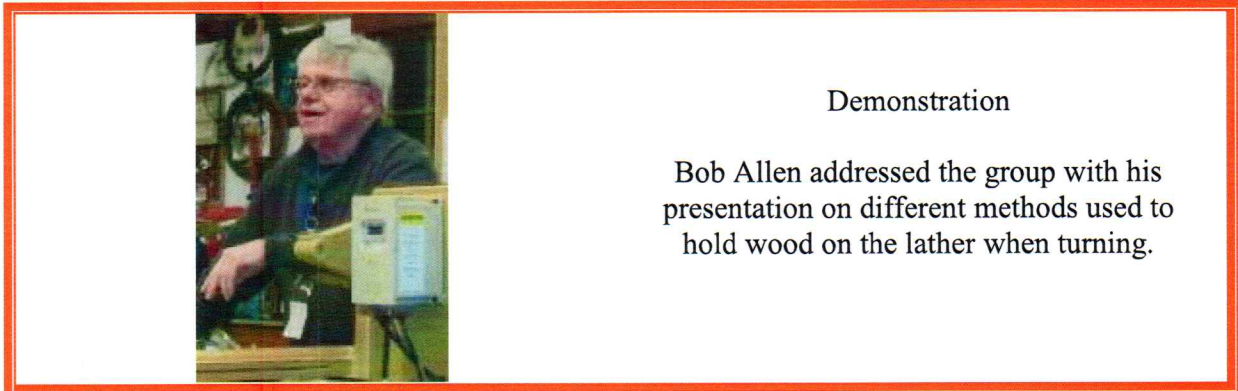
John gave the treasurers report and mentioned that the club has 62 members paid up. We have \$2580.25 on account currently.

Ron Reynolds said he still has some unpaid I.O.U.s

Lenny Mandeville said that he would take care of procuring a video from this weekend's demonstrator, Derek Weidman for the library.

On Cohasset, the Events Committee through Ken Lindgren said that the club needs members to distribute the workload. Specifically we need a chair or co-chairs for the event to line up people to man the booth, turn tops, break the display down and to figure out how many pieces each turner gets to display. We also need someone familiar with credit card sales.

The Ninth New England Turning Symposium will take place Saturday May 12th at the Pinkerton Academy in Derry, New Hampshire. It is \$75 to register (\$85 at the door) and lunch is included. Hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers and the Granite State Woodturners.



Chucks- Bob began his presentation giving a general overview of different ways to secure a piece of wood on the lathe and passed around the jaws of five different chucks to allow members to observe their methods of holding work on the lathe between centers.

Spur drives- Bob explained that he likes a two bladed spur drive for heavy work. He drills a 1 1/2" hole into the center with a Forstner bit which allows it to be inserted into the piece firmly securing it to the headstock. Nigel asked if it makes a difference where the spur is positioned in terms of grain alignment. Bob replied that he has not found this to be a problem whether it is side grain, off center positioning or end grain.

Bob told us that Steb Centers are nice to use for turning when you are afraid of a catch because you can tighten the stock up. It's center pin is spring loaded.

Bob said that the One Way cup center works well also

There are live centers sold through Craft Supply which are made in China and they are just as good as others and cheaper to buy.

Faceplates - when you use a faceplate do not use drywall screws as they are brittle and can break off. Use woodscrews instead.

Returning to the subject of jaws for chucks, Bob mentioned that when they are made, they are manufactured with a circle shape and then cut apart so you have a small gap in between each one. When you turn a piece on the lathe, it turns in a perfect circle. You don't want the jaws holding it to be out of this circle or they will only be holding the piece by points. Hence a tenon must be turned to fit the contour of the jaws to better secure the piece on the lathe.

You also need to create a recess gap the same size as the tenon for maximum contact. This is a gap between the bottom of the chuck jaws and the actual piece which allows it to be totally supported by the jaws themselves.

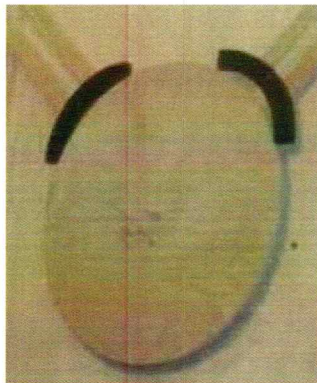
In building a tenon be careful how you size it. Besides being big enough, it needs to fit into the chuck properly.



Here are five different types of chuck jaws which were passed around during Bob's presentation.



Bob used a board with simulated chuck jaws to show us what can happen if a piece is too large to be supported by the chuck on the lathe.



Here we see the points of the jaws are the only part holding this "piece" on the lathe.



The jaws are also not big enough to support the "piece" from the inside out either.

Show and Tell



Paul O'Neil holds a Cherry bowl he turned with Bill Dooley and also showed us this Birch bowl



Wally turned a thin walled Ambrosia Maple champagne glass. He said it "should be thinner".



Charlie showed an earring holder styled after one his wife saw on Pinterest and a natural edge long stemmed goblet with an Ebony stem.



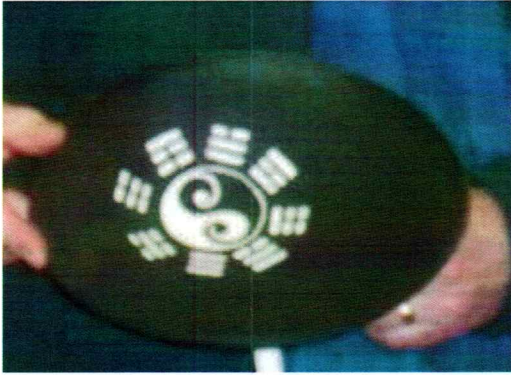
Peter is holding a shallow Maple bowl with some of the bark left on for decoration.



Bill Dooley holds a thin little plate he turned from Norfolk Island Pine. Nicely spalted



Kevin showed a large Ambrosia natural edge Maple bowl with a wax finish which he says he has not finished it yet, then a Hickory bowl with a smooth edge turned wet twice using a microwave to dry the wood in between sessions. He found warpage was kept to a minimum this way. He had sealed it with Anchor Seal in between which was drawn into the fibers during the microwave process. It was also waxed using Crystallon base wax, and finally showed a Maple (?) bowl which he turned and decorated with a chatter tool before applying dye as an experiment.



Andy has what he refers to as a "simple turning" which he stippled and added legs. The legs were originally part of the tenon which he cut out and chiseled round. He then painted and lacquered the piece

Andy also showed a square block of Orange Agate wood from Cook Woods. He turned it to an eighth of an inch thick and finished it with Urethane oil.



Ken Lindgren is holding a natural edge three footed bowl turned wet with a "lake" on the bottom. The latter was created with the use of coffee grounds and glue and one clear coat of epoxy.



Joe has a small Black Cherry bowl turned from wood from his sister's yard and also showed us a large Ambrosia Maple platter with a bark occlusion on the edge

Lenny holds an Ambrosia Maple vase with crotch he turned wet. He used Wipe-on Poly for the finish, He also showed a Tiger Maple with a darker collar.



Steve showed a large natural edge Ambrosia Maple bowl with a nicely detailed crotch in the center, and also turned this large natural edge Ambrosia Maple vase.

Derek Weidman – demonstration and workshop



Derek Weidman presentation of multi-axis work on the lathe with a wide range of carving applications during the weekend of April 28th and 29th

Cost was \$40 for the general session and demo Saturday with lunch included and \$80 for the Hands On Sunday for personal attention. There were also raffle items (some gift certificates from Craft Supply and American Wood, three items from Woodcraft and some miscellaneous tools) at the Saturday session. One very large elm burl donated by the Rhode Island Woodturners was won by Paul Lavalee, a new member.

Turning- His subject was the Horned Owl. The wood was ash which has a distinctive grain. Derek used safety centers to hold the ash block on the lathe. They have a circle around a point. The wood stops spinning when you get a catch thus minimizing damage. Derek said he likes his centers sunk into the wood for safety. It makes it harder for the wood to wander. He started turning the ears with the lathe spinning around 400 rpm. He remarked that he does not measure as a rule but rather eyeballs where each cut needs to be made.

He said his multi-axis rule is to put your centers away from what you want to cut keeping it as balanced between them as possible. Derek told us his work is curated with mistakes, if you don't allow for this process your work is not going to improve. You're always going to get a smoother cut if you turn up the speed but safety is a factor here. Wherever your cut exits the wood is where you may get a blowout-not where you enter. He prefers to turn green wood. Not only is it easier but the centers seat themselves well in green wood. Heavy handled tools also help with this type of turning.

Derek said, "How do I get the shape of the face? I get asked this a lot. We are naturally hard wired to see a human face in almost anything we look at. I've been turning for fifteen years. Four years in, I began multi-axis work."

Steve Wiseman spoke up and said that Barbara Dill explains multi-axis turning more clearly than anyone else he has ever heard. "You have to like what you are producing", he added.

Derek continued, "The owl's eye is round so we will aim for that. A lot of the shapes I go for are basic. If the eye is not right, it ruins the image." Derek said that starting out he made a lot of mistakes, "-but if I do ten variations, I'm going to learn more and more. There is something subtle about that which you don't have control of."

Hunches are the most valuable thing to have for each step in multi-axis turning. Sometimes there is a problem mounting the piece for the next cut on the lathe and you have to just cut it by hand. Limitations end up being a kind of strength.

"All these cuts, it is still ideal having the grain be symmetrical. In my world it's less sanding and more decoration, leaving it rough and choppy but still attractive. -and a blowtorch solves a lot of problems! I use small cuts then stop and look then repeat so that my turning doesn't get wings and fly off the lathe. As you move along toward the end result, you need to be more careful in your cuts."

After shaping, Derek uses a torch to clean things up. The wetter the wood, the greater the control of the burning.

Carving- Derek began by using an Arbor tech mini grinder with a fine grit wheel from Sabertooth. He told us it is good for touchup and detail and allows for controlled cuts. After which, he reapplied the torch to those areas he ground.

Hollowing- Derek told us it is best to hollow the inside out of wet wood. It helps prevent distortion and cracking. For the owl, Derek said he likes to leave about 1 3/4" uniformly of thickness inside. For hollowing he used a Stihl battery powered chainsaw with a carving blade (chain).

Detailing- Detailing was done with a NSK tool like a RotoZip with a double flute (available at Home Depot). You can also use an Oz Plus Micro Tool

Burning Decoration- Derek uses various small burning tools to enhance detail like the eye on his work



Pictured is a commissioned piece Derek turned of a mallard duck with cattails both mounted on a metal stand which was custom designed for them.



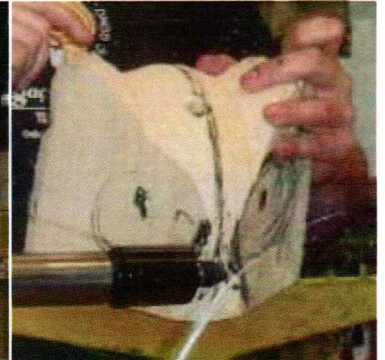
another sample turning by Derek.



Derek began by discussing different shapes of heads of animals and asked for suggestions. He settled on an owl. In the top photo he has begun shaping the rounded top of the owl's head.



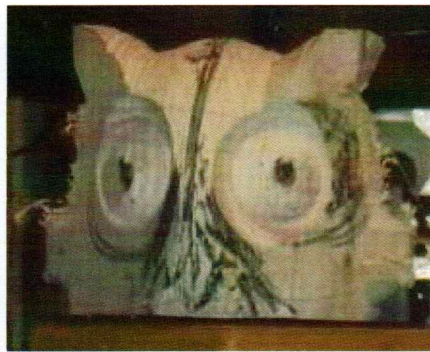
Derek refines the shape of the top of the head here.



Derek draws the center line and outlines where the eyes will go.



Here we see the axis upon which our owl has been mounted to turn the first eye.



Both eyes have been turned and it is break time.



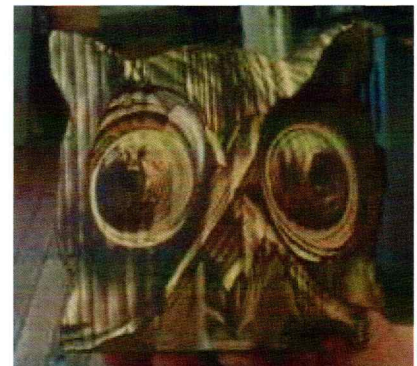
Here we see the shaping of the sides of the owl's head.



Derek shows us the owl with a formed beak. The turning has been completed.



Next step is coloring done with the use of a blow torch. Our owl was turned from ash which with its coarse grain allowed detail to be enhanced with burning.



Our owl after having been torched



Here Derek details the owl with the use of an Arbor tech mini grinder available at Woodcraft which uses a Tungsten wheel with a fine tooth grinder from Sabertooth.



Derek has a battery operated Stihl chain saw with which he removes material from the inside of the head. Derek likes to keep about an inch and three quarters for the inside wall thickness. He says it helps prevent warping and distorting this way as the wet wood dries. Also with wet wood, it allows for more controlled burning whereby only the top or high points of the wood surface are burned rather than torching the entire surface.



Derek uses a small hand held burning tool to highlight certain features such as outlining the eyes.

Upcoming Events

The Second Parish Arts Festival takes place May 4th through May 14th. It's open daily from 10 am until 8 pm and Sundays from noon until 4 pm. It's located at 685 main Street, Hingham. Ken Lindgren said you can bring up to 6 or 7 pieces. They take 35% of the sale. If interested in exhibiting items (which you drop off to them) contact Jeff or Steve Wiseman.

The 5th New England Woodturning Symposium takes place Saturday May 12th at Pinkerton Academy in Derry New Hampshire. The \$75 registration fee includes a box lunch. It is sponsored by the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers and the Granite State Woodturners.

South Shore Arts Festival Father's Day weekend on Cohasset's Common

[AAW's 32nd Annual International Symposium! June 14 -17, 2018](#)

Arboretum show - Columbus Day weekend (October 6th & 7th).

Articles of general interest

Dues -It's that time of year again. Club dues are now due for 2018. You can pay at any meeting of Hands-On by Cash, Check or Credit Card or you can go to the club website to pay through PayPal using a Credit Card. Remember to fill in the note field if you are paying for someone other than yourself. Dues are \$50.00 per person.

<http://www.msswt.org/membership.html>

From: **peter soltz** <psoltz29@gmail.com> "Sidney and I have combined our collections of Woodsmiths, and we have issues 7 thru 145 available for no charge if one our members would like them".

Items For sale at the Club store : – contact Ron Reynolds at reynoldsron@comcast.net

JSP respirators spare parts (batteries, tear off shields, filters, pre-filters, and replacement face shield) available in the store

MSSWT MEMBER STORE

GLUES:		PRICE
	2 OZ. CA	4.50
	2 OZ. RUBBERIZED	6.00
	8 OZ. CA	13.00
	16 OZ. CA	23.00
	THICK, MEDIUM, THIN. SAME PRICE	
	2 OZ. ACCELERATOR (spray bottle)	3.50
	8 OZ ACCEL. REFILL	5.75
	2 OZ. DEBONDER	3.25
	4 OZ. EPOXY	6.00
	2 OZ. REPLACEMENT CAPS	0.50
	LONG NOZZLES	0.75
	2 OZ. EMPTY BOTTLES	0.75
ANCHORSEAL:		
	LARGE (approx 1 gallon)	16.00
	MEDIUM (approx. 1/2 gallon)	9.00
	SMALL (approx. 1 quart)	5.00
SANDING DISKS:		
	2"	3.50
	3"	4.50
	2" or 3" Replacement H&L Disk	0.50
	2" HOLDER	10.50
	3" HOLDER	12.50
	2" BLUE HOLDER	14.50
	3" BLUE HOLDER	16.50
	1/2" SOFT INTERFACE PAD EXTENSION	5.50
	3" HANDY SANDER (Palm Sander)	8.50
	SANDING TACO	4.50
	2 or 3" HAND HELD HOLDER (Kidney Shape)	12.00
CLOTHING:		
	CAPS	15.00
	TEE SHIRTS	16.00
	2X TEE SHIRT	18.00
	POLO SHIRT	27.00
	2 X POLO SHIRT	29.00
MISCELLANEOUS:		
	3" Lambswool Buff	9.00