

AS THE WOOD TURNS

November 1998

John Murphy Demonstrates Steam Bending Techniques

Our October meeting at John Murphy's shop included an informative demonstration of wood steam bending. John had a long square wooden steam box on two saw horses above a modified pressure cooker set on a propane camp stove. A hose led from the cooker to the box which had a series of small dowels through the lower sides to support stock in "space" for maximum steam penetration. An access door was at one end. See photographs on page two.

Some points made about the bending process:

Allow an hour/inch in steam box - 1/4" = 15 min.

Over steaming embrittles wood.

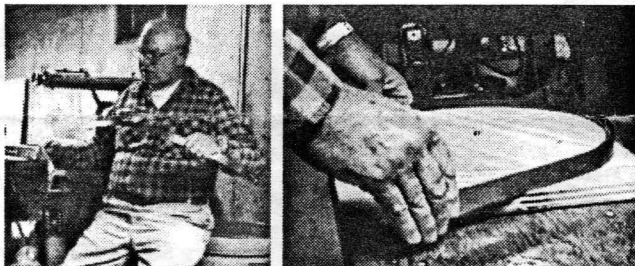
Quarter sawn wood cannot be successfully bent.

Air dried stock preferred over kiln dried.

White oak easiest to bend. Red oak and ash bend well.

Allow a few extra pieces of stock for a project as splitting can happen and usually does!

John explained the effects of compression and tension on the wood and used a metal strap with stops set to the length of wood being formed to hold the stock in compression while bending around a form.



Rodger Jacobs Woodturning School

By: Al Vandam

I was fortunate to be able to spend three days in August with Rodger along with his four dogs in his studio in Newland, North Carolina which is at a 4,000' elevation in the Smoky Mountains near the Tennessee border. It 's a pleasant two hour ride from Asheville, N.C. into the land of Christmas Tree Farms, grits, pick-up trucks and down-to-earth locals.

I had met Rodger as a demonstrator at the AAW Convention in Greensboro in '96. It turns out that we were both U.S. Marine veterans of Vietnam which established a good interpersonal rapport then and which carried through into the three day session.

Rodger is quite a versatile turner and can help a prospective student in a variety of lathe applications. One of the advantages of engaging Rodger as a one-on-one coach is I was able to select the overall curriculum.

I opted to work on natural edged bowls supported by three legs using green wood and, in the March 1995 AAW magazine, referred to as "Sneaky Bowls."

Rodger has an extremely well organized as well as equipped shop. His newest lathe is an extended bed Oneway. I used that for between center roughing and finished my pieces on a short bed Woodfast. There was also a Nichols lathe plus several others.

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1998 MSSW Officers

President - Hank Cahill (781) 878-0234

Vice President - Gary Levine (781) 843-3695

Treasurer - Wally Kemp (781) 871-1390

Secretary - Charles Rosen (781) 848-6589

Librarian - John Murphy (781) 834-1179

Newsletter - Mal Partridge (781) 843-3883



Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 1998

7:00 P.M.

At Hank Cahill's *Dust Bowl*

Refreshments by: Roger Hill

Demonstration: TBD

Meeting Minutes

The October meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm at John Murphy's shop.

President's Report

Hank introduced **Felix Troiano**, a chemist, and new member from Hingham.

Correspondence was received from The Sharon Arts Center, Sharon, NH announcing their sponsorship of an exhibit of woodturnings by New England turners. They expect 70-80 pieces to be displayed from January 10, 1999 to March 7, 1999. We have been invited to participate. Pieces are due January 3rd. Contact is Randall Hoel, Peterborough, NH.

AAW membership renewals for 1999 are due. All of our members were urged to join. MSSW membership dues for 1999 will be solicited in the next newsletter.

Hank informed us that Ralph Hamilton, one of the founding members of CNEW, passed away October 19th.

Wally Kemp gave a brief report on our woodturning demonstrations at Audubon Daniel Webster Farm Day. This was a family function with a large entertainment area for the children, vendors and crafts booths, and excellent food concessions. The homemade soups were a special treat. We had a great location with a steady flow of traffic and interest, but sales were limited. Hank did well however with a number of items sold.

Wally also reported that pick up day for members turnings displayed at Marshfield Audubon will be November 28th.

Mike Wheeler was suggested as a future speaker - perhaps in January. **Al Vandam's** name was also mentioned as his presentation last year was most informative, and he has attended two turning schools since then. *Editors note:* See his article in this issue and in the November 1997 MSSW newsletter.

Our secretary was not present. Treasurer **Wally Kemp** reported \$995 in the treasury. Librarian **John Murphy** requested overdue items be returned.

Old and New Business

Members who attended the CNEW New England Woodturning Symposium reviewed their favorite demonstrations and exhibits. The symposium was well attended and received. HK Hardwoods had a display of turning wood which sold well. A Powermatic Lathe loaned by Beaver Woodworking Supplies was used for demonstrations and then purchased by member **Emilio Iannuccillo** for a good price. The new Oneway 1600 small lathe was on display for all to admire. CNEW is to be congratulated for putting on a well organized event enjoyed by woodturners and wanna be turners.

Janet Collins invited members to attend the Open House at North Bennet Street School on November 6 & 7th.

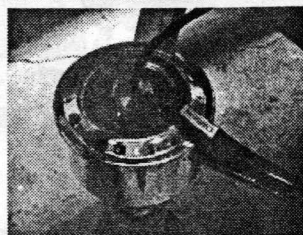
Johannes Michaelson will be demonstrating at Cape Cod Woodturners December 7th. Registration will be open to non-CCW members after their November 11th meeting. There may be about 5 open registrations available for \$15. Check with Arthur DiPaolo of CCW.

Our Christmas meeting will be held again this year at **Hank Cahill's Shop** with the woodcarver group on the 15th or 16th of December - to be determined at next meeting. Bring a gift in bag with string attached. Pot luck refreshments by all members. Wives are invited to join in the festivities.

Show and Tell preceded **John Murphy's** steam bending demonstration and a wood swap concluded the meeting.



John Murphy's steam box showing dowel supports



The pressure cooker steam generator

Rodger Jacobs Woodturning School, Continued

We covered all functional phases of turning from chainsaw techniques to finishing. The following are some "Lessons Learned" which may be of help and/or interest to the reader.

Tool Gripping Techniques. You should read Rodger's article "Get a Grip" in the Summer 1998 AAW magazine. I should add that having a tool rest with a concave surface greatly facilitates the use of the overhand grip. The concave surface on both the Oneway and the Woodfast gives you a firm/natural place to rest your hand and apply downward pressure at the juncture of the tool shaft and the tool rest. The overhand grip works very well in the initial roughing out phase for the external shape of the piece/bowl. Having the tool rest close to the wood is a prerequisite to success. The other very important side to this equation is the proper vertical angle as well as the axial position of the gouge and the proper bevel support.

Wood-Air Cuts. Due to having the two lower edges of the bowl in visual balance on a horizontal plane and the two corresponding higher edges or "wings" that may or may not be in balance, the tool essentially cuts wood, hits an air void, cuts wood, and hits another air void when turning in from the rim or highest contact point to below the lower edge. This is where maximum pressure on the tool shaft against the tool rest will minimize both tool marks and flexing of the higher wings. The later may result in uneven rim/wall thicknesses. The other very critical element is the sharpest edge possible and optimum tool/bevel angle. Unless you are able to safely have a high lathe speed, a slower cut is preferable.

Sanding. Rodger power sands the natural edged bowls with the lathe stopped going from #60 to #320. This is almost essential to remove the tool marks on the high "wings" particularly on the inner surface. It's important to have your lighting source at the proper height and angle to "see" the tool marks. This is particularly the case in areas where there are grain irregularities which can "hide" the subtle tool marks. Beware of heat checks! They are caused by holding the sanding disk in one place with too much pressure which builds up heat and results in a series of parallel hairline checks. This can occur when dealing with "stubborn" concavities. I learned this lesson at home after the course!

Finishing. We used a liberal coat of Watco/Waterlox using paper towels to remove/blot excess finish. After

several days for drying, do a light sanding manually with #320 which removes the residual oil film to avoid clogging the buffing wheels. Rodger uses the Beall Buffing System (available at least through Craft Supplies USA and Packard Woodworks) with a rough polish using Tripoli followed by a finer polish using White Diamond. The concluding step is waxing with Carnauba.

I very much enjoyed my experience and would welcome the opportunity to elaborate in more detail. Rodger is listed as an instructor in the AAW Directory. He may be reached at 704-733-9819.

Welcome New Members



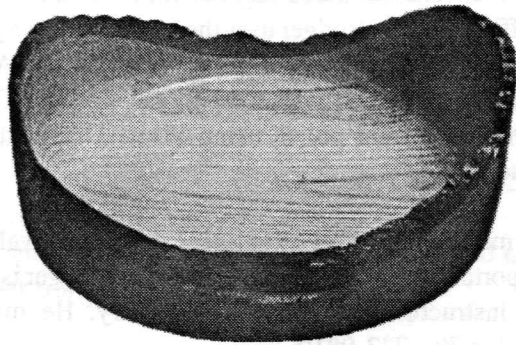
Felix Troiano

and
Jesse Meyer



John Barrett demonstrates his pole lathe at the New England Woodturning Symposium

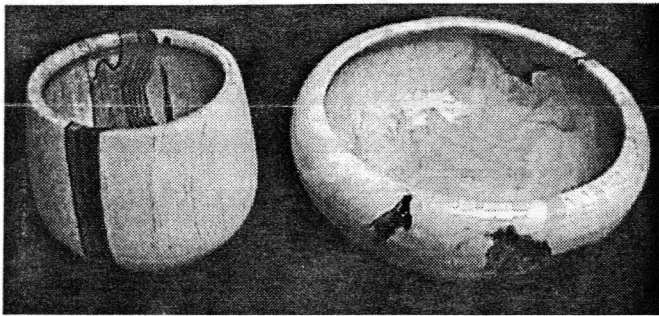
Show & Tell



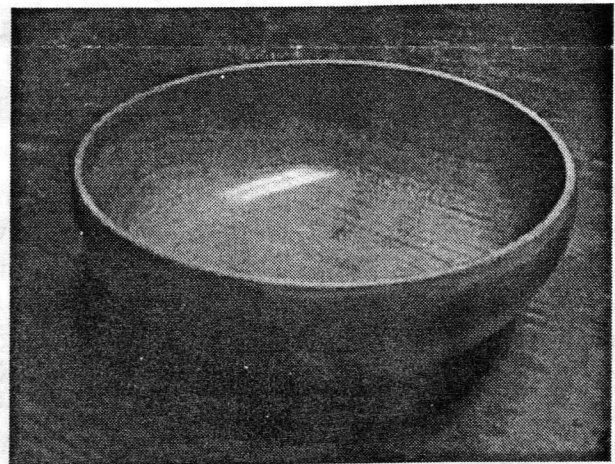
Steve Sarro's latest piece



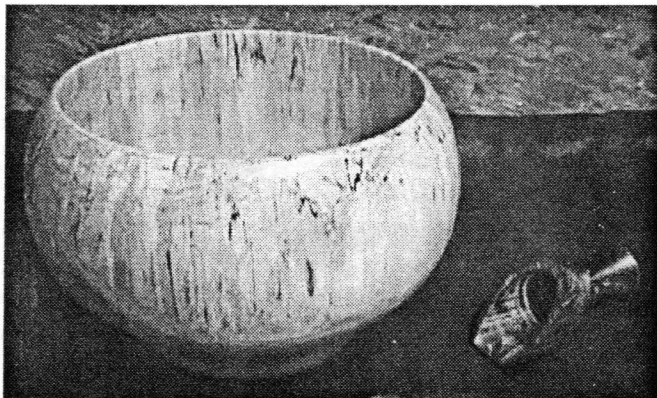
John Murphy's beautiful claro walnut plate



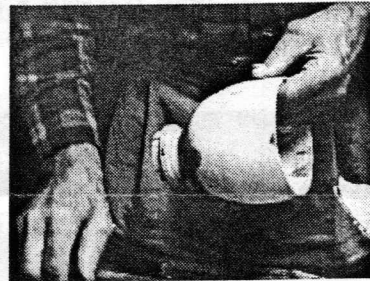
Richard Friberg's two maple turnings



John Murphy's finished cherry bowl started at Audubon Field Day



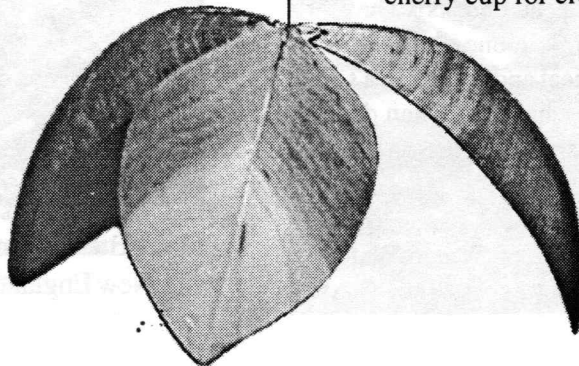
Jeffrey Keller's spalted maple bowl with scoop



Wally Kemp cuts segments from turned cherry cup for creating Sydney Umbrella



Wally demonstrates the three finger super glue lockup which happens while assembling segments



Assembling two segments with deft hands