Massachusetts South Shore Woodturners
Since 1991
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

AS THE WOOD TURNS

April 2024 Issue 310

Sonny Tice in the center of activity at Arnold Arboretum April 17, as all 3 major clubs were represented: ART, CNEW and MSSW, as well as some solo woodturners. The club gained some uncommon species!

Meeting April 23, 2024—Notes by Jeff Keller

» **Billy Martin**, president, began the meeting by announcing a moment of silence in memory of the recent passing of **Ian Manley**. He commented that "Ian was always there for the club, helping and contributing in numerous ways and taking part in events whether it was a demonstration on turning and its nuances or leading a discussion on the different tools and turning techniques. He was an active participant in shows and club events and will be missed."

» Guest- **Frank Ramsden** from Dedham.

» Billy announced that **Mike Waddell** was donating a free steady rest to anyone who wanted it. Thank you, Mike!

» He also noted that the Jet air filter from Pablo's shop was available to anyone wanting to top a standing offer of $150, noting that this is a $500 machine.

» Next Billy returned to the proposal of having club meetings start at 6:30 in the evening as opposed to 7:00 pm. After some discussion the proposal was tabled and the 7pm start was left in place.

» The AAW has 20 videos available for viewing online to watch live demos. If you are an AAW member and register for the AAW Symposium by May 3rd, you can get a discounted price of $79.00.

» Billy said there are sign up sheets on the table for the Plymouth craft show in August, the Riverwalk show

(continued next page)

In This Issue

Feature Photo	1
April Meeting Notes	
Bright Idea—Club discount!	2
Demo—Get to the Finish	
Bring Back	3
Ian Manley Life Celebration	
Hands On	4
News from Yesteryear	5-6
Show & Tell	7-8

NEXT MEETING
Tues, May 28
7pm at the "Dust Bowl"
409 Washington St.
Abington, MA 02351

Refreshments by:
Fred Johnson

Demo by:
Wayne Miller, Ken Lindgren and Tim Rix—On Tenons

NEXT HANDS ON
Saturday May 18
9am—12pm

Need a Hands On mentor?
Contact Glenn Siegmann
gcsiegs@gmail.com)

MSSW OFFICERS

President
Billy Martin
617-347-3264
billyjoe1185@verizon.net

Vice president
Sonny Tice
(617) 835-0810
gmt1113@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Ernie Leep
714-655-7688
eoleep@yahoo.com

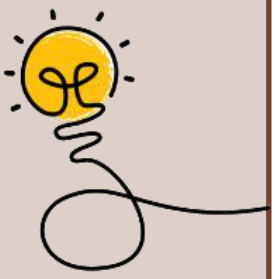
Secretary
Horace Lukens
(601) 832-7738
hclsail@icloud.com

Events Coordinator
Melissa Fantasia
781-752-6464
mafantasia1@gmail.com

Webmaster
Tim Rix
(617) 259-5618
rix.tim@gmail.com

Hands On Coordinator
Glenn Siegmann
617-462-9573
gcsiegs@gmail.com

Newsletter
Jeff Keller
jtkeller116@gmail.com
Michael Waddell
waddellml@gmail.com



Club Discount!

From president Billy Martin

Billy shared this news and needs your response if you don't want to participate:

"On behalf of Craft Supplies USA and our staff, I am excited to reintroduce our Club Support Program. Highlights:

1. Each club will receive 1-$10.00 gift certificate for every **10** club members each quarter.

2. Please submit a copy of your club roster along with any changes in club contact information to our Club Liaison, Angie McMahon. **These rosters will be used only to verify club membership and will not be shared.**

4. We are happy to provide copies of our Craft Supplies USA catalog upon request.

5. Club Orders- Club members can pool orders into a single club order to receive an **additional 13% discount off current retail prices, plus free shipping.** Minimum order value of $1,000.00 after all discounts are applied

Let Billy know by May 18 if you do NOT want to participate.

(Continued from page 1)

June 2nd, and for the Norwell Library demo and sale on Saturday, July 20th (not May as previously posted) from 2-4:00 in the afternoon. See **Jeff Keller** if you are interested. The Norwell Library would also like us to place turned items in their display case again for the month of July. Items can be for sale or just display.

» The Arnold Arboretum Donors event will take place in September or October. The CNEW and ART woodturners are also participating in this. Billy said that he met with the Arboretum and proposed that we turn vases, weed pots, boxes, or pens. The club will get $20 an item for our turnings to them.

» We were also reminded that the top bucket is on the table and will be there at future meetings, so bring your turned tops and put them in for distribution at future events.

» The club store is not going to be reactivated so the club will work on divesting the remaining items there, selling some at reduced rates. Billy invited members to take advantage of the opportunity.

» Vice president **Sonny Tice** told us next month's demo would involve participation of **Wayne Miller**, **Ken Lindgren** and **Tim Rix**. The topic is "Removing the tenon from the back of the bowl".

» Sonny said there is Arboretum wood out back. "Help yourself".

» **Lenny Mandeville** brought in some finishes he is not using and invited members to "Take them home."

» Treasurer **Ernie Leep** told us, "Jeff completed the baluster project and the club received a $1,000 donation for his work." He turned 50 balusters. The club has $6,100 in the bank; of this amount there is $1,922 for scholarships leaving a net balance of $4,566.

» **Glenn Siegmann** proposed and members agreed that the next Hands On will be May 18th.

» Event coordinator **Melissa Fantasia** announced that there is a sign up sheet for the Cohasset South Shore Arts Festival on the common for Father's Day weekend.

Ed O'Riordan assisted John DelRosso at the April 17th Arnold Arboretum wood distribution

Air blast helps remove gloves

I frequently use 5-mil nitrile gloves when applying sealer or finish to my turnings. Much of the time, the gloves are still clean and could be reused, if not for the problem of removing them from sweaty hands without tearing them or turning them inside out. A simple blast from my shop air compressor makes it easy to remove and reuse the gloves, saving money and reducing waste.

—Joe Centorino, Massachusetts, AAW member since 2017

From the recent "American Woodturner" - AAW member magazine—featuring our own Joe Centorino!

What did I miss?

Every Thursday coffee hour

On Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm members gather virtually via Zoom to exchange ideas, ask questions and shoot the breeze. Recent topics have included deep pour resin techniques, bandsaw blades and maintenance, finishing options, discounts, the difference between sumac and poison sumac (with a colorful anecdote) and Charlie's growing collection of goblets. Watch for the weekly reminder and then **tune in!**

BRING BACK

At monthly meetings, members receive a raffle ticket. Each winner gets a turning created by a previous Bring Back winner. Each new winner then has to Bring Back one of their own turnings for the next meeting.

Bill Cyr holds his bowl turned from "firehouse pine" won by Joe Centorino

Bob Allen showed us his yew stem starfish ornament won by Glenn Siegmann

Ian Manley — Celebration of Life

Ian's son, Dan, published the following on Facebook:

On Monday 4/1/2024 my father, Ian Manley, passed away. It was not sudden and we knew it was coming. He went peacefully and comfortably as possible which is what he wanted. May he rest in peace. One final note, he did not want a wake or a funeral. What he wanted was a party—so this summer we will be holding a celebration of life. More details to follow.

Demo: Getting to the Finish

With Wayne Sargo

Reporting by Jeff Keller

Wayne Sargo presented his thoughts and technique on this topic by beginning with the statement, "When you sand, you get dust." This can lead to

Wayne's air filter comes on automatically when he turns on his shop lights.

health problems, including different types of cancer, respiratory problems like asthma, nasal cancer, runny nose and skin afflictions like dermatitis to name a few. There are also toxins in glue and finishes to be aware of.

Therefore, woodturners need to take precautions such as using a dust collector system, air filter, fans to direct the dust away, masks such as a JSP mask. All of these need to be cleaned frequently. Wayne recommended hooking up your air filter to your light switch so that when you enter your shop and turn on the light, the air is processed the whole time you are in it.

Wayne's extensive dust collection system keeps dust to a minimum.

Wayne presented us with copies of a print out entitled, "Dangerous Chemistry: Woods to be Wary of", from Fine Woodworking (#304) - a glossy eight page brochure with articles and color photos on types of wood that can cause harm and related factors and information.

Wayne uses a "PAP" — positive air pressure respirator while sanding.

Sanding - Wayne told us, "I start coarse; I mostly use a power sander (a right angle drill). I turn at 200 rpm on the lathe

Wayne uses his purpose built dust shroud to contain the dust.

when power sanding. High speeds cause the wood to overheat and crack and also wear out your sandpaper faster.

When you sand, be careful not to roll the edge. Try to leave them crisp. If you hold a light or sight along at an oblique angle, it's easier to spot scratches. Remember, sandpaper wears out; throw it away. "I sand to a grit of 320 then I go to Yorkshire Grit and then, maybe use a sanding sealer."

His results speak for themselves.

Wayne passed around samples of finished work with very fine degrees of smoothness to illustrate the results of his sanding technique.

Hands On—April 20, 2024

Carl Sjoquist making some Cherry Burl shavings amongst the hustle and bustle of a very busy hands-on

L-R Ken Lindgren, Sonny Tice, Billy Martin, Dave Scott, Geoff Wilkinson

Ron Reynolds & Bob Monaghan

L-R Bob Mongahan, Geoff Wilkinson, Ken Whiting, and David Rice enjoying a social moment.

L-R Fred Johnson, Bill Cyr (back to us), David Rice, Wayne Sargo

Joe Centorino and Carl Sjoquist

David Blake & Wayne Miller

Full house!

Turn, Turn, Turn

Dead Wood Take on New Life at Audubon

By Lesley Mahoney

They are four men, each touched by nature. More specifically by wood.

"The beauty of it, the grain," Jack Nash, one of the men, says by way of explanation.

They will tell you that no two pieces of wood are quite the same. When wood from a tree is split, patterns, in the grain are all unique. And it is around the patterns that the men work their magic.

They are wood-turners, who shape and maneuver their raw material on a machine called a lathe until it takes on some form unbeknownst to them at the outset. Resembling a waist-high workbench, the lathe has a circular spinning device on one end, into which a piece of wood is inserted and maneuvered with tools as it spins. Later, a finished piece of work can be coated with shellac, varnish or wax to give it a shiny, smooth finish.

Some of the men's finished wood-turning pieces - from vases and bowls to more abstract sculptures and wall hangings - are on exhibit in the library gallery of the Massachusetts Audubon society's South Shore Regional Center in Marshfield.

"Art Forms in Wood" displays the work of Jack Nash, Wallace Kemp, Albert Vandam and Henry Cahill, all South Shore men, all with very different approaches to turning wood. A modest exhibit, its pieces are assembled without much narrative, some displayed without names or credit to their artist - but for itself.

Nash, a contractor, has loved wood all his life. He's been turning it for 23 years, since he was 13. He was introduced to the art of wood-turning in seventh-grade shop class and has been doing it ever since.

"Apparently it's just in men to do this. I'll probably always (work with wood) as long as I'm able," says Nash, who enters his pieces in art shows and has sold some of his work.

Wallace Kemp turns wood in his studio at his Hanover home.

Working out of his Cohasset home in his spare time, he says his pieces are evolving into more unusual things like the "Cobra," "Spaceship" or "Jack-o'-lantern" - pun intended - all included in the show. The three represent his latest work and resemble the objects of the names they bear.

Formerly, he was doing work like his "Gridlock," also on display at Audubon. A round plate shape on a stand this pieces is made of light and dark wood - paduke and birch - interwoven. Nash says he had to turn the wood separately, then glue it together to create the lattice effect.

Wallace Kemp, a 71-year old retired general surgeon, turns wood in his studio in back of his Hanover home. Not surprisingly, he has always been interested in working with his hands. Kemp's backyard is lined with wood, ready for turning. He explains that burls (like cancerous growths of a tree, in the respect that they result from abnormal cell growth) and crotches (the "V" where a tree separates into branches) are ideal for turning. Spalted or rotting wood covered in mushrooms or fungi is also a choice bet for turning.

Burls, crotches and spalted wood, Kemp explains, are no good for furniture or any other use - but when split and turned, they reveal graceful lines perfect for artwork. While burls and crotches usually bear rings and swirls, spalted wood often has unique lines running through it resembling brown, blue or green ink. Ultimately, the wood would be discarded or used for firewood. So, Kemp says, to turn it into art is to "recycle" forest products that, otherwise would not be used.

"After taking a tree apart, you see many interesting and beautiful things," he says. And one never knows what patterns ans shapes will surface until a piece of wood is split.

Kemp started turning wood about 25 years ago, making mostly bowls. But his focus has changed since then thanks in part to the ideas and inspiration he got at meetings of wood-turning groups.

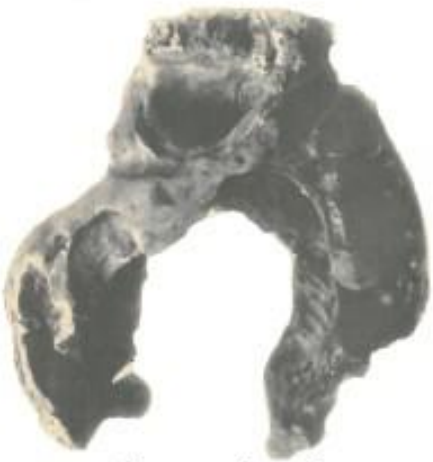
One of Kemp's pieces, "Fantasia," is mounted on the wall at Audubon - an abstract work, nothing remotely resembling a bowl. Three dark rings of shellacked, burled wood are arranged in procession and connected with brass rods.

Across the room, a burl takes the form of Kemp's "Nite on Bald Mountain," affixed atop a white wooden stand.

Kemp, who stresses that wood-turning is an art and its creators are artists, says wood-turning is a "growing phenomenon." The American Association of Woodturners (AAW), of which he is a member, has grown in membership from 1,000 to 7,000 over five years he says.

Kemp sells his pieces on a regular basis at Silver Ribbon, an art and craft gallery in Pembroke. He also enters his work in locally

Wood-turner Jack Nash of Cohasset with his turned wood.

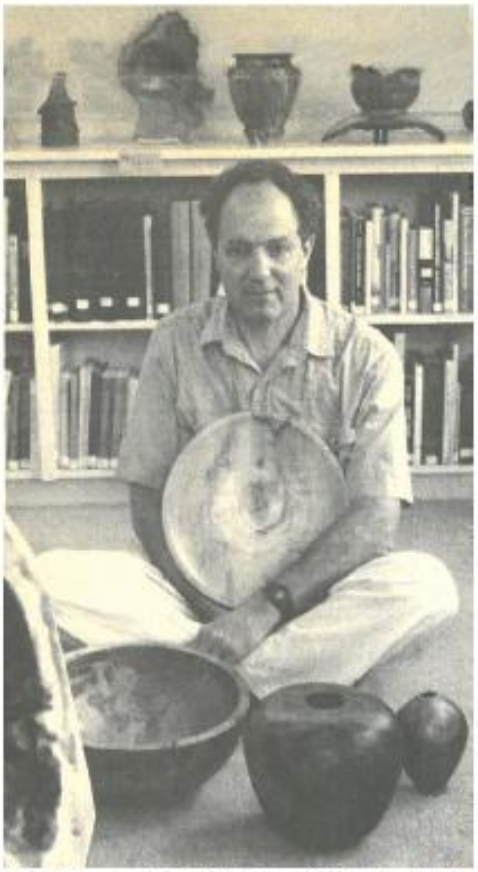


"Nite on Bald Montain" by Wallace Kemp

judged shows at the North River Arts Society in Marshfield and the South Shore Art Center in Cohasset.

In Scituate, Albert Vandam, also an AAW member, turns wood out of his basement. His avocation is in stark contrast to his full-time investment sales job at Fleet Bank in Boston where he sells "services or concepts - things you can't touch." Vandam says he enjoys creating something he can hold.

Vandam, 54 started turning wood only four years ago. Orignally setting out to make furniture, he was soon drawn to the multiple uses of the lathe and switched to making bowls and platters, some of which are on display at Audubon.



Wood-turner Albert Vandam of Scituate with his creations at the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Shouth Shoree Regional Center in Marshfield.

Creating bowls, he notes, takes a matter of hours instead of the period of weekends it can take to make a desk. "I receive pleasure in looking at a final object in a short period of time," he says

But Vandam, who calls wood-turning "therapeutic - meantally cleansing," says its greateest pleasure is probably that it is "all free-form" with "no rules and no measurements."

He turns mostly functional objects on his lathe: bowls, platters, letter-opener handles. He will actually use the pieces that he makes - like bowls for eating out of or for storing pot-pourri.

Vandam uses mostly green or fresh wood

Hank Cahill in addition to starting the woodturners with Wally Kemp was the first president (continuing on until he passed) and meetings were held at his shop and still continue there.

because he says it is easier to work with. It creates a challenge, however, because the finished product from fresh wood is more likely to warp.

Vandam, doesn't generally sell his items or display them at galleries but makes things for people who have been nice to him. And, he says, there is a rule he goes by: "if someone gives you wood, give them a bowl back."

Henry Cahill who is "semi-retired" from his contracting business, Henry E. Cahill & Sons, says wood-turning is "fun to do and relaxing." He stumbled upon wood-turning when he was contracted to do the interior of a bank. The designer had provided for rope turnings in the wood, something Cahill, 75, had never constructed.

"I couldn't do it," he says. So he started to take lessons turning wood and has been doing it for the last 12 years out of his shop at his home in Abington.

Cahill does his pieces at night. Instead of watching TV, he says.

One of his pieces on display in "Art Forms in Wood" is made of cabbage palm knocked down during Hurricane Bob and brought to him from Florida by a friend. Cahill turned the light wood into a high, dish-like object with scalloped edges, patterned with spots and a few stripes.

A vase he made form spalted wood is the biggest piece in the exhibit. Cahill found the wood for it on Black Rock Beach in Cohasset. Tall and lacquered, the 2-foot-high vase is decorated with what looks like blue ink etchings, a result of spalting.

Sometimes, however, he doesn't even have to look for potential pieces because he'll find them at his front door. People in the area who know that Cahill turns wood drop burls crotches and the like on his doorstep.

Cahill is also into carving. The visage of a man - something Cahill calls a "wood spirit" - is carved in color on a cedar log branch at the center.

While Cahill turns bowls and vases, he does not consider his work functional. He says that he would never use a bowl that he makes for eating out of.

Cahill is a gallery artist, entering his wood in shows - including those at the South Shore Art Center and the Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, where he won a blue ribbon.

But Cahill says that the best job he has done so far is making wooden plates for the movie "The Crucible." He is waiting for the movie to come out so that he can see the plates that he crafted out of plain maple burls.

Nash, Kemp, Vandam and Cahill continue to get new ideas from other wood-turners through association meetings, catalogs and personal contacts.

But with the closest wood-turners' groups meeting in Worcester and on Cape Cod, Kemp is interestted in starting an AAW chapter on the South Shore to expand the local network of wood-turners. Nash, Vandam and Cahill might just be the fist three to sign on.

"Art Forms in Wood" is on display in the library gallery at the Massachusetts Audubon Society's sSouth Shore Regional center, 2000 Main St., in Marshfield. Admission is free. Informaton: 837-9400.

Reprinted from Duxbury Mariner
Thursday, November 14, 1996.
Staff Photos by Chris Bernstein

The visage of a man - someting Henry Cahill of Abington calls a "wood spirit" - is carved in color on a cedar log branch at the center.

Show & Tell

Compiled by Billy Martin and Jeff Keller

Jeff Keller

Jeff showed us a small box turned from a piece of cherry burl that Ken Whiting gave him. He finished it with friction polish from Ian Manley.

Closeup of the box

Don Messinger

Spalted cherry burl, natural edge bowl

Spalted cherry bowl insert turned from Don's larger piece

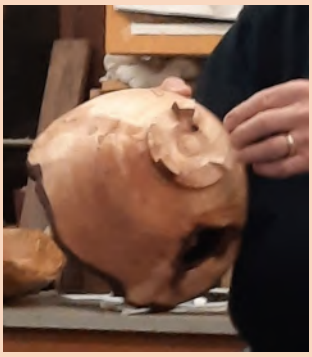
Segmented bowl with a floating bottom

Don's small segmented bowl

Michael Waddell

Mike holds a 10" x 6" natural edge red maple bowl that he turned from a tree that was freshly felled in his yard.

The finish is genuine tung oil diluted with a citrus solvent.



Mike showed the underside of his red maple bowl to illustrate its three feet that he added to the base.

Show & Tell

John DeLeo

John holds a vase turned from ebola, Arboretum wood. He finished it with four coats of tung oil finish.

Closeup of ebola vase

Billy Martin

Billy holds a slightly concave spalted maple platter he turned after it had been sitting on a shelf for five years coated with Anchor Seal. The wood was four inches thick so, using his chain saw, he was able to cut it into two 2 inch thick pieces. He turned a seven inch ring on both sides and used a Dremel tool for the feet on the bottom.

Carl Sjoquist

Carl's coffee scoop with the handle turned separately from a piece of cherry burl.

Also shown is the jam chuck he used.

Fred Johnson

Fred presented a vase he turned from cypress and then coated with pink (magenta) wax.

Fred's maple bowl with carved divots, which he stained black (but said appear to be purple). He sprayed the outside of the bowl with gold paint.

Andy Osborne

Andy has a fluted box with a tulip finial. The flutes were carved using a router on a lathe-mounted jig.

Close up

Andy showed us this stacked plywood and tulip stand, which he placed in a sandwich chuck. He turned it and reversed it. The bumpers are tulip wood.

Close up