

The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter

March 2001

Volume 03

Issue 03



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Bayou Woodturners
P.O. Box 231293
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123

Steve Rome - President
Keith Welsh - Vice President
Eddie Castelin - Treasurer
Dennis Wall - Secretary
Jerry Markowitz - Photographer
Charlie Kragle - Membership

From the Headstock

Mardi Gras is over and Spring is fast approaching. For some of us, that means our leisure time may be competing between our gardens and our workshops. This is a really good time to be out in the shop, before it gets too hot. So go out there and make some shavings!

February's meeting was one of our biggest yet. We convened at the shop of Greg Arceneaux Cabinetmakers in Covington. Many thanks for their hospitality. We enjoyed a fruitful and inspirational morning as we watched Malcolm Cherie demonstrate some of his production techniques. We will continue our trek to the Northshore this month as we visit Patrick Leech's shop in Ponchatoula. Pat just built a 3200 square foot shop, so let's go check it out. We will have a spinning top competition and Pat says he has plenty of floor space for us to give our tops a whirl. I encourage everyone to turn a top of some sort and participate in the competition. The last time we had a friendly competition, it was a real hit - beltsander racing. I guarantee it will be a

fun time and even more so if you have a top entered. Grand prize is a '67 Monte Carlo.*

No word yet on our application for an educational grant from the AAW. I believe they'll make their decision by March 15th. If I hear anything, I'll have Keith post it on the website ASAP.

Eddie Castelin is home and recovering from double bypass heart surgery. He is doing well, but has to remain somewhat quiet. His doctor forbade him to go down to Bourbon Street for Mardi Gras. If you guys get

**Next Meeting
10:00 AM
March 10, 2001**

**Patrick Leech
Ponchatoula
Wood Works
(504) 386-2711
Directions & Map
on Page 4**

On the Internet at: www.woodturners.com

From the Headstock continued from previous page

a chance, give him a ring, and/or even drop by for a visit. He hopes to be turning soon! We wish you a rapid and complete recovery Ed!

In our effort to find some outside stimulation, we will be hosting a visit from Steve Lagrue from Houston in May. Steve and his wife, Terri, own the Cutting Edge store. Steve teaches and demonstrates quite often in the Houston area and has offered to visit us and do the same. Steve will focus on coloring and texturing your work. We have never really addressed that topic before, so I expect it will be quite informative. One hitch though, we will have to conduct this meeting/demo on Sunday (details later) due to his scheduling constraints. I hope you can accommodate this change from our routine, since Steve and Terri are driving all the way from Houston to see us.

The March meeting will feature a demonstration by master turner Don McLaren. Don has shown us some creative and unusual turnings in his previous demos. He will be demonstrating chatter work techniques, among other things. Don't miss it! ...and DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TOPS. It really would be a shame if you showed up at the meeting *topless*.

Be sure to check out Bayou Woodturner Ron Alexander's Book Review and short article on Finishing on page 7 along with another great shop tip from Lyle Terrell (page 3). If anyone would like to contribute a Shop Tip, Workshop Profile, Member Bio, Book Review or knows of an interesting web site for an On The Web column or wants to contribute an article please contact Jerry Markowitz by e-mail (jerrymarko@yahoo.com), letter, phone, or fax.

See you then,

Steve Rome
President, Bayou Woodturners

****Monte Carlo needs tires, transmission, engine, extensive bodywork and repainting, but the ashtray works. All taxes, licenses, delinquent parking tickets and booting fees are the responsibility of the recipient.***



Meeting Minutes

Much thanks to our host this time, Greg Arcenau, a local cabinet maker. Greg will be featured in upcoming issues of "Wood" magazine. Greg also offers workshops on the weekends. If interested, contact Greg or Steve.

Ed Castelin has been in the hospital for double bypass surgery. I know we all wish him a speedy recovery. We took up a collection for a book or tape for him to look at while he's recovering.

President Steve has been in contact with Steve LaGrue of The Cutting Edge in Houston. Steve is coming to Louisiana in May and may be able to demo for us if we can be flexible about our meeting date and change the meeting to a Sunday.

The results of the survey taken at our last meeting about what to do with the AAW grant money (should we get it). Highest priorities were a tie, expanding our videotape library and obtaining a guest demonstrator. Keith Welsh and I went to Mobile last month to see Charles Forterberry demo for the local club (Yes, they have one in Mobile now). There was a lot of support to collaborate with the Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida clubs to bring in a really five-star turner to demonstrate at a central location. Both the Mississippi and Alabama clubs have access to facilities we might be able to use.

There are still some folks who have not yet paid their dues for this year. Remember, the cut off date for being removed from the roll is the March meeting.

Charlie Kragle, our head of members' services still has some patches and shirts for sale. If interested, see him.

Don't forget the top competition at our March meeting. There are two broad categories: finger tops and string-powered tops. Jerry Markowitz passed out some info on how to spin tops. Also, we are open to suggestions for the next competition/challenge.

We have fixed upon July as the month for display/demo at the Jefferson Parish Library, so start thinking about what pieces you might want to display. We need about 100 of them. Remember, the cases we'll be using are only about 10 inches deep, although there is one that is a little bigger.

Tom Dunne is having a show at the Bruner Gallery on North New Hampshire Street in Covington. The show will run through the end of this month.

Raffle: \$68.00.

continued on page 3

Meeting Minutes continued from previous page

Show and tell:

Keith Welsh: Assorted finger tops made from purpleheart, maple, and walnut some with chatterwork.

Steve Rome: Two throwing tops of maple and ebony, maple, and purpleheart.

Malcolm Cheramie: Large (24") bowl of spalted beech; large "practice platter" of oak.

Larry Zarra: Small holly bowl with extra thin walls; maple bowl with inlaid rim of various scraps of wood.

Don McLaren: Lidded box with foot; carving on the side (purchased from an old time woodturner)

Alan Ripps: Small live oak hollow form with a wax finish.

Prescott Deininger: Two goblet stems with a super glue and wax finish.

Gorst Duplessis: Ornamentally turned wood flowers made from blackwood, boxwood and pink ivory. Plus a small very thin wall bowl of boxelder burl, a wavy bowl or platter of birdseye maple.

J.C. Vanderlick: footed bowl of chinaberry wet turned and microwaved.

Tom Dunne: Natural edged bowl of chinaberry, two

hollow forms with Ambrosia maple bases with tulipwood and curly maple tops, sealed with Deft and waxed.

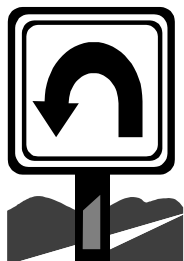
Charlie Kragle: Footed bowl of walnut with a camphorwood foot sealed with Deft then buffed and waxed.

That's all for this time, folks. See you at the next meeting.

Dennis Wall
Secretary

Treasurer's Report
by Eddie Castelin

Beginning Balance		\$2787.41
Income	Dues	\$ 225.00
	Raffle	<u>\$ 68.00</u>
Total		\$293.00
Disbursements		
	Snacks	\$20.00
	Postage	<u>\$27.20</u>
Total		\$47.20
Balance, as of 15 Feb 01		\$3033.21



Turning Tips

To keep your homemade lathe tool handles from coming loose insert a spring the same outside diameter as the bored hole. When tang of chisel is inserted in the hole the spring in the hole is expanded becoming indented in the wood while maintaining tension on the tang

By Lyle Terrell



Ponchatoula Wood Works
 39351 I-55 West Service Road 70454
 (504) 386-2711

From New Orleans take I-10 east to I-55 north -get off at Springfield exit and go over the overpass bridge – turn left onto the service road –go about one mile on service road to the shop.



Kestrel Creek Gallery

This month we visit the sit of Kestrel Creek Gallery (www.kestrelcreek.com). This site which was started in April 2000 by three Idaho woodturners: Will Simpson, Ben Carpenter and Jim Christiansen.

What makes this site unique is a feature called the **CRITIQUE CENTRAL PROJECT**. A number of images, along with a brief description, are provided of a piece of work created by one of the web site hosts. You, the website visitor, are asked to give your opinion /critique of the work. By clicking on a button titled *Add Your Critique* you are brought to a form that asks your skill level (from non-turner though advanced to collector) along with several questions on your feelings on the overall design of the piece, use of color, etc. On each question you can select: Neutral, Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree. There is also a place for you to write your comments and suggestions. You can view the critiques of anyone who has responded along with a numerical summary (1= Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree) to all of the questions. This provides a very good way to see how others view the piece of work and what they like and dislike about it.



**8.5" Tall by 5.5" Dia
Maple Burl - Carved
and Colored
Pipestone finial**

The site also contains the great work of the three web hosts. One of the web sites artists is just 17 years old and already has his work on display in the Chesterton Art Gallery in Indiana. And has written a brief article on how he got started in woodturning (available on the site).



Ben Carpenter



Will Simpson

Segmented Series 2"
Walnut/Cherry/Maple
385 Pieces - Smooth - Warm
Alternating swirls of wood
Signed - 1999
7 1/2" H - 8 1/4"D



Jim Christiansen

This piece of Jim's, named Africa Speaks, was selected to be included in the Pathways exhibition. Pahtways is an international juried exhibition of woodturning, featuring the works of over 40 artists from 20 states and 6 countries

You can also sign up for the short monthly newsletter, which includes reviews of websites, announces gallery openings, calls for entries and other exciting online happenings.

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FW= Fine Woodworking Awt =American Woodturner

The Resurgence of Wood Turning FW Winter2000/2001 No.146 pp90-95

Turning a Handled Bowl AWt Winter 2000 Vol15 No.4 pp30-33

Automotive Gizmo Makes Low Cost Chuck AWt Winter 2000 Vol 15 No.4 p23

Holiday Delights AWt Winter 2000 Vol 15 No.4 pp20-22

A Splash of Light and Color for Turnings AWt Winter 2000 Vol 15 No.4 p19

From Vessels to Ornaments AWt Winter 2000 Vol 15 No.4 pp16-18

Around the Clubs



This column provides a look into what other clubs around the country are doing; how they are organized, what their demonstrators are showing, and how they are promoting woodturning among their members and the public

Glendale Woodturners Guild

Demonstrations for the previous year included Square Edged Bowls, Vacuum Chucking, Green Wood Turning, Surface Decoration - Coloring, Segmented Turning, and Tool Basics.

Throughout the year the club members have been challenged to make and bring to the monthly meetings - Candle Holders, Square Edge Bowls, Plate/Platter, Lidded Vessel/Platter, and a Round Ball.

Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild

Melvin Firmager, a well-known British woodturner, was in town and taught some hands on classes for the local woodturners. Melvin is known for his unusual grinds on bowl gouges as well as his unique "leading bevel" hollowing tools. For those who weren't able to attend, the Guild purchased Melvin's two videotapes which are available from their library.

Arizona Woodturners

The Club just started to hold a bimonthly contest. In the first contest participants will make *bragging sticks*. "*Bragging sticks are highly intricate spindles that are long, thin, and fancy, and feature captive rings, beads, and other decorations*". The contest winner will receive a prize of \$15.

Bayou Woodturners Corporate Sponsors

Acadian Hardwoods
#1 Industrial Parkway
Ponchatoula LA 70454
(504) 386-6079
(800) 489-6079

Southern Saw & Cutter Co. Inc.
5808 Plauche St.
Jefferson, LA 70123
(504) 736-6063
Fax: (504) 736-6064
(800) 229-6063

Gueydan Lumber & Plywood Inc.
4300 Airline Dr.
Metairie, LA 70123
(504) 833-2828

Riverside Lumber Co.
5451 Morrison Rd.
New Orleans, LA. 70126
(504) 242-6624

Book Review



Ramljak, Susanne: *Wood Into Art: The Jane and Arthur Mason Collection.*

Harry Abrams, Pub. 2000, 208pp, 125 photos
\$49.95

Yes, it is pricey. I found my copy at the NOMA gift shop and I had to swallow hard as I purchased. But what an elegant volume! This is the work of the most prominent collectors of turned wood objects in the United States. It is a book to be kept nearby for inspiration, contemplation, and analysis of why we do woodturning.

Three text chapters begin the journey:

Arthur Mason recounts their family quest for collectable wood objects beginning in 1986, initiated only by their love for wood. Guidance began with a meeting with David Ellsworth who furthered their education into the turned wood object. Following this were meetings with Ed Moulthrop, Mark Lindquist and most of the prominent names in woodturning who directed their collecting efforts, ending in 123 pieces in all.

Susanne Ramljak follows with a chapter outlining the history of wood turning and then launching into an excellent history and analysis of the eternal conflict of craft vs. art, and the place of woodturning in this scheme of nomenclature. Woodturning had to be separated from industrial production with which it was most closely associated. Surprisingly, she points out that not all artists were opposed to this new discipline and readily accepted woodturning as an entry into the artistic realm.

The third chapter is by Michael Monroe who gives an extensive artistic analysis of the works in the volume.

Then there is...THE COLLECTION, 125 plates, superbly photographed. This is the stuff as dreams are made of. This is where one goes to ponder, scheme, and plan. How was this done...why this shape...how did he think of this? The fingers itch for a gouge, the breathing quickens and no log is safe from the passion. Included are the some of the best pieces of the great

names in woodturning: Ellsworth, Dotson, Hoyer, Jordan, Lindquist, Moulthrop, Osolnik...the names roll on and on. As one views the plates there is an initial feeling of dismay, "I've can't do that", but always there burns that eternal glimmer of hope: "...:But maybe I could."

Review written by Ron Alexander

Penetrating Oil Finishes

There are a wide variety of finishes on the market labeled as "Tung Oil Finish, Danish Oil Finish, Antique Oil Finish, etc." The actual ingredients are never revealed on the label. Some of these contain no oil whatsoever, being nothing more than varnish thinned 1:1 to make a wiping varnish. Bob Flexner, in an article in *Woodwork*, 1995, and later in his excellent book, described a test, which defined the difference. Pour a small puddle of the suspect finish onto a glass plate. A wiping varnish will dry clear and hard. An oil/varnish mixture will dry wrinkled, opaque, and somewhat soft.



I ignore all these so-called "Danish Oil Finishes". (In reality the Danish furniture industry never used oil finishes. They used a dilute catalyzed lacquer to simulate the effect.) I noted an article in *Popular Science* in 1959 entitled "Old Timer's Formula for Fine Wood Finishing" by R.C. Stanley, a professional finisher. He used equal mixtures of linseed oil, spar varnish, and thinner for all his furniture. I used this formula on my furniture for many years with excellent results. When tung oil became available, I substituted that for the linseed oil. Later I replaced the spar varnish component with polyurethane. I continue to use this mixture whenever I want an oil finish effect. Over the years I have occasionally tried some proprietary mixtures but never found them superior to my shop-made formula.

Ron Alexander

TRADING POST

I am enclosing the photo of my air compressor I would like to sell. I overhauled it this past summer and it works fine. I am trying to get \$75. I have the original Sears instruction manual for it as well.

Alan H. Ripps, DMD

Call me in the evening at 833-5002 (I will be out of town until March 4th and return on March 11th)
Or email me at aripps@mindspring.com



One of our members, Floyd Marquis, is looking for someone who is willing to give lessons in the Baton Rouge area. He is asking anyone interested to contact him to work out the details. He can be reached at home (225) 769-3679 or work (225) 923-0091.

New 20" Scroll Saw. Excellent condition, used only 2 times. \$75.00
Sears 10" Radial Saw / stand. It is a 220-volt saw that is in good working condition. Great power...\$200.

Contact Dillard Ball Phone: 225-622-5683

Free to a good home.

Air compressor, 12 gallon storage tank, single lung compressor, includes regulator, quick connects and oiler attachment. Needs replacement 1.5 HP motor or work on existing motor (capacitors?) You must be capable of loading and loading in Jefferson, LA.

Questions to Eddie Castelin at 835-1413

Required adoption fee of **\$25**, payable to Bayou Woodturners

Member's Gallery





Malcolm Turns =

Antler Pen
Bottle Stopper
Letter Opener
Ring Holder





Bayou Woodturners
P.O. Box 231293
New Orleans, La. 70123

Place
Stamp
Here

The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter



Don't Forget Your Tops



Assorted Tops by Keith Welsh