

The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter

October 2002

Volume 04

Issue 10



CONTENTS:

Page 1 From the Headstock

Page 2 Meeting Minutes

Page 3 Turning Tips

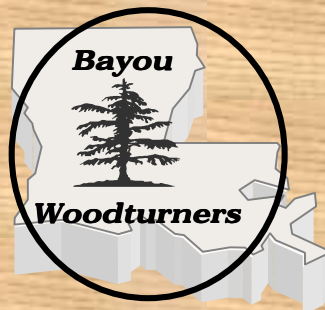
Page 4 Map/Directions

Page 5 On the Web

Page 6 .. Woodturning with O.B.

Page 7.. Picnic Info

Page 10... Featured Article



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From the Headstock

Thanks, and more thanks! I want to first thank the officers of the club for ensuring that the meeting continued to go smoothly. Thanks to Larry Zarra, Eddie Castelin, Charlie Kragle, Jerry Markowitz, and Dennis Wall. They make the President's job very easy. Many more thanks to Jerry Markowitz for hosting and demonstrating and thanks to Lila for providing a delicious lunch.

Thanks to Laura and Gordon Ousset for setting up the October Show at the Poydras House. The show runs both Saturday, October 28 (10am - 6pm) and Sunday, October 29 (10am - 4pm).

Don't forget the October meeting will be the annual pig roast at Dick Gahn's. Dick will provide both pig and turkey and attendees are asked to bring their own chairs and drinks, and also a covered dish of some kind. Please RSVP Dick Gahn (985) 893-7603 or e-mail him at rgahn@neter.net. Let Dick know if you will be there and how many guests you will bring.

Officers Needed !!

The current nominations are Eddie Castelin for president; Dennis Wall for secretary; and Gordon Ousset for treasurer. We need nominees for all offices. It's for only one year. Competition is good. Please get involved and run for office, any office.

2003 DUES

Please pay your dues on time. This is essential to keeping the newsletter distribution cost effective.

The New Orleans Woodworking Show is coming back, January 24-26, 2003 to the Pontchartrain Center!

The show times are: Friday, Noon-7

Next Meeting
10:00 AM
October 12th, 2002

Dick Gahn
21098 Shady Lane
Covington, LA
(985) 893-7603

Directions & Map
on Page 4

On the Internet at: www.woodturners.com

From the Headstock continued from previous page

pm.; Saturday, 10 am-6 pm Sunday, 10am-4pm. Go to "thewoodworkingshow.com" for more information. I will have to submit participant names to the organizers by December.

Everyone has until the December meeting to sign up for the show. You will be able to sign up for six different times: Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (which includes set up), Friday 2 p.m. to 7p.m, Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 7p.m. (Includes clean up). Remember that you must be a member of AAW to demonstrate. I will have a sign up sheet for the next two meeting. Please see me, if you want free admission to the show.

Keep on Turning!

*Keith Welsh
President, Bayou Woodturners*



Eddie Castelin gives another fine pre-meeting mini demo on turning Christmas ornaments

**Treasurer's Report
By Eddie Castelin**

Beginning Balance:	\$2,821.63
Income:	
Dues	\$25.00
Donation	\$25.00
Raffle	\$62.00
Total	\$112.00
Disbursements:	
Postage	\$37.00
Printing	\$32.30
Total	\$69.30
Balance - Sept 14, 2002	\$2,864.33



Meeting Minutes

Our meeting was called to order at 10:05, with vice president Larry Zarra filling in for president Keith Welsh, who was called away on a family emergency. Our special thanks to Jerry Markowitz for hosting this time and providing as thorough and well organized a demonstration on digital photography as I have seen in many a day. Much thanks also to Jerry's wife, Lila for providing a lunch both delicious and unexpected. We should also thank Cap'n Eddie Castelin for providing a before-meeting clinic on ornament turning.

Our October meeting will be the annual pig roast at Dick Gahn's. Dick will provide both pig and turkey and attendees are asked to bring their own chairs and drinks, and also a covered dish of some kind. Please RSVP Dick so he has some idea of how many are coming. The event promises to be a very busy one: in addition to the now traditional belt sander races, we will also have a wood swap and a top turning competition. With regard to the last, participants are asked to bring their own already rounded blanks. There will be four categories for the competition: fastest time making a single top; most tops in ten minutes; best looking top in 5 minutes or less; and quickest team competition -- two people, two tools on each team. We will begin collecting Christmas ornaments for our annual charity donation at the October meeting. As you probably know by now, Children's Hospital will be selling what we donate, so take extra care in the making. They will be selling our donations at the Covington Christmas craft fair and the fair at the Pontchartrain Center. Each ornament will have the name of the maker and the materials used, so have that information ready for each ornament you donate Children's Hospital will also take tops, if you wish to donate them.

Speaking of craft fairs, there are several coming up. There is the Poydras Home fair in mid-October, the Wooden Boat Show, which always has more than wooden boats, at the end of September, the Three Rivers Craft Fair (juried entries only) in November and the Julia Street fair the first week in October.

If you would like your turning smock embroidered with the club logo and your name, O.B. Lacoste will get it done for \$10.00 for the logo plus \$3.00 for the name. Just send the smock (and more importantly the money) to O.B.

Our first bulk glue order has arrived; if you have not yet picked up your order, contact Mark Demanuelle. Also, Mark is getting ready to put in another bulk order for burl. If you want to get in on the order, contact Mark and

continued on page 3

Meeting Minutes continued from previous page

let him know how many pounds you want. We need a minimum order of 350 pounds to get the best rate. Also, we need someone to receive the order, as Mark hurt his back and can't lift heavy objects.

Very soon it will be a new year and that means time to vote for new club officers before it arrives. So far, the nominations are: Eddie Castelin for president; myself for secretary; and Gordon Ousset for treasurer.

We as yet have no nominee for vice president. Somebody please volunteer--it's not that hard a job.

The coming new year also means it's dues time again. If at all possible, please pay your dues early. We'll start collecting at the October meeting. It's only \$25.00! The absolute last date to pay dues for the coming year

has not yet been determined, but Eddie, the presumed president for next year intends to make it SOON after the first of the year.

Charlie Kragle still has some unclaimed members' resource directories. If you haven't picked up yours yet, you need to contact Charlie.

Eddie tells us that Jean Calvin Church has some used large 220-volt window air conditioners for sale. If interested, contact the church.

Harry Zeingul of Prairieville, Louisiana has generously donated a nearly complete run of Fine Woodworking magazine to the club. They will be available for checkout next time. The business portion of the meeting concluded

Don McLaren: Shop made "gornio-stat" -- a sharpening device that lets you sharpen and/or hone the high speed steel cutters used in deep hollowing tools

on any whetstone.

Mark Demanuelle: Large and small cherry root vessels; bowls rotten myrtle and manzanita root.

Jean Hudelot: bowl, two-piece sculpture, and ball and platter -- turned at a symposium in France (wood not identified).

Steve Vales: cypress bowl; small sycamore bowl; sycamore natural edge bowl; stabilized Malay burl pen.

Larry Zarra: Locust enclosed bowl; pecan burl enclosed bowl; cocobolo box; penambuco box.

Francis Lejeune: Natural edge bowl -- Chinese elm.

John Coyle: Natural edge tallow bowl; large natural edge sycamore bowl; segmented vase--bloodwood and maple; "pie crust" segmented square corner bowl--maple and bloodwood.

Paul Burke: Solid Spanish cedar Christmas ornaments--painted and decorated with gilt powder in different colors.

Bill Ault: Segmented vase--various woods, 1055 pieces, wipe-on polyurethane finish.

Charlie Kragle: Small bowl-splated pecan and ebony; wormy persimmon bowl.

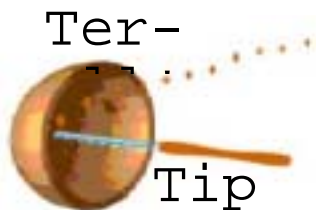
Gordon Ousset: Large hollow egg form with belt around the middle and birch stand.

Kirk Gordon: Two tall vases (ash or tupelo gum?)

Dennis Wall: Shallow walnut bowl.

That's all for this time, folks. See you at the pig roast in October.

Dennis Wall, Secretary



Are you losing super glue before you get to use it?

Try storing it inverted to keep oxygen from attacking the spout. Make a rack to hold the bottles that you use most often, upside down. Keep all others in the refrigerator. Tip by *Eddie Castelin*

Expedia.com Travel



Directions to Dick Gahn's House

From Causeway take Hwy 190 N to Covington

From Covington Take Hwy 21 N to Bogalousa for 2 miles

Turn Right on Louisiana ST

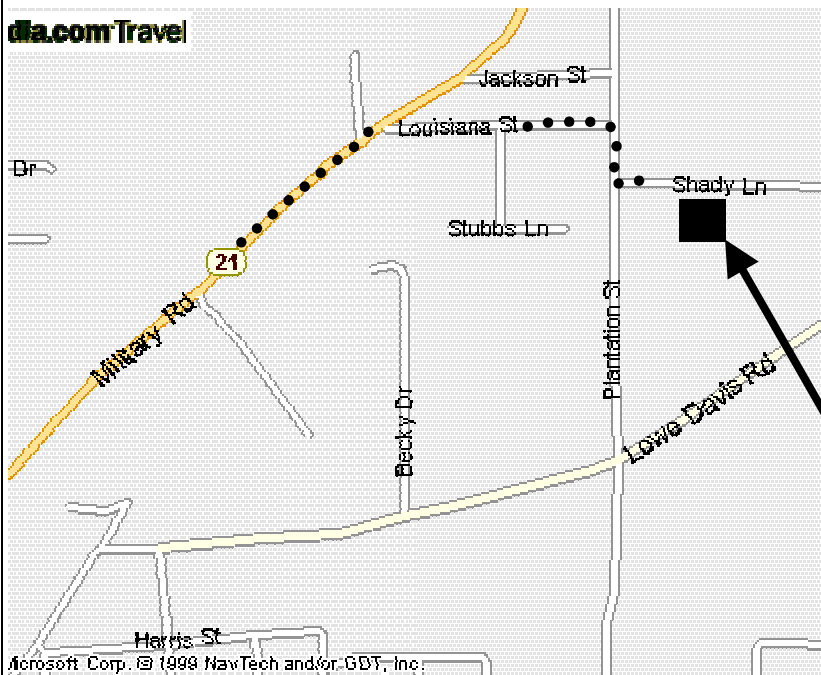
Turn Right on Plantation St

Turn Left on Shady Lane

Third House on Right

**21098 Shady Lane
(985) 893-7603**

Expedia.com Travel





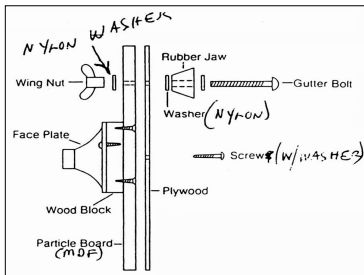
This month's website was suggested by Eddie Castellin.

Follow the link:

<http://www.fholder.com/Woodturning/chuck.htm>

and it will lead you to very detailed step-by-step instructions on how to make a Longworth Chuck. The site is loaded with photos and diagrams explaining each step in the process of making the chuck.

The Longworth chuck was developed by Mr. Longworth around 1988 and is self centering chuck which holds the rims of bowls, enabling the turner to complete work on the base of the bowl. A very useful tool for removing all evidence of how a bowl was originally chucked. The chuck can be easily customized to fit your lathe.



Side view of chuck



Chuck with holding a bowl



Front view of chuck

Other Websites of Interest:

Below are three links to Internet sites dealing with:

- **Microwave Drying Wood**

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~rhaslip/Rex/workshop/microwae/microwav.htm>

- **Reducing Timber Drying Defects by Boiling**

http://www.mdmwood.com/woodworkers/website/boiling_bowls.htm

- **Links to Information on wood and Plant Toxicity**

<http://www.davidillig.com/awg/safety.shtml>

Check out these sites for loads of useful information.

Further review of the content of these sites will be covered in future "On the Web" columns.

If you have any questions, comments, turning tips, articles, photos, etc. you wish to put in the Newsletter please contact

Jerry Markowitz at:

email - jerrymarko@yahoo.com
 mail - 620 Chambertin Dr.
 Kenner, LA 70065
 phone (504) 464-6050



Woodturning with O.B. Lacoste



~~~~~ Shop Notes ~~~~~

At the last meeting I was talking to someone about spalted wood. After coming home, I ran across an article by Alan Holtham in Woodworking Magazine called The Noble Rot. For those of you who don't get the magazine, I thought it worth highlighting some of his article.

It helps if we understand how it occurs and how we can make our own spalted wood. What happens is a complicated biological process, the outcome of which depends on a number of factors. It is these other factors such as humidity, temperature, oxygen levels and the exact species of fungi that determine the final unique results. Fungal spores are ever present in the atmosphere, floating around us at all times. If one lands on a piece of wood in a suitable state for the spore's growth, infection begins. Once the fungus is established, it starts spreading out via a mat-like mass of tiny roots called the mycelium. As the individual strands grow out, they digest the wood in front of them. Usually this first infection by what is called pioneer fungi has little effect on the strength of the timber, merely discoloring it. This depends on the species of fungi. There is not just one species involved here, there are dozens of different types. Some are specific to a particular wood species or group.

It is only when another species of fungi joins in the process that spalting, as opposed to rotting, starts. Each fungus, and these may be many in a single infection, makes its own way through the wood, leaving a different color behind as it goes. However, as soon as one species comes up against another, a black line is formed. This is what characterizes spalted wood.

The author goes on to say that he has tried several times to spalt his own wood but has rarely been successful.

Have fun and keep your tools sharp.

A warm Bayou Wood-
turners Welcome to
our newest member -

Mike Daquin

The Wood Lottery

The first meeting I attended as a member was held at Southern Saw and Cutter in Harahan. I remember talking with Lyle for the first time in over 25 years, seeing some awesome ornaments and winning 4 pieces of wood, worth about \$25.00, for \$5.00 worth of tickets. I had a pretty good day.

I didn't know it at the time but I was doing more than taking a chance on some wood that was donated by other members. I was supporting the club newsletter and video library. During a recent recap of the club's financial records I discovered that the amount raised by the raffle (\$3144.00) had completely offset the expense of printing and postage of the newsletter (\$1949.07) and the library contributions (\$1199.65).

The raffle is your chance to try some wood that you wouldn't otherwise come across. It also gives you a chance to share found goods with your fellow turners. And you can do all of this for only \$5.00 for 6 chances.

The next time you hear me harking the wood raffle just imagine I'm shouting "support your club, support your club!"

Eddie Castelin, Treasurer

Upcoming Art and Craft Shows

Fresh Art Festival
in downtown New Orleans -October 19-20

Poydras House
in New Orleans -October 26-27

Three Rivers Art Festival
in Covington November 9-10

The New Orleans Woodworking Show
January 24-26

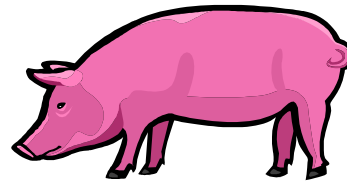
Our turners will be on display at these festivals.

PICNIC

Don't miss the October meeting !!!

Our 3rd annual **Cochon du Lait** promises to be the best yet.
There will be loads of activities and fun to be had by all.

- * Who: All Members and their Husbands, Wives, Significant Others. Bring the Kids.
- * What: Pig Roast
- * When: Saturday October 12th 10:00AM – Till
- * Where: Dick and Julia Gahn's (see map on page 4)



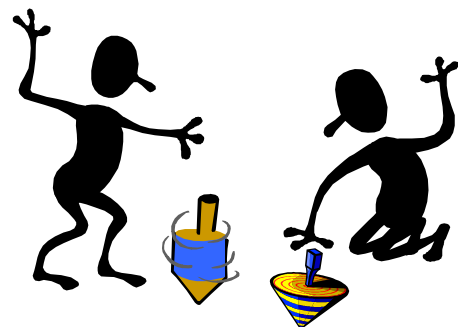
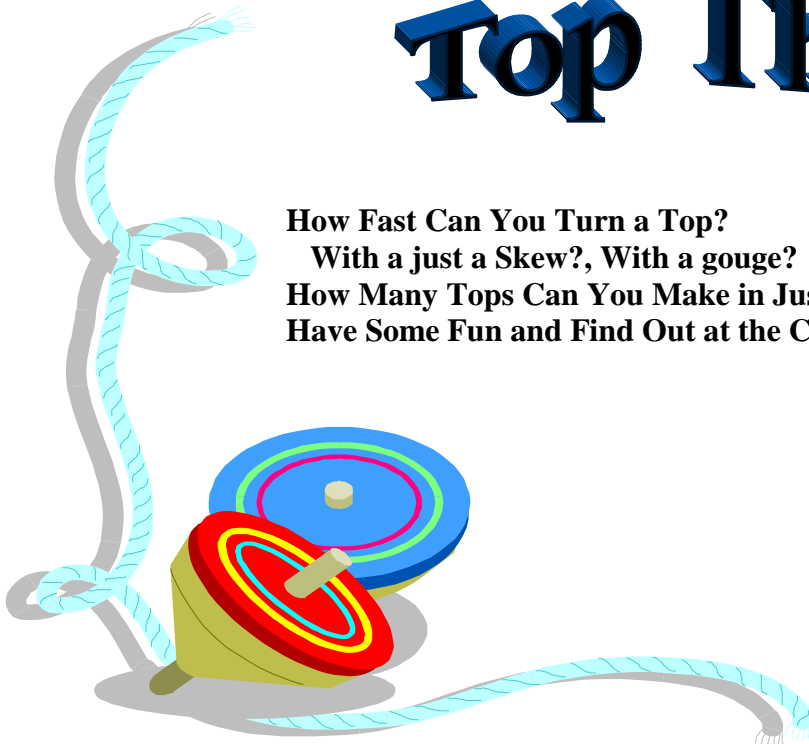
Dick and Julia will be supplying the pig and tableware, please bring a covered dish to share with others, your own beverage of choice, and chairs.



Top This



How Fast Can You Turn a Top?
With a just a Skew?, With a gouge?
How Many Tops Can You Make in Just 10 minutes?
Have Some Fun and Find Out at the Club's First Top Turning Competition



Belt Sander Racing

Get Your Belt Sander Tuned Up for the 3rd Annual Bayou 500

Be sure to bring your camera for this one – It's a lot easier to show your family, friends and coworkers pictures than to try to explain that you went to a picnic and watched grown men and women race their belt sanders.



The defending champion
Don McLaren



Ornament Challenge

Don't forget to bring your ornaments. There will be a judging for the best ornament(s). All entered ornaments will be donated to Children's Hospital. The Hospital in turn will sell the donated ornaments at several local fairs to raise money. The money raised will be turned over to the Hospital during their annual On-the-Air Telethon. This is a great chance to give to our local community and get publicity for our Club as well. Even if you do not wish to enter a piece in the competition please bring an ornament(s) to donate to the cause.



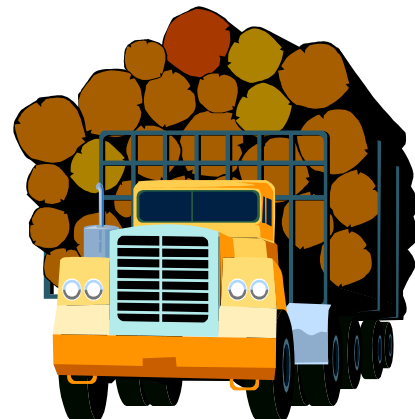
Wood Swap

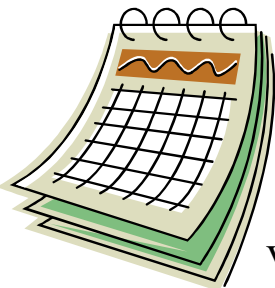
Have a surplus of a certain kind of wood?

Looking to turn something different?

Bring your wood to the Picnic and there will be an area set aside for you to barter and trade and make your best deal with others who will be bringing wood.

Note: There will not be a raffle for wood at this meeting.



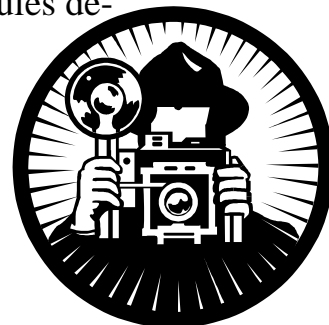


Calendar Photo Contest

The photographs have been taken and 32 great looking entries must be narrowed down to just 12 for the *2003 edition of the Bayou Woodturners Calendar*.

Voting will take place during the picnic under the rules described in the August and September Newsletters.

Good Luck to All !!!



**Please RSVP Dick and Julia Gahn if you plan on attending.
(985-893-603 rgahn@nternet.com)**



Dues are Due



2003 Club Dues (\$25.00) are due by January 1st.

Please pay your dues early.

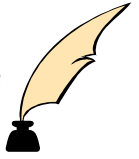
Cash or Check.

Charlie Kragle will be collecting the dues.

Make check payable to The Bayou Woodturners.

(New members who have joined the Club after September 1, 2002 will be considered paid up through the 2003 year)

Featured Article



The Art of Good Photography

By Kathy Kahnle

This article tells you how to take good photos of your work without the need for a studio (photoflood light) setup or a digital camera.

Taking fine photos of your woodturnings doesn't require an arsenal of equipment or lighting; more important are basic skills, practice and a bit of patience. All photos shown here were done with a 35mm camera, a tripod, \$5 of poster board, a can of spray paint and NO lights! The trick to doing this? Basic equipment, set everything up carefully, and use your camera to the best of its ability.

Equipment

Any good 35mm camera will work, but smaller negatives will lack clarity. Better lenses and large negatives obviously make a difference but don't rush out for a new lens or camera - and don't let the professionals tell you it's not possible with 35 mm. If you're using a camera with a viewing window that doesn't allow you to see through the lens (TTL) make sure you are within the camera's focusing range.

Choosing color print, slide or black and white print film depends on your end use. The graininess formally associated with faster speed films is no longer an issue. Therefore, ISO 400 is often preferable when shooting without additional lighting, to keep shutter speeds faster.

Stabilizing the camera on a tripod, cradling it in a beanbag or some sturdy base is essential when shooting at shutter speeds below 1/125 sec. Although 1/60 or 1/30 of a second may seem amazingly quick, hand holding a camera at 1/60 will produce a fuzzy result and a vase can be made to look like a speeding rocket at 1/30.

A shutter release or self-timer also helps produce sharper photos if the option is available; if not, gently depress the shutter to avoid camera shake.

This persistence about keeping the camera still may sound fanatical but everything (including errors) is enlarged six times when a 6 x 8 print is made from a 35mm negative.

A backdrop made of a sheet of medium weight cardboard available at most printers, office supply or art stores works great. For large turnings, larger board, a bed sheet or other carefully setup backdrop will work. Color should be neutral and not distracting. Light shades of gray or cream usually work best, but occasionally green, maroon, brown or even black is

acceptable; just take care that the background color doesn't compete with the turning.

A shadow behind the turning, unless it is a very dark turning, helps it stand out immensely (photos 1 & 2).



This can be achieved in two ways. Either, cast a shadow with cardboard or spray paint approximately 2/3 of the backdrop with a slightly darker color, blending the

transition from dark to light to prevent hard lines. Add to all of this white cardboard for a reflector, and you're ready to begin.

Setup

Your studio can be a desk, table, the floor or whatever space provides the best available light (photo 3).

Setup in a bright area with diffused (not direct) sunlight, a bright room, near a window, or outdoors in

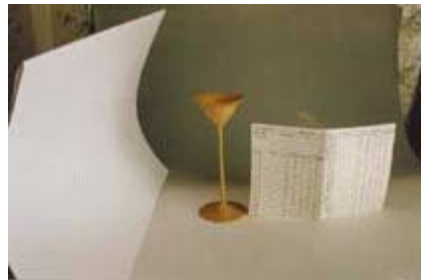


shade on a bright day. Outdoor shades work well, but be aware of the blue cast the sky creates during midday (approx. 10am-3pm). Either use an 81A filter to correct the blue cast or

simply don't shoot at midday. Also check for odd colors being cast from walls, curtains, or nearby objects.

The backdrop should curve smoothly with the darker portion as the wall of the backdrop. For dark turnings the lighter color may work better as the wall

(photo 4).



Place turnings 20 - 50 cm in front of the backdrop wall depending on space available. Your woodturning will usually look best if photographed alone unless there is a specific reason for props. And of course, turn the best side toward the camera.

Hard shadows (like that cast by the sun on a bright day or a spotlight) are usually distracting. Moving the

setup slightly, changing directions, adjusting curtains, hanging a white bed sheet in front of a window to diffuse direct sun, etc. These can make huge lighting differences and patience to look carefully and make minor adjustments to lighting will pay off. Once a good location is found setup will go much quicker next time.

If even a slight shadow can be seen, the turning is obviously shaded on one side. If so, place a white cardboard/reflector as close to the turning as possible, without being in the photo. (photo 3) Adjust the cardboard so it reflects light back onto the shaded part of the turning. A detail, yes; but one that is well worth the trouble (photos 1 & 2.)

Shooting

Camera height/angle should be adjusted specifically for each turning, minor adjustments can make huge differences in the look of the turning. In general, shallow, open objects need to be shot from a higher view point; while the shape of vases, hollow forms, etc is better shown from a frontal view. Determine the most important feature of the turning and adjust camera height accordingly. Remember to use a tripod, beanbag or something to hold the camera steady. Test drive a tripod on speculation from a shop, borrow one from a friend, or get creative; just get the camera steady!

Camera light meters are wonderful tools but often give horrible readings - at least until we understand what they're telling us (Ever wondered why you can't see the faces of friends you photograph on the beach if the sun was behind them?). The meter reads light from the whole scene and averages it. A small dark turning on a light colored background will show the background perfectly light, and leave the turning so dark no details can be seen. If a meter reading of the whole scene (background & turning) is quite different from a close up reading with only the turning visible in the viewfinder (i.e.. f 11 vs. f 5.6) you will have problems.

To compensate: Use the close up meter reading of the turning - reposition the camera, BUT shoot at that light setting. Another option, take a meter reading of a photographic gray card held in front of the turning with nothing else visible in the view finder, then shoot at that setting. A gray card is the average color used to calibrate light meters (available at photographic shops for about \$4.)

A beautiful turning photographed with the front in focus and back in fuzz is really dispirited. Depth of field is critical). It refers to the distance from front to back that is focused reasonably sharp (not how deep the tractor sinks in the spring). Technical discussions

barred use these basic facts and techniques to increase depth of field and have the entire turning in focus.

1) Use the highest f-stop number you can - the higher the f-stops the greater the depth of field.

Increase f-stops by:

A) Slowing shutter speed; shutter speed and f-stops have an inverse effect on each other.

B) Increasing light

C) Using faster film

D) Using a shorter focal length lens if possible, i.e.. a 35mm lens vs. a 50 mm

2) Focus approximately 1/3 back from the closest point; there is more depth of field behind the point of focus than in front of it.

Wood is often hard to focus on, a type written paper placed at the focus point helps focus precisely. Just remember to remove it after focusing. Then shoot! No, wait - check everything one more time just to make sure. The setup, composition, steady camera, lighting, f-stop setting, focus (1/3 back) and SHOOT! Next, immediately write down your camera settings and basic setup. Getting back a wonderful photo but not remembering how you did it is very frustrating. It also helps trouble shoot any errors.

Trouble Shooting

Once you get your photos back look them over carefully. Compare each photo to the notes you took (you did write the settings down?) With a little sleuthing you can figure out what you did right, and wrong.

Too bright or too dark? It's easy to do, because the meter is a moron and may give horrible readings - until you understand what it's telling you!

How's the focus? If it's all out of focus it's probably due to camera shake, being too close or simply focusing improperly. Part in focus - did you focus on the wrong place &/or need more depth of field? Inadequate depth of field is probably the most common error in published woodturning photos - and easy to correct.

You may also encounter glare, due to high gloss finishes. Altering the lighting &/or location is the best economical alternative. A polarizing filter is designed to reduce glare, and well worth the \$60, if you shoot loads of photos, otherwise don't bother.

Yea, it does take a bit of time and energy to do all of this. But, if you follow basic guidelines and practice a bit you'll get some fine results, and it will get easier to do. Then you can keep ALL of your turnings (as photos) without worrying about where to put them!

Special thanks to the National Association of Woodturners of New Zealand for their permission to reprint this Featured Article.



Bayou Woodturners
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New Orleans, La. 70123

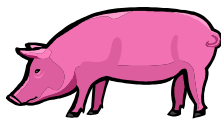
Place
Stamp
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The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter



In This Issue:



Pig Roast



Top This



Photographing
Your Work

Turning Tips

Woodturning with O.B.

Upcoming Events



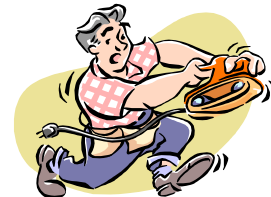
Wood Swap



Ornament Challenge



Calendar
Contest



Belt Sander Racing

And Much More