

The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter

October 2003

Volume 05

Issue 10



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From the Headstock

A good time was had by all, except the pig. Our annual Pig Roast was a success and our hosts, Dick and Julia Gahn, outdid themselves for yet another year. The weather cooperated right up to the last moment. The belt sander races now have a new champion, Dick Gahn, and the jitterbug sander racers now hail Steve Rome as the “Chief of the Jitterbugs”. Like I said, a good time was had by all.

I used the pig roast as an opportunity to show off Lathezilla, our very own version of an ornamental lathe. I do believe it will be up and makin’ shavin’s at the October meeting. I’ll start taking reservations for its one-month stay at your shop sometime before Christmas. I have to get some bugs out of it and learn how to use it before I let it go. Once you use it to finish off some of your work you’ll be asking how to build one of your own and I think I’ll have a plan for that.

Coming up next month is a return trip to Ponchatoula and Acadian Cypress and Hardwood. They will be operating an open shop, just like last time. I’m assured that there will be some BWT specials, just like last time. Did you buy one of those laminated mahogany blocks? Bring it back and show us what you did with it. And this is going to be your last chance to enter the calendar competition. Bring a few pieces and get into the game. There is also a special challenge by Steve Vallot with

that magnificent block of poplar. (See article on challenges)

Hey in November we’ll be at the senior center and we’re looking for those Christmas ornaments. Get started on those special little treats for the trees.

I just finished reading the AAW book on “Put a lid on it” from the 2003 symposium and I’m geared up for making jars. It’s out to the shop to dig out some scraps and make shavings.

*Eddie Castelin,
President Bayou Woodturners*

Next Meeting
9:00* AM
October 11, 2003
Acadian Cypress &
Hardwood
Pontchatoula, La
Hwy 51 and Industrial
Park Blvd

Directions & Map
on Page 11

* 9:00 AM Mini-Session
10:00AM Regular Meeting

On the Internet at: www.woodturners.com

A GOOD STARTER CHUCK, GREAT BACKUP CHUCK

By Eddie Castelin

I was recently in the market for an additional chuck. I wanted one I could leave on Lathezilla when I sent it to visit other member's shops. I looked at some simple scroll chucks, like the Nova, etc. I was ready to buy when I happened on a new item in the Penn State Industries catalog. It almost looked too good to be true. After all, you don't find a scroll chuck for under \$50. I had to take a look at this one. I ordered one and am pleasantly surprised at the quality of the chuck.

It comes with two inserts, a 3/4"-16 and a 1"-8. I built Lathezilla for 1"-8 and that also matches my Jet and Delta. The insert just screws in so I used some lock-tite on the threads. It comes with two handles and a really nice screw center. It closes down to 1-5/8" and opens to just over 3" (I wouldn't go too much over 2" so I get a better grip. The jaws are simple dovetails. For a delivered price of \$51.45 this is a good starter chuck and a great backup. Penn State Industries item #C3418



Ken Lacassin celebrates his birthday



Lathezilla

See it in action at the October meeting

2003/04 Bayou Woodturners Meetings

October 11, 2003 Acadian Cypress and Hardwood "Two Lathes are better than one" - Special Frank Vallot Challenge - Calendar Photos will be taken

November 8, 2003 Harahan Senior Center "Christmas Gift Ideas" -Ornament Challenge and Calendar voting

December 13, 2003 Marchand's Tool Center Christmas Gift Challenge

January 2004 Riverside Lumber Company

February 2004 Harahan Senior Center

March 2004 TBA

April 2004 TBA

May 2004 TBA

Treasurer's Report

By Gordon Ousset

Beginning Balance:	\$1,621.41
Income:	
Total	\$0.00
Disbursements:	
Pig Roast	\$143.79
Library	\$116.19
Newsletter	\$50.25
Mailing Labels	\$13.04
Bank fee	\$8.00
Total	\$331.27
Balance - Sept 25, 2003	\$1,290.14



Bayou
Woodturners
Pig Roast
2003





The Winners: Steve Rome & Dick Gahn





October: We have a special challenge thrown down by Frank at *Acadian Cypress and Hardwood*. Frank gave all in attendance at the June meeting a block of Poplar wood and challenged you to bring back some art. I changed it up to include the condition that the finished piece fit in a box the same size of the block of wood. If you didn't get a block and want to enter, the piece must be of poplar and no larger than 2" X 2" X 6". Frank has promised a special prize for the best of show. This will be interesting, I guarantee it.

November: We have a double whammy of challenges. The second annual *Calendar Contest* will be judged. Please follow the guidelines set down by Charlie Kragle and included in this newsletter. Be sure you note that your piece must be photographed prior to the meeting. Photos will be taken at the *August* and *October* meetings. And if you're interested in our double-pronged *Christmas Ornament Challenge*- One division is for bragging rights and possibly the December calendar page. The other division is donated to Children's hospital and some nice prizes will be awarded to the winners. Spin some ornaments and get in the Christmas spirit early. The Best of Show in this double competition will be the December Calendar page.



By now you all should have received your AAW Ballot to choose the next members for the Board of Directors of the American Association of Wood-tuners for the period from 2004-2006.

One of our own members, Ron Alexander, is a candidate. So let's get out the vote and be sure to cast your ballot.

Book Review



Woodturning with Ray Key, by Ray Key, B T Bradford Ltd, 1998. ISBN 07134 81498, 128 pp, \$19.95 USD

This book has an apt title: Woodturning *WITH* Ray Key. The reader is invited to accompany the author, looking over his shoulder, as he displays his skill and craft. Although details of some projects are given, they are frequently too sketchy or incomplete for the novice turner. In fact it is difficult to determine just who this book is intended for. The fundamentals of tool geometry and cutting techniques are too incomplete for anyone trying to learn woodturning for the first time. There is no discussion of basic cutting procedures such as bevel control, coves and beads. On the other hand, the projects presented are little challenge to the intermediate level turner. There are insights here but one has to search them out, frequently from scattered sources throughout the book.

The chapter on earning a living gives insight into this area, emphasizing the market for functional items over the merely artistic or decorative.

The section on equipment shows the first signs of how incomplete the chapters can be. The discussion of lathes, chucks and other equipment is straight forward and good. Likewise the illustrations of standard spindle and bowl gouges. But there are prominent illustrations of ten of Key's modified tools, which he has developed over the years. But the photos do not fully show the geometry of these important modifications and no techniques for their use. One catches glimpses of them in use throughout the book but never with a detailed explanation of their properties. His modified spindle gouge with one severely swept-back wing is frequently seen in action but without elaboration. We see his shear scraper in action but there is never a discussion of the shear scraping technique itself for the novice turner. Sharpening is well discussed and illustrated, once again avoiding application to his modified gouge.

His section on finishing is complete and, as in the case of most turners, highly personal. He favors power sanding followed by non-curing oils or lacquers. He mentions Danish oil, apparently unaware of the enor-

mous variation in these commercial products, some being diluted varnishes with no oil content.

A chapter on Shape and Form is too generalized and generic, being only 2 1/2 pages long.

A series of projects starts with chopping boards, a simple turning, followed by pestle and mortar. A project of salt and sugar bowls, in addition to standard turning, reveals an excellent technique for salt spoons, using a router. A section on pepper mills is misleading, failing to account for the great variation in measurements demanded by the numerous different grinder mechanisms. Following this is a good discussion of salad bowl construction and then a thorough presentation on boxes. The latter to be expected from a pioneer in this area. Platters, small bowls and tall vessels complete the projects section.

In summary this is a mixed presentation of Ray Key's personal turning procedures. The lack of fundamental tool technique makes it of limited value to the novice turner. At the same time, the projects, as presented, offer little challenge or clarification to more advanced turners. A glaring deficiency is the illustrated use of Key's numerous tool modifications without elaboration of their geometry or use.

Ron Alexander

Video/Book Reviewer



Don't Forget – Pictures for the Calendar Contest will be taken at the October meeting. Rules on page 7

Bayou Woodturners 2004 Calendar Contest

Schedule

June: First Announcement of Contest Rules.

Aug. & Oct.: Jerry will setup his backdrop to take pictures of contest entries.

Nov.: Display and selection of entries by random drawing and membership voting.

Contest Entry

The contest is open to all BWT members in good standing and is limited to three entries per member. Members will be limited to one winning entry each.

1. Each entry may include one or more turned pieces and include accessories and props to enhance the presentation of the entry.
2. Entries of each member shall be entered into one of three categories, "beginner", "intermediate", or "advance", of the member's choosing. An Entry Form must be completed for each entry.

Entry Selection

1. Section of entries will take place at the November 2003 meeting. A total of twelve entries shall be selected to be included in the Bayou Woodturners 2004 Calendar as follows:
 - Three (3) by random drawing from all entries.
 - Three (3) by membership voting from the beginner category.
 - Three (3) by membership voting from the intermediate category.
 - Two (2) by membership voting from the advance category.
 - "Best of Show" from the ornament challenge.
2. All contest entries will be assigned a number and displayed by category for members viewing. The first three entries will be selected by random drawing of assigned numbers. Members will then vote for their first, second, and third chose in each category on provided ballots.
3. Entries will be award points for each vote received as follows, 3 pts. for 1st, 2 pts. for 2nd, and 1 pt. for 3rd. The points will be totaled and the three entries from each category with the most points will be selected.
4. In the case that an entry is from a member already with a winning entry the entry with the next next highest score will be selected.

Corporate Sponsors Bayou Woodturners

R.J. Marchand
Contractors Specialties Inc.
3515 Division Street
Metairie, La
(504) 888-2922



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

Craft Supplies USA
www.woodturnerscatalog.com



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

Jerry Markowitz at:

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mail - 620 Chambertin Dr.
Kenner, LA 70065
phone (504) 464-6050



MY LATHE

(Editors Note: This is the first installment of a series of articles describing the different lathes used by members of the Bayou Woodturners. The intention is to expose members to the pros and cons of different machines and the personal preferences of other woodturners.)

Jet Mini Lathe, by Eddie Castelin. I really didn't have much faith in mini lathes when I started turning on a regular basis. I'd used and had several full-sized home center lathes over the years and was somewhat happy with their performance. I use the club lathe at one of the wood shows and decided that I had to have one just for a backup. I ordered a Jet Mini Lathe from Penn State Industries (big sale) for \$259.00. Within the next few days I discovered that a chatter I had in a full-sized Ridgid lathe was inherent with the round tube type of tool rest support and it would only get worse. My Jet Mini Lathe became my primary lathe at that time.

The Jet Mini Lathe is machined to the same exacting standards as Jet's larger models, but as with any lathe, you have to check alignment before you get started. The headstock and tailstock were not aligned and I had some reworking to do before I got started. The headstock, pulleys and ways aren't easy to work on. Some fasteners are standard, some metric. (I'm getting used to that on most larger power tools I encounter.) But with some backyard machining I got the head and tail to spin in line. This is the only work I've had to do on the lathe with over the 900 or so hours of turning I've put on the machine.

Changing speeds is simple but somewhat time consuming. It is rumored that Jet has a variable speed version of this lathe coming to the market in the fall. I do most of my turning at 850 and 1240 rpm. I sand and rough in at the lowest, 500 rpm, speed. I have rarely used the 1800, 2630 and 3975 rpm upper speeds, but when I have, I was impressed with the smoothness of the machine. (note: new Jets have different speeds, 500, 1200, 1450, 2130, 2400, and 3950 rpm.)

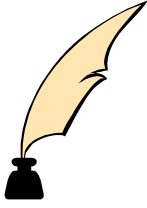
The 5 inch tool rest is rather small for some projects but some aftermarket rest will fit the 1/2" tool post setup. The tailstock is strong, has almost a 2" thread reach and will back out a morse taper live center when fully retracted. I added the optional factory stand to my lathe for convenience and comfort. I also created a tool chest/work table to fit between the lathe and stand.

The Jet Mini Lathe is a quality machine worth the current \$350.00 price tag in most catalog services. It's convenient as a lathe for the summer home or a good starter lathe. At 69 pounds, it's easy enough to get in and out of the truck or trunk. The 1/2 horse motor is more than ample to do all the work you can fit between the 14 inch centers and the 10" swing is often big enough for my projects. The unit comes with one 5" tool rest, one 3" faceplate, one #2 morse taper live center and spur center and is threaded for 1" X 8 tpi. I will one day have a One Way in my shop, but the Mini Jet will always be nearby as a back up.

Jet Tools is now manufacturing a Jet Mini Lathe with a variable speed motor. For more details contact your dealer and ask for Jet model number JML1014VS



Featured Article



Time to Make a Clock

By Hugh Mill

A clock turned from a highly figured piece of wood is destined to hang in a prominent position in the owner's home to be looked at and referred to frequently. For that reason as an object reflecting the



skills of its creator it deserves much thought in its design and care in its execution. At the same time clock designs are extremely varied. Their shape is limited only by the craft worker's imagination. Yet there is one feature that must be common to all clocks and that is the clarity of their message - telling the time! For the purpose of this article I have kept to a fairly traditional design that has remained popular for many years, perhaps because it also incorporates many of the traditional features of spindle turning.

1. Most of the clocks I turn are 250mm in diameter and 50mm thick, but the size is not a significant factor. Where the clock is going to be hung will probably determine the size sought by the purchaser. The reverse is likely to apply if it is to be a gift. I use here a piece of demolition 12x2 Kauri screwed to a 75mm faceplate.

2. The back of the clock is turned first and initial shaping is executed with a 1/2-inch bowl gouge. The recess for the clock movement should be the same depth as the thickness of the movement body. This will enable the clock to sit flush with the wall when it is hung.

3. The back is finished completely at this stage

4. I use sanding sealer wiped on with a cloth with the work stationary, wiped off immediately and then smoothed with steel wool with the work spinning. Do not apply any real pressure or ridges will appear that are very unsightly and difficult to remove. Tong oil is applied over the sanding sealer, allowed to dry and then buffed.

5. The hole for the clock spindle is then drilled. Obviously it is important to ensure that the hole is accu-

rate - it perhaps should be drilled on the lathe, in-board - for greater accuracy. Drill diameter should be just greater than that of the shaft of the clock



movement. I spend some time ensuring that the back of the clock receives the same attention to detail that I



apply to the face. A clock is an item that will sell for, or have an inherent value of \$75 - \$150 depending on size and wood figure, and although the back will be seldom seen it therefore must reflect quality.

6. The piece is now reversed, the movement recess serving as a chuck recess. I then complete the edge of the clock using a spindle gouge to cut beads. With this traditional shape the edge acts as a frame, drawing the eye into the circle of numerals and helping to project the information being sought. In many ways it is the frame that is the essence of good clock design.

7. Next stage is turning the clock face, and here design of decoration, while reflecting how you feel at the time, should also reflect one or two essential factors. I.e.:

The wood grain. Basically I believe that the greater the figure of the timber the less decoration is required. Let the wood speak for itself. Take some time to determine where the number 12 is to be placed, as this will in turn determine where the hanger goes. A highly figured piece will often suggest a scene that will enhance the beauty of the clock.

Size and type of numbers being used. Roman numerals require a wider space than Arabic numerals.

Thickness of the face at its center. I use a simple but very effective



gauge to tell me when the thickness at this point will enable the movement spindle to protrude sufficiently. All subsequent



decoration is focused on this measurement as it will also influence the movement of the clock hands.
8. The face is

completed. I use a 1 & 1/4 inch flat scraper to ensure that the band that will take the numerals is flat - an important factor in ensuring that the numerals are easily fastened to the clock face.



9. A template is used to ensure that the numerals are placed accurately. These are available for most good woodturning retailers or can be made at home using a



Using a hand drill for boring the spindle hole. This can be done more accurately with a Jacobs chuck fitted to the lathe tailstock.

protractor and compass.

10. The numerals are then glued to the face of the clock. Although most numeral sets currently available are supposed to be self adhesive I use PVA glue to ensure ample adhesion. Sometimes a customer is keen to buy a particular clock but wants different numerals. The PVA enables the change to be made without damaging the wood.

The finished article is an ideal gift for an overseas visitor, a wedding present, or for someone going into a new home. A suggestion ... if you are going to make a clock for a gift, why not make a box? A turning of this intrinsic value deserves that sort of care.

I use tung oil on top of the sanding sealer for most of my turning and find that it is also most acceptable for



A flat scraper ensures a flat surface on which to glue the numerals

clocks. Other polyurethane based finishes would also be well suited to this item. Whatever you choose, remember it is not as easy to reapply over the numerals and hands. For this reason a thin lacquer may be a more appropriate finish.



Checking the spindle hole for depth

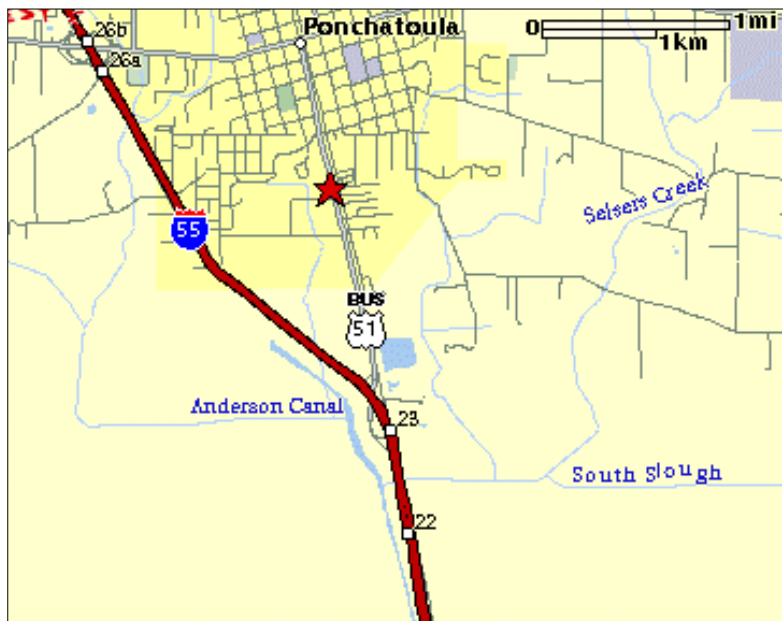
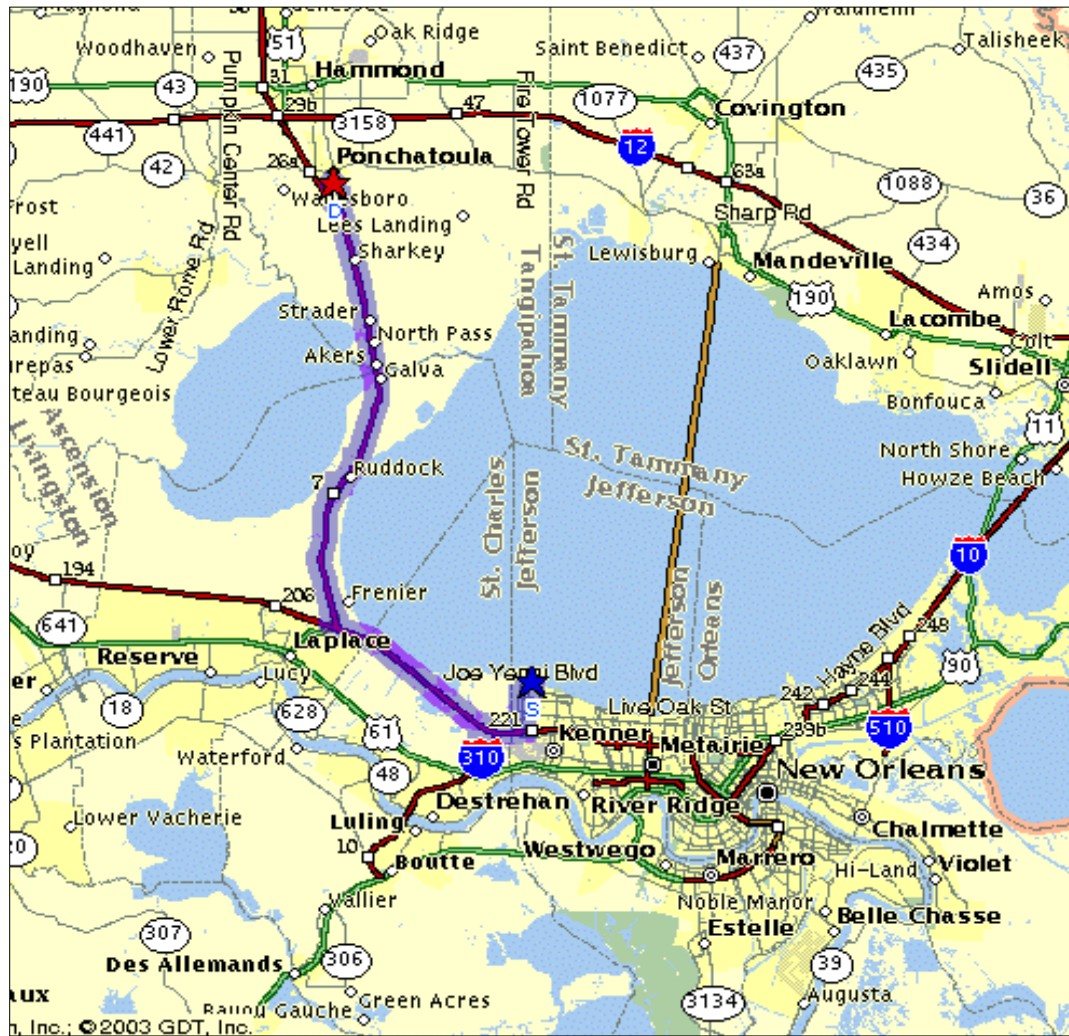


Defining the area in which the numerals will fit



A paper template assists with the correct positioning of the numerals

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



**Directions to
Acadian Cypress & Hardwoods
Corner Hwy 51 & Industrial Park Blvd
Ponchatoula, La
985-386-6079**

**From New Orleans – Take I-10 W
Take US 55 north (exit 210) toward
Hammond
Take the US 51 Business exit towards
Ponchatoula
Stay straight to go to US 51 BR
Acadian Cypress is just down the road
on the left**



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

Place
Stamp
Here

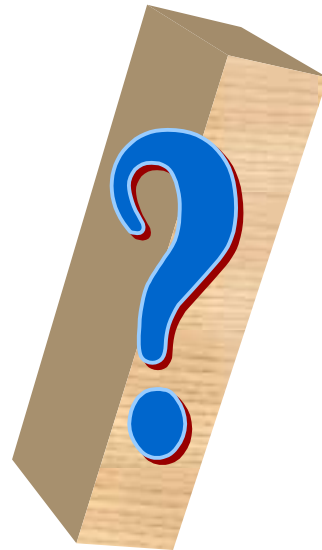
The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter



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- ❖ My Lathe – the Jet Mini reviewed
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Don' Forget
– The Poplar Challenge