

Brazos Valley Wood Turners

February 2011

Monthly meeting 9 am at TSTC in Waco on February 12

FEBRUARY DEMONSTRATION

The February Demonstrator is Joel Crabbe who will be demonstrating and exploring “round and brown” turnings using copper metal as a component to enhance the wood. He will be covering topics such as types of metal, shapes, sources and working characteristics. He will demonstrate techniques to inlay copper wire and copper foil into your turnings. Joel will also discuss potential problems such as wood movement and various strategies to address that issue. Be sure to take good notes so that you too can make use of this addition to your turnings.



Joel Crabbe, lidded box with foil and wire enhancements

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hope everyone is staying warm. This cold weather sure limits the ability to do any turning unless you have a heated shop. Hats off to Bill Meador for a superb demo. I have been to SWAT symposiums and 2 AAW symposiums and bill is definitely up there with the best of them in my opinion. I have just returned from the SWAT Directors Meeting in Waco this past Saturday. Our club was well represented with Jan, Janice Levi, Joel Crabbe and myself attending.

Congratulations to Janice for being elected Vice President of SWAT. We will be providing the table center pieces for the banquet again this year. I think candle holders like bill turned at the January meeting would be great center pieces and also fun to turn. I will provide a summary of the SWAT meeting at our next meeting.

Our own Joel Crabbe will be our demonstrator in February. Joel has been a regional demonstrator at SWAT and also is a fine turner and demonstrator. I look forward to his presentation.

I am working on ideas for a President's Challenge. My current thinking a “bottle stoppers”. Everyone can turn

them fairly quickly. I am open to ideas and suggestions so please let me know your thoughts at the meeting.

Well, I think I'll put another log on the fire! See you in February.

Thanks, Tom Dean

CLUB DUES

Club dues of \$20 are due. Please make your check payable to Brazos Valley Wood Turners. If you want to donate a little more, please feel free to do so.

In addition, it is suggested that you also join the American Association of Woodturners. You have the option of receiving their magazine in hard copy or on line. The on line membership is cheaper. With your membership you are able to find turners and chapters to visit while you travel. In addition as a club we can also benefit for the AAW insurance for demonstrations and demonstrators. Membership also brings a reduced registration fee for the national symposium. Membership also opens the web site for forums and galleries of member's work.

SILENT AUCTION POSTPONED

At the January meeting it was suggested that we hold a silent auction to raise money for our treasury. We need to discuss the details. If someone donates a bowl that they could sell for \$75 and the winning bid is \$10, do you think that turner would be more or less willing to donate turned items or time for the club? Unfortunately woodturners will look at a bowl and think to themselves “I can do that”. Certainly they could turn a bowl BUT it wouldn't be that bowl. Do we let the donator suggest a minimum price for a piece or do we just take bids. Often times you don't always look at your fellow turners as being a good as those that come from other clubs to do demonstrations.

In addition some of us turn “ah natural” in our shops—yes there is protective gear but some of us don't have heat. Should we postpone the auction until April to give everyone a little more time to create something or should we keep it to March?

Be thinking about how to run it fairly so everyone is happy and the club raises some needed funds.

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

We are still looking for a name for the newsletter. While Brazos Valley Wood Turners is nice, a named newsletter is even nicer. CTWA in Austin's newsletter is the Chip Pile which is a good name but we can do better.

I received a suggestion from Joel Crabbe to call the newsletter “Riding the Bevel”. I can just see a clipart of Joel literally riding a gouge.

Put those thinking caps on and bring suggestions to the next meeting. Remember Larry will donate a walnut blank to the winner.

JANUARY MEETING NOTES

22 members were present including Ron Torgason from Bismark, ND, who escapes to the South during the winters. He has a min-Jet in his 5th wheel and likes to turn pens, bowls and basically whatever the creative spirit suggests. He did say that there is a PennState tool that allows pens to be drilled on the lathe which is a winner.

The remodel of the restrooms is complete except for the doors.

The estate of Manyard Miller donated turning stock of black walnut, mesquite and other local wood to the club members.

Treasurers report noted that \$18 was in the checking account and savings had \$150.

OLD BUSINESS

\$269 in bills from the Christmas party.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Continue "Tool Time" - a 10 to 15 minute (or less) presentation of a tool, a jig, or a set up. Tools should include sharpening tips as well as a quick demonstration of how to use.
2. "Safety Minute" to continue.
3. BVWT to continue October Retreat.
4. As the weather warms and before it gets too warm, do shop crawls.
5. Larry was present with his laptop to give help to members. With regard to the Coppermine Gallery, members can create their own albums of their work. In addition re reminded members that they can create and post articles, post likes, e-mail members. If in doubt, Larry can help get you started.
6. Contest to name the newsletter. The winner will get a walnut bowl blank. Chip Pile is already in use.
7. Members will be able to list items for sale or trade by e-mailing Judy @ talustree@gmail.com.
8. It was suggested and seconded that we hold a silent auction of turned items to raise money at the next meeting with a minimum bid of \$5.
9. Janice has a problem with a stuck live center and received a number of suggestions as to how to free it up. During the discussion it was suggested that live centers and other centers might be a good topic for "Tool Time".

BOOK REVIEWS

Instead of having a turning project this month, I thought about planning projects. Following are two book reviews from the beginner to beyond. Let me know if there are books that you like and would like to share. I am more than willing to read it (unless I already have it) and report on it.

Judy

BASIC BOWL TURNING by Judy Ditmar.

OK, the tree is dead, you have the chain saw in hand and now what? In the compact little book are all the answers to basic bowl turning from the cutting of the wood to the finished project. This is NOT a book of endless written how to do things but instead is a picture by picture instruction manual with concise written instructions. Ditmar briefly gives an overview and goes straight into sharpening tools. She uses a minimum amount of simple tools, there are no super fancy whiz-bangs here. Her instructions and picture illustrations clearly show how tools are sharpened. The sharpening is all done freehand; there are no super jig, but that does not mean you cannot use your jigs or sharpening system.

Throughout the book, Judy points out where things can go wrong with a simple drawing of blood dripping from a finger. One is made well aware of potential dangers from chain saw accidents to dust issues.

The first thing is to harvest the wood. She does a good job of demonstrating how to get the most out of a log including rough bowl blank cutting and sealing of surfaces as needed. She shows to to mount the blank with a face plate (here the current thought is lots of screws rather than the 3 that were pictured), trimming with a bandsaw and initial roughing out on the lathe. Once the bowl is turned from wet wood, it is sealed and set aside to dry. After it has dried, the bowl is then finish turned. Again there are lots of pictures with minimal explanations.

There are 2 real treasures in the book. The first is Judy's own blend to make a food safe finish. It is simple to make and creates a warm glow to the wood. The second treasure is a means to mount the bowl to finish that does not depend on a vacuum chuck, jam chuck, or tape and rubber bands. The jig is easy to make and if you make a number of the same or similar sized bowls, you will have a fool proof method of finishing the foot which will have other turners scratching their heads figuring out how you did it.

Although this book was published in 1994, it presents the best way I have seen to learn how to turn a bowl on your own. I actually turned a bowl literally with the book right by the lathe. I didn't want to be a total idiot when I went to a fellow turner's shop to learn how to make a bowl and everything went really well until the bowl cracked and became a three part puzzle.

ELLSWORTH ON WOODTURNING by David Ellsworth

I was wandering around the Georgetown Public Library looking for reading material and I found this book in the stacks. Since I am primarily a spindle turner, I don't really like to turn bowls because they need to be sanded into submission. However, the loan of the book was free and it was a why-not moment.

Basically this is a book on how to turn bowls and vessels. Much like the Ditmar book, one can follow the instructions and create a credible bowl. However this is like the Ditmar book on massive steroids. David covers just about everything from cutting logs for blanks to exercises to keep turners limber and able to turn log hours. There is so much information and it seems like David's just talking with the reader over a cup of coffee. He has the knack of making complicated things such as how to grind his signature gouge much easier.

David, like Richard Raffin, is primarily self taught and has been turning for many years. Today we have so many tools to choose from but back then things were quite limited. David's section on tool making and sharpening is in my opinion worth the price the book. Not only does he illustrate and discuss how to make the tool, he also pays close attention as to how that tool is going to cut in a particular way to produce the turned item. He uses cheap stuff such as allen wrenches and screwdrivers as well as using cobalt high speed steel cutting tips. Other writers make this process so much more complicated that it needs to be.

The section on design was really an insight as to David's creative view of the world. There are many examples of things that work as well as a couple of "instant design modifications" as well as things that inspire his work. The

CLUB OFFICERS

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Even Coordinator: Keeley Guthrie 254-541-5111

Newsletter: Judy Williams 512-293-7479

Webmaster: Larry Walrath 512-255-5329

Liberian/Video: Bill Meador 254-857-9876

Crumpets: Dena Fox

basic lesson here is trust yourself to come up your own design. As part of the design process he also discusses various surface treatments and additions.

His explanations of the actual turning sequences for his various bowls and vessels again makes very clear what is done and why. The photographs are clear and detailed. Again I think you could turn a bowl by looking at the pictures and making sure your tools are sharp and used as he describes.

BUY, SELL AND TRADE

This is a place to buy or sell tools and equipment or offer goods and services for trade. Ads will run 3 months. Since some members live some distance from the meeting place, they are welcome to bring small items to the meeting and maybe make a sale or trade.

FOR SALE: old style boring tools by Robert Sorby. This are hand held but the business end could be easily adapted to boring bars. Contains 2 carbon tipped cutters and several handle pieces. Comes with molded box and it looks like one or two minor pieces are missing. To the best of my knowledge everything works. \$50 or best offer. Judy 512.293.7479 e-mail: talustree@gmail.com

INSTANT GALLERY

The pictures for the instant gallery are posted on the web site. It was a choice of having the newsletter ready to go versus lots of frustration in getting computers and software to cooperate. I'm still learning how to do this and decided that the Instant Gallery will have to wait until next issue.

BRING BACK

Again I must apologize as I misplaced my notes as well as not being able to post the pictures. I know people won items and will be honest and continue to bring back turned items. I did win a pen and will be bringing something back.