

Turning Times

A publication of the Brazos Valley Wood Turners

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July 2011

MEETING

9 am at TSTC in Waco on 9 July 2011

JULY'S DEMONSTRATOR

Roger Jones will be demonstrating the "ins" and "outs" of making a scoop. Scoops are very functional and one can make them in a variety of sizes, and they also make great thank you gifts.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Our annual picnic meeting was another great time. Many thanks to Keeley for allowing us to meet at her shop. What a neat place to live. I won't need instructions to get there next time as I went down every road available before finally calling and getting the right road.

A great presentation was given by Ken Mays. The first time he put a tool to spinning wood was 1947. I was all of 2 years old at the time. The years of experience in our club is truly a great benefit to those of us who are relatively new to woodturning. Speaking of experience, Roger Jones is demonstrating at our July meeting. I look forward to Roger's presentation of his skill and experience at the lathe.

What an expressive display of tea lights at the meeting! This will top last year's effort and will be impressive to SWAT.

I really missed Bill Meador and understand he had a change of plans that didn't allow him to make the meeting. Thanks to Norm for helping out.

How about Robert? The work he is doing is very impressive. He has come with Jan and me to several meetings and we have gotten to know him. He is really dedicated to turning. I would like to see more young people involved in woodturning.

I have been spending a lot of my time winding down my business and moving my elderly mother in with use and haven't been able to turn much. Hopefully things will settle down and I can spend more time in the shop.

Just a reminder SWAT is just around the corner. I hope all of you are planning to attend. See you at the July meeting.

Tom

MEETING NOTES

There were 24 members present at the June picnic meeting. Treasurer's reported \$976.02 which also reflected paid bills for the picnic.

OLD BUSINESS: Lyle Jamison is not available for

demonstration in 2011, however he is available for 2012. His preference is to do workshops and hands-on around SWAT as he drives to that event and would be in the area. The down side for the hands on is that it is a 6 hour session using full size lathes for a very limited number. James will look into other national level demonstrators for 2012 if he is unable to book Lyle.

A special thanks to Bill who was unable to be present but made all the arrangements for the food and picnic supplies.

NEW BUSINESS

The club would voted to continue the October retreat and Tom is able to get the same facility that was used last year. There was some discussion about events and it was suggested that James might do a hands-on about making wood burning tips. Further discussion will be needed before finalization of the day.

Ed will research getting new name tags and report next meeting.

SWAT update from Janice. The construction continues and is mostly complete except for the Marriott entrance which will still be under construction. SWAT is contacting the local hotels to have shuttle service to and from free of charge. The SWAT Treasurer's position is still open and Janice described some of the duties and Tom indicated he would like more information and they will follow up on this. The Powermatic/Jet survey was redone. This survey helps their donations to SWAT.

James gave a very personal safety minute reminder to always wear protective gear. He was doing a final last little cut to a bowl with inlays and his face shield was right at his feet. Naturally the worst thing possible happened. The bowl exploded and he nearly lost an eye and had a bad cut on his arm. He lost his bowl but almost lost his sight. He has trouble sleeping because the pain as well the realization of how close he came to a total disaster. He will not forget face protection again and used his accident as a reminder to all of us to think safety first and wear eye/face protection.

Deena is to purchase the 12 cup coffee maker and the club will reimburse her for the cost.

Janice suggested ways to change the raffle so as to bring in more money. There was a kitty to add to next month's raffle to see if having a nicer door prize would increase donations for a chance to win. This issue will be revisited at the July meeting.

SAFETY MINUTE

To be given at the meeting.

SHOW AND TELL

See the gallery pictures on the web. James Norton's call for nested bowls is also shown there.

BRING BACK AND DOOR PRIZE

See the bring backs in the gallery section of the web page.

I was not present for the drawings so those people who won are expected to bring back a turning. The exception is Deena who will be given extra time due to her recent surgery.

Larry W won the gift certificate.

THINGS A TURNING

The dog days of summer appear to have settled in Central Texas. It is hot with weather record breaking temps so it is time for Christmas in July. This month's project is on the one hand quick and super easy and on the other hand can be a bit of a challenge. It all depends on your point of view.

When it is so hot so early in the day and you want to at least make some shavings, why not turn an something that reminds you of cool days and family gatherings? The simple icicle is a perfect solution. These can be made in any wood and any size. There is not a limit to the design possibilities and they also offer tool practice and challenges. There is no wrong way to do this project.



One of the first considerations is how to hang the icicle on the tree or garland. My personal preference is a shop made eye screw and a shop made hook. Depending on the size and weight of the icicle, use craft copper wire at an appropriate gauge. Remember the higher the number the finer the wire. For these icicles I used 24 Ga. Using a chain nose plier make a small circle and using another plier to hold the circle, twist the ends. Measure the diameter of this twisted pair and drill a hole the appropriate size. Cut the twisted ends about 1/4" and glue into the hole. The photo shows the steps. If this isn't clear enough, many craft jewelry magazines have instructions on how to make wire parts. The hook part is also easy to make. I start with making a small coil with an end of the wire and then shape

a hook before cutting the wire off the spool. I usually string the wire through the screw eye before making the upper loop. The hook wire could be square wire that has been twisted or two lengths of wire twisted together. Consider also the color wires in the craft store as yet another option.

There is only one mandatory design element. I like the looks of a flat headed bead but anything will work. Note one has a cone top. As long as there is enough wood to drill for the eye screw, it is right.



As far as other design possibilities, using a plain wood allows for all sorts of embellishments that can be done at the kitchen table with air conditioning. This is a perfect time to try dyes on the wood. These are small turnings and if it is totally awful after embellishment, it is easy enough to turn a new one.

Some challenges to turning these icicles would be to:

1. Use only one tool such as a roughing gouge or skew.
2. Use as many tools as possible.
3. Make an icicle that doesn't need sanding.
4. Exactly duplicate an icicle without measuring or using a story stick.
5. Utilize the grain on an exotic wood.
6. Make as many as possible in a given time frame such as 20 minutes.
7. Turn one in a minute or less.

Hopefully this project will allow you to put a tool to wood and have a completed project before your shop reaches triple digits.

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