

Turning Times

A publication of the Brazos Valley Wood Turners

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JANUARY 14, 2012

MONTHLY MEETING: 9 am January 14 at TSTC, Waco

DEMONSTRATOR:

Our first demonstrator of the year is our own Tom Dean who will be covering the ins and outs of casting the tubes for pens. This technique can also be applied to various other types of woodturning and it is up to the woodturner to stretch the possibilities.



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has come and gone. 2011 was an eventful year for me. Some good and some life changing events, but all in all a good year. I am looking forward to this year and more woodturning and great club meetings. We had some great demonstrations by our members. SWAT was very enjoyable, our retreat a great success and our Picnic and Christmas meetings afforded a great opportunity to get together and enjoy each other's company. 2012 will be even better. We have moved our site hosting to godaddy.com. Larry has decided to retire from his role as webmaster and Bill Meador has agreed to take over those duties. Bill was our original webmaster and has the knowledge and woodturner's touch to keep our website a great resource for our club and members. Many thanks to Larry for his years of service to BVWT.

I have agreed to demonstrate casting tube-in pen blanks at the January meeting. I intend to make this an interactive demo with some hands on. I will be using Avery Labels with printed graphics done with Microsoft Word. I am certainly not an expert but I have done enough to have learned some techniques and tips to help you be successful if you choose to try it.

My resolution for the New Year is to improve those areas we have neglected such as new member orientation and up to date profiles of our members. Bill has some great ideas for our website and I will work with him to implement them. I

want the member experience to be a positive and friendly one and be supportive to new turners. I will be asking for volunteers to be the Membership Chairman and we will develop a new member booklet introducing them to our mentors, website and other members with similar interests in turning.

I appreciate your support and participation and look forward to serving you this year.

Tom

CLUB DUES

Your yearly dues are \$25 and are payable to BVWT. Please remit to Norm as soon as possible. Remember you get a lot of "bang" for the buck with demonstrations, special events, friendship and even the occasional party.

MEETING NOTES

Treasurer's report: \$929.51 on hand. Pending bills for the Christmas Party.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed the possibility of a wood swap with the Victoria club. Still to be confirmed are when this will happen, types of woods and if particular sizes are going to be traded.

Discussed the possibility of a Waco Art show where BVWT members could participate. Still to be determined is whether this is going to be a view only art show or more of a craft show where items could be sold.

Tom has information on an AAW juried art show. There is a \$30 entry fee. Contact him for more information.

Discussed volunteer to run the web site which would include a way to get new members into the system and to keep updated the e-mail lists for distribution. The list that Norm has is not the same as what Tom has and neither is sure if the web site has everybody. Norm passed a signup sheet for those who haven't been receiving all member e-mails.

Tom has made member name tags. Be sure to pick up yours before the meeting starts and to return it after the meeting ends. He has the software and supplies to immediately make name tags for new members.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

A total of 32 people attended the Christmas Party which included spouses and guests. BVWT members provided all the fixings (side dishes and desserts) and the club purchase the brisket. There were a number of door prizes including some figured pen blanks brought in by Janice. Dena was the big winner as she won the ornament prize and all the prizes for the spin tops as she was the only participant. Keeley won the \$50 gift certificate for the best table decoration. There were some wonderful show and tell turnings as well as beautiful ornaments. Those who brought in ornaments left with someone else's in an ornament exchange.

SAFETY MINUTE

This is the time of year for lots of parties and lots of food. If you don't want to start the new year off having to go on a diet, take moderate portions. Also since this is also the time of year when colds are common, please heed any medication warning that tells one not to use machinery while taking the medication. Respect ice covered walkways and not start the New Year with broken bones. If we do get snow, hire someone else to shovel it or wait a little while and the weather will probably change and melt it away.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks goes out to Larry who has served as webmaster for BVWT, CTWA and SWAT. His efforts often go unappreciated and un-noticed; but when something went wrong, he was always there to correct and fix it. When asked to add something, he did it with a smile. He helped your newsletter editor deal with computers and found out how hard it was to teach someone who really didn't care to understand how to do something but just want the basic "what do I punch in to do it."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As Tom mention in his notes, he wants to develop a membership chairman as well as some written guidance for new and novice turners. An organization such as BVWT really relies on volunteer efforts wether it is becoming a mentor, a demonstrator, an officer, or stepping to take care of putting chairs away after a meeting. So let Tom know

that you are available!

THINGS A' TURNING

The beginning of a new year is a time to make resolutions as well as to start again. A good place to start is to challenge yourself to make some small projects by using only one or two tools. Constant practice develops mastery. Too often a tool is bought because you some someone else do really neat things with it, or it was part of a tool kit where you only wanted one tool, or it could be something knocking around the shop that you gave up after a few trials, or someone gave it you either because they had 4 just like it or they had no clue who to use it. Magazines often will do a tool review or you might see a demonstrator use it you feel that once it is in your hands, you will be a much better turner. No matter how the tool got to you, now is a good time to play with it. There are a number of kitchen type spindle projects that don't take a lot of wood nor a lot of time and it is handy to have some of the items around just in case. Also since the wood investment is not great, this is a great time to practice with the skew or bedan or parting tool.

Since these are spindle projects that will be used in the kitchen environment, selection of wood is very important. The wood must be fairly straight grained and non toxic. Back in the day when the Romans gave up trying to control what would become England, they had the locals make barrels to transport water, wine, grains etc. The locals had had enough of the Romans so they made these barrels out of yew. Yew is a very pretty and easy to turn wood except it is also poisonous. So on the way back to Rome, many of these Romans sickened and died. So yew is probably not the best to use. Suggested woods are walnut, maple, cherry. Other nut and fruit bearing trees are probably also safe such as apple but you might want to google toxicity before beginning your project.

How big a blank do you need? It all depends on what you are going to turn. As you can see in the picture, there is a lot of size variation. There are stir sticks, honey dippers (a great place to practice using a parting tool to make even sized and depth cuts), pastry rollers (in all sorts of sizes).

Since spindles are turned between centers, one end could be used in a shop made cup chuck (more practice), a chuck or a spur drive. The important thing is not to jam the tailstock in and put the wood under a lot of stress. You want to be able to hold it firmly and not have it split as you thin it down because it has too much pressure on it. On the other hand if it is not held firmly enough, when you put the

tool to the wood, you stop the wood.

Spindles are also a great way to practice tool control. Push too hard and it is possible to gouge out vast chunks of wood. Too light a push will knock the tool away. Slow the speed down and even rotate it by hand to see how a tool cuts when the bevel is rubbing. Aim for long smooth cuts. Practice beads and coves. This is a good place to try fixing a torn out chunk with CA glue and shavings. This is a chance to play.



Here's a variety of items to get you started. At the top are spurtles in various sizes. The big one is one from Nick Cook. The smaller one used to be longer but I taught my daughters to cook on a gas stove and it somehow got a lot shorter. Going anti clockwise is a roller pin, a honey dipper, key chain, top for a tassel, a lace crochet hook holder and a Christmas ornament from Bill Sullivan for the finial. All are spindle work. Non should take all that long to make nor use a lot of wood.

Have fun!

