

The Official Journal NovaWoodturners' Guild

Season 7! April 15, 2002

The eighth meeting of our seventh season will be **Monday, April 15, 2002 at the Carpentry Shop at NSIT, 7:00 pm**

March Meeting

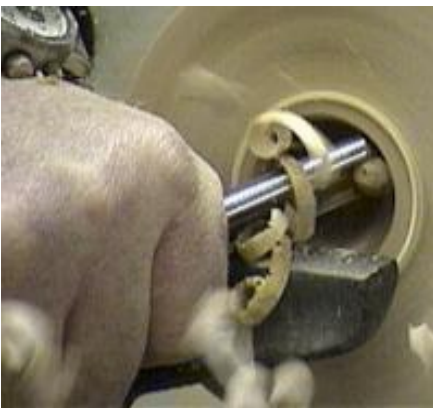
Following up on a discussion from a previous meeting, **Don Moore** brought in a large bowl he made from punky ash after treating the wood with acrylic floor polish. The parts of the bowl which were treated were quite solid; Don left a small patch on the base untreated to show how punky the wood had been. In this spot you could easily pull out chunks of wood with your fingernail. Don also brought in a hollow form which has most of two opposite sides missing. (There was no indication on whether they were never there or whether they parted company with the rest of the turning at high speed.)



Stuart Taylor brought in two pieces; one was a small bowl made from a burl from the February meeting. The other was a "vessel within a vessel" piece; Stuart explained in some detail how he made this.



Brian Galletly brought in an elm platter; the elm was almost as dark as walnut. Brian says he finished this with a Watco product and that it was the finish which made the elm darken. The hollow form on top is by **Don Moore**.



Don Moore gave two demonstrations. The first was a tutorial on performing end-grain hollowing with the gouge cutting between 12 and 3 o'clock, rather than the more usual 9 o'clock region. While this is a technique better observed than read about, the "trick" is to start at the center with the flute facing between 2 and 3 o'clock, and as the end of the gouge reaches the 2 o'clock area, the flute has rotated as far as 6 o'clock. As Don likes to say, "keep your bevel rubbing". Hopefully everyone who attended the meeting will have had a chance to try this out and maybe bring in an end-grain turning to the next meeting.



Don also demonstrated the turning of a sphere. He started by turning the middle of a piece of wood (help between centers) to an eye-balled approximation of a sphere (with two tenons remaining). He then marked the "equator" on the sphere with a pencil and sawed off the tenons. He re-mounted the work between two cup chucks, making sure the equator ran through the center of the cups. He then skimmed the surface, removing the traces of the tenons and other irregularities. Depending on how good the original approximation to a sphere is, this may be all you need, but if not you can shift the work in the chucks and skim off more high spots. The skinning cuts should be very light so that the not too much pressure has to be placed on it with the cup chucks. When the turning is close enough to a

sphere for your purposes, you can hold it in the cups to sand it.

Don made the driving cup chuck by attaching a piece of wood to a faceplate and hollowing it out. The other was also a hollowed-out piece of wood, but to allow it to rotate freely, a bearing was pressed onto a Morse taper stub, and this bearing was set into the back of the chuck. Don points out that the diameter of the cup chucks does not have to closely match that of the sphere being turned.

April meeting

It is well past time for another fun turn. At the April meeting we will be distributing blocks of ash (roughly 6x6x2) to be taken home and turned; This time around the piece of wood will be more suited to side-grain turning than to spindle turning, but you can do a spindle turning with it if you prefer. The turnings will be brought to the May meeting for everyone's admiration. If you can't make it to the April meeting you can pick up a block from **Bill Luther at Busy Bee** or from **Jim Diamond** at his home.

We are still preparing the topic for this month's meeting (aside from the wood distribution and the oooh-ing and aaah-ing over everyone's end-grain turnings). But you can be sure it will be good!

Letter from the President

Our seventh year of operation will be wrapping up in a couple of months, and I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on where the guild has been. We started with about 20 members and we have grown to 49 members on my most recent list. I don't have the original member list at my disposal, but perusing the 1997 list, I see that 15 of the 26 people listed there are still members (and a couple of the others no longer live in the area). It is natural for every club to have some membership turn-over, but I think the fact that we have such a high percentage of people remaining with the guild indicates that we are achieving a reasonable degree of success.

As president (and maybe even more so as librarian), I've had the pleasure of getting to know more of the members than, I expect, many of you have. While I only know some people very casually, I've become fairly good friends with some people, and I can truthfully say that I think we have an exceptionally good group of people. It is interesting to reflect on the variety of backgrounds of club members. To name just a few, we have (or have had) scientists, programmers, salesmen, doctors, managers, lawyers, puppeteers, teachers, clinical perfusionists, professors, fishermen, policemen, lithographers, ministers, and even professional woodturners among our membership. In what other setting would you meet and become friends with such a diverse group of people?

In the first few years of the guild, the list of directors was fairly static, but in the last couple of years we have had a number of people joining the club executive. I believe that regular turn-over here is not only a requirement for a healthy club, but it is also a good way for members to get involved in the organization.

While not everyone's personal situation allows them to be on a club executive, I think everyone in a club like ours should get involved in some capacity. I was told about one group which get each and every new member to sign up on one of their committees; maybe this is a great idea we should think about implementing. Of course, we don't really have any committees, but maybe we should. Manning our booth at the Atlantic Wood Show, helping with external demonstrations, auditing our financial statement, helping with setting up chairs and cleaning up after meetings are all things that need to be done, and I appreciate the time that people have spent doing those things.

As some of you know, I started a new job in January. This new job has kept me surprisingly busy, and I expect that starting in the fall I will be even busier for at least the next year or two. While being president is not an onerous duty, I have not been able to give the job the attention it deserves in the last few months; fortunately, the other executive members have picked up the slack.

Given my new job, and the fact that seven years (to say nothing of eight!) is probably too long to have one person as president, I will not be re-offering my services in that capacity for next year. I'd like all members (current directors, former directors, and all others) to consider serving on the executive in some capacity, president or otherwise. If you are certain that you can't contribute by being on the executive next year, please give some thought to being on a nominating committee.

Thanks to all members for making the guild so successful over the last seven years.

Reach us: Jim Diamond, NWG President, 469-8838 and Be Reached: Send an Email to Jim at zsd@alumni.uwaterloo.ca, identifying yourself as a NWG member and he will put you on our electronic list.

Notes for the Newsletter? If you want to contribute an article, or an ad to the newsletter, contact Chris Palmer, 462-3262, cpalmer@accesscable.net