



Slightly *Skewed*

Volume 11, Number 7

July 2003

Next Meeting:

July 13th, 2003 Sunday, 2:00 PM. Sharp at Crescenta Valley Regional Park Recreation Center.

Presentation:

Bill Haskell: Turning Green Wood

Challenge: Humorous Turnings

Workshop:

July 19, Art Fitzpatrick

Brigantine Sails:

July 26th, 27th, 10 a.m. at the Maritime Museum Dock. Sign-up Required. Bring lunch.

President's Column

By Don Comer

As is the case with all of our meetings, our June meeting was a busy one. Joe Larson gave us a Presentation on carving techniques for embellishing turnings. Although Joe does very little of that kind of work, he had rounded up a variety of turnings that had been carved by members of our club to show us a lot of the possibilities. He discussed a variety of tools and described how they were used to achieve the results we were looking at. It was an excellent presentation; he even threw in a few jokes along the way to lighten the mood. I'm still working on that "Save the Spotted Dowel" joke though, Joe.

Bill Haskell passed out postcards for us to send to our friends and relatives to invite them to the GWG "Trees to Treasures" show at the Brand Library. Damon Siples picked up a few late items to add to it. Earleen Ahrens, Cathy Pearman and Damon Siples have done a lot of work collecting, storing and delivering our turnings to the Library. I've learned since the meeting that Bill Haskell, Dick Lucas, Michael Kane and Ed Hotchkin have done a tremendous amount of work unpacking the turnings and setting up the display. That also included setting up the AAW's "Put A Lid On It" show. (Earleen has been on a trip so Bill covered for her.) We owe all of these gals and guys a big debt of appreciation for all the coordination, planning and just plain hard work they've done on these projects.

Bill Haskell gave us a report on our Project Hollywood camera. It's been completed and taken to the American Society of Cinematographers museum. By the time you read this, it will have been moved to Pasadena for the Symposium auction. I hope there's some big spender camera nut there since half of the auction price will go the AAW Education fund and half will come to the GWG.



Photo: Don Comer

Binh Pho's colored and pierced vase.

Bill Nelson was finally able to squeeze our shirts and caps out of the vendor. They look great! Bill has a few extra Tee shirts and caps for sale. If you're interested contact Bill or maybe he will bring them in to the meetings until they are all gone. I'm planning on wearing mine to the Symposium but since I've volunteered to help the demonstrators, they may insist I wear theirs.

Bill Kelly still has some open spots for a day sail on the new brigantines. But he only has two days left, July 26 and 27. Contact him if you and your friends would like to go.

I asked for volunteers to help Bob DeVoe with the raffle. We got more than enough to help. Thank you all. But we still need a soft drink committee of at least four men to take a cooler or two home with them and bring it back full of soft drinks. The idea is that if we had several men taking turns, it wouldn't be such a demanding job. If we only have one man doing it, like we have in the past, it means he must come to every meeting, whether he's able to or has other plans. If we can't get at least four volunteers, I'm ready to declare a BYOB policy regarding soft drinks. I haven't got the board's agreement yet but I don't think they will disagree too strongly.

Later

I've just got home from the Pasadena Symposium and I'm feeling really sorry for those of you who couldn't make it. Imagine three days of no bosses, no grumpy

coworkers, no chores or errands, just friendly people, happy faces and talk about woodturning, woodturning and woodturning! What more could we ask for? It did get just a teeny bit exhausting though and it cost me a lot more than the \$225 entry fee.



Photo: Don Comer

Stephen Hatcher's stone inlaid platter.



Photo: Don Comer

Susan Rosand's colored leaf bowl.

Chainsaws!

By Cheryl Schneiders

Inherently, a chainsaw is one of the most dangerous tools ever invented. A chain saw has a cutting blade that extends anywhere from 18 inches to 5 feet and it cuts all the way out there continuously, top and bottom. Even worse, a chainsaw can cut anywhere a person can reach with it. The danger area is a cylinder potentially 8 feet in diameter and 9 feet high! Furthermore, if a chain saw blade does catch you, it doesn't leave a nice clean smooth edge cut. Each of its many teeth rips out a hunk of flesh, bone and blood. Nasty and dangerous are the operative words.

And yet for some jobs, there is just no substitute. Turners often have to deal with large logs. If you have a chunk of log 16" in diameter and three feet long that would make six nice bowls, how can you get it cut into manageable pieces without a chain saw?

The Stihl Company is one of about four companies that make chain saws, and it is arguably the best of the bunch. A Stihl saw is

the choice of most professional loggers and the competition loggers that you see on television.

But Stihl faces the same problem that tobacco companies face. If their products cause too many injuries or deaths, they will be either legislated out of existence or driven into bankruptcy by law suits. They've elected to attack the problem head-on in three areas:

1. They've led the way in making chainsaws inherently safer by designing safety features into the saws themselves. These features include a guard in front of the hand to help prevent the hand from slipping forward into the chain, a brake that stops the chain almost instantly when activated and a chain catcher to catch a broken chain before it catches the operator.

2. They've designed a whole line of safety gear to protect the operator including pants and chaps that feature two-layer construc-

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Show and Tell

This month's Show and Tell was a bit skimpy. I guess everyone was getting ready for AAW and the Brand Library, but what it lacked in quantity it made up for in quality.

Ray Ford could almost stage a one-man show and tell. He entered seven pieces this month! One was a textured bowl of magnolia finished in Danish oil and wax. There were two lacy top bowls one of ash and one of walnut, both finished in Danish oil and wax. Then there was a wood monolith of olive that was lacquered. Then there was an unspecified item with a pierced rim made from ash and finished in Danish oil and wax. To round out his contribution, there was another unspecified item turned from ash that featured a burned floral pattern and was finished in Danish oil and wax.



Terrell Hasker submitted a goblet turned from black locust and finished in shellac and a lidded box, also shellacked. Terrell also did a great job with the cameras in several of the demonstrations at AAW. In the name of all those who were unable to get prized seats in front of the lathes, I thank you!

David Holzberger must have been hungry this month. Both of his en-

tries featured mushrooms, one in a natural setting and one over 9" tall. They were made of eucalyptus and finished in polyurethane.



Bill Noble submitted an ash bowl that was dyed green and finished in lacquer.

Nick Ossipov submitted three vases, two of basswood and one of walnut. No finish was listed. Nick also submitted two sculptures of New Zealand Eucalyptus.



Mick Sears submitted a bowl of Camphor finished with French polish.

Al Sils was in a vase building mood this month. He did three. All were trimmed in copper, silver and gold but one was maple and two were walnut.



Bob Stone turned a nice vase and then turned it over to his daughter-in-law, Heather Stone who painted a beautiful rose on it with acrylic paint. Bob then finished the whole vase in lacquer.



Stihls' Ben Anderson instructs a fully garbed GWG Club member in the proper use of the chainsaw. See story Page 2.

tion with a filling of Engtex, a fibrous material that is designed to clog the sprocket and stop the engine before the chain gets to the operator. They also make safety boots especially designed for chain saw operators along with jackets and gloves. To protect the face, ears and head they offer safety helmets (ANSI S89 spec) with ear muffs to protect hearing, and full face epoxy coated shields. Most of the clothes come in two versions for hot and cold weather use.

3. Finally, they send personable young men like Ben Anderson around the country to teach all us citified folk how to use a chain saw while retaining the use of all our body parts.

Ben Anderson looked like he could have transferred from his present job into a Special Forces unit on 30 seconds notice and the contrast between him and his class of paunchy wood turners was striking. He handled the heavy chain saws (8 to 15 pounds) as if they were coping saws, all the while carefully explaining all the features of the saws to us. Although he placed a heavy emphasis on the safety features (that was his job, after all) he managed to do it without being obnoxious or preachy about it. He gave us about a two-minute course in how to fell a tree without crushing the neighbor's car. After the coffee break he supervised each of the students in the use of the saws.

I had bought my own chainsaw (not a Stihl) to the workshop. I couldn't start the thing, so I asked Ben if he could help. In the space of about 3 minutes, Ben had field-stripped the strange saw, checked all the parts, put it back together and fired it up. Then he gave it to me to try. The problem was obvious. When he pulled the starting cord, the engine was turning over about 800 r.p.m. by the time the end of the cord was reached. I could barely get the cord to the end of its travel and the rotation speed wasn't worth talking about. I finally got one start, but it was obvious that I wasn't going to get it started by myself on a cold morning. "Maybe you should get a smaller saw," Ben suggested diplomatically. "It looks like you just don't have the strength to start this one." I took the saw outside and practiced for about an hour, following Ben's instructions and was able to start the warm saw several times, but come the next cold morning...?

I learned a lot from this demo. Four items: If you're planning to buy a saw is, don't buy an electric saw because the safety clothes won't work, and the wire trailing behind is not only a nuisance but a safety hazard. Second, make sure you're strong enough not only to horse around the saw of your choice, but also to get it started in the first place. Third, Learn how to use the safety brake! Get some safety gear when you buy your saw and use it!

Contacts

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Didn't sell your turnings at the Brand?

Here's a second chance. I'm setting up a virtual gallery to sell artistic wood products. Each web page will show four items, and each item will have description written by yours truly which should help sell quite a few of them. There will also be an active promotion program for the website itself. Here's the deal:

You contact me, and either supply good quality photos of the products you want to sell, or arrange to come to my office so I can photograph your product. You also must give me some details of your products so I can write a nice description. You keep your products.

When I get a sale, I notify you, and you give me the product boxed for shipping and I give you your percentage of the proceeds.

I address the parcel, insure it and ship it to the customer.

The proceeds from the sale will be divided 75% to you, 25% to me. That's far better than you can get from most gallery owners, and you don't have to worry about insurance, protection of your products, or exclusive contracts.

My only requirement is that you notify me immediately if you sell the product on your own, or decide to keep it.

Just think, sell a couple items and you can buy that new chisel or chuck you've had your eye on without having to justify it to your wife, husband or significant other. "But, honey, look at all the money I made from turning last month!"

CALL C.V.S. AT (323) 226-4595 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO
CVSS@MINDSPRING.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

GWG Mentors List

Goblet Rings & Spiral Work:

Bill Kelly - (310) 541-1144

Hollow Vessels:

Bill Haskell, Placentia - (714) 528-4783

Kaleidoscopes:

Bob Coleberd - (818) 368-3525

Lidded Boxes: Al Sobel - (818) 360-5437

Pens: Wes Hall, Palmdale - (661) 947-9326

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