



Slightly *Skewed*

Volume 11, Number 10

October 2003

Next Meeting: October 12th, 2003 Sunday, 2:00 PM. Sharp at Crescenta Valley Regional Park Recreation Center.

Presentation: Chuck Korian: Wood Burning Techniques.

Challenge: Turnings from Construction Lumber (e. g. 2 X 4's 2 X 2's etc.)

Workshop: October 10, 2003, 9:00 a.m. Michael Lee, Carving and Texturing Turned Vessels.

Brigantine Sails: None scheduled at this time.



Challenge Contest: Intermediate Category

1st place: Dave Hergesheimer for his attractive red pitcher.

President's Column:

By Don Comer

We had a short, fast meeting last time, September 14. Dan Hogan and Bob DeVoe were not there to help me. So now we know who does all the talking. I'm sure you all agree that I never have much to say.

We talked about the activities that remain on our 2003 schedule. Although our schedule is detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, I would like to emphasize that Michael Lee's demo will occur on Oct 11, the day *before* our October meeting. (See the story on Mike Lee on Page 5)

The Nominating Committee reported that all of the club officers and support personnel have agreed to serve again in 2004, except for the jobs of President, Vice-president and Newsletter Editor. So far, they have been unable to find anyone who will agree to be nominated for those positions. Jim O'Connor and Bill Noble have told me that they are at the end of their rope as far as finding candidates for V.P. and Pres. So here's my proposal:

The duties for President and V.P. have grown through the last few years so that no-one wants to take on the

responsibility. Dan and I tried to off-load some of the burden but we tried it on an informal basis and it didn't work very well. Now let's try a formal approach.

I propose we create an activities committee consisting of the V.P. and two or three assistants. Together they could do the planning, coordination and support for all of the Club's activities. I propose they split the follow-up duties on a time basis, rather than a task basis, so that no-one would be required to be at every meeting and/or demo. The committee as a whole would determine the yearly plan and then delegate responsibility within the committee. Each committee member could then delegate the follow-up action as he saw fit but would remain responsible for seeing that it was performed correctly and on time. For instance, the V.P. could contact a pro demonstrator to arrange a demo and another member of the committee could follow up on the arrangements, logistics and real time support at the demo. The president would remain responsible for the overall direction of the program and be kept up-to-date on the deci-

Continued on Page 2.

sions of the activities committee. The president could also delegate the meeting chair, and the President's Column doesn't have to be written by the president. The task of acting as the interface to our website could be delegated to someone else. The interface with the AAW probably should remain with the president.

I will bring these proposals up again during the October meeting and will try to get some commitments. If you have any questions or suggestions, please get them to me ASAP. I'll try to incorporate them, but I want to put the general plan to the membership this week.

I sure hope that they find candidates soon. We're supposed to be electing a full slate at the October meeting so the transition to 2004 will be smooth and efficient.

Dan Hogan handed out 27 green, same size, turning blocks with the requirement that they all be turned and brought back to the September meeting Challenge, no matter how badly they turned out. Only 13 of those blocks were brought back. (Actually, there were 14, but Michael Kane said he was so ashamed of his that he didn't enter it in the Challenge. But he did show it to us.) I promised there would be dire consequences for those who failed to comply. Now here are the consequences: a couple of my friends in the Mob will soon be calling on those who failed and they'll break all their gouges and scrapers leaving nothing left but skewers. Now! Isn't that terrifying? Don't you think you ought to bring those turnings in?

There is some confusion about just what Ray Leier has planned to do at our November meeting. Will it be a Presentation lecture or a Design Critique? When Dan gets back from his Anniversary Celebration trip we'll get that straightened out and let you all know what the real

plans are. Almost all of the members thought it would be a good idea to have a Christmas Ornament as the November Challenge. So get busy on that little jewel you've been thinking about. Your spouse and friends will be impressed.

I want to welcome Kathleen Sutherland to this month's Show and Tell column. She did a heroic job of keeping track of the chaos that goes on during the awarding of Challenge prizes.

Start thinking about setting aside valuable things you no longer need to be donated to our Christmas auction. The auction, along with the raffle, is a major source of income for the Club's operating expenses. The basket you see on the sign-in table at the meetings is for a dollar or so donation to pay for whatever refreshments you consume at the meeting. The home baked goodies are donated by some of the women in the club but the club pays for everything else. We have yet to break even on the meeting refreshments and some guys and gals I know should put in three or four dollars. We don't intend to make a profit on the Pro Demos and generally we don't. Sometimes we lose quite a bit. We don't charge anything for the member demos so those refreshments are paid for out of the guild's general fund. We also have to pay rent for the park facility we use and who knows what that will cost next year? All said and done, we need those auction donations to be able to avoid charging annual dues like most clubs do.

We all have a great time at the Christmas party and auction. All the cooks in the club vie with one another to see who can bring in the most delicious food and our auctioneer makes the auction fun and exciting.

Upcoming Events

October 11: Demonstration; Michael Lee, Carving and Texturing Turned Vessels.

October 12: Meeting Presentation: Chuck Korian, Wood Burning Techniques.

Challenge Turnings from Construction Lumber (e. g. 2 X 4, 2 X 2's etc.)

November 9: Meeting Presentation; Ray Leier, Principles of Good Design.

Challenge: Christmas Ornaments.

December 14: Christmas Party and Auction; Bring in your donations and be prepared to have a great time and take home a few treasures and surprises.

October 11 - April 4 at the Long Beach Museum of Art. Thirty six artists working in a wide range of mediums including several top-notch woodturners including Rudy Osolnik, Bob Stockdale, Binh Pho and James Prestini are featured. More information at: www.lbma.org. Highly recommended by Don Comer.

Show and Tell

Text and photos by Kathleen Sutherland

Brian Williamson (Below) showed his three-legged piece with decorative edges. He used decorative techniques learned from Binh Pho.

Jerry Davis showed a piece of silver maple with mahogany on the base and top lip. Although the bottom broke off, he glued it back on and the piece is beautiful



Joe Larson used wet wood and inserted brass rings on top. He said it was fun to do, and it is also very interesting and well done.

Bob Fahrnbruch created a "ring of fire" for a candle. His experience with wet wood in the freezer and refrigerator was also informative.

Bernie Huberman used friction polish for his piece and was very pleased with the outcome.

Michael Kane (Right) had to admit that he really had the fourteenth entry for the challenge, however he kept it hidden in a paper bag. And warned us that it was ugly. But it wasn't *that* ugly. On a happier note, he cut a more graceful foot on the bowl he showed last month, and it is lovely.

Kathy Pearman made a very nice piece with thin walls. She said she broke off the bottom, but that didn't seem to change it at all.

Pete Carta showed three pieces: a perfectly shaped ball (well, it looked perfect), a lidded box, and a lid made with concentric rings for a jar. All are excellent pieces.



Amos Thompson (Above) made three magnificent platters from eucalyptus wood.

Curtis Thompson has a new Powermatic lathe and he showed a large platter of myrtle wood. His wife said it's one of the few pieces she's ever wanted to keep. She has good taste!

Jack Woodell turned a piece from a blown over Palo Verde tree. The grain is beautiful.

Bill Haskell turned a piece from a carob tree cut in Glendale a few years ago. He carved a pebble mosaic using a micro dye grinder. His second



piece had beautiful carving which he learned from J. Paul Finell.

Cal Elshoff showed a 16" bowl (Below) made of sugar maple and a 15" carob bowl. The finish on the carob bowl was Waterlox. Both are so nice.



Bill Noble showed a very small lidded container made from nutmeg. It smelled good and was perfect in proportion. Bill copied John Jordan and made a nice thick (intentionally) piece to show.

Wouldn't a meeting be boring without Carl? He showed an abstract art piece worthy of hanging a gold watch and housing an antique silver coin. One could even hang a hat on it, if the hat were high class enough. He enhanced this interesting rack by leaving the natural saw cuts on the wood which was lovingly retrieved from a dumpster.

Same Size Block Challenge:

Twenty seven blocks were given away 2 months ago for the challenge and 13 were returned for this meeting. Judges Curtis Thompson and Ed Hotchkin determined the following winners:

Mike Lee Workshop - October 10th

By Pete Carta

Mike Lee is a professional woodturner and demonstrator from Hawaii. Mike's woodturnings have become recognized by their highly sculptural, and textured appearance. Many of Mike's pieces are wonderfully organic in feel due to the many different surface enhancements that he uses.

Mike demonstrates the basic techniques of bowl and spindle turning to the real art of altering the turned form with texture, carving, and/or multi-axis turning. He covers the process of forming a vision of the completed piece from the nearly formless mass necessary for his type of sculptured turning.

His work also reflects the amazing resemblance to nature and creatures and fossils that abound in the beautiful waters that surrounding Oahu. He sometimes textures his work with sandblasting, sanding, power carving, and other techniques. He finishes the pieces by hand, rubbing them with tung oil.



Carey Caires showed us how Pledge Grab It Wipes will clean our face shields beautifully.

Kathy Pearman told us that lemon juice will take the black from walnut wood off our hands easily. Dick Lucas talked about how to keep those chuck marks out of wood when we tighten them well. We can use gasket material from an auto supply store inside the chuck to help eliminate them, but if they happen, use steam to bring the wood back.

Bernie Huberman suggested that we attach wire to dowels when we make burned indentations in our turnings.

Then the hot wire won't burn our hands.

Bill Haskill suggested putting a collar with a set screw on the tool rest so it won't move. He credited Dick Lucas for that good idea.

Bob Stumbo mentioned using a dead center instead of a spur drive in the head stock so the turning will slip if you get a catch in it.

Don Comer showed two calipers he made to measure hollow vessels. He also showed how he makes sanding balls to get into areas our hands won't reach.

From the Editor's Desk

by Cheryl Schneiders

As many of you know, I was unable to attend the last club meeting. I want to thank Kathleen Sutherland for supplying the photos and text for this month's "Show and Tell" and to Don Comer for his help and coordination.

Don has asked me if I would accept a nomination for next season's newsletter editor. I told him that I would but on a sort of quid pro quo basis that I would like to explain.

There are two factions in the club. One faction believes the newsletter should be a minimalist project focused on providing essential information only so costs can be kept to a bare minimum. This is certainly a reasonable position.

I represent the other faction. I took the position that the newsletter is an integral part of the club experience and should be accorded the same journalistic and artistic effort as the newsletters and journals of other prestigious organizations. Every club function should be covered and reported. We should provide a forum for opinion and print responses that we receive in the newsletter. We should print announcements of events that are important to wood turners or expected to be of interest. I think it is especially important to review workshops, demos and shows.

In a sense, my model in producing this newsletter has been Curtis Thompson's excellent newsletter for the El Camino Turner's Club. Curtis' newsletter is regularly six pages, and he isn't shy about adding pages as necessary. This month's El Camino Wood Turner has a 7th page insert devoted to Mike Lee's upcoming demonstration for their club.

This month, if I were to keep to the four-page minimalist model, I would have to leave out the promotion for Mike Lee, the review of Lyle Jamieson's workshop and the reprise of the meeting demo, and I haven't done it. As you see, it's six pages.

So the first thing the membership must agree on is the style of newsletter they want. I suggest that Al Sobel and Bob

DeVoe tell the club specifically what the newsletter has cost this year, and what it cost in prior years as a minimalist operation so the members can compare and decide.

The human cost is a bit more difficult. In the past year I have spent between 20 and 30 hours a month on the newsletter. The time that I now spend on the newsletter was that time that I formerly spent in my shop. Basically, I haven't been in my shop for a year. I joined the club with little experience and the dream of becoming a wood turner for fun and (maybe) profit. It is now clear that as long as I edit the newsletter, I'm not going to become much of a wood turner. That brings me to the quid pro quo.

For the past year I've been working on a web site designed to sell a number of types of items, including gifts, wood art items, photos and books. This isn't hobby stuff. I need to make money to pay my mortgage. So, I told Don that if he and a few of the other better turners would let me sell some of their pieces on my site on a commission basis, I would agree to continue producing the newsletter. It seemed to me that this was a win-win situation for all concerned. Not only would the turners continue to have a nice newsletter, but if I'm successful with my web site, they'll make some money from the pieces that are currently collecting dust in their homes. For my part, even though I won't become much of a turner any time soon, I will still be involved as a writer and a virtual gallery owner. With a bit of luck, I'll make some money from my involvement. Don agreed to give me a few pieces on a trial basis and Art Fitzpatrick is considering the idea. Ideally, I would like to represent six to eight clients with about six items each.

You, the members, must decide if you like the current newsletter and want me to continue to produce it under the conditions I have discussed.

Lyle Jamieson Workshop Review

Lyle Jamieson gave a workshop demonstration on September 20th to a slightly smaller than normal GWG crowd. Those who didn't attend missed an excellent tutorial in this reporter's opinion. And I say this in spite of the fact that I don't really care for Mr. Jamieson's principle artistic focus. (Limbless, headless female torsos constructed with a chain saw tend to leave me feeling a bit queasy. Sorry.)

Lyle Jamieson is a turner of deep convictions. He doesn't like chucks and he made a convincing case for the use of face plates and glue blocks. And, having made his case, he showed how to do it right, demonstrating that his procedure was adequate even for the huge, unbalanced blocks of wood that he customarily turns.

Lyle is not a tool junkie. Most of his turning is accomplished with a fingernail grind gouge. He also showed us how to achieve that grind reasonably inexpensively using a precisely adjusted Ellsworth-type jig, eschewing the expensive Oneway type systems. The key is in keeping the length of the chisel extending from the jig precisely the same for every grind.

The highlight of his presentation, though, was a demonstration use of his own deep hollowing system combined with his laser jig used for measuring wall thickness. The hollowing system relies on a jig which keeps the end of the boring bar in a precise horizontal plane, which, combined with a carefully adjusted tool rest, gives the turner great control and considerably reduces the risk.



Finally, Lyle described how he creates his famous hollow female torso form sculptures, essentially a multi-disciplined effort. He first finds a suitable, gigantic piece or wood. Contrary to what you might think, he doesn't choose a piece with a suitable crotch. He then roughs out the form using a chain saw and hollows out the limbs and torso using multi-center techniques and his own hollowing system. From then on, most of the work is not done on the lathe. He uses the chain saw, mini-grinders and carving tools to produce the finished product.

Challenge Winners

Novice Category

1st place: Bill Ebin for his segmented piece.

2nd place: Dean Miya for his bowl

Intermediate Category

1st place: Dave Hergesheimer for his pitcher.

2nd place: Jack Woodell for his copper band bowl.

Advanced Category

1st place: Pete Carta for his lidded container.

2nd place: Ralph Otte for his hollow form

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

Segmented Work:

Don Comer, Downey - (562) 928-4560

Basic Turning Techniques:

Don Comer, Downey - (562) 928-4560

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