

Central Florida Woodturners Club
February 15, 2007

Steering Committee meeting 5:00 PM
Buttermilk's Restaurant

Present: Mike & Susan Brooks, Bob Miller, Jim Donovan, Harvey Driver, Dave McNeeley, Gene Shields, Bob Miller, Alan Lacer, Stuart Lillie, Sherry & Al Hockenbery, Dave & Sonja Barriger, Marv Murray, Bill Wohlfart, Bob Walker, John Russell, Richard Elenberger, Rick Coffman, and Bob Varner

Treasurer: \$3150 in treasury now.

Bob Walker reports the holiday party meat cost \$250.00. While slicing the meat, he found one container was largely fat. He took it back to the vendor and was given \$125 in gift certifications.

Bob Walker received a check from the Orlando Museum of Art for \$35 for the Christmas ornaments. He gave it to Dave McNeeley, Treasurer. A check for \$650 is still owed.

The Central Florida Fair will be April 19-29 this year. Apply to be a demonstrator by March 1.

The annual Barriger Bash will be Saturday, February 19. Mike Allen promises to come with his welding rig if he makes enough to cover his gas money.

Richard Elenberger is coordinating the Chapter Collaborative Project for the next AAW Symposium. He reports that the collaborators had a great time on Sunday. A nice planet surface can be made from a burl. He needs a battery powered smoke generator. The collaborators will meet March 10, the Saturday before the next club meeting.

Woodcraft will have an Open House on Saturday, March 3rd. Volunteers for a woodturning demonstration are needed.

The Jewish Federation is having some sort of event outside the Orlando Museum of Art and the Orlando Science Center on Sunday, March 25, and requests a turning demonstration by CFWT.

The Woodworking Show will be March 23-25, 2007 in Tampa. See www.thewoodworkingshows.com.

Expect \$1000 from Florida Woodturning Symposium. Usually the club puts it into our scholarship fund. The Spacecoast Woodturners are considering a scholarship to Florida Woodturning Symposium for those who haven't been there before. Harvey Driver says "educational" can mean buying more mini lathes for teaching, or bringing in famous turners to demonstrate for the club. Richard says current requirements to attend J. C.

Campbell or Arrowmont is limiting the number of applicants. Only 2-3 people applied for our scholarship last year.

The Orlando Sentinel has a list of local club meetings in the Sunday paper. Should CFWT be in this list? We must request three weeks before our next meeting. (The request has been made for our club to be listed for the March meeting.)

The 2008 Florida Woodturning Symposium will feature Mark St. Leger, Lyle Jamieson, Mike Hosaluk and Alan Lacer in workshops next year. Numerous local turners will also be giving workshops

Regular meeting

Bob Walker, President, called the meeting was to order at 7:00 pm.

Visitors were welcomed and their names collected. They include Rosemary and Henri Vanwanderlew, William E. Dalton, Brian Finney from the UK, Bob Strobeck, Ann Stanton, and Bob Byrks.

Steve McNerny of WoodCraft wants instructors for woodturning and any other woodworking skills.

Richard Elenberger, coordinator of the Chapter Collaborative project, asks for eight volunteers to turn planets. He hands out spec sheets on the planets. He also needs volunteers to locate a battery operated miniature smoke maker for model train and a mini water pump (perhaps from Harbor Freight).

Richard Elenberger brought in jugs of Anchor Seal for sale.

The annual Barriger Bash will be this Saturday, Feb. 19 with a picnic and tool making at Dave's forge. If any special steel needed, tell Dave and he'll get it tomorrow. Mike Allen is coming from Georgia with his welding rig to weld our tools.

Demonstration

Alan Lacer (www.alanlacer.com)

Alan wrote an article on end grain natural bowls published in Fine Woodworking last year.

Issues on hollowing end grain. Most woodworking avoids end grain. Use hook tools or ring tools on end grain. He shows a small hook tool. An article on his website shows how to make a hook tool. A magazine article is coming on making hook tools.

Bleaching. Alan shows his wenge box, with black and brown streaks. When bleached, brown turns to white, black stays black. He uses a mixture of two parts bleach, 1 part lye, and 1 part hydrogen peroxide. Another box is of Australian sheoak.

Alan turns some tiny tops, and mentions our lathe was too tall for him. A doubled up floor mat raises him to the right height.

End grain hollowing. Alan mounts a blank in a chuck. Turning the outside is basic spindle work. A bowl turner would work from the rim to the middle. Using a detail gouge, he cuts a concave dish into end grain. By working from outside to inside, tear out of grain is starting to appear because fibers are unsupported. Try cutting from center to outside. The result is finer chips and it sounds like a better cut. Still there is tear out and this time it is worse because it is being scraped not cut cleanly.

The first burr on a tool edge straight from the grinder is an aggressive burr good for removing stock. Alan removes this burr and makes a new slight one with a burnisher. The tool makes a better cut but still it is rough. He makes a smaller burr and now gets a fine shaving. He is using cherry for his demonstration. Cherry shear scrapes nicely. Different burrs are used for different types of cuts. The Vikings were turners and used hook tools for interior work, as do the Japanese.

The hook tool is a gouge bent to a right angle. A hook tool cuts into the end grain of the blank. The turner gets fine shavings and sanding is minimal or unnecessary. A 3/8-drill rod is the base of the hook tool.

Softer wood shear scrapes

Making the hook tool

Use 3/8" oil hardening drill rod available from Enco and MSC.

A sanding disk mounted on the lathe is used to grind flat sides on the rod. It will make sparks. Use 100 grit Norzon paper on the wheel, blue for metal cutting. One disk can make 25-30 tools. If you are using a grinding wheel, the wheel will wear down rapidly. Smooth the gouge flat with a file. The tool needs to be blued. Use Map gas barely hot enough to heat tool. Cool in peanut oil or corn oil or olive oil. Never use motor oil. Motor oil will catch fire and make dangerous fumes. Olive oil won't burn much. Rotate the rod in the flame as it turns color. Test it with a tempilstik.

A "tempilstik" is like a crayon designed to melt at certain temperatures. They can be found at welding supply companies. Bend the rod (which is inserted in the handle) with needlenose pliers. Grip near the end to make a small hook. Make a loop so a slip stone can fit inside. Heat-treat only the end. Get the end an even orange color. Quench in oil and stir, while oil is boiling, and hope your smoke alarm doesn't go off. Rub a file on the hook and then on the body of the rod. Note the file makes a different sound on the hook and the body. Carbon added to iron makes steel. The Romans knew how to make steel. Vikings could make a poor grade of steel.

Knowledge of steel making was lost during the Middle Ages. It was rediscovered by a clockmaker in Sheffield, England trying to make springs that wouldn't break.

Sand the surface of the hook tool to clean it

A "Tempilstik" is made of wax that melts at different temperatures. A 490 Tempilstik is what Alan uses. Put wax on the shaft below the hook and put it in the flame. The flame is yellow, purple and the whole spectrum of blue. Don't let it turn red. Quench in water and stop the tempering process. Colors left on the steel rod show the temperature it reached. Now it is time to sharpen the hook tool.

Turning a lidded box

Turn the wood blank into a cylinder with a skew and make tenons on both ends. If top (lid of box) is separated from the base (body of box) with a regular parting tool, you lose too much wood. You might make a thin blade parting tool. Make it from a power hack saw blade. Be aware the blade heats up during cut and makes cracks. Set the tool down to cool during parting. Alan prefers to cut using a hacksaw with heavy blade and 18 T to inch (remove tool rest). The hacksaw removes less wood, important when the grain is prominent. He prefers a cup drive with 3 notches cut in rim. Remove the waste wood quickly, smoothing the roughness with a hook tool. Think of the opening as a clock face. Hold tool to 9 o'clock. Rotate cutting edge to 10 to 11 o'clock. You don't need a lot of speed. Don't rotate to 12 o'clock or it grabs and is dangerous. Use a spear point scraper that has been offset to cut the inside of the lid. Use the point of the shear scraper to blend the dome to the mating face. Use a sharp skew to remove excess and smooth the surface of the mating face and the bottom edge. Get a very clean cut to avoid sanding on the mating face.

Take the lid out of the chuck and put the base in the chuck. Use the base to make a jam chuck to finish off the top of the lid. When the interior of the base is removed, the base will change shape. Set both aside for a time to let the wood move as much as it wants. Cut a tenon with a slight taper on the base to receive the lid. Use a skew to cut the top of the base smoothly. Cut down the tenon to fit the lid. If it is too loose, use one sheet of Charmin to hold it or put water on the tenon to make it swell. Remember that what you remove on one side is repeated on the other side. Take several tries to get a good fit without going over. Resist the urge to force the lid on the base. Turn the top of the lid. Avoid the temptation to put a live center on the tailstock because the hole is no longer exactly at the center of the lid. Turn off the hole, and turn from the outside to center with a detail gouge. Shape the lid to a pointed tip. The inside of the lid is key to the shape and proportions of the finished box. Use a parting tool to cut a groove near the base to determine the final bottom location. Now finish the final shape of the base of the box and sand it. Apply a finish at this point. Alan uses "Maloof mix" (1/3 boiled linseed oil, 1/3 tung oil, 1/3 high grade solvent based varnish). Make the mix in small batches. Put a coat on, let it dry 2-3 days, scuff it with a white pad, and put on another coat. Remove the lid, and drill a hole to establish depth. Don't use a forstner bit because it leaves a tiny hole in the bottom that is hard to remove later. Don't start the hook tool in the hole to avoid getting the tool drawn in. Use the hook tool for a finish cut. Use a box scraper (not

a light weight one) to remove inside material. Leave the walls thick to resist the shape of the lid changing due to humidity. Thin walls in some woods will split. The bottom inside shouldn't be flat with sharp corners. Back cut the wall to a curved surface. The angle of the hook tool is important to rub the bevel. Otherwise shear scrape the inside. The hook tool is for end grain, not side grain. Smooth the shoulder cut with a very sharp skew. Put the finished lid on the box and put some detail at the joint in the base to create a shadow line.

Finally part the base off the blank in the chuck. Cut a tenon in the remaining blank to fit the base so the bottom of the base can be finished. Using a skew to shoulder cut the bottom tends to pull the base off. Use a hook tool (honed) to pull from the center to the edge. Make the bottom slightly concave to the edge so it stands on its "own" feet.

Other tips

Put roughed base and lid in a wet kiln (old refrigerator with a pan of water and a light bulb, holes in wall), then dry kiln (refrigerator with a light and fan, holes in wall) to make the wood change shape. Repeat this cycle several times

The two-inch gouge is no longer made.

Alan makes a diamond coated hone with two diameters for \$80.

Late Announcements

Woodcraft will have a sale on Saturday, March 3, 2007. This is a great opportunity to promote our club. A sign up sheet is passed around for volunteers to demonstrate woodturning.

The 7th annual Southern States Woodturning Symposium will be from April 27-29, 2007 at Georgia Mountain Center in Gainesville, GA. See www.southernstates.org for more details.

Since the woodturning club John Sutton organized is no longer active, he donates the rest of its treasury to CFWT to use as we see fit. The amount is \$200.

The wood auction and Show and Tell is delayed to the next meeting in March.