

Azalea Woodturners January 2016 Newsletter

The Azalea Wood Turners January Meeting was held Saturday Jan 23rd at Driven Engineering.

Mike Francis (President) called the meeting to order and talked about all the opportunities for members to learn from our local club demonstrators as well as from other nearby clubs including the Bayou Woodturners (Ponchatoula, LA), the Artistic Woodturners of North West Florida (Pensacola, FL), and Lighthouse Woodturners (D'Iberville, MS). John Byl listed a number of notable demonstrators that were scheduled at area clubs including Jimmy Clewes at Bayou Woodturners August 13th, Mark Sillay in Pensacola on March 12th and Jimmy Creel at the Artistic Woodturners of North West Florida Oct 15th. At our own club, Ron Browning will be here in March and Rudy Lopez will be here in April. See the attached complete schedule provided by John Byl.

Mike also stated that the American Association of Woodturners International Symposium was scheduled this year in nearby Atlanta, GA from Thursday to Sunday June 9 – 12, 2016. This was a great opportunity for members to meet renowned turners, learn from the many demonstrators, and see and buy the latest and greatest turning equipment. He noted that registered youths ages 10 – 16 who participate in the Youth Turning Hands On Sessions are also eligible to win one of the complete lathe setups from the class at the end of the Symposium. He noted that his grandson, Jackson really enjoyed the hands on sessions last year and had just missed winning a lathe.

The dates with still open agendas for our club were discussed. John Byl offered to do a platter demonstration in February and Brad Swiger offered to demonstrate threading at the September meeting. The sharpening event usually held at Fred Messers' place in February has been put on hold but may be scheduled later this year. Mike stated that we may get Mark Sillay back to demonstrate later this year.

Next, members viewed the gallery that had a number of participants and creative work including: a turned three legged stool with maple baluster legs, a cherry turned top, and cherry stringers, a large cherry platter, several hollow forms and multisided boxes inspired by Fred Rettig's December presentation, pens (including a carbon fiber version), a lantern shaped night light, a coffee grinder, plywood segmented turning, and a box turned by our youngest member, Jackson, several toys, and a unique bowl that had been decorated with randomly carved holes using a Dremel tool. Pictures will be posted on the web site soon.

Following the gallery, Charles Evans began his demonstration handing out a simple jig used to size shop-made No. 2 Morse Taper drives fitting lathe spindles. Charles then proceeded to show examples of Morse taper drives that he uses to finish goblets,

pepper grinders, etc. many with stepped tenons to accept different size work pieces with different internal diameters. He also showed how taper drives can be used with plastic foam packing materials for jam chucks, even using 4 jaw chucks as jam chucks. Charles also showed some adapters that used faceplates to attach to the headstock. One member said that he made and used shop made internally threaded glue blocks and faceplates that fit his lathe spindle thread. Beale has taps available for all size lathe spindles. In summary, Charles opened many eyes to easily made drives that could be fashioned to simplify and adapt to our work requirements.

A cole jaw discussion followed that addressed lengthening the screws and using rubber grommets (even wine bottle stoppers) when the cole jaw stock original grommets were of too short to support final finishing. Additionally, Longworth chucks were discussed and one member said that plans for a shop made Longworth chuck had been in the AAW magazine a while back and were available for members if they would like to make one. Another mentioned that a tapered jam chuck could be made simply by mounting a piece of plywood using a faceplate and making a tight fitting tapered groove to fit a bowl or platter rim.

Next, John Byl addressed pen making and the various mandrels, drill bits, turning tools, pen presses, kits, and pen blanks available. John recommended the use of a Whiteside adjustable mandrel, using a wooden hand vise to hold the blanks vertically for drilling on drill press, gluing the brass tubes with Liquid Nails, and using the lathe tailstock to press the pen together. One member said he cut V's in the wooden hand vise to secure both square and round blanks. John noted that he preferred drilling on the drill press since the cross section of some blanks were not square making them difficult to secure in a scroll chuck for lathe drilling.

John then discussed the different kits that were available for producing pens ranging from simple low dollar kits to very expensive high-end kits noting that he and others had produced a number of pens for Iran and Iraq troops a few years ago. Many different suppliers including Woodcraft, Craft Supply, Packard, PSI, Rocklar, and Penn State provide specialized tools as well as kits. Other sources of blanks include Bria Hardwoods and Arizona Silhouette. Members discussed various materials that could be used ranged from commonly available scrap materials, to various exotic woods, plastics, deer horns, and carbon fiber.

He stressed safety: use of a full face shield designed for turners, always stepping to the side and adjusting to a slower speed when beginning to turn an item, and using caution with CA glue crack fillers and finishes that should only be applied while the lathe is being manually turned. John then mounted a pen blank and demonstrated how to turn a pen blank first using a gouge and then using a skew to produce a very beautiful finish on a pen noting that the cutting is accomplished toward the heel of the skew to prevent catches.

Members noted that the quality of many of the kits was a problem now since parts were milled to very fragile and tight tolerances leaving very little material for roughing up the metal cylinders before gluing. John said that since he had problems securing the tubes in the blanks with CA glue, he now uses a two-part epoxy. He noted that some turners were successfully using Liquid Nails that now comes in a tube that locally available. Finishing was also discussed including the use of micro-mesh, CA glue, Renaissance Wax, and neutral Kiwi shoe polish.

Thanks to our local members Charles Evans and John Byl for putting together two very enlightening demonstrations.

Hope to see everyone at the February meeting. Resolve to make time to turn this month, make a Morse taper drive or a pen, bring something to the gallery, and consider preparing a Beads of Courage box.

Bill Pearson
Secretary

Upcoming Turning Events at Area Clubs

Feb. 13 Paul Robin - Natural Edge Bowls (Ponchatoula)
Feb. 20 1st New Turner Workshop (Ponchatoula)
March 12 John Barrios - Laser Engraving (Ponchatoula)
March 12 Mark Sillay - Pensacola (see John Byl)
March 26 Rob Browning - Mobile (see John Byl)
March 26 2nd New Turner Workshop (Ponchatoula)
April 9 John Byl – Platters (Ponchatoula)
April 23 3rd New Turner Workshop (Ponchatoula)
April 23 Rudy Lopez - Mobile (see John Byl)
May 14 Larry Pickering - Acrylic Casting (Ponchatoula)
June 11 Dennis Wall - Box Making 101 (Ponchatoula)
July 9 Tom Barlow - Duck Calls (Ponchatoula)
August 13 Jimmy Clewes (Ponchatoula)
August 14, 15 & 16 Jimmy Clewes Hands On Workshops (Ponchatoula)
Sept. 10 Keith Welsh - Extreme Bowls (Ponchatoula)
Oct. 8 Joel Blazek- Square bowl with wings (Ponchatoula)
Nov. 12 Ron D'Aunoy Scoops (Ponchatoula)
Dec. 10 Ron LeMaire - Off Center Turning (Ponchatoula)

Note: See John Byl for events at Ponchatoula