



# TURNING TIMES

Newsletter of the  
**INLAND  
WOODTURNERS**



February 2008



## The Demonstration

Our demonstrator was Bob Nay who was going to show us several techniques pertaining to making long thin turnings such as knitting needles or chop sticks or even a thin dowel in some special wood.

Bob started off by telling which woods are most appropriate to make knitting needles from. These would be close grained hardwoods such as boxwood, maple, etc. and non woods such as ivory, plastics, tortoise shell, glass, reeds, bamboo, and so forth. In this case Bob used hard maple to demonstrate the technique of turning long thin pieces.

Using a 1" square of wood and chucking it up between the headstock and the tailstock proceeded to round up the wood starting at the tailstock and working back toward the headstock. Be sure to leave enough wood around the tailstock so that you don't expose the point of the live center. You can always put a point back



on the needle later, even if by hand off the lathe. He said that 1/4" diameter is the standard size they can be many different diameters depending on the style of knitting. I suppose that if you are a knitter you would know what you need, or your customer would tell you what size is needed. Bob showed two needles he turned, one in maple and one in a wood called che-chen.

Having explored all the techniques of needle turning, Bob went on the show how you can make an attractive modern style candle holder using a large piece of the wood che-chen. The candle holder had straight side with a pillar sort of look at about 7-8" tall. The top of the pillar had a large bevel cut and a flat top with a recess for the electric candle to sit flush with the top. I've noticed that an oil filled candle can also be found if you can't find the electric one that Bob used in this demo. Both of these modern candles replace the messy wax variety of candle.

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However, if you are a traditionalist there are the votive candles available in any supermarket or 99 cents store.

Many thanks to Bob Nay for an interesting demonstration.

## NOTES FROM THE MEETING OF SUNDAY, 17th February 2008 from your notekeeper Pall Bohne

## It's the middle of Winter but you wouldn't know it in Southern California!

This Sunday was a sunny warm day and it brought out a large group of people to our meeting to enjoy the woodturnings and the conversation about our hobby. Although to some of our members woodturning is more than a hobby, it's an income generating pastime. But, for most of us it is a challenge, an opportunity to make a better bowl, pen or finger top the next time. The meetings are inspirational when

## Wanted to BUY

Got an e-mail from Bill Vincent in Washington State and he's moving to Indio and will be joining our group. Bill's a beginning woodturner and setting up a turning shop in Indio and needs everything related to woodturning. I'm assuming this means a lathe, chucks, turning tools, etc. So if you have anything to sell give Bill a call at: 206-979-3218 and welcome him to our group.

we see the superior work turned out by some of the members. Everyone is eager to advance in technical ability and shapely turnings, even if the wood has defects in it. In fact, it seems that some go out of their way to exploit the defects and incorporate them into the design. Others want only sound defect-free wood to turn their piece. It takes all kinds to make a club, to paraphrase an old saying.

## Some Announcements

There were a number of new faces at the meeting. They belonged to Gary Sizemore from Ontario, Michael Manzanares from Barstow, John Kunz from San Jacinto, Gordon Peterson from Winchester, Greg Fredricksen from Perris, and Jerry Pretorivi from Redlands. Welcome all of you new folks and try to come back real soon.

There will be a Turning Demonstration by some of our club members at the Rockler store in Ontario on Saturday morning the 8th of March. Hope to see you there. Someone said that Rockler will be expanding its demonstrations of other crafts and skills in the future. No doubt an announcement will be forthcoming in the regular flyers that they send out.

Art Majerus mentioned that his line of hats and T-shirts with our club logo stitched on them would be available today and at next month's meeting too, but after that he will be gone on an extended trip covering the various trade shows he attends. So, if you are in need of any of these items, order them now to be delivered at the April meeting. Art also told about a new sort of Ornamental Lathe he recently got and would be demonstrating at our upcoming meeting on Sunday March 16th. Sounds interesting.

AAW News. We were encouraged to think about attending the AAW Symposium in Richmond, Virginia this summer. Mentioned was the

great demonstrators from around the world and the fine woodturnings shown in the Instant Gallery. It was pointed out that over 1000 turnings are displayed at these gallery shows. If you are ever in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area of Minnesota, there is a permanent gallery showing work of the members of AAW. This gallery is in the Landmark Center in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Membership in AAW costs \$45 a year and includes four issues of the magazine *American Woodturner* as well as news about woodturning all over the US and the locations of the local woodturning clubs. Also, members of AAW will be able to access 20 years of earlier articles from *American Woodturner* on the website maintained by the national organization.

### The Challenge

The Challenge for this last month was to turn a lidded box, preferably with a finial on top. The first turner to show his response to the challenge was John Stoner with two small lidded boxes. One was turned from black acacia and the other from an unknown wood. John also turned a really tiny lidded box in cocobolo. John spoke of the inspiration he got from seeing Bill Haskell one time doing a demonstration which sparked his desire to make woodturning a real part of his life. Many of us have been inspired by Bill Haskell over the years and we were able to see some of his work later at this meeting.



Bob Rapp came up to show his tall, very attractive, lidded box turned from buckeye burl. It was three inches in diameter and seven inches high, and had a gem stone inlay in the lid. Next up was Pete Champagne with her attempt to make a lidded box. The attempt failed but she vowed to make another successful one. She also showed a belated top from last months top challenge.



Gary Bingham showed two lidded boxes, one in poplar wood and the other in buckeye burl. He also showed a top in response to last months challenge, as is allowed by the rules relating to the Iron Man



Challenge. Following Gary was Chet Lewis with two lidded boxes, one of which was designed to hold a roll of stamps—very useful. The other box was about 6" in diameter and turned from ash. Chet also was playing catch-up by bringing in a small top.

Art Majerus brought in a lidded box with a finial of a most unusual design. The box was covered with decorated paper and was topped by a finely turned finial of a delicate design. What was unusual was that the box itself was rectangular and made of cardboard and of a design that we usually think of as appropriate for holding bits of jewelry. We found Art's approach to the lidded box challenge very humorous and gave him enthusiastic applause.



Next up was Dave Holzberger with a lidded box with a finial, it was turned from English Sycamore and one of Dwain's woods. Dave Morgan followed the other Dave and gave us a lesson in ancient firearms and their accessories. Morgan showed a lidded box known as an "apostle", which is used to load an old style of firearm which used a certain size charge of black powder. The long lidded wooden tube shaped box was



needed for quick reloading of a charge in the old muzzle loading days. I don't know where Dave Morgan learns about these obscure things, but they are always interesting. However, I couldn't find a word about "firearm apostles" in my 1961 edition *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Maybe the Brits called them something else. But did you know that the EB is printed in America?



Maria Hurtado taking a cue from Dave Morgan tried her hand at making the lidded boxes called "apostles or charge bottles". She made six of them. Her husband Gil Hurtado also brought in the

some and showed them later in the afternoon. Note: all of these charge bottles (apostles) were made from oak of some variety. Gil's bottles were the only ones that were stained and then given a linseed oil finish. I suppose that the bottles are made in different sizes to meet the needs of certain size muskets or to make the shot go further by putting in more black powder. If folks are busy making apostles or charge bottles, do they have the guns to go along with them?



Our new man from Loma Linda, Martin Osborn brought in three lidded boxes. Two were turned from carob wood, but had different woods for the finials or knobs. The third box was turned from walnut and was a double box, but I'm not sure what that means.



Barbara Stark brought in a small maple top to fulfill her challenge from last month. She also showed a loose lidded box turned from kingwood with an ebony finial. The box was some 6" tall and was finished with Wipe-On Poly and Trewax. Very elegant. Also fulfilling her challenge from last month was Amy Martin with two small tops in oak and finished with wax.



Roy Mandry turned a lidded box, as did Bob Brundage, whose 4" high box was turned from eucalyptus. And then there were two more lidded boxes from a new fellow named Bud Huffman. I believe that Bud's boxes were the ones turned from myrtle and tulip woods.



Rick Mills met the challenge with two lidded boxes 3" in diameter by 4" high, one turned from black acacia and the other from maple. Gary Bingham covered up his white ash wood lidded box with airbrushed color using brown and orange paint and then sealing it with lacquer and coats of wax. Gary says that this was his first attempt at airbrushing,



having been inspired by the airbrushing of Bin Pho whose DVD he saw recently.

Lloyd Drake brought in two lidded boxes, both 2 3/4" in diameter by 5" high. He used cherry wood as the raw material and finished them with Shellac wax. Doug Betts used two sizes of maple dowels as raw material to turn a 2" diameter lidded box. The 3/8" diameter dowel was used to turn the finials. Rather clever if you only want a 2" diameter box, such as a box to hold a roll of postage stamps or a set of earrings. Think of the possibilities for decorating a plain maple dowel—wood burning, carving, painting, texturing, etc. I think that Doug's 2" dowel idea is ripe for a challenge—limiting the stock to such a hardwood dowel.



Our Newsletter Editor Ron McKinley arrived with two lidded boxes for the challenge, one was turned from cherry and had a finial of mystery wood. The other box used box elder with mesquite finial. They were both of a good size being 4" to 6" high and 2" to 3" in diameter. The finish was Watco oil.



In contrast to the modest size of the last entries Jim Sciolla made a very large urn-shaped lidded box. This prompted a discussion about urns for ashes and it was pointed out that those in the know allow 1 cubic inch of urn space for each pound of the deceased, no matter what species I presume. The urn Jim made used magnolia wood, with walnut for the base and the top, with a quilted maple finial contrasting well with the walnut top. Very elegant. I'm sure the deceased would be proud to be in that urn.



Jim Thompson made an oyster box in the style of Jimmy Clewes', but I don't have any details of the wood he used. Jim also showed an 8" diameter bowl in amboyna wood which came with a glass



lid, but would you call that a lidded box? I think it was out of place in the challenge category, but it was very nice nevertheless.

Next up was Brad Hodge with two lidded boxes. The first was made from various layers of colored woods glued together. The wood was that new material from Rockler called alowood which comes dyed in a half dozen nice colors. Brad turned a lidded box from the material at about 5" in diameter. His other lidded box was turned from zebrawood with an ebony finial. Both were finished with something called Woodturners Finish, probably also available from Rockler.

Lane Thomsen turned up with two small lidded boxes turned appropriately from boxwood, complete with ebony finials. I always feel I have to explain to people who are not woodworkers that boxwood is not some soft wood used to make orange crates, but is a very slow growing very hard wood used to make wood engravings and triangular rulers and such. I may never outgrow this tendency. Anyway, Lane has shown what a lidded box should be made from—boxwood. I must try it sometime.



Our busy photographer/keeper of the names, Diana Williams rose to the challenge by turning a lidded box using Dwain's wood. Other than that I don't have any details of the box and its lid. Sorry.

The only one to turn a footed lidded box was John Love. I imagine that the box had a foot for a special reason. We need to ask him next time we see him why that carob box needed a foot. John used Deft as a finish.

Gary Devin showed two lidded boxes and one top which brings him into contention for the Iron Man Challenge. The top used a glue-up of maple and cocobolo and was at the maximum size to fit the rules of the top challenge. The two lidded boxes he made were made from a single wood each. The largest at 8" high was made from buckeye burl in all of its parts. The

Did you know that Craft Supplies U. S. A. donates six \$10 gift certificates to our club each year?

You can call them at 800-551-8876 or visit them online at:

<http://woodturnerscatalog.com/>

smaller box was turned from a glued up block of birch pieces and topped out at 5" high. Altogether a good looking effort with special attention given to the smooth finish, which so far is sanding sealer.

The last challenger was Darrell Harris with a most elegant lidded box after the manner of our last paid demonstrator, Jimmy Clewes. Darrell used She Oak and ebony for the basic box, and then inserted silver wires just as Jimmy did. A lovely thing to behold. Darrell also had another lidded box turned from Dwain's wood but I have no details other than that.



This brought to a close the challenge display, and when the raffle ticket was drawn Maria Hurtado was the happy winner of the challenge.

### Show and Tell

Darrell Harris started off our S & T session with some trial turnings using some cottonwood that someone had brought in for the raffle. He must have been involved in getting the cottonwood to get to experiment with it. I believe that the fellows from Claremont were the ones who brought in a good sized load of the wood. That would be Doug Betts and Chet Lewis. Thanks guys. Darrell's efforts were of an exploratory nature and none of the pieces were really finished pieces, he said.

Bob Nay in a preview of our upcoming demonstration later in the afternoon showed some wooden needles which he called "knit one, purl two" The needles were made from bocote and maple and were described as "mini" sized. He gave them a wax coating, which may be necessary for that size.

Remind me to show you my turned needle-case, for I too am an old hand with a needle, but only for sewing handmade books together. Why not have a demo on making needle cases someday?

Another Bob stepped forward to show his latest turnings. Bob Rapp showed a pencil holder and a bowl. The pencil holder was 5" high and turned from acacia and finished with CA glue and then buffed. The 7-1/2" diameter bowl was turned from silky oak and had a stone inlaid inside and had the same finished as the pencil holder.

Brad Hodge from Rancho Cucamonga

bought some new tools recently from Rockler and was anxious to try them out. He had been turning pens a lot but felt the need to branch out into other items and needed some different tools. His recent efforts were shown in the top he made in tulip wood, the mushroom shaped turning in cocobolo, and a candle holder made from a banksia pod. He also made a pen from buckeye burl. All the items are small which may result from the size of his lathe. Way to go Brad.

Dave Morgan tackled a rather difficult type of turning when he decided to make some tankards which are made to hold liquids. He used the stave technique to combine two different woods to make the large tapered forms. Using jarrah wood from Australia and purpleheart for one tankard and huana negra and bloodwood for a slightly smaller tankard, both were given a beautiful finish using lacquer and CA glue. He claims that there is more to do to the tankards, maybe attaching handles? I can't imagine them being used to drink out of, but who knows. They'll look good on a shelf too.

A magazine article on turning plywood sparked the interest of Gary Bingham to try his hand at making a large, heavy candle holder out of the stuff. I don't remember if the plywood used was of the Baltic birch variety or our fir plywood variety. Anyway, after gluing up and turning the simple tapered form he proceeded to stain the piece a bright green color and seal it with Deft lacquer and wax. I wonder if it gets a glass wind protector?

One of our resident expert turners is Dave Holzberger who brought in three of his recent bowls, non of which is a simple bowl shape. All exhibited a square edge or a carved edge or both square and carved in one turning. The first bowl is a square edged one in black acacia about five inches square at the top. The second is also square edged but larger at 7 1/2" and carved with a wavy sort of rim. It too is in black acacia. The third bowl has a round rim shape but still given a wavy shape too, this wood is walnut. Altogether a fine display of bowls, beautifully finished with Minwax Wipe-on Poly.

Rick Mills brought in two small bowls at about 5" in diameter. The first one was turned from an unknown wood while the other was turned from camphor wood. The unknown wood one had a natural edge too. I can't say what sort of edge the camphor wood one had.

## Photos by Diana Williams and Martin Osborn

Jim Sciolla of Corona had two platters he had made to show us. Both were 14" in diameter but were turned from two different woods. One was camphor while the other was ash. The finish on the camphor platter was Wipe-on Poly, and the ash platter had a lacquer surface. Jim also made a footed bowl with a maple burl bowl on a foot of a darker but unknown wood.

Doug Betts brought in an 8" diameter bowl turned from paper birch and sporting a natural edge. He used Urethane as a finish. Is that Polyurethane? Can you have urethane without the poly? Stay tuned.

Roy Mandry showed a shallow bowl turned from maple at about 10" in diameter. Amy Martin also turned a shallow bowl with a natural edge at about 7" across from figured maple and finished it with Wipe-on Poly.

Using shamel ash wood John Love turned a large 18" diameter platter and then used a torch to give it that certain scorched look, and the coat of Deft lacquer he used will help preserve that look.

Next up was Bill Haskell with three of his marvelous turnings often enhanced by carving or texturing. The first piece was a natural edged vessel 7" high turned from amboya burl and finished with CA glue used as a sealer followed by lacquer and then rubbed out by hand to achieve the final look. Bill's second piece was turned from mystery wood but had a fiddleback look and a bit of spalting along with at least two holes from rotteness. The overall look was that of Indian pottery, as it was wider than it was tall and had a small opening on top. It had a similar finish applied as the first piece did. Bill's final turning in carob was also wider than tall, but had much extra work done to it by way of a section of carving descending from the top opening. A marvelous collection of work.

Someone asked about where Bill gets the CA glue he frequently uses for sealing the pieces he turns, and he said that he uses Starbond brand of CA glue from CPH International in nearby Los Angeles. To order by phone dial 1-800-900-4583 and expect to have it overnight, unless you order on a Friday night. You'll



find that the glue prices are better than most any other suppliers, but you'll be paying shipping costs on top of the glue charges and there is a \$20 minimum. Major Credit Cards accepted, I imagine.

Lane Thomsen showed a shallow platter turned from maple burl and commented that a fast RPM works best to minimize tear-out of the burl. He remembers Jimmy Clewes emphasizing this tip.

Jim Thompson doesn't turn as much as he carves but this time he turned a 6" diameter lidded bowl using a combination of woods. Is a lidded bowl the same as a lidded box? Probably. Jim also showed a couple of parting tools he made. These include the metal blades and the wooden handles. The metal parts were made from power hacksaw blades, which are just the right thickness. He also showed a cane he made using several woods, and he showed a large bowl with some of his carving on the side.

Doug Wilson displayed a large irregular piece of carob which contained a perfectly round bowl shape near the center of the wood. It must have been a dangerous piece of wood spinning around while he turned that circular bowl.



One of the new people today was John Kunz from San Jacinto who brought along three of his bowls, all turned from myrtlewood and all nicely shaped. Welcome John.

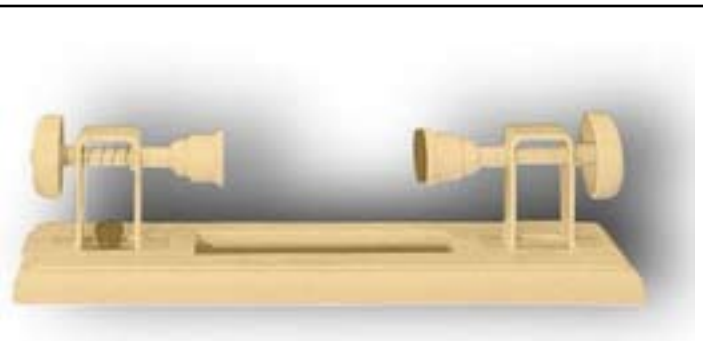


This concluded the Show and Tell part of the meeting and when the raffle tickets was called John Love was the winner of the gift certificate.

After a brief time-out for refreshments, the wood raffle was held and we settled down to watch the demonstration of the day.

**The Challenge for next meeting will be to make a set of needles or even a candle holder**





Interesting item found on amazon.com. It's called a **Craft Decorating Lathe**. It rotates objects for easy decorating; holds variety of objects horizontally or vertically; adjust to many size objects; foam padded jaws holds objects securely but gently; perfect tool for precise striping and banding. \$18.95, ASIN: B00OGQ2XM