



TURNING TIMES

Newsletter of the
**INLAND
WOODTURNERS**



March 2007



Bob Nay turned a variety of little items while carrying on a running monologue on the pleasures of making miniatures things and the tools necessary to do the job. He says that many of his tools are made from small pieces of allen wrenches and hard concrete nails glued into dowels. There is not the need for handles to be massive because the stress is not there when the wood weighs almost nothing as it encounters the tool. Handles don't need the metal ferules normally found on the large lathe tools either. Just glue the tool into a hole in a short length of 3/4 inch dowel. Make it fancy and stain it if you want, but it is not needed. Just a hole and a squirt of CA glue or epoxy. When Bob was done you could put all the things he turned into a matchbox. So lets see the results of your tool making and turning next month.

NOTES FROM THE MEETING OF SUNDAY 18 March 2007

The first thing we saw as we pulled into the parking lot of the Goeske Senior Center was the van and trailer belonging to our favorite woodcutter **Steve Dunn**, who travels the western states finding and cutting wood for the various clubs throughout the region. Most of the members of our club support Steve's efforts to bring turning blocks to the meetings. As you know turning blocks aren't available from your ordinary lumber company. The trailer is always full of colorful western woods such as carob, walnut, myrtle, big leaf maple and buck-eye burl, to name a few. This time he brought various sized blocks of redwood, which hasn't been seen around here very often, although it is common up in Northern California. Steve must have found a northern supplier to be able to offer the blocks to us. Redwood, being a rather soft wood but durable wood, takes sharp tools and exacting finishing techniques to bring out the qualities that have made it a favorite wood for many years. My guess is that we will see some redwood turnings soon.

Some Announcements

The first thing our president **Matt Heffron** does is to ask about the new people in our midst. Several people responded: **Lloyd Drake** of Riverside, **Bruce Phillips** of Covina, and **Gary Devin** of Riverside. There was one other fellow named **Jim**, but I didn't catch his last name. Welcome all.

Matt then made some announcements about the upcoming *American Association of Woodturners* Symposium in Portland, Oregon at the end of June, urging all that can make time for it to attend the three day affair. Naturally, those who attend should be members of AAW, and brochures were handed around to those not familiar with the official woodturning organization in America. Matt also mentioned that the club members had participated in turning demonstrations at the Ontario

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Rockler store the day before. We have several new members who first heard about the club at these demonstrations at *Rockler* and at the recent *Wood Works Show* at the Ontario Convention Center.

A relatively new magazine was shown to the members called *More Woodturning*, a monthly publication which may appeal to the members. It costs \$32 for a year's subscription. Of course your membership in AAW comes with a subscription to the *American Woodturner*, a fine quarterly magazine. And then there is the magazine *Woodturning Design* to subscribe to, if you have any money left.

In another announcement **Ron McKinley** was warmly thanked for coming to the club's aid by supplying the know-how to get the meeting notes up on the Internet, along with photographs, which he also supplied, of some of the turnings. I hope this will be a long and fruitful collaboration between Ron and me, and any others who want to contribute their talents.

The **Treasurer's report** by Bob Nay indicated that the club has about \$2700 in the bank. There was a suggestion that we spend some of that on a mini-lathe, but some other members of the club pointed out that various members have mini-lathes enough to supply any situation we could imagine at present. So, I guess that we will continue to add to the accessories for the large Jet lathe. One tool was mentioned that we could really use. And that is a 6 or 8 inch grinder to have on hand at our meeting place, which could also be taken to the woodworking shows where we occasionally put on demonstrations. The grinder would also be han-

dy for visiting out-of-town demonstrators to use. There is always the chance that one of our own demonstrators would need the grinder because of having dropped a tool and messed up the cutting edge. What do you think?

Other announcements were about the upcoming **Orange County Fair**, where there are chances for woodturners to win ribbons, fame (and maybe cash) by entering one or more of your turnings. Information and entry forms can be had by going to the website of the Orange County Fair. Even closer to home is the **Los Angeles County Fair**. Check out their website too.

The Challenge

The Challenge for March was to make a **long stemmed goblet** using any wood in any size, and there were many sizes and woods shown. First up was **Darrell Harris** with a 10 inch high goblet with a ring on the stem in an unknown wood. **Bob Nay** made a small goblet only about 2 inches high in Cherry wood. He also made an 11 inch high goblet in mahogany. They were finished in floor wax. **Chet Lewis** presented his goblet turned from mahogany and purpleheart complete with two rings on the stem. **Mike McNally** turned his goblet from apricot at about 4 inches high, and finished with tung oil.



Dave Holzberger turned his goblet from sycamore and it measured about 12 inches high. **Pete Champagne** turned her goblet from poplar wood.

Dave Morgan made a very small goblet, only about 1 inch high, but he also made the most unusual goblet of the day. It was a goblet inside of a natural edged bowl, all turned and still attached

together. The bowl and its goblet still had to be sanded and finished, but it was going to be a really unusual piece when it was finished. How you are supposed to drink something out of the goblet is somewhat of a mystery. A straw perhaps?



Other goblet makers were **John Stoner** with a mahogany goblet at 5 inches high. **Jim Sciolla** made his 8 inch goblet from black locust and finished with a mixture concocted by Sam Maloof, which is sold by Rockler. **John Love** made his goblet from a very colorful piece of carob at about 7 inches high. **Gary Bingham** turned his 7 inch goblet from olive wood, but also painted it and then put on Deft lacquer and wax. **Tom Miller** made two goblets in the 8-10 inch range. One from myrtle and the other from maple and walnut. **Larry Cooper** made his 13 inch goblet from a laminated wood called Paakawood. This is similar to the material we now call dymondwood. And finally, **Doug Wilson** showed his swaying goblet turned from a piece of Dwain's wood, some 16 inches high, which trembled when you touched it. The winner of the goblet challenge was **John Love** when his ticket number was called.

Show and Tell

Starting off Show and Tell was **Doug Wilson** with a turned and then carved bowl in black walnut. It was what he called a salvaged piece of wood, by that he meant that the wood was destined for the fireplace but he saw its potential and salvaged it to become a very handsome turning with carved leaves at the top opening and also some leaves starting around the foot and curling part way up the side of the bowl. Altogether a very handsome

piece.

Jim Thompson, who works metal as well as wood showed how he combined both materials to make a unique cane for when he gets old. Jim also was inspired by the new double jointed tool we saw last month which is used to hollow out wood vessels. You'll remember the tool brought by Jack Cummings called the Elbo Hollowing Tool, which allows precision cutting of the inside of hollow forms, where you mostly can't see what you are doing. Well, Jim made his version of the tool on his equipment at home. Jim also showed a small bowl which he hollowed out with his newly made tool.



Our always inventive **Larry Cooper** showed two segmented wooden bells complete with music box movements inside. But he also showed the early glue-up stages of the bells, which was very informative. The long handled bells had movements bought from *Klockit*, the supplier of clock and music box components. You'll find them on the Internet, and they have an interesting paper catalog you can send off for.

Gary Bingham turned a lidded box, then did some carving on it, and then hand colored the carving. A tour de force, if I ever saw one. **Bob Beckel**, using myrtle wood, turned a nice six inch diameter shallow bowl.

Dave Holzberger brought in three very different sized bowls in three different woods. First was a small three inch diameter bowl turned from Osage orange wood, which is a wood from the mulberry family, according to the book *Useful Woods of the World*. Dave's second bowl was a seven inch diameter one





with a concave rim in carrot wood. The third was a large ten inch diameter bowl in the southwest style. By that Dave meant that the form can be found in many of the pottery shapes made by native peoples of the southwest.

Newcomer, **Bruce Phillips** showed us five natural edged bowls turned from olive, mesquite, and silver maple, all about six inches in diameter. They were finished with MinWax Wipe-on Poly and then waxed. **Jim Sciolla** brought in four hollow vessels in varying sizes.



Mike McNally brought in a multi-sided bowl, not turned, but made from a 3/4 inch mahogany board, using the stave technique of assembly. It was about 3 inches high and 7 to 8 inches around. Mike also showed a chess set he had made, board and 32 playing pieces, using maple and walnut woods. As a final piece, Mike showed a very small bowl turned from apricot and finished with tung oil.

Next up was our librarian **John Stoner** showing a nicely shaped bowl about 4 1/2 inches in diameter. The wood was called "found wood", a little example of John's subtle humor.

Bill Haskell brought in a couple of his recent creations in wood. The first was a natural edged vessel made from western maple burl. At about 6 inches in diameter and 12 inches high it was both turned



and then carved.

Naturally occurring openings in the burl were enhanced and opened up to allow for future placement of glass beads in the openings, which, I believe is to be done by someone else, if I understood Bill correctly. The beads will be strung on metal wires and inserted in the top and bottom of the openings.

The other turning Bill showed was hollow vessel in birch wood with an added turned and carved dark wood piece around the top opening. Also there is a wavy recessed band around the middle of the vessel. This wavy band is also pierced with irregular openings and stained. Bill also told us that the birch wood was recovered from the bottom of Lake Superior and made available to the public. I am not aware of who is behind this wood recovery work, but it seems a worthwhile endeavor, although I imagine the wood is expensive. Bill used his favorite finishing technique of applying a sealer coat of CA glue followed by hand rubbed clear lacquer. The piece is 6 inches high by 9 inches in diameter. I hope pictures of these pieces accompany this feeble description.



Dave Morgan showed his recent work, the first of which is re-



ally collaboration between himself, Darrell Harris and Dwain Hardwick. I'm not sure who did what on the 7 inch high hollow vessel in white mulberry but it turned out very well. Dave also showed an ash bowl with natural edge. His final piece was a square edged platter with an unusual volcano-like

structure in the center of the round center part of the turning. He explained that the volcano was for putting out cigars. However, I would take that explanation with a grain of salt, or a dab of wasabi.

Tom Miller was next up with a small 4 by 6 inch vase in myrtle wood, finished with Deft lacquer and a final buffing. Very nice, Tom.

Our man from Huntington Beach, **Roy Roberts** showed a couple of vases, the first of which was a 12 inch tall one in ambrosia maple finished with carnauba wax. The other was only 5 inches tall and turned from manzanita wood, also finished with the wax.

Bob Brundage showed what could be described as a display of his skill as a cutter and carver of wood. It wasn't turned but was a sort of panorama of cutout thin woods with an intarsia sort of look. Bob and his wife Bonnie are new members who have a background in scroll saw work and want to expand their skills into the field of turning. Did you notice the name tags they were wearing at the meeting? Fine examples of their work with a scroll saw. They'll be gone for awhile on a trip to Florida to attend a wedding, but hopefully they'll return to join us later to continue their exploration of woodturning.

Ron Eakins brought in four of his natural edged bowls in basswood and avocado. They were 4 to 6 inches in diameter and 2 to 4 inches tall, and all of the bowls were enhanced with designs burned into the woods. Remarkable.

Next up was **Darrell Harris** with three eggs he had turned. Two smaller ones were solid and the larger one was really a hollow egg box about 3 1/2 inches long. They were colored too, like Easter Eggs. Darrell also showed a 7 inch diameter bowl in carob wood and finished with two coats of shellac and paste wax.



Last, but not least, was **Dwain Hardwick** with a small hat he had turned under the tutelage of Steve Dunn. The hat was styled a pilgrim hat and is about 6 inches high. A discussion of how to keep the brims of hats from cracking as they dried was conducted by Steve Dunn. This discussion was called for because Dwain had said that his pilgrim hat brim had developed a small crack as it dried. The crack had been repaired so that it was hardly noticeable. Steve pointed out that a certain kind

of tape from the Post Office is useful to hold the brims of hats together while the wood dries. Talk to Steve or Dwain if you have brims that crack.

The Demo by Bob Nay

Bob Nay is our resident expert in turning miniature items be they goblets, bowls, platters or baseball bats. You would think that he only has his Bonnie Klein lathe to use, but I remember seeing a *Shopsmith* lathe in his garage when I was there some years back. I think he just likes to work on small pieces of unusual woods. He can turn pieces of rose bush or lilac where you or I would be looking for large pieces of wood he is content with pieces as big around as your thumb. Bob uses a thick wooden faceplate to mount his twigs and small branches, gluing them in appropriate holes with CA glue and the accelerator for these superglues.

The Challenge For Next Meeting

The Challenge for the April meeting is to turn a **miniature or two** in the wood of your choice. See you there. —Pall, your friendly notekeeper

Editor's Note: We ran a page over the ideal 4 page newsletter this time due to such great participation in the Challenge and Show N Tell. Plus we had a lot of things to discuss that took up space in this issue. We had a lot of good pictures I wanted to use but couldn't due to space limitations. Sorry—Ron

Discounts for Club Members

Craft Supplies U.S.A. at <http://woodturnerscatalog.com/> offers a 10% discount on selected items each month. Click on the "Woodturning Club Members-Login" tab near the bottom right of the screen and it will take you to the sign-in page. Just type in Inland Woodturners and it will take you to the monthly specials. This year it's 10% off all finishes and abrasives plus the monthly special is 15% off all calipers. Fill out your order form and then type in Inland Woodturners in the Promotion Box to get your discount. You can also call them at 1-800-551-8876, give them your order and mention that you're a member of the Inland Woodturners.

All Rockler stores offer a 10% discount on most items except power tools.

Other stores, such as Woodcraft, may offer discounts to club members.