



Turning Times

The Newsletter of the
Inland Woodturners



Volume 3 Number 6

June, 2005

A Report on the Meeting held on the 15th of May, 2005

Pall Bohne, notekeeper

Senior Center Meeting

I counted 24 people in attendance at the Janet Goeske Senior Center. It was a warm afternoon and we were pleased to be in an air conditioned room, which will seem even better in the really hot part of the year. I noticed that our webmaster Ken Allen posted a reference to a different and, presumably better, map, if you have had trouble finding the shortest route to the Center. Check it out.

The Club's Business

New Members: Our president Margot Brick got back in town and presided over the meeting. She asked if there were any new people among us and Bill Weiss from Apple Valley was introduced. He had come down from the High Desert with Steve Mink. Bill has a Shopsmith and hopes to learn more about the club's favorite subject, woodturning. Welcome Bill. There were several people who were at the last meeting for the first time and they returned again, I'm pleased to say.

Club Shirts and /or Vests: The subject of Club Shirts/Vests with the club logo was brought up again and discussed. One of the objections to shirts is that they may not have enough pockets which some of us like to have. Vests as an alternative to shirts, were discussed too. We got down to actually taking poll to see how many of us wanted shirts and how many of us wanted vests. It turned out to be an almost even split but several other members who got there late didn't get in on the polling. **Steve Mink** volunteered to look further into the matter and report back to us in the matter of style, minimum quantity, price, etc. Stay tuned.

The June Challenge

Make something from the
Emmerson School
Pepper Wood

Next Month's Meeting

June 19, 2005

2:00 PM

Janet Goeske Senior & Disabled Citizens Center

5257 Sierra St.
Riverside, CA 92504
951-351-8801

See below for turn by
turn directions and a map

AAW Symposium: The AAW is holding their annual get-together in Kansas City this year. You can read all about at www.woodturner.org, or in their latest magazine.

Name the Newsletter: Our newsletter editor **Ken Allen** had said that we still needed a catchy name for our newsletter. He said that not much input from members had been given him, so we as a group agreed to let him chose a name for the newsletter.

Edward Dean Museum: Kurt Baruch presented some more information about the Show and Demonstration which the club will take part in starting in March of 2006 at the **Edward Dean Museum** in Cherry Valley. He outlined his hope to have **Bonnie Klein** come down from Renton, Washington to put on a three day demonstration for various groups such as school children on Friday, mostly families on Saturday, and older adults on Sunday. I gather that this the normal pattern of attendance. The museum is only open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Kurt went on to give us the estimated cost of having Bonnie come down to us for three days. Her daily fee is \$550, airline passage is \$300, four days at a hotel is \$400, bringing us to an estimated total of \$2350 for the three days. While this may be a reasonable cost, it was deemed more than our small club could support, no matter how much we would like to have her here. It would also be doubtful if the public could appreciate the esteem we hold for Bonnie. At the price of entry to the museum of only

three dollars per person they cannot realize the cost for us to bring her here. If the cost was fifty dollars per person to see the show and demonstrations they would be more impressed I'm sure.

In the past we have had group showings of our work, and it mostly involved putting our work, un-judged, into a community college art gallery and having one or more of our members demonstrate turning on a small portable lathe for any of the people who came to the show. All very simple, perhaps not resulting in many sales of the turnings, but we had fun doing the shows. Of course, some of our members go on to explore craft shows and private galleries with the hope of turning their turnings into income. Which is fine, if that is the way you want your efforts to go.

Unless we get a major windfall of money, the show and demonstrations at the Dean Museum may turn out to be a club affair only, and will not be graced with the presence of Bonnie Klein. Time will tell.

A Club Lathe: Someone else brought up the idea of our club approaching the AAW and applying for a grant. It was mentioned that any grant would only amount to \$1000, and it would be better in the long run to apply the money, if granted, to purchasing a lathe to be owned by the club and used for demonstrations at the meetings. Our treasurer, Bob Nay, says that our bank account has about \$447 to our credit. So, even with a grant from the

AAW and our \$477, we would still be about \$900 short of the estimated cost. And it would leave our bank account depleted, although we did get a minor windfall with the sale of about 30 stainless steel letter openers from the estate of our friend Norm Oakley. More about that later.

The Club Roster: Matt Heffron, our vice-president, has been working on an up-to-date roster of the club's member's names, addresses and other vital information, to be brought together in some sort of printed listing, which will be of use to all the members. I know that I receive phone calls from members trying to get a hold of someone in the club. Many times I can supply a telephone number but often I don't know the number myself. This roster will be of use to all in the club.

Emmerson Elementary School: Matt also mentioned that on Saturday the 21st of May we were going to have a session of cutting up a large California Pepper tree at the Emerson Elementary School in Riverside. Well, I can attest that the cutting session went off well with nine members showing up with chainsaws, wedges and sledge hammer, and all the accessories needed to keep the chainsaws running and the chains sharp. The trunk of the tree was about three feet in diameter but cut in miscellaneous lengths, and it took some real effort to reduce it down so that it could be loaded and turned on our various sized lathes. We spent about three hours on that tree trunk and were glad to see the last of the wood put in our various cars, trailers

and pickup trucks. You may recall that we are obligated to produce some turnings for the school to show how their tree could be made into art and other useful items. I think that we can put off this obligatory turnings until the cooler months in the Fall. The kids will be out of school for the Summer soon and the teachers will not be looking for the turnings for several months. Be sure to remember this obligation to turn something as a thank-you gesture.

Freedom Pens: Darrell Harris had an announcement about the **Freedom Pens** which are turned and sent to the armed forces around the world. It seems that Rockler has been supporting this effort by supplying the hardware for the pens up to this time, but he understood that they were not going to continue to give us the kits to use with turned pens. However, John Stoner pointed out that there is a website called *freedompens.com* which will send a member of the club twenty pen kits to make the pens for free if they are going to be sent to the troops. Try this website.

Darrell went on to say that Rockler is going to hold their sidewalk demonstrations every other month instead of monthly. You might call them to verify the next date for the demos if you like to get involved in this kind of solicitation for new members for our club. You may recall that there were quite a few new people who came to our meeting last month as a result of some of our members being at the Rockler Store

in Ontario the very day before our meeting.

Mentors: Our newish member, **Chet Lewis** of Claremont, spoke up to ask if the club ever held classes of instruction for real beginners who might need the most basic of instructions. I can remember that sessions were held from time to time to answer these basic questions. I know for sure that Dave Holzberger is always willing to have someone new come over to his place in Alta Loma to see his setup and find out how to go about turning. Those of us who are retired can generally make time to answer questions or give demonstrations on our equipment.

Of course, attending the monthly meetings are always instructional and useful, especially if we get our own lathe in our new digs. That way we won't have to ask Darrell to bring his small lathe to the meeting. Sorry Darrell that you brought the lathe and it didn't get used this time. But you can see how a beginner might be overwhelmed by some of the demonstrations by our advanced turners.



Letter Opener Fund Raiser: One last thought, I had brought in some thirty of the fine Sheffield steel **letter openers** that Norm Oakley had acquired, and the club officers thought that \$5 was a fair price for these fine blades. There were two slightly different designs to choose from and before long they were all gone. We'll look forward to a future challenge featuring the completed letter openers.

Over due Library Materials. Our librarian John Stoner asked that those members who have overdue videos to please return them at the next meeting.

Congratulations: Dan Fountaine was named one of Riverside County Teachers of the Year. Dan is the woodworking teacher at Gage Middle School, the only remaining woodworking teacher in the Riverside Unified School District.

Thanks for the labor. The wood cutting at Emerson Elementary school took place on May 21. Nine of us went to the school at 10:30 in the morning and spent about three-and-a-half hours chain sawing the large logs of peppertree into manageable sized pieces. (I told everyone there was a *lot* of wood there!) The workers were: **Ruth Harding, David Holzberger, Pall Bohne, Darrell Harris, Pete Preschern, George Sverlow, Mark Bryan, Roly Nelson,** and **Matt Heffron.**

Show and Tell

Starting off the session was **Dave Holzberger** with several fine bowls.

The first two bowls had a similar look in that they both were turned from alder and had a



textured band around the bowl near the top. Dave pointed out that the textures were not exactly the same. He has been experimenting with different tools, a vibrating one and a rotary one. Dave next showed a larger walnut bowl, which also had a textured band around it. Finally, he showed an olive wood bowl with a texture on the top of the rim and around the bowl.

Next up was our new member **Chet Lewis** from Claremont. He had a shallow bowl made from plum wood with a darker rim of walnut. It seems that any of the fruit woods look good. We've had a run of apricot lately and now we have plum. And, of course, walnut is always a fine wood. Nice effort Chet.

Glenn Honeycutt stepped forward to show a deep flared vessel in a dark wood. The shape of the vessel reminded me of many vases which are meant to hold flowers, which may not have been Glenn's object. I would say that wood is not the most appropriate material to hold fresh flowers, but it may hold dried flowers or the many beautiful seed pods in an attractive way. It doesn't always have to be small weed pots, it

can be larger vases to hold an arrangement of many dried plant materials. And you don't have to remember to add water either.

Lane Thomsen brought in a couple of bottle stoppers; each one had its own matching base to display the stopper when it's not in the neck of a bottle or thrown in a drawer. The first stopper was turned

from Colorwood, a manmade laminated product. The second was turned from Tulip wood. Lane also displayed five wooden



spoons of various sizes he had carved. He showed where he got his inspiration for the spoons; a book by Tony Lydgate called *The Art of Wooden Kitchenware*.(ISBN 0-8069-3888-9) He also had a book by Bonnie Klein called *Classic Woodturning Projects*.(ISBN 1-56523-260-7) Many thanks for bringing these books to our attention, Lane.



Our next turner was **Roly Nelson** who displayed a ring holder carved from a piece of Manzanita branch. He used his lathe, on another piece of Manzanita, to hollow out a section at

the crotch of two limbs. The hollow will be used to hold small items such as pins or buttons. He made another small bowl in the conventional manner which had three feet on the bottom. A special tool was made to cut a ring of wood where the feet would be and then cut away the wood, by hand, between each of the three feet. The tool cuts two grooves in the wood at the same time. I suppose if you were going to make many of these three footed bowls it would save time when cutting the ring of wood, but for a one off bowl it would seem unnecessary to make a special tool.

But maybe there was something I missed in the explanation. Roly had one more clever item to share



with us in the form of gavel with a copper band around the head where the handle joins the head. How he got the wood inside the piece of copper pipe was the subject of many questions from the audience. Always a pleasure, Roly.

A newcomer named **Dave**



..... , showed us two of his recently turned pens and two candlesticks made from several colorful glued up woods. It was judged that the candlesticks

should have bases of a larger diameter to make them more stable, to prevent tipping over when lit. But I bet he knew that. All is not lost, because larger turned bases can still be made to fit the stems of the candlesticks.

Another newcomer named **Mark**, showed us two small boxes with fitted lids. One of the boxes had a raised foot, which can add a different look to the design of a small box. Mark



was also one of the people who showed up to help cut up the large California Pepper tree on the Saturday following the meeting.

Our last show and teller was **Jim Thompson** who showed his latest turning in the form of a mushroom made from a limb of fruitless mulberry. It was obviously turned from green wood because it is cracking and twisting as it dries, which is entirely appropriate for a rustic mushroom. It gives them character. Jim also showed us a stunning *fish stunner*. (Pun intended) Besides turning the dark, hard wood, Jim added a lot of extra work in the form of carving and then accenting the design by woodburning it. He finally added his now famous inlaid pewter bands. A remarkable piece of work.

An unusual demonstration by Jim Thompson

We finally got to see how Jim is able to cast the bands of pewter into a groove in the wood he happens to be turning at the time. And from what we saw it is likely that he could pour the hot metal into the temporary mold while the turning is still held between centers on the lathe. I can't recall if he said so or not. That way, he could dress the metal just as soon as it is cool enough.

The main tools Jim used were: a small iron ladle, a torch of some sort capable of reaching 430 degrees Fahrenheit, a bar of pewter, and



some masking tape. The pewter is acquired at yard sales mostly, but it can also be bought new from supply houses. I bought two discs of the metal from Handy and Harmon, a smelter in El Monte years ago. I think I heard that they moved out of the state in the meantime. Try the Internet, and/or keep your eyes open at yard and estate sales. Jim says that he melts the odd shaped pieces of pewter he finds and pours it into an angle iron and uses the resulting bar to re-melt into the ladle when he wants to pour a groove or two.

The mold is made out of masking tape, Jim used the wide, blue colored stuff, available at some hardware stores and home

improvement places like Home Depot. I suppose even the old plain beige tape could be used too if it were wide enough. Several layers are wrapped around the wood to build up a certain thickness to hold the hot metal in until it cools. After wrapping several layers around



the wood, you need to make a sort of funnel out of the tape to pour the metal in at the top of the groove. The metal is heated and melted off the end of the bar into the ladle, applying heat from the torch where it is needed. When enough metal is melted into the ladle it is poured into the funnel in a continuous stream until the metal appears to be coming up into the

funnel. Quit at this point and let the whole thing cool. I'm sure I don't need to warn you, but, you could get burned from torch, the heated ladle, or the metal. Be careful!



Thanks to Jim Thompson for sharing his expertise on this burning subject.

Next Months Challenge

I hear that the **June Challenge** is to make something from the wood from the trees cut down at the Emerson Elementary School. I think that there was ample opportunity to acquire some of the wood both before and after the meeting. And, of course, some of us got a further opportunity on the Saturday after the meeting to get a lot more fine wood. There should be enough to share with members at the next wood raffle.

Coming Events

Design in Wood - San Diego County Fair

July 4, 2005

Registration deadline, April 29, 2005

88 Awards - Over \$20,000 in prizes

San Diego County Fair

Attn: Design in Wood,

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Del Mar, CA 92014

Orange County Fair July 8 – 31

6th annual Fine Art Woodworking completion

Sponsored by the Orange County Woodworkers

Competition categories include conventional, segmented and Embellished, and accessories, with divisions for Master and apprentices.

Cash prizes will be awarded

Entry deadline May 18th

Competition handbook is available on-line at

www.ocfair.com

714 / 708.3247

American Association Woodturners

19th annual National Symposium

July 22-24

Convention Center in Overland Park, Kansas

www.woodturner.org

651/484.9094

Pen Turners Rendezvous

3rd annual Penturns Rendezvous – featuring demos, exhibits, and contests -0 will be held

June 16 in Provo, UT, preceding the Utah Woodturning Symposium

www.turtlewoodworks.coim

Club Officers

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| Margot Brick - President | president@inlandwoodturners.org |
| Matt Heffron - Vice-President & Membership | vice-president@inlandwoodturners.org |
| Bob Nay - Treasurer | treasurer@inlandwoodturners.org |
| Glenn Honeycutt - Raffle Chairman | raffle@inlandwoodturners.org |
| John Stoner - Librarian | librarian@inlandwoodturners.org |
| Ken Allen - Newsletter Editor & Webmaster | webmaster@inlandwoodturners.org |

Our Monthly Meeting

We are located in the "Inland Empire" region of Southern California, roughly 50 miles east of Los Angeles. Meetings are normally held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

Janet Goeske Senior & Disabled Citizens Center

5257 Sierra St.
Riverside, CA 92504
951-351-8801

Turn by Turn directions:

- Take the 91 Freeway into the City of Riverside
- Turn North on Madison
- Turn West (Left) on Arlington
- Turn North (Right) on Slater
- Turn East (Right) on Sierra

The Senior Center is on the North Side of the street.

