

West Bay Wood Turnings

Newsletter of West Bay Area Woodturners

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President's Message Vice President, Edgar Whipple

No Meeting in June

Well, we have been caught high and dry with neither a programme nor a venue for June's meeting, so I am exercising my vice-presidential prerogative (Clarence Kellogg is away) and hereby cancelling the June meeting. School's out so we don't have access to the shop, and the "back room" at Woodcraft is no more, and our "standby" locations hosted by members are unavailable because of schedule conflicts.

Last month's meeting was sparsely attended, but those who were there enjoyed Jon Sauer's presentation on ornamental turning, which, as already announced, is the subject of the current President's Challenge -- some turned object with some kind of ornamentation. With the June meeting cancelled, you will have some extra time to work on your objet d'art.

July's meeting will be the "ice cream social" at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Sunnyvale. Bring your President's Challenge and show and tell objects, and leave your diet behind.

In August, we look forward to the barbeque at Jim Laflin's residence, with wood raffle, silent auction, and a program to be determined (I think Clarence may reprise the vacuum chucking demonstration).

As always, Peter Pipe collects small tops for tots (Ronald McDonald House), so you can make a few of those for good karma.

Me? I'm enjoying my new Grizzly 14" Extreme series bandsaw (with riser as advised by Grant Allison). I should now be able to tackle some of the wood that is way oversized for my Jet Mini lathe. I quickly became spoiled by having the bandsaw on wheels (mobile base), so I added some very nice double-locking (locks against both roll and rotation of the caster) to my Jet Mini lathe stand. It raised it up a few inches, which is good for my height. The wheels make it just a little easier to "get started", since I don't have to carry the lathe into position in my garage. Unfortunately, I ruined both pieces that I started yesterday, but at least I'm turning!

With apologies on behalf of the officers for cancelling the meeting,

Edgar Whipple

WBAW meeting January 8 2008, by Paul Williams, Club cub reporter

The meeting, at the Hillsdale High School Woodshop, was opened at 7:16 by president Clarence Kellogg. The two guests introduced were Pat Howes and Lee Tannenbaum. They were duly welcomed.

Under officers' reports, librarian Budd Trapp reported a new book on wood finishing. Bob Tang has plenty of club shirts and hats for sale. Jim Laflin brought anchor seal at \$15 a gallon, and Richard

Winslow said that the Craft Supply order stands at present around \$600.

The president's challenge this month was something gnarly. Only two submissions were made, owing to the lateness of the announcement of the challenge perhaps. These included a covered box by Richard Winslow and a small tray from an oak knot by Budd Trapp.

Show and Tell items included a large tray of ash by Dave Vannier, which he brought to advocate people's not using walnut oil as a finish because it keeps dulling. Dave also brought another of his segmented pieces, this one an openwork vase in ebony and mahogany.

Bob Bley brought three large pieces he made out of paralam, a manmade construction material used in structural pieces and available for nothing as scrap from construction sites.

Bill Johnson brought three small walnut hollow form bowls. Bill also brought a new tool of his used for sanding the interiors of closed form turnings.

When prizes were offered, Richard won the gift certificate and Budd some veneer sheets. Under show and tell, Dave won the gift certificate, Bob Bley a cube of walnut and Bill Johnson a pen blank.

Terry Gannon took some time to explain and discuss our new web site, which he designed and maintains, taking us through its structure, including galleries, links, instructional content, upcoming events, etc. He has made for us a splendid site, rich in information and well illustrated by photographs.

At the coffee break, Leroy supplied us with another tray of his scrumptious frosted brownies with walnuts in them.

After the break, Jon Sauer presented a really fascinating lecture on his work in ornamental turning. He began turning as a child. In 1986 he acquired a Holtstaepfel lathe from England for a small fortune. It was a 19th century machine (the company folded around 1900), and had a number of parts missing. These he had to supply by his own efforts. Before getting that lathe, he was turning spiral forms, doing the spirals by hand. In 1988 he won the Haythornewaite Memorial Cup for an ornamental turning.

In 1991 he acquired a rose engine. This turning machine was invented in the 1700s and used to turn jewelry and other decorative items. The lathe he bought was made in 1868. He has made many decorative pieces, including twelve castles, mostly in ebony, which took him six months to complete. Lately, he has been specializing in tops, including very fancy wall mounted tops, all with several different kinds of wood, and tops on their own stands. All are, of course, ornamented. He has won the Jowett Medal from the Society of Ornamental Turners. He is now retired from forty-four years with the U. S. Postal Service, but seems to do less lathe work now than when he was working.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20. Next month's meeting needs a new meeting place since the school will be closed. This will be posted on the web site. Next month's president's challenge will be a turning involving some kind of ornamentation.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul O. Williams

Other News

See the website for more complete details of news and Events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Next Club meeting: June 10th is cancelled.

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