

West Bay Wood Turnings

Newsletter of West Bay Area Woodturners

Issue 38
Mar 2009

Next meeting on Mar 10th, at 7PM, at New Location: Los Altos

Notes from Edgar:

General Meeting Location

Firstly, the availability of the Hillsdale High School has become so difficult to guarantee, that we have booked the Los Altos Youth Center (LAYC) for the next three meetings (March 10, April 14, and May 15, 2009). This is in addition to the David Ellsworth demonstration on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at the LAYC.

These bookings take us through the spring and into the summer season with the now-traditional special general meetings. In July, we host the Ice Cream Social at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Sunnyvale. I guess I am on the hook for the now-traditional brownies. In August, Jim Laflin extends his hospitality to host the bar-b-que at his shop. That leaves the June meeting, which we will plan to have at the LAYC. (We just haven't booked that yet.)

Having a consistent meeting place will avoid the last-minute flurry of communication hassles -- especially to the non-email crowd. Furthermore, the LAYC is a superior location in terms of bathroom and kitchen facilities at the least.

We have already done a programme there using my mini-lathe, which is easy to transport and set up. We will see how the Ellsworth demo goes regarding bringing in a full-size lathe, and the feasibility of using the club lathe for general meeting program. (For the new members, the bearings on the lathes at the school were pretty shot, which is why we rarely availed ourselves of them.)

The upshot of all this is that we will make the LAYC our "permanent" and regular home (as long as they'll have us), so we will book it for 2009 (fall season) as far in advance as they will permit.

Membership Renewal

Our membership renewal season has completed, so all previous members (there are 93 on our official roster) who have not paid their 2009 dues will have to pay the \$10 late fee in addition to the usual \$25 dues. Ken Clifford reports that there are only 12 members in this set, and a review of them at the officers' meeting suggested that there are only a few that are likely to be active (and thus renew). We will allow one more month for the stragglers, after which they will be deleted from the mailing list. So all in all, thank you all for being responsive, and thanks to Bill Johnston for filling in for Ken at the last meeting.

February President's Challenge

A record-setting 14 people participated in the February President's Challenge - calabash. Ok... I only have records going back to January 2009, in which 11 people participated. Nonetheless, I was thrilled to see so many fine calabashes, and I hope you enjoyed working on them.

March President's Challenge

The March challenge is anything - any form, any shape, any style -- but you can't sand it. Barry and Laura Uden's February programme on design (thank you so much, Udens!) reminded me of something that Laura had said during their previous programme on finishing, which was something along the line that the most important tool for finishing is the gouge (or skew) tool itself. I have been able -- on rare occasions, when the wood and grain were cooperating -- to produce a really fine finish using a skew. This is usually when trying to make egg shapes, which I eventually ruin in one way or another, but there are brief moments of hope. So, I thought a nice tool finish would be a good challenge. Of course, you are free to make something that features a finish that couldn't be sanded anyway (e.g. chatterwork), and that will count too.

March Meeting Programme

David Vannier has agreed to do his presentation on lattice work segmentation. See his gallery on the WBAW public web site, <http://www.westbaywoodturner.com/gallery/DavidV/index.html> I will also take some time to introduce "Robbie The Robot", who needs our help.

Abbreviated Report: Curtis

Presentation / Demonstration on Elements of Good and Bad Design – by Laura and Barry Uden

Laura and Barry Uden presented a well thought out power point presentation on the elements of good and bad design. Laura did the presentation with Barry did the driving on the PC/power point. The limited space of this newsletter would not do justice to the depth of material detail Laura and Barry presented. The entire power point presentation will be posted on the web site for easy viewing and as an on going reference tool. Please be sure to review this material, as these are the design elements that will be used for judging at the Wood Carvers show later this year.

Miscellaneous:

The Wood Carvers show is currently scheduled for June 6 & 7 (Sat & Sun) at an empty 24-hour fitness center on Saratoga Ave. More will be discussed about this event in the coming meetings.

Jim Laffin is home recuperating from hip replacement surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery. Upon his return we are assured that he will have Anchor Seal for sale.

Erick McCrystal, of San Carlos Woodcraft, announced that Milo Davies is coming to Woodcraft April 1st, 6-9pm, to give classes on wood carving for wood turners. He also presented a new Fast Cap CA gel glue/coloring kit that fills and colors cracks. His store will also be offering good deals on Nova lathes, while they last. In addition he brought some Apricot limbs, to give away, for those who need to add more wood to their collection

Jean Claude is offering free Elm sections for wanting wood collectors. See his truck in the parking lot.

Show-and-tell: (President's Challenge is reported on the website)

George Lutz turned a bowl from "Bar-B-Queue" black walnut wood.

David Vannier showed a turned cowboy hat gone a rye.

Jerry Campbell introduced his stave turned vase.

Bill Daniels showed his first tuning from the age of 14, of lignum vitae from the USS Missouri.

Patrick Crowley turned a candlestick (hey Bud that was last months challenge) with a secret compartment.

Larry Lee talked about his experience years ago in Hawaii, at the Museum of woodworking. Only 15% of their collection is on display. He noted that Calabashes were not used by commoners, only nobility.

Warren Atkins presented a segmented turquoise inlaid hollow form.

Eric McCrystal turned a tray from solid core door material on his new Powermatic lathe and a coffee cup sleeve from the same apricot he brought as give a-ways.

Other News

See the website for more complete details of news and Events. There are now several photo galleries of the work of Club Members online.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Next Club meeting: Mar 10th is at the new place at Los Altos, at 7PM. See the website also for these directions and more details. Agenda: David Vannier on segmented missing piece vessels.

President's challenge: unsanded piece

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