

West Bay Wood Turnings

Newsletter of West Bay Area Woodturners

Issue 26
Mar 2008

President's Message

Clarence Kellogg, President

Well, I hope you are set up for doing a lot of turning in March, so that we can have a great show in April. You will find information about the show elsewhere in this newsletter, so my goal is just to try and motivate you to participate in the activity. Over the last several years, we have had an increasing number of turnings entered in the show and an increasing number of participants. Not only is this an opportunity to have a lot of fun, it is also an opportunity to show off to the other wood art disciplines the quality and diversity of our work. I encourage you all to enter some pieces in the show and if you cannot enter pieces, at least come and see the work that others are doing and the show in general. In connection with the show we are donating 2 turned pieces to the wood carver's raffle. The raffle proceeds help to defray the costs of the show. Thanks to Warren Atkins and Steve Baum for volunteering to donate the raffle pieces. We are also having a raffle for 6 pieces made by our members. Laura and Barry Ander, Glen Krug, Jim Laflin and Grant Allison have volunteered to make pieces. That leaves us short one or two, so please volunteer.

Those of you who were at last month's meeting certainly got a good dose of information on carving tools and apparatus. Thanks to Grant Alison and Allan Aldrich for the informative and thorough presentation. It was certainly nice to have Allan back at a meeting and hopefully, he will not be a stranger in the future.

The meeting for March is scheduled to have two components. The first is that we will have some information presented by the judges for the April Show. The judges will let us know what it is they are looking for, how they evaluate various pieces and the things that will help you in producing a ribbon winning piece. The second component of the show is Bill Johnson will demonstrate his finishing technique, which some of you may have seen an example of at last month's meeting. The bowl with Bill's finish was not presented as part of show and tell but was on one of the tables. It drew quite a bit of attention. Bill has discovered how to really put a fine finish on a bowl and he is not only going to demonstrate but let some of us participate in the activity.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you have probably noted that David Ellsworth will not be at the class on March 16, 2008. We had to cancel the class because David had to have some surgery, which conflicted with his traveling to see us. David Vannier has been working hard to determine if there is an alternative presenter, but at least at this time, he has not located anyone for the immediate future. We owe David Vannier thanks for his hard work in trying to organize these demonstrations.

If you have not taken the opportunity, please look at the club's website. Terry Gannon has made a number of improvements and is working on more. He has lots of great ideas and is open to suggestions from all of you. Great work Terry and thanks a lot.

The President's Challenge for March is influenced by the proximity to Easter. Your task is to turn an egg or if you prefer a sphere.

WBAW meeting February 2008, by Paul Williams, Club cub reporter

The meeting was called to order by president Clarence Kellogg at 7:16 p.m. in the wood shop of the Hillsborough High School in San Mateo. Three new members were introduced: Bill Daniels, and

Michael Howes and his son, Ed Howes.

Two guests were also introduced: Ed Hochfeld and Terence Chan.

Treasurer Ken Clifford reported about \$3,700 in the bank. He thanked members for paying dues and reminded those who have not yet paid.

Terry Gannon discussed the new website. The new Yahoo site was created by Edgar Whipple.

The next beginner's class will be held at Jim Laflin's on Saturday, March 22. It will be about making homemade tools, including a hook too, a depth gauge, and making ferules for wood turning tools.

David Ellsworth is scheduled to hold a demo at Ken Clifford's house, but this has since been cancelled because David has a bad health problem.

The board will meet on Tuesday, the 19th, at Clarence Kellogg's house.

Warren Atkins brought some turned base pieces he has used in making segmented bowls for giveaway.

Jim Laflin brought Anchor Seal, which sells for \$12 a gallon, a real bargain.

The upcoming turners' and carvers' show on April 5 and 6 at the Saratoga High School (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days) was discussed. Contest material is needed. And turnings are needed for the auction. Grant Allison distributed some fliers about the show. Volunteers are also needed to man the club booth. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

In addition to the turners and carvers, there will be a marquetry display and even pumpkin carvers.

This month's president's challenge was a closed form and the following submissions were made:

Steve Baum: a maple burl bowl and a redwood burl bowl

Rich Winslow: 2 bowls, one miniature, one big, both of alder

Tony Dowden: a small bowl of unknown wood

Peter Pipe: a small bowl

Barry Uden: a small bowl

Fred Colman: small bowl with a finial lid, small vase with a lid dyed green, another small bowl

Under show and tell, the following turnings were introduced:

Budd Trapp: A cedar root bowl

Tony Dowden: a salt shaker

Ken Horner: sycamore salt shakers

Tom Haines: a black acacia bowl, a spalted walnut piece

Ed Howes: a redwood burl cup

Grant Allison: a pierced maple cup

Mike Howes: a white oak bowl, a spalted bay laurel bowl, and another bowl

Warren Atkins: two splendid segmented bowls

The prize winners for the president's challenge were Rich Winslow, who took the check, Tony Dowden, who took the crystal coat finish, and Fred Colman, who got the sandpaper. Show and tell prize winners included Ken Horner, who took the check, and Tom Haines, who got a piece of acacia. After the break, during which we partook of coffee and cookies faithfully supplied by Leroy Nelson, a presentation on carving was made by Grant Allison. Grant has been doing this a longtime and is a real expert, and my notes below will not do the talk justice. It certainly wasn't a matter of whittling cowboys out with a knife. Grant first discussed ways of decorating turned objects with carving. He had some superb examples of chip carving he has done with him. He also uses pyrographs. He says it is possible to make one's own wire tips for them. He showed some santas made from turning first and then carving the face, hands, and arms onto the turning.

Grant uses a variety of power tools, and some woods he says are too stringy (such as tupelo) for a knife, but respond well to power tools. He uses rifflers, but says they don't last long. He recommends using a protective glove.

Grant has also made his own dust filter system, which he showed and said is very effective.

Other News

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Basic Skills Class for March 22nd

Yes, this is the 4th Saturday, rather than our traditional 3rd Saturday, but we have all been rather busy. Hope this still works for everyone that is interested in this session. Our plan is to do homemade shop tools. In particular, this will include a depth gauge, tool handle with ferrule, and the tool to go into the handle: hook tool or pyramid tool or a round point scraper. Most of these tools will be require doing some woodworking at home to finish, but we will demonstrate the required steps and build them in the class. We should be able to complete the metal work in the class. There will be a small cost associated with this class, to cover the cost of any materials that you take home with you. We will purchase the hardware required to make a number of depth gauges and ferrules. All of this hardware can be purchased at your local hardware store. John Brugo purchased steel for the tools, and Clarence Kellogg will bring his torch to help with anyone that wants to make a hook tool. Costs will be small, so do think you need to spend big bucks, this isn't a profit center.

Next Club meeting: Mar 11th at Hillsdale HS at 7PM.

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