

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

April 2009



MARK IRVING

DEMONSTRATES TURNING  
LIDDED BOXES



Mark has been turning since the early nineties. He turns many different types of items—segmented turning, intricate boxes, bowls, and of course rolling pins .

Mark is a past President of the Maine Woodturners; a member of the American Association of Woodturners.



*This is Mark's Stubby lathe that was purchased in 2006.*

Mark is also one of the original instructors at the Woodturning School in Damariscotta.



Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 15th  
and learn all about turning  
**LIDDED BOXES**

## Speaking Of...

BY ANDY HOYT



Greetings and a Happy My Taxes Are Done Day to all woodturners!

It only took about nine months to complete the mission, but the tops that we turned last June (along with those from the Western Mountain Woodturners) have finally been hand delivered to the kids at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland. Why did it take so long, you ask? Well, there was an exit visas to procure; a barnload of immunizations to suffer, and passports to acquire – all for a trip so far south. Danged Homeland Security.

But once there, my only wish was that all of you who took part in this effort were with me. The staff was extremely grateful and the smile on the face of each kid was worth a million bucks. There are no photos of this, out of concern for the private nature of why these young children were where they were, so you'll just have to trust me. I left the hospital with a kick in my step.

Speaking of Portland, I then figured that as long as I was out of the country, I'd wander over to the Rockler Toy (I mean) Tool Store and sit in on the monthly meeting for the Southern Maine Woodturners. There were lots of familiar faces, and plenty of hot coffee and chocolate chip cookies! Jack Savona did a demo for novice bowl turners and there was also a show & tell table full of a lot of well done stuff. Those folks are off to a great start!

While there, I was approached by Molly, the store manager who made sure that I clearly understood the following: Any member of the Maine Woodturners who makes a purchase at the Portland Rockler Store and shows the cashier his or her club membership card gets an automatic 10% discount. There are some items excluded from this, but hey – 10% is 10%, right?

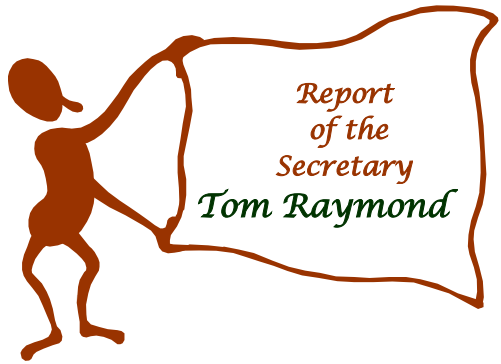
Speaking of toy (I mean) tool stores – I just got word that Gary Kitchen will be demoing all day on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Western Tool Store on Augusta's Western Avenue. Feel free to stop by to heckle.

And speaking of Gary, he's agreed to be our official Eagle Cane Program Coordinator from now on. He'll be serving as the liaison between the carvers and turners to ensure that needs are being met on this most worthwhile endeavor. And in the meantime: yup, they need more adapters!

And speaking of members taking on roles within the club, Chuck Seguin has agreed to serve as our new Sawdust Session Coordinator. In this capacity, Chuck will be putting together such events as shop tours and chainsaw parties for bowl stock. It's my hope, and Chuck's, that this will result in numerous opportunities for all of us to get together more often than just once a month and expand on the wonderful sense of community spirit we already share.

And finally, I sent out an emailed broadcast the other day soliciting for members to volunteer to partake in the Open Mic Night planned for our May meeting. A few of you have already stepped forward, but we need more bodies. If enough of you don't step forward it means that I'll be forced to demo another piece in my ongoing Deadly Chopper Series; and you know how scary that can be. So come on you guys, I need to hear from you, so Don Caron can continue to feel safe sitting in the line of fire!

Thanks. *Andy*



## Board of Directors Meeting

On March 31, 2009, a Maine Woodturners Board of Directors meeting was presided over by President Andy Hoyt at Erskine Academy in South China, Maine. The following members were in attendance: President Andy Hoyt, Vice president Ken Shepherd, Treasurer Burt Truman, and Secretary Tom Raymond. Brian Libby, Peter McCrea, Joan Coleman, Gene Beaupre, Dennis Curtis, Chuck Seguin, and David Lancaster.

Prior to the meeting, we received a visit from George Gunning who is the leader of the Eagle Cane project that many of our members have been involved in where they are turning cane spindles and ferrules for the project. George picked up a box of ferrules that several members have turned for him.

Andy opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and continued the discussion of the cane project whereby we could be transferring the responsibility to others because there seems to be no end to this project. He also proposed having a cane awarded to a Veteran at one of our meetings.

The next topic that Andy brought up was an in house challenge for members where they would be given a specific size piece of wood and create an interesting turning with it. Then we would have a contest with prizes for the best pieces displayed at a Show and Tell. The wood would be handed out at the June meeting. This Item was voted on and accepted. Ken Shepherd was assigned the job of obtaining the wood.

Andy brought up the fact that the 2010 AAW Symposium will be held in Hartford, CT. Then he asked if we should be preparing a project for display at this symposium. After much discussion about the logic, organizing a group etc. it was decided to table this item.

There will be a demo of the Armbruster Rose Engine scheduled in June. Fred Armbruster is inviting 20 members to his shop in York to witness his demo. Andy will ask the membership how many may be interested in attending.

The May demo will be and open mike night with members making short talks on specific subjects related to woodturning.- Mark Irving will demo in April.- It is still hoped that Jean Francois Escoulen will demo in June on a Saturday.- Al Mather was mentioned for an Inside out turning demo in the future.- Tom Raymond suggested finishing as a future topic.- Another subject brought up by Gene Beaupre was how to study and turn a burl. Possibly a study at one meeting and the turning at the next. - Peter McCrea suggested getting a speaker to talk about the different wood.- Andy Hoyt Suggested getting Cindy Drozda for 2010 since she is very good at turning finials.- Dave Lancaster suggested getting Andre Martel from Canada on end grain turning.- John Ramsey was suggested on turning Christmas ornaments.

Ken Shepherd suggested Shop Tours at member's shops. The logistics are tough on this idea. A sign up list was suggested and a specific project may be helpful at the sponsoring members shop. Chuck Seguin was voted in as the coordinator of this venture.

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Peter McCrea as Membership Chairman said he is falling behind in his interviewing of new members by about 12 now and has lost the assistance of Rick Palm because of his increased involvement at Atlantic Challenge. A list of questions has been developed for the interviews. He asked for help in doing this work.

David Lancaster suggested having bowl blanks cut up at his shop. Members could pick what they want and pay a fair price.

A biography and photo of all members was suggested.

The meeting ended at 8:56PM

## *Minutes of the March 18th Meeting*

The Maine Woodturners March 2009 meeting was held at Erskine Academy on Wednesday the 18th at 7 PM. Thirty three members and guests were in attendance.

President Andy Hoyt opened the meeting at 7PM announcing the 6th New England Woodturning Symposium on May 23rd 2009 at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. Many of the national demonstrators that have come to demonstrate at Erskine for our club will be there. Mark Irving from Maine Woodturners will be one of the Demonstrators.

Andy announced the classes being offered at the Woodturning School in Damariscotta for the next 3 months. Peter McCrea will do lidded boxes, Lyle Jamison will do hollow forms with the laser system, Paul Petrie will teach Embellishing and Keith Tompkins will teach square boxes and more.

A group of 6 Woodturners will demonstrate for about 100 Boy Scouts in Auburn on the 21st. This is held at the Central Maine Community College. Two from each Maine Club. Ken Shepherd and Tom Raymond will represent Maine Woodturners.

Andy and Peter McCrea unrolled a new green banner to be used by members who demonstrate to identify our club. The banner was made by member Dale Webster.

Garry Kitchens Eagle cane was passed around for members to view and George Gunning brought many others for us to see. He said they appreciate very much our turning the shanks and ferules for these canes.

Members involved have been Peter McCrea, Ken Shepherd, Burt Truman, and Garry Kitchen. George said no veteran is refused a cane and they are behind in manufacturing them.

At 7:18 PM Andy introduced Peter McCrea and Mike Chase as the demonstrators in Making spurtles and spuddles which are food stirrers.

After the demonstration, both Peter and Mike monitored the Show and Tell table which contained 13 items.

The meeting ended at 9:02 PM.

*Tom Raymond*, Secretary



# Chase and McCrea Demonstration

March 18, 2008



Our first half hour of tonight's demonstration showed how thoughtful and safety conscience Mike Chase is in his technique and his approach to being safe around a small spinning object with a sharp tool. Mike set up using the Oneway Steady Rest and explained that he benefits from its use because all long thin turnings vibrate causing the blank as it is

turned down to form an oval shape in the middle of the piece. Even with small thin cuts the distortion loses the bevel and catches can occur. The steady rest can be worked at from both sides allowing for more control of the tools used. He also encounters little or no vibrations when making tight corners. His set up for the spurtle took about three minutes. Mike worked from the center of the piece nearest the steady rest towards the headstock tapering his wood with easy flowing cuts. His tool rest hugging close to the steady rest and very close to the wood allowed him to quickly form the finished shape of the spurtle.

Mike proclaimed, "The cool thing I like about this steady rest is that it allows you to be adventurous in your small diameter turning... it allows you to use a variety of tools from the roughing gouge to the dreaded skew". With that said Mike deftly used the skew to make his design cuts. Two small V's are created and then using a homemade wire jig he burned the bottoms of the V's to accent the piece. A little sanding and the simple handle was done. A quick move of the banjo to the other side of the Steady rest and off he goes to turning the end. Mike left the waste on suggesting to us that he would use his band saw to part the ends and either a sander or hand chisel to finish the tips of the Spurtle. He would spend a little more time in embellishing the design and then use a food safe finish.



Reluctantly, Mike turned over the lathe to Peter McCrea; whose method is to work in multiples and use a collet chuck because he works a lot of small turnings. The collet chuck for this "tool junkie" lets him work right up to the chuck with complete safety against knuckle busting. "By grabbing it on one end and holding it relatively loosely on the other end I'm not asking it to bow with the compression", he expressed another benefit of the collet chuck.



He took a few seconds to verbally run down a checklist of safety equipment and to double check where all tools were placed. Peter's use of a story stick that has all the dimensions and sizes needed for this project allows him the freedom to be creative and quick at the same time. Somehow his paradox of having strict guides to follow frees his creative juices. Quickly roughing down to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " he uses the story stick to establish his design. Fearlessly Peter dampened the vibrations in the center of the piece with his little finger extending over the work to counterbalance the pressure of the roughing gouge

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# *Demonstration Schedule*

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April 15, 2009

*Mark Irving*

**LIDDED BOXES**

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May 20, 2009

*Members night*

**OPEN MIC NIGHT**

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May 23, 2009

*Sixth New England Woodturning Symposium*  
Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH

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June 20, 2009

*Jean Francios Escolen*

Still not confirmed yet!

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June 26 - 28, 2009

*23rd Annual AAW Symposium*  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

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meetings are held at the Industrial Arts shop

Erskine Academy

309 Windsor Road (route 32), South China, Maine

Our regular meetings are the third Wednesday of each month  
(except July and August there are no meetings)

**Show and Tell Photos @ 6:30**

**Demo @ 7 PM**

## *More Maine Woodturning Meetings*

*Western Mountain Woodturners*  
2nd Wednesday @ 6—9PM  
Dixfield High School

*Southern Maine Woodturners*  
1st Wednesday @ 6:30-8:30 PM  
Rockler, South Portland

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Where Mike used the steady rest to free himself from the vibrations Peter uses the vibrations as an indication of how the work was progressing.

“Done, this is not a high accuracy piece of woodturning... after all we’re making a stirrer for porridge”. Moving on to the handle the wood sings at a high pitch as Peter roughs down the handle, turns a bead and puts an index for the wire burn. Where Mike uses the wire burn as a separate accent on this work Peter uses the wire burn to enhance or define the bead. “I feel it makes the bead pop”.

Before parting the spurtle from the tail stock, Peter said, “I heard someone say once ... woodturning is all about holding the wood; different ways of holding the wood.” His dilemma now was how to finish the end – that nasty nub that takes time and effort. His trick is to just part off the piece, use his hand to wrap around the work and stabilize it with the tool rest then sand the bottom; neatly, quickly and effortlessly because the collet chuck is holding the piece.

To part the head stock end Peter used a home-made tail jam chuck that screws onto the tailstock and has a matching rounded center that fits the newly finish end. By applying a little pressure from the tail he finished the handle with ease. But wait there’s more! For his next trick he parts off the head, turns the wood around and chucks the tail end into the collect and cleans up the handle end just like he did with the tail end. So, almost all the work is done on the lathe. After a little sanding and a brief conversation about the types of finishing he uses Peter explained how his spuddles where made. See his handout page for more details.



Finally, each technique Peter and Mike used complimented the other. Their focus was on finding a doable project that tweaked their creative juices and matched their level of talent and experience.

In researching this information I came across a woodturner who gave a third method of making a spurtle. <http://technorati.com/videos/youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DkVwTSzNLxcM>

It’s been a good day when at the end of the day you can still count all your fingers.

Enough said from here,

*Chuck Seguin*





# MARCH MEETING PHOTOS





## *Tee Shirts & Sweat Shirts*

*Tee shirts and sweatshirts are now available at our meetings. A cabinet has been secured so that storage is now possible at Erskine Academy. All sales are cash or check. Most sizes and colors are in stock.*



The price for all shirts regardless of size is \$12 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. This price includes Maine's 5% sales tax.

Sweat shirts are now available with the same size range. The colors are almost identical. The price for these sweat shirts is \$24 for members and \$28 for non-members

***The Maine Woodturners need your help! Become involved and volunteer, the chapter can only continue to be successful if our members step forward and give a helping hand!***

*Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things !*

## Educational Opportunity Grant [EOG]



The AAW would like to assist you in your woodturning education. If you have a particular goal, workshop, or project in mind and need financial help, you are just the person we would like to have apply to this program.

In order to expand and share woodturning resources, the board has established a fund from which grants are awarded either to individuals (adults and youths), chapters, and other woodturning-related associations. The grants will cover expenses such as tuition, registration, demonstrator's fees, travel, lodging, and meals, with each individual grant not to exceed \$1,000 and with each chapter, school or "other" grant not to exceed \$1,500. In addition, two more grants will be awarded annually in the name of the Daphne Osolnik Memorial Endowment Fund.

### Purpose of the program

- ✦ To allow AAW members to benefit from their own fundraising efforts and generous support.
- ✦ To provide educational opportunities that expand and enrich the entire woodturning community.
- ✦ To provide ways that these skills may be shared with local chapters, seminars, schools, and friends.
- ✦ To create opportunities for members who would otherwise not be financially able. To create a full-circle relationship, of AAW working for and with its members and chapters.

### Eligibility

- ✦ An *individual applicant* must be an AAW member in good standing and must not have received an AAW grant in the previous five years. Recipients must submit a report on their experiences within six months of their completion for possible inclusion in the Journal.
- ✦ A *local chapter applicant* must be affiliated with the AAW and not have won a grant in the previous 12 month period. A report should be submitted for the Journal. A school or "other" applicant must not have been awarded a grant during the previous year. Applications in this category must demonstrate an ability to enhance the mission of the AAW, which is "to provide education, information, and organization to those interested in woodturning."

**Become a member of AAW— The EOG is just one of many benefits !**

{ information on this page taken from AAW website }

# The Eagle Cane Project continues



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## Tung Oil

Pure Tung Oil provides a hard and tough surface finish that is waterproof; impervious to dust, alcohol, acetone, fruit and vegetable acids; and it doesn't darken with age like Linseed and other vegetable oils. All of these benefits come at a price - pure Tung Oil takes forever to dry, it doesn't penetrate the wood surface very well, and it is expensive when compared to other drying oils. Tung Oil is a "reactive" finish, commonly called a "drying" oil, in that it will dry and harden when exposed to air.

It takes a lot of time. But, it is a simple and forgiving finish, and when done properly, its beauty is unmatched. Sometimes we try too hard to avoid the slow and simple things in our modern high-tech lives.

Linseed, Soybean, Walnut, Sunflower, Orange, and other fruit, nut and vegetable oils are oils that make suitable finishes for wood. Linseed and Soybean Oil are most often used in commercial finishes. Although neither are a natural "drying oil", the addition of metallic drying agents make them suitable for finishing.

## Modified Tung Oil

Tung Oil is available in pure, modified, and polymerized form. The modified form is what is found in the commercial finishes that contain Tung Oil. Metallic dryers and thinners are used to improve the slow drying rate and poor penetration of pure Tung Oil. Less expensive oils such as linseed, soybean, and other vegetable oils are often substituted for some portion of the Tung Oil to reduce the cost.

These products have made "Tung Oil Finish" a generic term. Many of them do not contain any Tung Oil. Others may contain a small amount that is hidden in the small amount of varnish that is included as an ingredient. Still others use polyurethane varnish resins and they contain no Tung Oil at all.

## Pure and Polymerized Tung Oil

The only difference between "pure" and "polymerized" Tung Oil is that the latter has been through a cooking process.

While pure oil is very slow drying, the polymerized is fairly fast drying because much of the drying time has been used up in the "cooking" process. Both forms are hard to store. After about a year or two, depending on the humidity, temperature, and exposure to light, they will start to form a film on the surface or a gummy deposit around the edges of the container, and need to be tossed out.

Bloxygen or collapsing storage bottles are recommended for storage.