



# The Turning Point

The newsletter of the Siouxland Woodturners  
Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

July 2012

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## **SF Sidewalk Arts Festival**

The Siouxland Woodturners will be having a booth at the Sioux Falls Sidewalk Arts Festival on Saturday, September 8. We will be looking for volunteers to man our booth during this event. Check your calendar to see if you will be available to help out. We will also be soliciting ideas on how to use this booth to best showcase our club. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

Due to the short time between the July and August meetings (and the newsletter editor going fishing) the "Getting to Know Us" and "Woodturning Basics" columns are the same as last month. These columns will return with new information next month.

## **Upcoming Meeting Notes**

**Saturday, August 4, 2012**

**1:00 PM**

**Dan Humburg's shop just north of Brookings.**

Meet at the Lowe's parking lot just west of I-29 and 26<sup>th</sup> street in Sioux Falls to car-pool and/or caravan to Dan's.

## **July Picnic & Potluck**

Thanks to Corky Miles for hosting the annual pot luck picnic at the July meeting. Good food and good fellowship was enjoyed by those who attended. It was nice to see Corky's well-equipped and VERY CLEAN shop.

Thanks also to members Ron Erickson, Al Schroeder and Ron Seim for demonstrating at the meeting.

## **From the President...**

I am back from Alaska, two cooler of Halibut and Salmon fillets will make for a good winter of eating. Fly fishing on the Kenai for reds and Halibut out of the Spit at Homer does not get “old” Ten pound plus salmon, but smaller halibut were common this year. Up to Denali for a time, then back to work.

I did investigate the wood enthusiast activity in Alaska, from chain saw sculptor festivals to \$600 10” natural edge bowls at the Denali Center. Their wood interest is as diverse as the landscape. Two sights to look up if you are interested is the “eaglesongalaska.com” sight for ideas on burl opportunities, they do ship burls all over the country, and the Great Alaska bowl company out of Fairbanks at “woodbowl.com”. They specialize in commercial turning of “nested bowl” at the rate of 400 bowls per day. An interesting video of their operation is available on line.

The August meeting is scheduled for Brookings with Dan Humburg demonstrating turning as well as tool making. It could be warm, but a cool down is in the forecast. We can car pool for those interested. Plan to meet at the Lowes parking lot just west of I-29 at the 26<sup>th</sup> street exit at 12:00 on the August 4<sup>th</sup> for the trip to Brookings.

Thanks to Corky for hosting the July picnic and the interesting report provided. It verifies my feelings about this group, there is always something to learn or ideas to pick up, and when you miss a meeting, you have missed an opportunity that we cannot duplicate. So we will see you in Brookings, come with questions, ideas, turned items, and demonstration.

Doug Noteboom



## **Getting to Know Us...**

### John Olson

Been wood turning since about 1980 when I bought a used 8 inch Rockwell bench top lathe without a motor from a friend at work. I put an old washing machine motor on it and used it for many years and sort of learned how to turn from what I could get from books and magazines. Turned a lot of small bowls and vases and stuff like that but was never really satisfied with it and the quality was pretty bad I think. I still have the first vase that I made if you can call it that. I found a General variable speed 10 inch I think in about 1987 and had a lot more luck with that one and actually got into the craft fair business for a while. I did the Sioux Falls art Festival and Brooking Art Festival and several smaller ones around the Sioux Falls area for about 5-6 years and did quite well and made enough money to buy a lot of new tools for my shop. I once had a local business man at the Sioux Falls Art Festival in August ask me to make 85 bowls that he wanted to give as x-mas gift to his employees. I had to turn him down because there was no way that I could get that many done in four months. At the time I was working full time at the Sheriff's office and teaching part time at Kilian College and turning evenings and weekends to make enough things for the craft fairs. That is when I figured out that turning was no longer any fun, it was just another job and that's not why I got into turning. So I stopped doing the shows and just turned things for the house and gifts and started having fun again. I wanted to get into big stuff so I built a lathe with a 27 inch swing with a 2 horse computer operated reversible DC motor, I used two 8 inch I-beams for the bed if you can believe that and used that for a while. Sue now has that lathe in her basement when I bought my Powermatic 3520 and I just love it. I still do occasional jobs like the 37 cedar finials I made for a contractor who wanted them for a cedar home he was building, kind of fun but took me about 3 weeks to complete and reminded me why I stopped doing things like that.

The Sioux Land Woodturners has been a really great experience for me and has really put back the fun into turning. Having someone to talk to about what you are doing or things that you would like to do is what it's all about for me now and although I can't make as many meeting as I would like I keep in contact with some of the other members and am just having fun turning again. Projects like the Christmas Tree and tool making and the bowl challenge are what keep me interested now. Last year I decided that I was going to pick one project out of each new AAW magazine and complete it just to try and learn new skills and although I have not been able to keep that up completely it has been fun.

# **WOODTURNING BASICS**

## **WOOD TURNING SAFETY RULES** by Jim Rodger from [www.woodturningonline.com](http://www.woodturningonline.com)

### 1. **Know Your Equipment and Yourself:**

Never operate a lathe or use a cutting tool, chuck or other accessory without first understanding its operation and limitations. Read and know the instruction manual of any lathe that you use. Never perform a procedure or technique that you are unclear about or uncomfortable with. If you are in doubt, stop and ask for instruction. Know your personal limitations.

### 2. **Police Your Environment.**

Keep your work area clean. Store tools safely. Don't allow cords to run across circulation ways. Don't start your lathe if people are in harm's way. Ensure that there is adequate light and ventilation. If you are observing someone else, don't place yourself in harm's way.

### 3. **Keep Yourself Catch Free.**

Long hair must be tied back. No clothing, gloves, jewelry or watches may be worn below the elbow. Necklaces and loose clothing that could be caught by spinning parts must not be worn...

### 4. **Inspect Your Lathe.**

Inspect the lathe for damaged or missing parts before operating it. Before you start, check to ensure that the speed is appropriate, the drive belt is tight, all locking devices are secure and all chuck keys and adjusting wenchers are removed.

a. *Always spin the wood at least one full turn before turning the lathe on every time.*

b. Always stand to the side when starting up a lathe.

c. Always unplug the power supply before adjusting the belts or touching parts that spin.

d. Never leave a spinning lathe unattended.

5. **Wear Safety Equipment.** To operate a lathe or stand near an operating lathe, you must wear eye protection; full face protection when turning bowls. Dust masks are highly recommended.

### 5. **Secure the Wood.**

Ensure that the wood is securely held. Turn between centers whenever possible and always with imbalanced pieces. Use a slow speed when first roughing out a piece. Never use wood that is cracked or has other serious defects or significant protrusions.

### 7. **Practice Safe Techniques.**

a. Keep your tools sharp. Don't force a tool or use it for an unintended purpose. Reposition the tool rest frequently to keep it close to the work.

b. Keep your balance and don't overreach.

c. Always turn the lathe off and allow it to come to a complete stop before adjusting the tool rest.

d. Always keep your hands behind the plane of the tool rest. Always keep the tool firmly against the tool rest. Always hold the tool firmly with both hands.

e. When using a shear cut, rub the bevel. When using a scraping cut, always keep the angle between the wood and cutting edge at less than 90 degrees.

f. When finishing, always remove the tool rest. Use only paper towels, never woven fabric. On exterior surfaces, apply the towel to the underside of the piece with the wood spinning counterclockwise. On interior surfaces, apply the towel in the lower left-hand quadrant also with the wood spinning counterclockwise.

### 8. **Focus on Your Work.**

You may not operate a lathe if you have drunk alcohol or taken medication that carries an equipment operations warning. Don't operate a lathe if you are tired or emotionally upset.

## At the July Meeting...

There was no formal business meeting in July. Below is a brief report along with some pictures from the annual picnic at Corky Miles' home in July.

The July picnic was held at the home of Corky Miles on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was treated to Jim Samples peach cobbler which he made outside in his dutch oven. Al Schroeder celebrated his birthday a couple of days early by supplying the cake and ice cream. Between the barbeques, hotdogs, potato salad, chips, and desserts, no one went away hungry.

Ron Erickson stated that he has turned 150 ornaments in preparation for Christmas already. He was asked if he would demonstrate turning finials and his method of chucking up and hollowing the ornaments which he did. He also demonstrated how to make a hollowing tool from an old screwdriver. Sharpening of tools was discussed along with personal preference of angles and side/fingernail grinds. Al Schroeder demonstrated turning and assembling a pen to interested members. Ron Seim showed plans for making a "Kendama" which is very popular with kids.

Corky showed a copy of an article the Tea Weekly newspaper did regarding his woodworking hobby. The article highlighted woodturning the AAW, and the Siouxland Woodturners Club.

Royce dropped off a CD for the 3rd Segmented Symposium in Lake Tahoe. The dates of the Symposium are October 18-21, 2012 at the Horizon Resort and Casino Stateline in Nevada. The CD has been placed in the Clubs library for those interested.

Other than the picnic, no official meeting was held. We hope to see everyone at Dan Humburg's shop in Brookings in August.



