



The Turning Point

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

April 2014

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10th Anniversary Symposium

Plans are well under way for our 10th Anniversary Symposium featuring Alan Lacer on June 21-23, 2014.

Please visit our web site at www.siouxlandwoodturners.org for more information and for registration forms.

There is still plenty of space for the Saturday general symposium but space is filling up quickly for the hands-on sessions on Sunday and Monday.

Woodturning Basics

This month's Woodturning Basics column is Part 1 of a 2-part series on sharpening basics.

Upcoming Meeting Notes

Saturday, May 3, 2014

1:00 PM

**Ag Education Shop
Harrisburg High School**

Harrisburg High School is located approximately ¼ of a mile west of Harrisburg. The Ag Ed shop is located around back in the northeast corner of the building. If you have trouble finding the place call Royce at (605) 351-9435.

**Sharpening Basics
Plus
Corky's Candy Dispensers**

Community Education Classes...

The Community Education woodturning classes were a big success again this year. Thanks to Sue Smith for spearheading these classes and to everyone who helped out with your time and talents. We will keep you up to date on future classes.

Lathes available for check-out

In the near future we anticipate having 2 Sears lathes available for members to check out. Watch this space for more details in the coming weeks.

From the President...

April 2014

It is hard to believe that it is less than two months until our Alan Lacer Symposium. It is important we get as many as we can signed sign up, and paid up this month for the June 21 Symposium. Since the “one on one” with Alan Lacer for the Sunday 22nd and Monday the 23rd are full, you can get me your name just in case we have someone back out. If we had six or seven more Alan will do an additional day.

Make sure you comb you hair and bring a smile for those who missed out directory photo shoot last month, all meant for those of us with diminished memory and “face to name recognition” problems. No cost or are you obligated to have one taken.

I made the run to Colorado so the Pentacryl is here for those who ordered some. We do have methanol, and anchor seal available also. For those who ordered the “Star” super glue, bring some cash. There will also be on opportunity to buy some spalted and beetle kill, Colorado Lodge pole Pine I bought from a mill in Denver as well as some Honey Locust and curly alder bowl blanks that they had from their suburban salvage project. We also have some sand paper to give out as well.

The demo area in the shop will be busy this month with ongoing demonstration on tool sharpening with Royce and turning on our brand new lathe with Corky’s candy dispensers.

Just over a week away from our monthly meeting, so get those show and tell items finished up.

Thanks!

Doug Noteboom



WOODTURNING BASICS

By Royce Meritt, Newsletter Editor

Royce's Unsolicited Thoughts on Sharpening! Part 1

I am by no means an expert when it comes to sharpening woodturning tools. However, I believe I have become reasonably proficient at sharpening and am able to sharpen in ways that work for me. Over the years, new and/or less experienced members have asked for my advice on sharpening often enough that I feel qualified to offer some basic advice. I am certain that I will present more than one idea in this column with which some will disagree. I'm fine with that. There's more than one way to "skin a cat". As long as it works for you, that's all that matters and the ideas presented here work for me. This month I will discuss grinders and grinding wheels. Next month we will explore sharpening jigs and their use.

Grinders

I like an 8" variable speed grinder, although I rarely adjust the speed. The grinder I own has a range of 1725 RPM to 3450 RPM. Mine is usually set on its highest RPM. There are some who say low RPM is better because a lower speed will build up less heat and remove less material. This is probably true but only if the tool is left on the wheel for the same amount of time.

Let me put it this way. It's going to take a certain number of revolutions of the wheel to achieve the result you want, let's say 50 revolutions of the wheel. At 1725 RPM that might take approximately 4 seconds. At 3450 RPM the same number of revolutions will take half the time. These numbers are somewhat arbitrary and may be slightly different depending on the diameter of your wheels, etc. but I think you get the point. It really is possible to touch up the edge of a tool in a matter of seconds and I would rather spend half the time doing so. Slower speed will serve you well when first learning but I believe you will soon appreciate higher speed.

There are probably just as many who use a 6" grinder as an 8" grinder. Either work fine. I started with a 6" version but have since gone to an 8". The main reason I prefer the 8" variety is because the wheels are usually wider and for some tools I like the extra width. Also, because of the radius of a grinding wheel the sharpening process produces a "hollow grind" or what could be described as a concave shape to the bevel. Some people like the fact that an 8" grinder will produce a shallower concave bevel but I really doubt that makes that much difference.

Grinding Wheels

You can find grinding wheels in grey, white, pink, blue and the latest rage CBN or Cubic Boron Nitride plated metal wheels. I'll try to help you wade through the choices and decide which is best for you.

The **grey grind stones** that possibly came with your grinder are not really suitable for sharpening turning tools. These should be considered GRINDING WHEELS and not SHARPENING WHEELS. They remove material much too fast, generate too much heat and require frequent dressing. One can sharpen tools with these wheels but great care must be used. Save these for your lawn mower blades or turning a 1 ½" long bolt into a 1 ¼" long bolt.

The **white and pink wheels** on the market are made of aluminum oxide particles bonded together. Because of their structure, these small particles continually break off of the wheel itself, therefore providing a fresh sharpening surface. This will result in a much finer cutting edge on your tool with less heat buildup than you would get if using a grey wheel. The one drawback is that if used frequently, these wheels do wear down somewhat quickly and require frequent dressing. However, they are less expensive than some other options.

The **blue wheels** you find at many retailers or online are called microcrystalline wheels. Their structure is similar to the white and pink wheels. However, they are constructed of much, much smaller particles. Like the white or pink wheels, as these particles break off of the wheel, a fresh sharpening surface is presented. Since the particles are much smaller, however, the resulting sharpening surface is much finer. This results in a finer, longer lasting cutting edge on your turning tool. These wheels are more expensive than others but because the stone particles are so tiny, the wheels require much less dressing and last considerably longer than white or pink wheels.

Cubic Boron Nitride (CBN) wheels are fairly new to the market. These wheels are constructed from a solid steel disk to which cubic boron nitride particles are permanently bonded. These wheels are very expensive. However, they never need dressing, are better balanced than other wheels and sharpen very well and very quickly, not to mention they will last for many years. Once one gets past the initial cost, they are probably a good value, particularly for people who turn a lot.

Next month...Sharpening jigs

At the April Meeting...

Siouxland Woodturners

April 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:05 by President Doug Noteboom. Introductions of the 33 members and guests were made.

A. **Minutes of last meeting:** Correction to info on spauling cultures – the cultures will not cross zone lines (not growth lines). With this correction, motion made and passed to accept March minutes as presented.

B. **Treasurer's report:** Balance of \$2129.22 (includes purchase of methanol).

C. **Library report:** New publications are on order from AAW. Two books were donated to club library by Jim.

D. **Community Ed report:** Sue explained that the Thursday Bowl Turning class was postponed due to weather (this was the second day of the two day class). Session will be made up later this month, as arrangements are made with the five students. Another Bowl Turning class (2 days) and a Pen Making class are scheduled for later this month. Motion made and passed to arrange for Fall Community Education classes. Sue and her education committee would like suggestions for what could be taught this Fall. There are usually eight lathes available for the classes; classes could be one or two nights in length, with each night being 2 ½ hours.

E. **Membership report:** Royce said if you still need a wooden name badge, let him know. Pictures of club members were taken and will be for club use only. Anyone not wanting a photo taken could opt not to do so.

F. **10 Year Anniversary and Symposium:** Alan Lacer's Sunday and Monday one-on-one sessions are full (cost is \$100 per person per day). If there is enough additional interest (7 people), Alan might be able to arrange for a third day of one-on-one sessions (Tuesday)—Doug would need to know ASAP. Doug is contacting nearby clubs concerning the Symposium and will also use local print and TV options to disseminate announcement to the general public. The clubs from Bismarck ND and the Loess Hills have shown interest in attending. Early registration is \$40, registration at the door will be \$50.

G. **Old Business:**

1. Freedom Pens – Pens arrived in Afghanistan and have been passed out to service members.
2. Spauling cultures – John Olson followed the protocol for culture propagation, but met with little success. He and John Weaver will try again.
3. Methanol and anchor seal will be available for purchase at the next meeting – bring containers if you wish to partake.
4. A \$1500 grant has been applied for through AAW that is intended for an additional club lathe and tools. A Jet lathe from Stan Houston is being considered (12" x 21", 1hp variable speed, reversible, with stand). Hollowing and adjustable tools may also be added to the club's toolbox. Sue suggested that the club consider purchasing pen mandrels and chucks. She will research and present information at future meeting.
5. Doug is working on the donated Craftsman lathe -- has to mount a motor on it yet.

H. **New Business:**

1. There was a discussion about the upcoming summer meetings, possible demos and picnic (July or August?). Nothing definite was decided so the Executive Board may take this up.
2. Doug is going to Colorado and may trade some wood with *The Woodstore on Wheels*. They have exotics, burls, desert ironwood, black mesquite, screwworm wood and Colorado species. Contact Doug if you have any ideas, wants, or needs concerning this.
3. Info on CA Adhesives was passed out. Doug will be putting together an order – let him know after the meeting what you need. Discount may be 10-15%. Petacryl can be purchased for a 15% discount.
4. Also discussed was Polycryl (a wood hardener that is good for dry and spalted wood) that is available at Ace Hardware in pint cans. It is a Minnwax product.
5. AAW 2014 Symposium -- in Phoenix, June 13-15, \$275 (flight to Phoenix is additional \$275 approx.). Doug plans on going; let him know if you'd like to go/maybe share some costs.

6. Bismarck Woodturners are having a Symposium featuring Trent Bosch, Alan Carter and Ron Day. Dates shown on their website are April 25-27. Check Dakotawoodturners.com for further info.
7. Abernet is a mesh product used to sand out cutting marks from turned works of art. Several mentioned using it and getting good results.
8. Stan Harder has a demo online that shows how to turn threads.
9. FBT Sawmill in Steen MN has black walnut, maples, cherry and hickory. They will also do custom sawing.
10. Al has been turning aluminum. If anyone is interested in trying this, you may want to discuss what he has learned.

Members showed a variety of turned treasures. Meeting adjourned at 2:10. Members shared sanding materials, foam, faceplate screws and popcorn cobs (sand cobs down, coat with Super Glue, then turn). Royce went over basic lathe information and turning technique with our guest, Montrose Ag teacher. Gene again aimed his video equipment at another of the lathes to capture action and refine his camera techniques in preparation for the Symposium.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Lynch, Secretary

Show & Tell items at April meeting...





Some hands-on instruction...



The Community Education Bowl Turning Class

