



# The Turning Point

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

October 2014

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## **Wood Identification Project**

Members are asked to bring wood samples (green or dry) about the size of a small envelope and 1 inch thick. One side and one edge should be finished, others remaining unfinished.

These wood samples would be used to help our members identify "mystery woods" they may come across.

Having multiple samples of some species will be helpful when different grain patterns are encountered.

## **Woodturning Basics**

This month's "Woodturning Basics" column contains a 2-page handout shown by Ron Erickson at the October meeting. This handout introduces us to a marbling technique. While not a complete tutorial, this handout may spark your interest in learning more. See page 5 for some pictures of Ron's marbled pieces.

## **Upcoming Meeting Notes**

**Saturday, November 1, 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.*

**Mugs and Bowls**

## **Community Education Classes...**

The fall session of community ed. classes is now complete. Thanks to all those members who assisted. Plans are underway for the spring session. If you are interested in helping, contact Sue Smith.

## **Officer Elections**

At the November meeting the nominating committee will have a full slate of officers to be voted on by the membership. There will also be various appointed positions to be filled. If asked, please consider taking on one of these positions to help us out.

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

Oct 2014

Three years go by very fast. This month wraps up my time as your president, and it is with mixed emotions that I close out that privilege. Looking back, the best part of the time was getting to know more of you much better and developing new friends with the same passion for wood and turning. I do believe we have grown in our abilities and have ventured out of our comfort zone in trying new things. My challenge for us in the years to come is to continue to develop our gifts and talents, welcome new men and women in to the club, and focus on developing an organization with ever increasing standards of quality and diversity in our art/craft. I am sure I will never obtain the level of turning that some of you are at and am excited and marvel at those of you who passed me by as I watched and wondered what I was doing wrong.

If you were not at our last meeting, the challenge is out there to bring in 3X5" wood samples from your supply of various local and exotic woods. It is my hope we can develop a catalog/display of the woods that we use for ready recognition and comparison. Even if you think someone else will bring in a particular sample maybe yours will be slightly better or a different grain pattern. So get to work and cut, sand and finish one side and end with a clear coat and name it, if possible. There will be a test. But do not sweat it, no one fails.

I have been busy with my lidded coffee mugs and should have one done for you inspection and I will walk through the process I used in turning these mugs. I will also have some turned bowls for you inspection and challenge you to also bring in a work you have done with some of the wood we have been sharing in the past few months.

This month is election month with a slate of candidates up for approval from the nominating committee. I am sure the floor will be open for more nominations, but make sure you have talked to those you would like to see in any specific position, to allow for a smooth election with minimal uneasiness. There are also many appointed positions that need to be filled for a smooth running organization. Maybe it is time for you/me, to step out of our comfort zone and try/volunteer for a position for the good of the club and ourselves.

Some decisions need to be made on tabled items and recent new opportunities for the club so be there and decide.

Finally as always, bring in those shows and tells, mistakes and question so that we can all learn together from each other's goof ups and successes.

See you Sat. the 1st of November at 1:05.

Doug Noteboom



# WOODTURNING BASICS

By Royce Meritt, Newsletter Editor



## Marbling Kit – Carole Floate

Please read through the directions before starting.

It is possible to marble on any surface that is capable of absorbing alum: paper, fabrics, wood, etc. Experimentation is always necessary when you're Marbling. Always test samples before working on a large project.

### Supplies Included in Kit

Alum

Carrageenan

Golden Yellow

Scarlet

Blue

Black

Green

Colorless Extender

Marbling Surfactant

One pair of disposable gloves  
(latex free)

### Other Supplies Needed

Distilled Water (optional)

### Equipment you'll need to gather up:

- Waterproof container that is wide and deep enough to contain the piece that is to be marbled. You will need to consider the depth of the container as well. When turning flat pieces the container needs to have several inches extra on each side. White or light color is important so the marbling colors are visible while they are floating on the surface of the prepared size. A cardboard box that has been cut down to approximately 3" in height inside a white plastic garbage bag or a white photo tray will work well. A good size to begin with is 10"x10"x10".
- Newspapers cut into 3" wide strips
- Roll of paper towels
- Stylus, teasing comb or toothpick, marbling combs
- 1 teaspoon measurer, 1 Tablespoon measurer
- Buckets
- Pair of rubber gloves
- Clean sponge
- Plastic drop cloth or newspapers to cover work space

### Procedure

#### Part I: Preparation

**1. Preparing the wood.** Turn the desired piece. For platters with flatter surfaces make sure that the surface is convex to make sure that there is no place for air bubbles to get trapped. Sand to 220 grit and spray with alum.

**Make the Alum Soak.** Measure 1 gallon of 120°F water into a gallon container. Add 4 level Tablespoons of Alum and stir until dissolved. While wearing rubber gloves, spray alum on wood pieces or dip pieces into the alum. Let dry. **DO NOT RINSE OFF!** Discard Alum Soak after 2 to 3 months or if Alum has crystallized.

**Make the Carrageenan.** Measure 2 Tbls of carrageenan into 1 gallon of tap water. You can use a hand mixer or an electric mixer to dissolve the carrageenan. For best results let stand overnight until all the bubbles are gone. Size will last for 3 to 4 days before it begins to deteriorate.

#### PART II: Marbling

**1. Prepare the work space.** Cover your work space - table and rinse area with newspaper or a drop cloth. Position your marbling tray near the edge of the table with a garbage can or bag under it to catch excess drips and paper strips. Fill the marbling tray with 2" to 3" of prepared Carrageenan. Set up a rinse area with a 5 gallon bucket of room temperature water or use the sink.

*Before marbling store prepared Carrageenan and Marbling Colors in the same room, as they should be the same temperature, ideally between 60° to 80° F.*

**2. Skim the surface** of the Carrageenan by dragging strips of paper across the surface and discard the paper. This evens out the surface tension, clears the bubbles and removes any marbling color left over from the previous print. Do not worry about the few bubbles or marbling color that will remain along the edges of the marbling tray as they will not disrupt the pattern.

**3. Shake the marbling** colors well before each use and periodically during the marbling session. Pour some of the paint into small containers. It is important to test the marbling colors before beginning to Marble. To do this, hold the marbling color very close to the carrageenan surface and place one drop of color on the surface. The marbling color should float and spread out into a circle anywhere from one half inch to two. Repeat this process with each color. Test them together to make sure that they all float when sharing the same surface. If the marbling color does not spread as desired see Helpful information #2 at the end of the directions.

by side or on top of the previous color so that concentric circles are made. The more drops of color applied, the deeper the color. (the use of more than 3 colors could look muddy)

**5. Make the pattern.** Manipulate the marbling colors on the surface with a stylus, teasing comb or toothpick into the pattern desired. Make free form or traditional patterns.

**6. Lower the wood piece** on the carrageenan on a slight angle so no air bubbles interfere with the pattern.

**7. Remove the wood** and rinse lightly by dipping the piece into the 5 gallon bucket filled with room temperature water. Do not touch the surface until dry.

### **Part III – Finishing.**

Let the surface dry. Once the surface is dry spray several coats of lacquer or finish of your choice on the surface. Depending on the wood you might need more layers of finish before sanding. Once the paint has been covered with several layers of finish begin using '0000' steel wool between layers until desired finish is achieved.

### **Helpful Information to know**

The marbling components are non-toxic and water based. Carrageenan is bio-degradable and is safe to dispose of down the drain or into any septic or city disposal system. All of these products are environmentally safe and user friendly. All Marbling colors may be intermixed to blend a full rainbow of colors.

- Keep work area and tools clean. DO NOT clean equipment with soap, use only water and a stiff brush.
- If you have hard water try using Distilled water to make the carrageenan base. Water impurities can disrupt surface tension so that colors will not float.

### **Sinking Colors**

Skim Carrageenan surface just before laying down drops of color. Marbling colors might need to have a surfactant added to it so that it spreads across the carrageenan surface. Add marbling surfactant, 1 or 2 drops at a time directly to the marbling color, and shake/stir. Test again and continue adding the marbling surfactant until the color floats and spreads out. Make sure that the Carrageenan is skimmed before each test drop and test between additions of marbling color so that the paints will better float and the wider it will spread and consequently the lighter the color. Be careful not to add too much marbling surfactant as it can not be removed after it is added. You can also try Photo Flo or OxGull as the surfactant, but also use one drop at a time. If the Carrageenan is too thick thin with tap water or distilled water.

### **Fast spreading Colors**

Carrageenan may be too thin. Make another thicker batch by mixing some more powder per gallon of water. Drop colorless extender or the carrageenan before marbling colors. This will change the surface tension and slow down the marbling colors.

### **Grainy Colors**

Shake marbling colors well before each use. Marbling colors are little pieces of colors that settle, so they need to be shaken well before being used.

### **Jagged edged Colors**

Skim surface and drop marbling colors again.

### **Alum solution has crystals around the edges of the bucket**

Heat until Alum crystals re-dissolve or discard and make a new solution.

### **Colors wash off in the rinse bucket.**

Wood piece does not have enough Alum applied, inhibiting penetration of alum. Paint can sanded off colors and then reapply alum again.

Alum soak solution is too weak: colors will not bond to the surface and will be pale, uneven and or streaked.

Alum soak solution is too strong: Colors will adhere to alum and will flake off.

### **Carole Floate**

CF Turnings

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## Some Examples of Ron E.'s Marbled Pieces



## At the October Meeting...

### *Siouxland Woodturners* October 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

We welcomed a couple new turners to the October meeting. Introductions of the 24 attendees were made and Doug handed out copies of previous AAW magazines to several non-AAW members who could say they had turned something during the past week. The meeting was then called to order at 1:05 by President Doug Noteboom.

**A. Minutes of last meeting:** Previous meetings' minutes are now available online as the website issues have been resolved. Motion made and passed to accept August and September minutes as presented.

**B. Treasurer's report:** No report (Doug believes current balance is approximately \$2000). Anyone that wished to pay dues at this meeting was directed to Bob.

**C. Library report:** No new additions since last month's three books.

**D. Community Ed report:** There are three community education classes remaining to be taught at the CTE Academy, 4700 W Career Circle, room D106; hours are 6:00 – 8:30 pm. Classes are as follows:

Natural Green Bowl Turning...Oct 7 Tues, Club instructors

Eccentric aka Off Center Turning...Oct 14 Tues, Sue Smith

Inside Out Turning...Oct 23 Thur, Doug Noteboom

We had four students in the Sharpening class and four in the Mandrel class. The material fees collected from students at the community education classes are intended to be used for the purchase of club pen mandrels, etc. Sue would like suggestions for next Spring's community classes. Also, for the January meeting, she suggested the option of "turning with a mentor". Those interested could bring a sack lunch, come early (10:30), and learn from our more experienced members.

**E. Membership report:** Royce still has several nametags previously requested by new members. If you have paid your dues and are still in need of a nametag, let him know (when we again have several nametags needed, he will arrange to have them made). He mentioned the possibility of getting a subscription to the English version of Woodturning magazine—something to consider in the future.

**F. Old Business:**

1. Freedom Pen Project -- The 2015 pens will be worked on during the February meeting. Anyone wanting .308 casings for their own use can purchase them for \$2 each.

2. Walnut from Betts is available for \$15 per box. It was suggested that if you wish to help out the club's treasury you could increase that to \$20. The boxes contain well dried wood of good quality. Doug also has additional wood for sale, as well as some for giveaway.

**G. New Business:**

1. Next meeting will be November 1st at Harrisburg High School. The challenge/demo will be mugs and bowls. Jim can help you with advice on turning mugs. Both he and Doug have mug inserts for sale (2 each), if you should need any. Jim suggested the website "Smoothturning.com" has plans for mug turning projects and also has inserts for sale.

2. Doug proposed and discussed a "Wood Identification Project". Motion made and passed to accumulate wood samples for the Club's use and education. Members are asked to bring wood samples (green or dry) about the size of a small envelope (which were passed out) and 1 inch thick. One side and one edge should be finished, others remaining unfinished. An online resource with wood photos/identification is "Carltonrarewoods.com".

3. There was a discussion about craft fairs, art shows, and consignment venues where members could display and sell their creations. Al mentioned that the Trent Arts and Crafts Sale is November 8 (10am-2pm) at the Trent Gym; spaces are \$10. Doug brought up "Pickers Flea Market" on Shirley Avenue, Sioux Falls. Cost would be \$100-150 per month to rent a space there; store would do selling and collect sales tax. Club members could sell turned projects, blanks, excess tools. It would provide Club exposure, a means for members to sell their items, and a chance for a small percentage to go to the Club treasury. There would be no cost to the Club, itself. The idea was tabled until the next meeting. Those interested in this option were asked to gather after the meeting to discuss specifics, the need for a subcommittee, etc.

4. A source for manmade turquoise (\$11.50 - \$13.50/lb plus shipping) and copper powder (\$13.00/lb plus shipping) is "Walstonwoodworks.com".

5. November is the month for officer elections (president/vice-president/secretary/treasurer). Royce, Al S. and Bob B. are the nominating committee. Al Hird cannot volunteer for the president's position due to many other commitments. Sue and Royce voiced their strong encouragement for members to step up and volunteer to serve for the betterment of the Club.

6. Ron E. told about his trip to the "Turn-On Chicago" symposium that was held in mid-August. The three day event costs about \$250 and is held every two years at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (turnonchicago.com). He would recommend it to anyone! Ron also briefly discussed the technique of marbling.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07. Show and tell followed. Demonstrations by Doug and Royce showed us how to turn bracelets.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie Lynch, Secretary

**Show & Tell items at October meeting...**

