



Monthly Newsletter March 13, 2012

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March 13, 2012 Meeting -



President Phil welcomed everyone, including about 30 members and 4 new visitors, John Ormsby, Dave Gamber, Joe Klepf and Bill Nyberg. Phil's next open house will be on March 20 at 7 pm. At the next regular club meeting, on April 10th, the club will visit the Center for Art in Wood, which was recently written up in the Phila. Inquirer. Steve Leichner has prepared written information about the location and parking, so contact him with any questions. **Also let Steve know if you plan on**

attending, so he can get an accurate head count for Albert. In May, our meeting will be on the 4th Tuesday, May 22, when we will have a demonstration from Beth Ireland. At the June meeting, John Ryan, a friend of Jeff Kieserman, will give a lecture on photography. At the September meeting, Bil Grumbine will give a demo.

Our club members are invited to display their work at a show in the Deptford Municipal building from April 6 – June 6. Phil needs to hear from anyone interested in participating, with number of pieces, size, etc. so he can arrange the display. Anyone interested in displaying their work at the Willingboro library in July should contact Mike Zickler in the next week, so he can confirm the dates. If there is not enough interest we will have to abandon this opportunity.

The grant of \$100 from the Mid South Woodturners Guild, Memphis TN, in memory of a member who was accidentally killed while working on a lathe, has been used to purchase a safety shield, which was installed and in use for this meeting. With some additional minor refinements it will prove to be very worthwhile in helping to keep our viewing members safe while closely observing demonstrations on the lathe.

Speaking of safety, Robert Jay reported that our good friend Anthony Christaldie has suffered a minor heart attack, but is back home now, so take a moment and send him your best wishes for a speedy recovery. We certainly want him to be ready for our next meeting, and for the start of baseball games at the Camden field!

The HOW (Hands On Workshops) program for our club is still open, thanks to the continuing hard work of Jeff Kieserman. He has sent out emails to all members, and tonight gave an overview of the courses and examples of the work products from each instructor.





Jeff has put a lot of work into organizing these classes, and everyone is encouraged to sign up. There are a lot of interesting topics being presented, with 48 different openings, and don't forget, this is a major fund raising event for the club, so **SIGN UP ALREADY!**

Our own Steve Leichner will be demonstrating at the Bucks club's next meeting, March 19. Let's show up and give him a lot of support. www.bucksturners.com

Jim Hobson has a lead on several large cherry and buckeye trees near his home. Give him a call if you are interested in getting some of this wood.

The 50/50 winner this month was Mike Zickler, who collected \$71, a new record high amount! Whoopee !!! Thanks to all who purchased tickets. Additional winners of gift certificates or the demo piece were Dave, Jeff and Ray.

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Upcoming Events

March 19 - Steve Leichner demo at Bucks meeting

March 20 – next open house at Phil Hauser’s shop

March 27- Executive meeting at John Coles’ home

March 31- Saratoga Springs Totally Turning show

April 10- next regular club meeting, a visit to the Center for Art in Wood in Phila.

Warton Esherick Museum is sponsoring a juried contest on the theme of “Jewelry”, check out their web site for details on this and another show some of our members are in, “If a Tree falls, Make something beautiful.”

May 5- show in Derry, NH where Andy will be demonstrating

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Treasurer's Report - None this month



Library Report – None this month

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Featured Program –

The program this month was a demonstration of a lidded box by our club President, Phil Hauser. Phil brought several lovely examples of lidded boxes he’s made recently,



and proceeded to go through all the steps in making a finished one from a cylinder of spalted beech he prepared in advance.



He turned a tenon on each end of the blank, then divided into thirds, cutting off at the $\frac{1}{3}$ mark for the lid portion. (Safety tip - Remember to use a clamp to hold the piece while cutting on the band saw.) He then remounts each piece and drills them to depth with a Forstner bit, trues up the face with a spindle gouge, finishes the bottom with a scraper, and makes the lip surfaces with a firm but not too tight mating fit. For the best fit he suggests getting close and then letting the pieces rest for a week or two to dry more thoroughly, then making the finish lip cuts. After the lips are finished, he remounts the box between centers, then turns and finishes the outside, usually preferring a slightly concave look (i.e. thinner middle). At this point you can also apply decorative markings, grooves, etc., like the burnished lines he demonstrated.



You can then finish the top, by taping the joint tightly to hold the work together, and using very gentle smooth cuts, and then finish the bottom by reverse chucking. (Tip – use a straight edge to ensure the bottom is slightly concave so it will sit flat.) Thanks Phil, for an informative and enjoyable session. (Phil's handout is included below.)



Thanks to Ina for the great photos this month.
Additional photos from the meeting are available at our Yahoo site,
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DelValWoodturners> .

How to turn a lidded box

There are obviously many ways on how you can turn a box. The method I use works quite nicely for me and I believe it can be used by anyone.

1. Preparing the Stock

Pick a piece of lumber you like, about 2.5x2.5" by 4-8" long, mount it between centers and turn it into a cylinder.

Put a tenon on each end of the cylinder. Make the tenons similar size so that the chuck will grab both at about the same setting. Measure the distance inside the two tenons and mark a line about one third from the end you want to use as the top. Cut the cylinder at the mark into the lid and the box.

2. Turning the box

Start with the box part rather than the lid. Put the box into a chuck and drill a hole with a Forstner bit to about a half inch from the bottom. Use a Forstner bit about 3-16th to ¼" smaller than the outside diameter, to allow for wall thickness and for a lip to fit inside the lid. Also consider the final shape of the box so that the outside form does not cut into the cavity. If you do not have a Forstner bit you can of course hollow the inside just like a bowl.

The forstner bit will leave small a hole in the center at the bottom. If you prefer, you can turn that hole away by rounding the bottom with a scraper, or by turning the inside of the box deep enough to have the center hole disappear. If you do any of these improvements, make sure you have enough wood not to cut through the bottom, and also consider the final planned shape.

Once you are happy with the inside turn the lip on top of the box. I cut the lip to about midway between the inside and outside diameters, about ¼ "wide. A wider lip can be cut which will make your lid close firmer. If you make your lip about ¾" wide, removing the lid will create a vacuum inside the box, making for a firmer closing.

The trade off is that you loose the continuity of the grain pattern on the outside as you now have a large overlap.

If you want the grain to line up as closely as possible between the lid and the box, you need to turn an insert for the box lip. While this is more work, if done carefully the only area missing in the grain pattern will be the thickness of the tool used to cut the cylinder into two pieces. If you cut the box on the band saw you loose just the thickness of the saw blade provided you make a square cut that needs no or minimal truing up.

To obtain a fit that produces the familiar pop sound, undercut the lip slightly towards the box.

Any sanding of the lip and the inside should be done now.

Before taking the box out of the chuck, make sure you mark how it is positioned in the chuck. I usually take a pencil marker to mark both sides of jaw 1. This way you can remount the box the same way and have it run true.

The next step is to turn the lid. Mount the lid in the chuck and drill a hole with the same Forstner bit. If desired remove the center hole as explained above. Before you do that however, you need to fit the

lid to the lip on the box. Use a compass to transfer the dimensions of the lip to the lid and expand the opening close to the line. From there cut in small increments with a scraper, check frequently until the lid fits. You want a lid that fits better than most, turn the lid a tad undersize and put it away for a couple of days, then return. This can be repeated 2 or three times, to get a “perfect” fit.

Next step is to put the box back into the chuck, put on the lid, bring the tailstock up to the lid and turn the assembly to a shape that pleases you. I like my boxes to be a bit slimmer in the middle. Finish turning to the desired shape.

At this point you sand the outside to your final grit. Make sure that you turn the lid a few times during this process to make sure that everything lines up.

If you have a good fit of the lid and plan to finish the lid with a simple shape, you can take some masking tape to secure the lid to the box. Turn the top of the lid with tailstock support until you cannot continue. Then remove the tailstock and finish the top. Make sure you take small cuts so the lid will not tear loose from the box. Once sanding is finished you can drill a hole in the center before dismounting for the planned finial.

What remains is to finish the bottom. Hold the box with an expanding chuck from the inside. Be careful not to over tighten as the box might crack. Bring up the tailstock for stability and remove it only at the end to clean up the very center. Turn the tenon away and turn the bottom slightly concave. This way only the rim will touch the support surface and the box will not wobble. Sand the bottom as desired.

If not already done with tape as outlined above, finish the lid in the same manner as the box. If you like to fit a finial to the top, finish turning leaving a small section in the center. Once the turning and sanding is done, drill a hole into the center of the lid to accept a finial.

Apply your favorite finish.