



Monthly Newsletter March 16, 2010

President: Phil Hauser
609-518-9801
VP: Andy DiPietro
VP: Robert Jay
VP: George Morris
Editor: Mike Zickler
Treasurer: John Coles
Church Liaison: Steve Leichner
School Liaison: Marty Richter
Photographers: Ina Cabañas
Jeff Schnell
Librarian: Robert Jay
Webmaster: Wally Kowrach
<http://www.del-val-turners.com>

March 16, 2010 Meeting -



President Phil welcomed everyone, including about 30 members and 2 visitors. Phil reminded us that our next regular meeting will be held on April 13, and the next open house at his shop will be held on April 20, from 7 – 9 pm. Our club's HOW program is in full swing, as announced by VP

Andy DePietro. There is still time to sign up for a session, check with Seth Chamberlain on availability. These sessions are always fun and informative, and the cost is very reasonable, so SIGN UP NOW !! The next club challenge for a weed pot, no size or wood material restrictions, is due at the September meeting. The 50/50 drawing this month, worth \$57, was won by new member Tom Barnes. Congrats Tom !! Runners-up, each winning one of the demo items, were Victor Malench, Steve Leichner, Ina Cabañas, Eric Berndt, and Doug James.

Regarding the annual summer club picnic, Phil is asking for suggestions from the membership on when is the best time to hold it ?? He wants to make it more successful and better attended than has been the case in previous years, so is soliciting ideas that will accomplish this. Let him know what you think about the best month to have it, and any ideas about location as well. He hopes to make a decision about it at the next club meeting. On a sadder note, Phil reports that Nelson Brown has been in the Vineland Hospital for some time, and would appreciate calls and visits from his wood turning pals. The hospital number is 856-641-8209; it is located off exit 29E on Rt. 55.

Upcoming Events

March 27-28 – Totally Turning event

April 13 – next regular club meeting at MFS wood shop

April 20 – open house at President Phil’s shop

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Treasurer's Report - none this month (but we did get a bunch of checks for the HOW program, And Treasurer John Coles will give us the details next month)



Library Report – Librarian Robert Jay encourages everyone to investigate all the new holdings we’ve been accumulating, and reminds us that the new policy is for “free” loans of the items, combined with a user friendly check-out process.

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Featured Program –

The program this month was a demonstration by Nick Cook, who also happens to be one of the founding members of the AAW ! Nick started the evening out by describing his “roots” in wood turning over 40 years ago, being mentored by Rude Osolnik and many other old timers whose names are highly respected in the profession. Nick recounted the advice of Rude, who said a key to success is to “...find something small, make a lot, and sell them at a reasonable price.....” Nick has a long tradition of teaching at various woodworking schools, and has enjoyed visiting over 40 states, New

Zealand, Australia, England and Canada over his career. Starting out his demo, Nick recommends that all turners try to master the skew chisel first, as it will teach you more about turning than any other tool. Nick prefers the oval skew, and described an ongoing rivalry, or “skew-down” with Alan Lacer, who advocates the rectangular shape. Whichever one you end up using, Nick insists it has to be literally razor sharp, but when mastered will yield a smoother finish than 220 grit sandpaper can provide.



Nick went on to demonstrate the skew technique by turning a garden dibble with it exclusively, from rough blank to finished product. He makes the ones he sells from hard maple or ash, the demo was on poplar. [Tip – Always start with the tool touching the tool rest, extended out beyond the work piece, then draw it down gradually till it starts to cut.]



The next demo item was a goblet, enhanced with a captured ring (success on the 2nd try). Nick recommends sanding the captured ring before parting it off completely, as it's kind of difficult to catch otherwise. He suggested looking at goblet shapes in stores to get design ideas for the transition areas between cup, base and stem. He's not a fan of scrapers at all, but did mention a tool from <http://easywoodtools.com> for final smoothing of inside the cup portion.



The 3rd item was a textured rim plate made from European Beech, which, although it has a rather non-descript grain, apparently is more uniform than our local Beech. The blank was attached initially with a screw chuck, and surfaced with a 3/8" bowl gouge, which Nick said he uses about 90% of the time. He's not a fanatic about tool grinds, says any shape you can use comfortably and reproduce is ok. Several good tips on turning these shapes were presented: 1) start the curve from base to rim right away, don't make it flat then try to correct later, it won't work!; 2) make every cut as if it were the final one, removing just a little material at a time. He suggests leaving plates a little thick if they are intended for regular use, as thinner ones are more easily damaged.



The last item of the night was a cherry natural edge bowl, attached initially with a two prong spur which Nick prefers over the 4 prong version. In response to a question about the glove he was wearing for this piece, they come from Costco and at 3/\$19 are quite reasonable (and reversible to make them all left-handed.) On wet wood like this, Nick reminded us to tighten the chuck regularly, because it tends to loosen as moisture leaves the wood. Some good tips on turning this bowl: 1) try to make your cuts in one consistent motion each time, as this results in a better shape and surface; 2) remember to develop the wall thickness at the rim first, then proceed down towards the bottom; 3) to secure any tendency towards loose bark, use thin CA glue after sanding sealer; and 4) make your jam chucks shaped like a bagel or donut, not with a rounded face, which only contacts on a single point.



This program was a lot of fun, and we all appreciated the humor, insights, creativity and fine craftsmanship displayed by our guest turner, Nick Cook. To see more about him, you can visit his web site at www.nickcookwoodturner.com.

Additional photos from the meeting are available at our Yahoo site,

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DelValWoodturners>.