



VOL 2016 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 8, 2016

a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month at The Friends School
110 East Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057

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Executive VP HOWs
VP HOWs Assistant
VP Newsletters
VP Librarian
VP Program Setup
Secretary
Treasurer

Marty Richter
Dave Potts
Phil Hauser
Scott Malin
Joe Quigley
open
Mike Zickler
John Coles

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

ANNUAL ELECTIONS: The slate of officers listed above was submitted to the membership at the November meeting for a vote. There were no further volunteers or nominations made at the meeting, and the slate was approved as submitted. Please note that an additional volunteer is still desired to assist with Program Setup. If you are interested, please notify Marty Richter.

AAW LOTTERY: Del Val is permitted to submit one name to the AAW to wind one of 14 scholarships to Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, one of 10 scholarships to John C. Cambell Folk School, and one of 4 scholarships to the Anderson Ranch Arts Center. A lottery was held for any AAW member who expressed interest at the meeting or prior. The AAW will notify winners by December 31, 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The holiday party will be held at our next meeting, on December 13, 2016 at the Meeting House (Bldg 10 on the Friends Campus Map, see below). Activities at the party will include a Pollyanna, the Holiday Tree Challenge, a special raffle of a Thompson tool, a silent auction, 50/50 drawing, and Show & Tell, in addition to the food and beverages provided by the club and various members and their families.

Thanks to Jeff Schnell for the excellent videography at the meeting.

Comments and suggestions on the newsletter are welcome.



Half Circle Bowl African Blackwood, 5 1/2" Dia. x 2 3/4" H, 2015 \$1,640





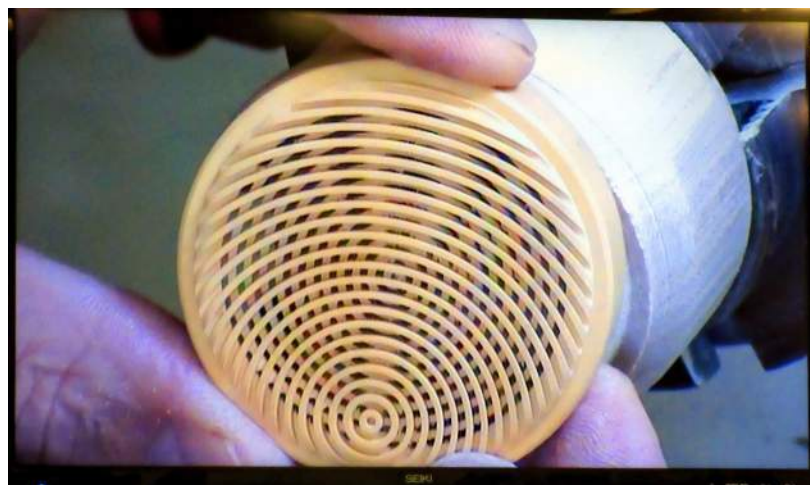
DEMONSTRATOR: The club had the pleasure of hosting Hans Weissflog at the November meeting. Hans resides in Hildesheim, Germany and frequently travels throughout Europe, Australia, and the United States to demonstrate. His work is held in museums and in private collections throughout the world.

Hans is widely known in the US for his offset axis turnings, which feature a half through cut on each side of a blank to create a Moiré pattern grid of solid and voids. This work or series, seems to have almost endless variation, from the flat lid design he demonstrated for us which has two centers, to bowl shaped designs containing 36 or more centers. I noticed cone shaped designs on his Facebook page which have concentric curves on the inside of the cone, and fluted cuts on the outside, so he has taken the concept in many directions.

He has other series of work, including shapes that appear in David Springett's books, and which he demonstrated at Bucks Woodturners earlier this year that further show the incredible skills he has as a turner. In the demonstrations I've seen, he seems to work like a machinist, expecting perfection in all aspects of cutting and shaping, so that the intricate pieces of his work fit perfectly together. The things I've seen in Springett's books, which the typical turner can make from a single blank, cut in half and rotated 90 degrees, so the final pieces cannot vary from one another, I saw Hans make from two separate blanks, requiring the perfection he's capable of. The slightest variation would result in a gap between the parts. In Hans' world, he can use two different woods, and produce two objects in the making, but the method requires incredible skill and precision. Every cut is preceded by a measurement, if not two, and whenever possible, a sighting to see if there is light between the parts.

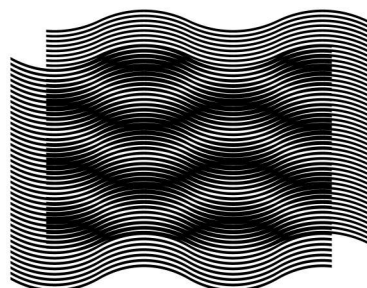
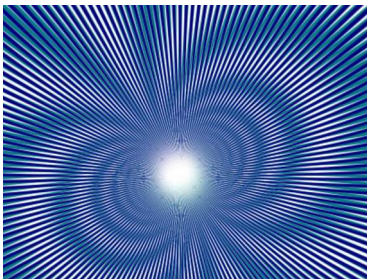
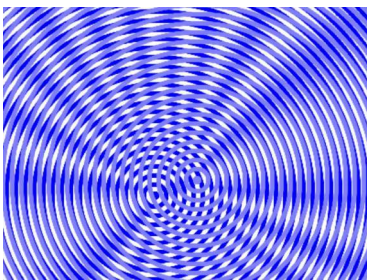
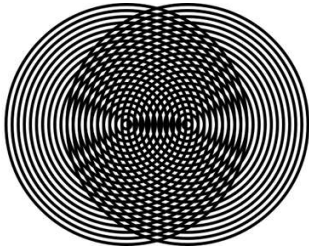
Hans favors Boxwood and African Blackwood for his moire series work, but has lost his supplier of Boxwood recently, so has had to seek out other species. The Boxwood he used to work with had come from Turkey but he is unable to get it any longer. He mentioned that African Blackwood is still available, but now carries with it a lot of documentation to ensure that it meets CITES requirements.

DEMONSTRATION: Hans showed us his process for making a lidded box, in which the top of the box contains a series of concentric ribs cut on an offset center point, whereas the underside of the lid has similar concentric ribs but which are cut on the true center. The resulting moire pattern can be seen below.





Moiré patterns



The first step in the process is to create the offset chuck to establish the two centers. Below is the chuck the Hans crafted in our shop. He noted that by drilling the cores slightly off on the chuck, the dowels hold the blank more securely.



Next, the top of the lid is cut with the blank mounted on the eccentric center. The first few cuts must be carefully measured for depth (halfway through) with a special tool until the cut daylights so it can be easily measured against the rabbet created by Hans at the beginning of the process. The measuring tool can be seen in the last captured cut whereas you can see the first daylight cut is not quite deep enough.



The cuts get progressively further from center as Hans works his way to the edge. The rabbet provides the depth gauge, and he spaces the cuts strictly by eye so that the solids and voids are of equal width. The portion of the later cuts involve more air and less solid wood, and the arc becomes a shorter part of the overall circle.



You can see the pronounced ghosting effect as he approaches the last few cuts. This view also shows his custom made tool as it cuts the grooves. The tool must be plunged directly into the cut and pulled out directly without any angle or skew. The minute the tool would be turned on an angle, the rib would be sheared off and the project destroyed.





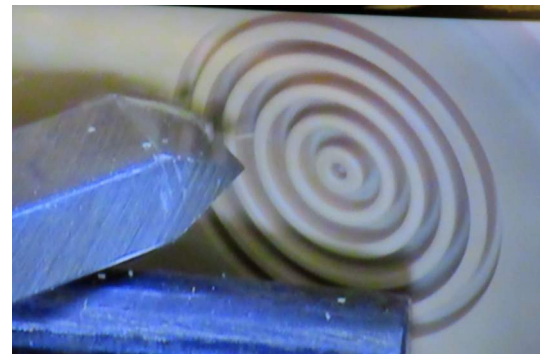
After cutting the top, Hans begins the work on the underside of the lid mounting the blank on its true center. He starts with a bowl gouge, then moves to a skew to trim up the corners and flatten the underside of the lid.



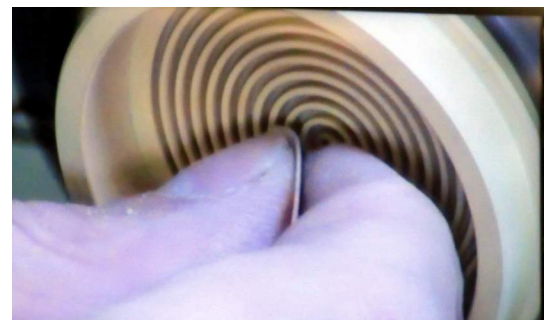
It doesn't take long for the cuts on the bottom of the lid to begin to show the grooves on the top. With each cut on the bottom, more of the pattern reveals itself.



A final touch on the underside is to round over each rib with a skew. This is not done on the top side.



The last steps involve sanding with progressive grits. Hans meters out bits of paper that he cuts with scissors, to form the perfect fingernail shape for the grooves and in strips for the outside of the round forms. He uses some pad material for a final overall sanding, then cleans the odds and ends out of both sides of the grooves with a toothbrush.





Hans Weissflog





Goodbye to a good friend - Steve Leichner passed away three weeks after our November meeting, at the age of 73, after having fought through a final battle with cancer that first appeared 20 years ago. Steve wanted to say goodbye to his woodturning family, and the joy on his face was a wonderful memory for us to hold. His family said the visit meant the world to him, and he came home with the biggest smile on his face. For those who may want to see it, the Philadelphia Inquirer wrote an excellent obituary of this talented man who gave so much to his family and to DelVal Turners. And please check out Steve's gallery on the DelVal site, it's been one of my favorites since I discovered it.

