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Journal of the Glendale Woodturners Guild

Volume 19, Number 8 – August 2010

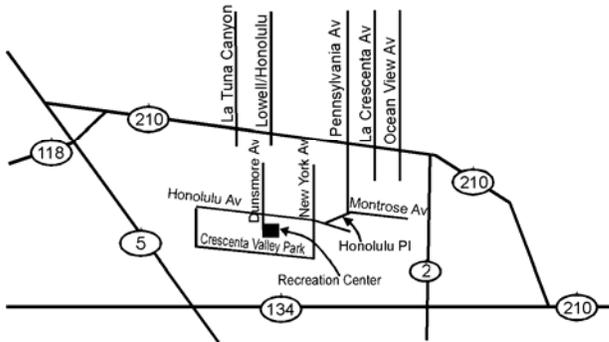
NEXT MEETING

August 15, 2010

Sunday August 15, 2010
2:00 p.m. Sharp

HOW TO FIND US

Crescenta Valley Regional Park
Recreation Center
Dunsmore & Honolulu, La Crescenta



Thomas Guide 534-E-1

SUNDAY MEETINGS

Meetings consist of announcements, a feature presentation, a Challenge, Show & Tell and a wood raffle.

August 15, 2010

Presentation: Wood cutting & identification-
Steve Dunn

Challenge: **Spirals**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank goodness it waited to get really hot until after our demo and meeting last weekend. We had a good sized crowd and welcomed two new members. On Saturday **Dan Hogan** gave us a terrific demo on turning Alabaster. He covered everything sources for stone, types of tools to use, different ways to mount the



blank, sanding, etc. I think he brought in half of his shop. He made a beautiful translucent bowl which will be in our holiday auction. Thanks **Dan!** He also had an in depth handout which he will send to **Craig Sobel** to put on the website. Thanks **Craig**. Also thanks to **Earleen Ahrens** for bringing in the lathe; **Pete Carta** for getting donuts; **Pierre Mathieu** for bringing the camera and doing video; **Ed Hotchkins** for bringing the projector and screen. And a big thanks to **Amy Earhart** for bringing in her brand new dust collector. We would have been looking through a white cloud with out it. We did a demo at the Rockler store a few weeks ago thanks to **Pierre Mathieu, Bill Loitz, Frank Kopecky, PJ Hays, Amy Earhart** and yours truly for volunteering to demo. It is always lots of fun to demo so we will do it again in a couple of months. The challenge this month was hollow vessels; it was great to see a full table. Congratulations to the winners. Next months challenge is spirals, in it or on it. Speaking of spirals **Terrell Hasker** gave us a wonderful demo on making a graduated spiral on a cane. He

used super sharp tools and didn't draw blood once! It was amazing how much he did in a short amount of time. His presentation will help us all for next months challenge. Thanks **Terrell**. And once again thanks to everyone who brought in equipment for the demo. And thanks to **Pierre** for doing the camera work. Thanks to "the girls" , **PJ Hays, Amy Earhart, Earleen Ahrens and Kate Sutherland** for filling in at the last minute and bringing us snacks for our break. Thanks to **Floyd Pedersen, Dave Hergesheimer** and all the other members who brought in wood for the raffle. It looked like one member brought a whole tree! I expect to see some large turnings next month. Thanks to **Carl Christensen** for taking over the storage of the projector and screen. Don't forget all regular volunteers get in to the club demos for free and the pro demos at half price. Also any member who does a presentation for the club gets into the next pro demo at half price. Speaking of pro demonstrators we have **Eli Avisera** from Israel on Sunday August 8th. And **David Ellsworth** from the US on September 26th for an all day demo. I urge everyone to take advantage of seeing these pros up close and personal. It is way better than a DVD. The Orange County fair is July 16 thru August 15th. Fine art woodworking exhibition will be in building 16 this year. I know of two members, **Bill Haskell** and **Robert Manning** that have turnings in the show. They will also have pieces from **Sam Maloof** on loan from his home. The Orange County turners will be there demonstrating along with other wood working demos. Sounds like fun. I am sure we will hear more about the situation at the AAW by next month and what we as a club can do to make things right. In the meantime see you next month. Happy turning, Queen Carey

CHALLENGE

We had a good turnout for the challenge this month and this time there were entries in all categories. There were three entrants in the Beginner category starting with **Deanna Hemphill** and her two pieces. The first was a two part hollow form turned from Maple and finished with lacquer. Her second piece was a Walnut box with a wax finish.



PJ Hays brought in a small hollow form out of Maple and it was finished with EEE. Look out Carey you might have some mini competition.



New member **Vaughn McMillian** brought in two examples of his work. Even though he is not a beginning turner he still is in this category because this is his first time entering the challenge. His first entry was a Walnut Crotch hollow form and his winning entry was a natural edge Ash hollow form. Both were finished with Formby's Tung oil finish. He will be moving into the intermediate category next time.



In the Intermediate category we had **Sandy Huse** and her "rotting gourd" turned from Olive with a Padouk stem and finished with walnut oil.



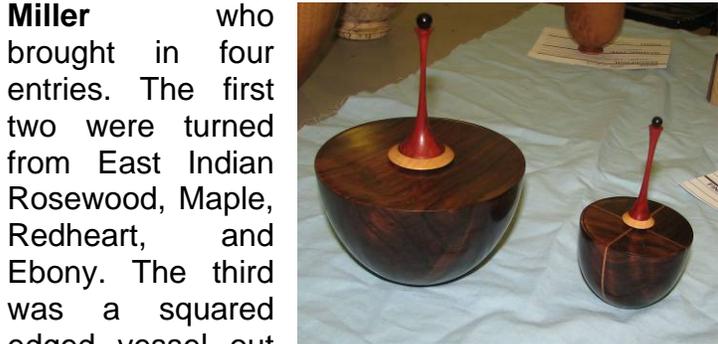
The winner was **Dale Gertsch** who had two entries. The first was a Maple burl piece and the winning entry was a Walnut piece. Both were finished with Deft lacquer and wax.



Queen Carey Caires brought in a mini hollow vessel turned from Mexican Kingwood and finished with lacquer.



In the Advanced category we started off with **Al Miller** who brought in four entries. The first two were turned from East Indian Rosewood, Maple, Redheart, and Ebony. The third was a squared edged vessel out of Black Acacia. The fourth entry was a vessel turned from Olive, Padouk and Ebony. All were finished with a tung oil and varnish blend.



And the winner in the category was **Floyd Pedersen** with his Silky Oak vessel with a wipe on finish. Nice one Floyd!



The fourth entry was a vessel turned from Olive, Padouk and Ebony. All were finished with a tung oil and varnish blend.



SHOW AND TELL

Pete Carta brought in a small hollow form turned from Ash and finished with lacquer.



Jack Stumpf brought in a beautiful Quilted Maple platter and a Carob bowl. Both had lacquer finishes.



Floyd Pedersen brought in a very interesting segmented bowl turned from Maple and Walnut with a wipe on finish. He said he got the idea after talking to someone at a meeting. Inspiration is everywhere it seems.



Terrell Hasker was busy again this month. He brought in a natural edge Eucalyptus bowl; a Black Acacia bowl; and a Maple kitchen utensil holder with Ash spatulas, all were finished with walnut oil and wax.



CONTACTS

GWG mailing address:

Glendale Woodturners Guild
11001 Canby Avenue
Porter Ranch, Ca. 91326
GWG web site:
<http://www.woodturners.org>

President: Carey Caires

(h) (818) 760-2210
president@woodturners.org

Vice President: Erleen Ahrens

(h) (310)451-2878
vp@woodturners.org

Treasure: Bob DeVoe

(h) (818) 507-9331

Secretary: Al Sobel

secretary@woodturners.org

(h) (818) 360-5437

Editor Newsletter: Amy Earhart

(h) (562) 463-7877

editor@woodturners.org

Librarian: Deb Sigel

(h) (518) 225-4677

librarian@woodturners.org

2010 CALENDAR

Meetings:

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

Challenges:

September – Block in a bag

October – Gift items you have made

November – Alternative materials

December – Holiday Party/ Auction

Presentations-

September- Gifts for the holidays & throughout the year - PJ Hays & Amy Earhart

October- Acrylic turning- Scott Connors

November- Round Ball Contest

PRESENTATION

This month's presentation was given by **Terrell Hasker** and the talk was about how to turn a 3 start diminishing ribbon twist. He learned the technique while taking a class from **Alan Batty**. We have a



book in the guild library by **Stuart Mortimer** titled *Techniques of Spiral Work* that **Terrell** also said was helpful. The beginning part of the demo was all about the set up and layout. Just one new tool is all that is necessary to complete a project like this. That tool is a round microplane rasp, more on that shortly. You will also need a few colored pencils, calipers, a straightedge and some sand paper. The size of the rasp you will need will depend on the depth of the twist. Microplanes are available from local big box stores, hardware stores, woodworking stores and catalogs as well as the internet. Take your pick. After using a pair

of calipers **Terrell** then used the lathe tool rest to mark his horizontal lines. If your headstock comes with indexing you are ahead of the game. But an indexing jig can be constructed for your lathe. Plans are available from magazines and of course from the internet. The layout for this project, as with many, is critical and may be tedious but it will produce a good result.



After the marking was done **Terrell** got to work with the microplane in his right hand and his left hand on the wood just a few inches away from the tool. "Gloves are for sissies," he was heard to utter under his breath. No blood was shed in the presentation but he did admit to some past encounters with the sharp side. His demo piece was a pine 2 x 4 that he had turned down so it did not take long to get the spiral shape to appear. We were reminded that Cocobolo or Bubinga take quite a while longer. But at least we saw that his preparation and hard work paid off, he even broke out into a sweat. Here is a close-up of what he had after over about 30 minutes of work.



Here are the examples that Terrell brought in for us to shake our heads over. It was very nice work and Terrell made it look easy but we really know it was not that easy.



Saturday Demonstration

A group of about twenty-five of us came together on July 10th at the park for one of the more unusual demos that we have had. Guild member **Dan Hogan** was going to show us what he knew about alabaster turning. He started off with telling us that alabaster is hydrated calcium sulfate, a crystalline form of gypsum. We know gypsum; it's the main component of sheetrock. Then he gave us a list of where to get it, about a dozen different sources. The white colored alabaster comes mainly from Italy but the rose and orange come from here in the United States.



How to cut it, carve it or turn it? Just about any tool that you use to cut wood will cut alabaster. Use your hand saw or bandsaw to cut it into pieces to be mounted on the lathe. Scrapers with carbide tips are better for turning this material because the high speed tool steel isn't going to hold its sharpness as long as carbide. If you are going to do carving on the piece you will need the diamond impregnated tips again for their ability to stay sharp and cut longer. You can use regular files, rasps and



rifflers made for wood to detail the carving. The other good news is that our regular sand paper is fine for this material just remember the finer grits,

400 and 600, are going to clog up quickly because of the very fine dust. If you don't already have a pair of good magnifying glasses then now may be the time to invest in them. You will want to closely inspect the surface after sanding for swirls or scratches.

You need to have at least a very good dust mask but a respirator with a built in filter would be better. The dust created is a very fine powder like substance. You would not like breathing this stuff all day. It also can dry out your skin so wear latex or nitrile gloves and long sleeves to keep as much of it as you can off of your skin. Protect your lathe too. Cover the bearings, motor and switches with plastic wrap of some kind to keep out the fine dust.

Dan recommends using a urethane glue (e.g., Gorilla Glue or the urethane construction adhesive available) to attach your block of alabaster to a wooden faceplate or to attach a wood accent ring. Double stick tape will work too if it is a quality brand. When gluing wood to stone remember that wood will move as its moisture content changes, the stone will not. After the piece is turned, finish all surfaces of the base and rim with a moisture sealing finish.

Turn the piece at a slow speed. **Dan** begins turning at about 150 RPM and finishes at about 400 RPM. Don't forget your face shield. There are bits of rock flying off of the lathe not light fluffy wood shavings. Protect your feet with steel toed shoes, if you drop that hunk of alabaster off your lathe it is heavy and will hurt you!



Some other tips that **Dan** gave us were to keep your tools sharp. Alabaster will dull your tools faster than wood so make that extra trip to the grinder. Some alabaster has a hidden bonus, quartz. Try and cut around it if you see it while preparing the blank or remove it with dental tools if you encounter it while turning. This may mean a slight design modification to your piece. Stop the lathe periodically and check for cracks and

fissures. If you add a wood base or rim to your piece it must be segmented. Wood moves and changes shape, stone does not.

Here are a few pieces that **Dan** has turned.



Here is the finished piece that **Dan** made for our Christmas auction.



FINISHING THOUGHTS

Welcome to new members **Vaughn McMillian** and **Ramesh Verma**. And we welcome back **David Runnion** after an absence of several years.

So if you attended the last meeting and now have the "spiral fever" here are a few things for you to consider. A couple of books by Bill Bowers; *The Basics of Turning Spirals* and *10 Easy Turning Projects for the Smaller Lathe*. And of course now you need to get a microplane or two or three. Here is a web site link were you can get a set of three for only \$19.95!

<http://us.microplane.com/microplaneshapingrasptryme/set.aspx>

Hey come on you can find room for just one more little tool; isn't the internet wonderful? You can order the books from Amazon.com.

Thanks to **Jim Hurst** for some of the photos from the demo and presentation. That takes some of the pressure off of me. Please feel free to take photos at the meetings or demos and if you want to share them with me I will gladly put them in the newsletter where I can.