

Southwest Idaho Woodturners Association

The Treasure Valley Woodturner's club
Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 PM
At the Woodcraft store in Boise ID.

7005 W. Overland Rd
Boise ID.



<http://www.swiwt.org>

June 2019

Club Officers

President:	Aaron Cornell
Vice President:	Scott Taylor
Secretary:	Tom Turco
Treasurer:	Tom Turco
Librarian:	Liz Meyer & Marlise Schmidt
Directory:	Marcia Miller
Newsletter:	Ellis & Marcia Miller
Advisory Board:	Marsha Baker Sid Bright Gary Smith

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Demonstration

Rich Froehlich demonstrated pen making

Rich, our pen wizard, gave us lots of his secrets for pen making. When you reach the wizard level in pen making, you have mastered, *attention to detail*. He told us about the plating used in the pen kits. What plating is going to last a long time, and what plating is not going to last. What is a good click pen mechanism, and what is not.

Pen collecting has become a very big hobby, especially fountain pens. He talked to us about nibs, and how to make new nibs ready for installation into the pen. If Rich is making a pen with a wood blank, he doesn't just look for the species of wood, he picks a blank that has character, like a knot or interesting grain for his pen. He marks his blank so he knows where the grain will align, and the center of his cut. Then he will cut his blank to maximize the location of the features on the blank.

(Not for Monte's eyes.) Rich has found a new finish for his pens. It's called Glu Boost, but you must use their accelerator. It is a type of CA glue, and it come in a spray bottle. It's fast, and a great finish. Monte does not carry it at this time.

Rich wrote up a very detailed handout. You can see it on pages 3, 4 and 5. His hand out is loaded with great information for you. Be sure and read it! Rich is the pen wizard and you can see a lot of his attention to detail when you examine his finished pens.



17 TIPS TO TURNING BETTER PENS

Tip 1 - start with quality components

I don't use 24 or 14k gold...chrome, black titanium, platinum, rhodium, or hardite platings will wear much longer and make your end user much happier.

The other major component is your blank. A stabilised, highly figured blank such as burl will usually be worth the investment.

Tip 2 - use the most interesting part of the blank

Do not simply divide the blank in half and be content with what you end up with.

Tip 3 - mark the interface, minimise the kerf

Once you have achieved the best visual layout, take the opportunity to mark the cut line on the blank and also indicate the proper orientation of the interface ends for your subsequent processing.

Tip 4 - drill the blank from the inside out

You've gone to the trouble of minimising the kerf and planning for grain match between the top and bottom pieces. Mark your drill centers on the interface ends of your blank halves, then drill from those ends.

Tip 5 - drill properly

The selection of drill type is far less important than drill sharpness and drilling technique. With a sharp drill, the speed and feed will dictate the final hole quality.

Tip 6 - scuff the tubes for better adhesion. Brass tubing is drawn through a die in the manufacturing process. A lubricant is used to facilitate the process and maximize the life of the drawing die. Scuffing the tube with 60 or 80 grit sandpaper will remove the residue and assure better glue adhesion.

Tip 7 - use compliant adhesive

CA, epoxy, and polyurethane adhesive are the most widely used types.

Tip 8 - use the matching cut ends when gluing

When you glue your tubes into the drilled blanks, you will have left a bit of material at both ends to allow for facing the blanks. You can assist yourself greatly by inserting your tube from the interface end of each blank and only inserting the tube to just below the surface edge of the blank.

Tip 9 - pilot on the tube when facing the blank

While there are several ways to accomplish this, I recommend using a pen mill. This tool will remove the wood while piloting on the inner diameter of the brass tube. If your facing method doesn't pilot on the tube, using an unpiloted sander setup for example, you won't achieve the most perpendicular facing.

Tip 10 - use minimal tailstock pressure

If you aren't using a mandrel saver, use only enough tailstock pressure to hold the end of the mandrel in place for rotation. Using excessive tailstock pressure will cause the mandrel shaft to flex, and the turned parts will be

eccentric. This flex will occur throughout the turning, sanding, and finishing stages.

Tip 11 - use sharp tools

You can use almost any woodturning tool to turn a pen. Regardless of your selection, your tool needs to be sharp. Dull tools will force you to push on the material rather than present the cutting edge lightly and have the tool do the work. The pushing force causes flex in the mandrel, in turn causing eccentric parts.

Tip 12 - measure your fit

Bushings are a must when turning, but use a micrometer to measure your final fit....bushings wear over time and get smaller....by using the micrometer on the actual pen components you will be assured of getting a perfect fit on the pen. The callipers don't need to be expensive or accurate for that matter. They only need to be repeatable. I don't even look at the caliper number since I'm using the callipers as a transfer mechanism.

Tip 13 - sand radially & axially

When you sand on the lathe, the abrasive is cutting across the grain. This causes radial scratches that are readily visible. If you work through the grits of abrasive to your finished point, you may still have radial scratches. A way to minimize this problem is to do axial sanding as well. Once you have completed sanding with your chosen grit, turn off the lathe, and sand axially along the grain, repeating as you work through the grits.

Tip 14 - carefully prepare for the finishing process

Proper preparation for the finishing process requires sanding through all of the grits to achieve a visually scratch-free surface. Any imperfections now will not go away under the finish. Blemishes and imperfections will only be highlighted once a finish is applied. Sanding at a low speed keeps the heat build-up to a minimum and allows the cutting edges of the abrasives to do their job. Too high a speed builds up heat, the enemy of wood and the adhesive. Also, the cutting edges of the abrasive can't stay engaged to cut when you are spinning too fast.

Tip 15 - apply a tough, durable finish

The life of a pen is a difficult one. They are in pockets with keys and change, bottoms of purses, dashboards and glove boxes of cars, or worse. Scratches and mechanical stress, extremes in temperature, and wild swings in humidity, are going to be the norm for a working pen. Also acids and oils on our hands cuts the life of a non-durable pen finish.

Wax and shellac based finishes are not very durable for such a tough life. If a finish goes on too easily, chances are that it will come off or be ruptured just as easily. You will need to give your pen the most durable finish you can for it to look good, yet survive in the difficult world it will live in.

My favorite finishes, tough and durable, are CA, Polyurethane, and lacquer. All are attractive, yet extremely tough compared to the other finishes available.

Use plastic bushings for CA finishes.

Tip 16 - use a quality inkfill

Unless the pen is destined to only be an ornament on the shelf or desk and never be used for writing, use a quality inkfill. Even the higher quality kits have to watch their costs closely. The inkfill usually is the area where the manufacturers try to save money. The kits, regardless of the price point, usually are delivered with

the same inkfill. Especially with fountain pens. Poor quality roller ball and fountain pen ink will cause clogging and a lousy writing experience.

Tip 17 - get and use a few key tools

Most woodturners are infatuated with gadgets and tools. Making pens requires only one or two woodturning tools.

Pick one or two and stick with them. A spindle roughing gouge, spindle gouge, bowl gouge, parting tool, or skew chisel will do the job nicely. The myriad tools available and the gadgets peddled for pen turning, assembly, and finishing is astonishing.

A product that I find extremely valuable to sand dense hardwoods with a CA, Polyurethane, or lacquer finish, or an Acrylic, is Micro-Mesh. Taken care of and cleaned after use will help to make it last a very long time.

When I turn I don't use a mandrel, I turn end to end and use bushings made for that purpose. They are a bit expensive, but most of them are made from HSS steel and last a long time. Alternatives are a Mandrel Saver from Penn State which works extremely well in taking the flex out of the mandrel shaft. I recently discovered a product from Bear Tooth Woods called a Between Center Bushing Adaptor Set. This is about \$5 and allows you to use your current bushings end to end without purchasing new bushings.

Dead Centers run about \$10 on line.

Center finders are inexpensive and for me a necessity, I need to be dead center for most pens I turn.

A chamfer tool is another one I use quite a bit...knocks down the inside edge of brass tubes, allowing easier insertion of bushings and pen components.

Some sort of plugging material to keep glue out of the inside of the brass tubes. I use wax sheets.

A Pen Mill is another tool I could not do without, makes perfect perpendicular ends for the best component fit of your pens to the blanks.

Supply resources that I use:

Woodcraft (The Best!)

I trust the following 3 on line merchants, they have all taken good care of me over the years and have excellent customer service. I choose to not deal with Penn State Supply unless absolutely necessary because of poor customer service as well as slow and overpriced shipping.

Beartoothwoods.com

Exoticblanks.com

Woodturningz.com

Show and Tell

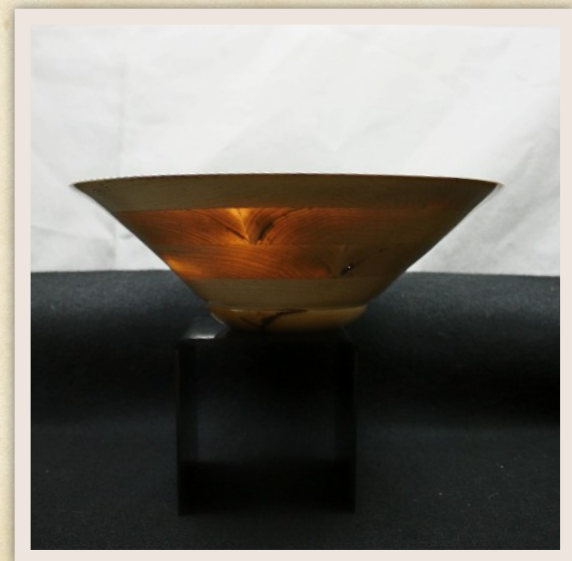
Connis Wilson



Connis continues on his learning curve to master the bowl from a board technique. Some of his friends challenged him to use an angle other than 45 degrees. The bottom left picture shows his attempt to use 60 degrees. The bowl ended up 45 degrees, even though his cuts were for 60 degrees. He used a disk sander to sand the inside of the bowl.

Bottom right, a little added feature, two translucent rings.

The bowl is made from hard Maple, finished with a wipe on poly. 13" Dia. 4 1/2" high.



Peter Remmen



Peter brought in a locking lidded box (top right photo) made out of Chestnut, with a Walnut top and locking latch. The box is 3 " diameter and 3 ½ " high. The Sycamore hollow form, is shown in the two center pictures. The hollow form is 4 " high and 7 " round. All of the hollowing was completed through the top opening. Both bowls (see page 8) and the box were finished with wipe on poly.

Peter also made this Maple bowl with four legs. The bowl is 6 1/2" round and 2" high. Wipe on poly finish.



Darrel Bridges



Last month, Darrel won this bottle stopper blank in the raffle. Darrel put a high gloss finish on the acrylic bottle stopper. I took 8 photo's with different light settings, and they all reflected light.

Bruce Johnson



Bruce has started to make segmented goblets in the Eli Avisera style. He watched one of Eli Avisera's youtube video's on making the segmented goblets. The goblets are 2" round and 6" high.

I don't know if his cup style for segmenting is his or another youtube video. He told us he used Yellow Heart, Padauk, Orange Osage, Purple Heart and Canary wood to make the goblet. He found that he had to keep his tools very sharp to keep from getting chip-out when he went from hard woods to a little softer wood. The cup is 3 1/2" round and 6" high.

The blank between the goblets and the cup is his next turning project. It is 6" high.

Carl Jacobson did a youtube video on making flowers from wood. He said he is going to get a different wood for the stems, so he can bend it to form a more natural looking stem. He used wood dye to color the flowers. The flowers are about 11" high.



Trudy Webb



Trudy told us that she was shopping in a gift shop and saw a two tiered salt and pepper shaker made out of ceramic's. She looked at it, and inspiration set in. "I can make that out of wood." She turned the basic two tiered salt and pepper shaker. She looked at the completed project, and the artist in her started telling her to embellish. The salt and pepper shaker needs color and pictures. A whole lot of hours later, the results are stunning. The artist in her won a great victory. Acrylic paint and Deft lacquer completed the project.

Gary Crandall



Outside view



Inside view

Outside view; Maple feature ring with Walnut bowl. Inside view; Walnut feature ring with Maple bowl. What???

Two Bowl Gary



Gary told us that he cut the Maple and Walnut for the first bowl. He assembled it, and had a lot of left-over pieces. He realized that he had enough pieces to make an additional bowl, a mirror image of the first bowl. Gary then decided to make a nesting bowl, with one inside the other one. A near perfect nesting pair later; the results; "Two Bowl Gary."



The bowl on the right fits inside of the bowl on the left. Notice the rim on the right bowl, and the lack of a rim on the left bowl. Go back to page 11. The outside view shows the fit between the two bowls when they are nested together.

Sid Bright



Sid brought in a wig stand as a sample for the community project that Aaron suggested for the club. Notice the concave top of the blue base. That is for the patient to store bobby pins and any other item to use with the wig. A very nice rose on the top.

Gary Smith



Gary made this wig stand. He said that he is no artist, and would like to have someone paint it.

Break Time



Marcia baked up some fruit tarts. She made three flavors, apple, blueberry and pumpkin. She put on different toppings with assorted nuts and marshmallows.



Club Business

Brown Bag time

Our annual picnic is coming up Aug. 10. We need to get our brown bags to the next meeting. Put 2 to 3 board feet of lumber into a shopping bag. Put your name on the inside, where it can't be seen until it is opened. Bring it to the July meeting where we will exchange it with someone else. Then, you have until the Aug. picnic to make something out of the wood. At the picnic, you will give the wood back to the person who brought in the brown bag. Everyone, remember, you get the wood back, so put good wood into the bag to get a good project back.

Aaron is going to extend the time to bring in your brown bags to the July meeting. The only problem is you will only have until Aug. 10th to complete the brown bag project.

Sid has taken on the job of getting the club a logo shirt. He contacted Imprint City in Meridian. There are 3 different shirt fabrics available, 2 with pockets and one without a pocket. Sid is wearing the one without a pocket. The shirts range in price from \$22.00 to \$30.00 each. The shirts are custom ordered, and they are not returnable; no refunds. Contact Sid to place your order.

Aaron is working on finding a community project that the club can do. One is making wig stands for cancer patients. During the chemotherapy, it is not uncommon for the patient to lose their hair. The hospitals provide wigs for the patients. It is appreciated by the patients to have a wig stand for their wigs. Some of the stands could be painted by art students at some of the area high schools. See the May newsletter, pages 16 and 17 for plans.

Turn for the troops

Aaron and Steve have kits of 25 pens that are ready to turn. Contact them, get your package of kits, and take them home to turn them. When we have a lot of kits completed, the assemblers can get started first thing. Then the people turning can give the assemblers more completed pens. Our club is one of the top in the nation for completing pens for our troops. Lets make this a record setting year.

Tom gave us a financial report. He told us that the club was able to put \$700.00 into a new savings account. The money in the savings account is to have money set aside for the required AAW club insurance, and to cover the costs of the new web site. The club has approximately \$1,500.00 in the account for general operating expenses.



Bowl Exchange

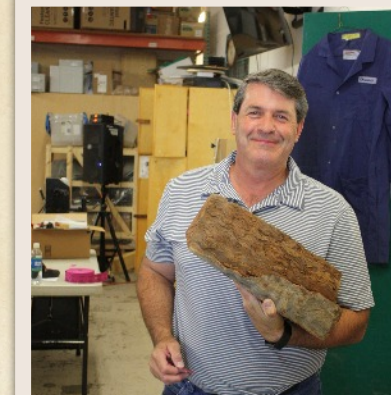
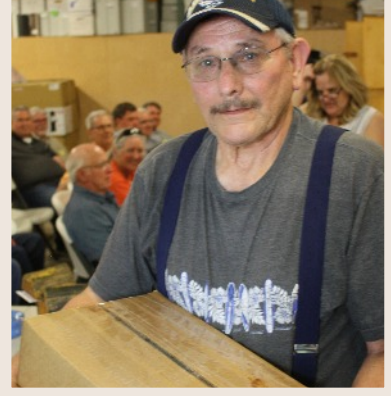
Gary Moon was last month's winner. He brought in all the completed parts to make your own Indian Flute; assembly required.



Jim Holmes will be playing an Indian Flute soon.



Happy Raffle Winners





New Members



Elizabeth "Robi" Hathorn

Monte's Visit

WOODCRAFT

7005 W. Overland Rd.

Boise, ID. 83709

208 338-1190

www.woodcraft.com/store/boise

Monte brought in several new items for us. The first one, shown below, is a silicone saw blade cleaning tray. No more 5 gallon buckets that make it hard to brush the blade.





Up Coming Events

Annual club picnic
August 10, 2019



Raleigh 2019

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS



Join us July 11-14, 2019 in Raleigh, NC!
Click here for details.

Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium
September 13-15, 2019.
Loveland, Co.

rmwoodturningsymposium.com