



Bucks Woodturners

September 21st: Next General Meeting Starts at 7:30

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Important Dates

- Wharton Esherick Museum
Step Right Up... Sept 13- Dec 31
- Bucks County
Sculpture ShowSept 17-Oct 7
- Wood Turning Center
ITE Exhibition..... thru Sept 19
- Workshop with Bob
RosandSept 20
- BWT Meeting with Bob
RosandSept 21
- Wood Turning Center—Steve
Madsen Exhibit.Oct 9- Dec 19
- BWT General Meeting.....Oct 19

Tips and Tricks to Rock-a-Bye Box

He started with a cube of wood and a couple of scraps, and with one clever trick after another, Mark St. Leger turned an intriguing box that would surely make most wonder—how did he do that? Well, he certainly



Rock-a-bye Box

made it look easy during his demonstration at our last meeting. Mark returned to Bucks, the place where he first started turning. Back then he made a Christmas tree ornament with Bob Rosand, our demonstrator this month! It was here that he met Palmer Sharpless; the wood he used was a gift from Palmer, a founding member of our club. Turn to page 5 to see in detail how Mark made his intriguing “Rock-a Bye” Box. A great show, thanks Mark!

Bob Rosand Returns This Month

While many of us weren't here for his visit in the early days, honorary member, Bob Rosand, is coming back to Bucks County for a workshop at Dave Hardy's on Sunday and a demonstration on Monday at our general meeting, the 20th and 21st, respectively.

If you are not familiar with Bob's work, take a look at his web site: www.rrosand.com. There you'll find more pictures of his work, his tools, and over a dozen articles on turning he's authored. Concise and well written, they include great information for the beginner and advanced turner alike on general techniques, tools, and projects.

To reserve your spot for the workshop at Dave Hardy's please send an email to Joe at seltzerfamily@comcast.net It's a bargain at just \$35.



A Few of Bob's Pieces

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My Return to Turning by Mark Zdepski

With the repair of a torn meniscus cartilage in my knee on March 31, 2009, I was placed onto a path that brought me back to turning, after a significant hiatus. My last project had been in September 2008 making a large bench that was entirely turned, even though it was made of red oak planks, Figure 1. The bench was turned on the outside and textured with an angle grinder with a chainsaw head. It was almost too thrilling by both turning air and using the grinder, but the attraction of the method was that it significantly cut down on my sanding time. The legs were cut from an odd triangular chunk of crotch grain. They are book-matched on the rear and all three were turned between the centers to establish the curve on the outer edges; inner edges were left rough. Because of the spindle orientation, it was quite windy turning them, but all three have small “nubs” with live-center marks that act as casters on the finished piece. Ant tunnels in the top were filled with black epoxy and deer bone. The piece was finished with Watco Danish oil. The bench was donated to the Hunterdon Museum of Art for a fund-raising event and it did sell for my minimum of \$750, so I was happy.



Figure 1. Turned Bench

When in the knee surgeon's office, I noted that he has signed photos and jerseys from several young athletes that he'd treated. Therefore, when I was in for my follow-up visits, I took a page from **Norris White's** “book” and gave the doctor a signed bowl. He appreciated it; looking it over carefully to understand how it was made and assured me that he'd find a good use for it.

With the knee repaired and the chronic pain gone, I started to turn again.



Figure 2. Grinder Stand

One of the first things I did was the turning of a large spindle to hold my Biel buffing wheel at a decent working height, Figure 2. I've turned a number of large spindles in the past such as pee-vie handles, a coat tree, and a birdbath-sized ash tray. The initial spindle was too unstable to buff bowls, so I had to create a base. A mortise was turned into the base, but the feet were “carved” with a circular saw, chisels and the trusty angle grinder. The motor was removed and a tenon was turned on the spindle, then it was blind-wedge glued into the base. Now that it is assembled, time will tell if I need to install outriggers to stabilize the motion perpendicular to the base.

Other turning projects also go back to my first days

(Continued on page 3)

My Return to Turning by Mark Zdepski *continued*

of turning, especially the making of tool handles and baby rattles; I also returned to an early drum I'd made from a bowl that I'd cut through the bottom in 1999, Figure 3. The charcoal-starter handle and baby rattle are made from dogwood, both have a fair bit of work with a skew chisel, a tool my brother James coached me into mastering. The repair to an early carved spoon was turned, creating a "Frankenspoon", but at least it reaches to the bottom of the deepest jars. The drum was painted and a beater was whittled from a twig of hickory that didn't make into my Weber smoker. The drum colors are from the Ukrainian flag to represent my paternal-side lineage.

In June, I accompanied my brother Paul, a painter, to a small music festival in Appomattox, VA where I demonstrated turning on a small Jet lathe I'd purchased from Bill Sarver. My brother demonstrated oil painting. I found that the wood lathe gave a number of "good ole boys" a reason to talk extensively with a Yankee. I don't think I would have met so many interesting people if I'd just come to listen to the music. The wood I used was freshly-cut apple and ash. I made small bowls and a captive-ring baby rattle throughout the course of the day. To undercut the captive rings I formerly used a small skew, but now I've converted to using purpose-made bent file-tang tools copied from **Dave Hardy**, using heat-treating techniques he taught several years ago. These tools are sharpened like a hollowing tool; they cut quickly and with practice, virtually eliminate the breakage of the rings. Unfortunately I had to use the same electrical outlets as the bands, and since it was a music festival, they didn't want to share much of the time. This road trip taught me that next time I'll have to take my own grinder, because the one I'd prearranged to use was less than adequate. It was so far out of round that I couldn't sharpen anything with it. After returning from Appomattox I loaned my small Talon chuck to a nephew to use on his Jet lathe. This is a bit of missionary work to covert the young lad into a more dedicated turner. I'll check on his progress in October.



Figure 3. Several Good Memories

In early July, I demonstrated again, this time for a lone "student". He brought over some black walnut that had been bucked into firewood lengths. Upon splitting it he noted that it was clear and of high quality, consequently he was feeling guilty about burning it. We therefore found some check-free pieces and I made a bowl for him. He was appreciative of the time we spent together and he also left me a center spilt out of large round. Later this was made into a 20-inch "allegorical sun disk" that is now used to block off a gap in my deck that results from tree removal, Figure 4. The small rings were cut with a parting tool; only the convex center required sanding. Both sides are turned, which required a large jamb-chuck made by partially finishing a large rough bowl. I'm not happy with the turned side-supports (it looks too much like a steering gear from a sail boat), but I've developed a sun-ray design to replace them very soon. It is currently finished with



Figure 4. Allegorical Sun Disk

My Return to Turning *by Mark Zdepski continued*

Danish oil, but it will soon be slathered up in Waterlox to prepare it for full winter service. Some of the tree we removed was rough-turned, during May, into salad serving bowls that my children might be able to enjoy once (if) they are finished.

Through the summer I've cleared my work bench of a number of old half-finished projects and delivered them to the intended recipients. I've also done a number of small things to improve the efficiency of my turning space, such as repaired the Emmert vice with the help a blacksmith/machinist friend and organized my rough-turned inventory. In the process I found a buried multi-axis experiment inspired by a **Mark Sfirri** demo. I've also extended my dust collector hose by using a turned coupling (another failed bowl converted to something useful) that vacuum fits into the hood at the lathe station (Figure 5a) and allows me to sand across the aisle at the drill press, Figure 5b. I learned about a drill press as a sanding station from **John Williams** at a HOW work shop several years ago. It is quite comfortable; with both arms braced on the table you get great control over how the disk intercepts the piece. In July, I got some tips on cutting butterfly inserts from **Dave Hardy**, bought the router parts, and intend to complete my experiments within the next couple of weeks. Perhaps I'll have an example to share by mid-fall. In August, my son brought home some silver maple with fancy bird's eye and quilted grain, so I've been coring a number of bowls, using techniques I learned from **Mike Tanner**. Like Mike, in order to deliver enough water into the cut I now use a hand-pump pressurized garden sprayer, it works great.



Figures 5a&b. Vacuum Extender and Sanding Station



It has been a pleasure returning to the cylindrical world of the wood lathe. I'd forgotten how much fun turning is. When my knee was hurting I read a lot of great books, but making turned objects is so much better. In preparing this article I was reminded of how many great relationships I've formed through turning and the common interest in machining wood. The Bucks Woodturners has had the greatest role in providing a forum for forming these friendships. This summer I've learned that "It is ALWAYS time to turn" and who knows, perhaps I'll venture further into multi-axis turning as we go into 2010, leaving a small part of the cylindrical behind.

Batters Up... If You Want to Make Bats and Some Money

We were asked to help David Chandler who runs a business making souvenir bats. He is arranging to have a booth at all Phillies home games next year. He would like a turner to be demonstrating making a bat. He is willing to pay an hourly or daily fee and you can sell what you make during the demo. He will supply everything and have a lathe permanently set up at the stadium. He is looking for 4-6 turners for these demos. If you are interested in working for him, please give him a call at 312-391-0763 or email david.chandler@rxbats.com for details.

Joe Seltzer

Mark St. Leger Demonstrates a Rock-a-Bye Box

Three chucks (a jamb chuck, collet chuck, and eccentric chuck) and a finial inspired by Jean-Francois Escoulen make this clever project fun and instructional. And it's very inexpensive to complete! Mark has a materials list and detailed instructions on this project at his web site <http://www.markstleger.com/>.

1. After removing the point on the live center and without a safety center, a perfect cube is set so three corners touch the tool rest identically when the piece is rotated.



2. The top is formed by removing material down to about a 1/4 inch of the three points, leaving a stub behind for support.



3. The back corners are removed, by watching the horizon line, to form half of a sphere. Enough stock is left to form a tenon.



4. By cutting high enough into the piece a solid tenon is formed. More of the flats are removed and the shape of the sphere and top face are perfected.



5. Mark uses an old steak knife or table knife as his thin kerf parting tool, and separates his box from the waste at the headstock.



6. The box is then chucked into a Talon chuck and he removes the center stub from the face and perfects it by shear cutting with a spindle gouge.



7. Mark dimples the face with a skew to find the center & drills a 1/2 inch hole to form the "box". The inside was enlarged with an angled cutter.



8. A jamb chuck is made using a scrap from a previous project, Mark fashions a stub tenon on a convex face to hold the box while he cleans up the base.



9. Note the golf ball as the jamb chuck on the live center side of the lathe. He completes the hemisphere by shear scraping & sanding. Stay away from those corners!



10. Here is the beginning of the top cap: black wood being parted off with a table knife. "Cuts like butter." His straight tenon is ready for the collet chuck in Step 11.



Mark St. Leger Demonstrates a Rock-a-Bye Box - *continued from page 5*

11. This is the collet chuck Mark made on the lathe from another scrap. It starts out as a square profile with a saw cut 90° to the grain direction.



12. With the top mounted in the collet chuck, he bevels the face and drills a 1/8" hole to accept the finial.



13. Two stacked tenons, each 3/16" long, one on center and the other turned slightly off center, make up Mark's ingenious wooden eccentric chuck. That's inexpensive!



14. After turning a tenon on his finial stock, Mark inserts it into the eccentric chuck, held in the jaws in by it's off-center tenon. With a cove cut, he creates the top of the finial shown below.



15. Mark then switches the eccentric chuck to the true centered tenon, and with a bead cut forms the base of the finial. All that's left is to make a tenon to fit the cap and the finial is done.



16. The assembled box is ready to rock! One last secret, the finial top is accented with a bit of pyrography- a match or lighter will do the trick.



Ron Durr's "Tip" Seen in American Woodturners Journal

Member and "Newsletter Reporter," **Ron Durr** had his turning tip printed in the Fall Journal. It describes his solution for storing his lathe accessories and tools.

Shown here are two views of the box and shelf Ron built for his lathe. Situated for use, his tail stock caddy holds sandpaper, chucks and bits, while the box and shelf at the headstock holds his screw drive, spur centers and spare parts. Thanks, Ron, for the tip and pictures.



MEMBER NEWS



Derek Weidman received the Collegian Award at the AAW Symposium's Instant Gallery Awards for his sculpture, Pan. Congratulations! You can see more of Derek's work at his website, <http://weidmanwoodsculpture.com>. If you would like to see more of Pan, pictured at the left, as well as several other works, you can visit the del Mano website at: <http://www.delmano.com/artists/wood/dWeidman/portfolio01.htm>.

Bill Smith had 3 pieces accepted in the Bucks County Sculpture Show. It runs from September 17 to October 7 at 4311 Swamp Road, Doylestown. Bill says, "If you are into sculpture this is usually a pretty good show to visit." Two of Bill's pieces selected are shown at the right. More information at <http://centralbuckschamber.com/sculpture/index.htm>.



Bill Smith notes a meeting was held at the Albuquerque Symposium where it was decided to form an AAW chapter dedicated to segmented turning. Elections were held and Malcolm Tibbetts will become the first president, Curt Theobald, Vice President, and Bill Smith, Treasurer. This will be mostly an internet based chapter. Currently 435 people have expressed interest by registering on the website. For more information and a gallery of segmented work go to www.segmentedwoodturners.org.

Mark Sfirri tells us the The Wharton Esherick Museum will open its new exhibition, *Step Right Up*, on September 13th, at its Annual Member's Party. The show will be open to the general public on Monday, September 14th. The show features nine library ladders selected from entries to the Museum's sixteenth annual thematic woodworking competition. Ben Manns and BrianPaul Kolakowski, a current and former student of Mark's, respectively, had their works chosen for exhibition (shown at the right; Ben's is at the far right).



Nate Favors will be featured in the September/October issue of Bucks Life Magazine, so look for it on newsstands or visit the magazine's website: <http://www.bucksmedia.com/CMS/>. Nate, pictured with Brenda receiving a Best in Show Award, will be in the New Hope Arts and Craft Fair September 26 and 27. For more information on this event visit: <http://www.newhopechamber.com/artsandcrafts/>

Phil Hauser tells us that member **Mike Cunningham**, also a member of the DelVal turners, and an advisor to their board, and former President of the Cape Atlantic turners is running for the AAW board this fall. His views on the AAW and what he will bring to the position are in the Fall Journal. Phil heartily supports him and says, "He is very qualified and I have asked my members to support him too."

John Williams has completed his move to Pennsburg, PA. His new One-way 1640 should arrive by the end of September. But his new band saw and the old drill press are installed along with a work bench, tool chest, and a brand new peg board (no hooks yet). His "studio" is much smaller, so he's working on a place for everything with the objective of no clutter. Until that lathe arrives we'll just have to be satisfied with looking at his work on www.delmano.com/artists/wood/jWilliams/portfolio01.htm



From the Wood Turning Center...

Steve Madsen: A World in Wood

October 9 – December 19, 2009

The Wood Turning Center is pleased to announce the October 9, 2009 opening of **Steve Madsen: A World in Wood** which runs at the Center through December 19, 2009. Organized by Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ, this exhibition is the first to present three decades of evolving work by playful wood artist Steve Madsen. The exhibition displays pure wood boxes created with the care of fine furniture through large colorful contemporary sculptures fit to separate rooms and vitalize whole buildings.

For more information go to: <http://www.woodturningcenter.org/events.html>
or phone: 215-923-8000



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