

TRI-STATE WOODTURNERS



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IN THIS ISSUE

Feb demo	1
Jan meeting	2
Treasurer Report	3
The Web & President's Corner	
Sawdust Session	4-5
Pens for Troops	
Member dues	5
President note	
Sign-in Needed	
Club challenge	6-7
Instant Gallery	8-10
Fix wormy bowl	11-13

Cuts and Scrapes

WWW.TRISTATEWOODTURNERS.COM

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

February Demonstration



Tri-State Woodturners an
official chapter of AAW

When it comes to turning hollow forms, there are some really neat items available. While some can be done with tools the average wood turner has in his arsenal of tools others require specialized tools. If you ever engaged in the process of trying to decide which hollowing system would work best for you, the array of these tools may have become rather complicated and confusing.

Being able to see different systems side by side and to hear from people that use these could help you simplify the matter of choice. At the TSW meeting **this Sat., Feb. 18**, three club members will be sharing information about various hollowing systems.

Josh Bowman, Doug Spohn and Charles Jennings will each share infor-

mation regarding different hollowing method and tools. This will be a valuable time especially for anyone looking to get into hollowing vessels and needs to acquire tools for that purpose. You can compare systems along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. Hopefully, this will be a great time to get answers to which would be the best for you to invest in. This will also be a time to learn about some of the values of using lasers and cameras in turning. Tremendous advances in technology help make turning tools better all the time. You are encouraged to attend and be educated this Saturday.



January Meeting with John Lucas

Turning
Tagua
Nuts &
Banksia
Pods



Part of
the good
turn out
in Jan.



Treasurer's Report

Starting Balance	4,557.38
Income	997.50
Dues	840.00
Silent Auction	135.00
Snacks	22.50
Expenses	526.94
Web	352.94
Demo	150.00
Snacks	24.00
Ending Balance	5,027.94

2017 Club Challenges

Make note of these challenges:

February **Off-centered item**

March **Gavel or Mallet**

April **Tooth Pick Holder**

May **Magnifying Glass**

June **Napkin Ring**

July **Trivet**

August **Vase**

Sept. **Embellished item**

October **Hat**

Nov. **Holiday Ornament**

December **Silent Auction item**



The Web

In line with the presentations at this month's meeting **Saturday, February 18th at 1:00 p.m.**

This YouTube video was sent to me this week of a hollowing tool:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeuia4pwec0>

President's Corner

Remember the February meetings president's challenge is an off-centered turned item.

Doug has lined up for us a great demo this month. We'll be demonstrating 3 different hollowing systems. This is an opportunity to see and understand the advantages and disadvantage of each system. I'll also show during my slot how to use a laser guided system and a camera guided system for consistent fool proof thickness.

Finally shop safety: This month I'd like to make



it fun. If you bring the correct answer to our Treasurer Barbara, she will have you put your name on a slip of paper and your name will be put in a special drawing for a \$10 Craft Supply gift certificate. You'll need to be at the meeting to win. Good luck!

On the band saw the guard should be set:

- *A. 1/8" to 1/4" above the material.*
- *B. Holding the material tight against the table.*
- *C. Out of the way so you can see.*

Practical Sawdust Session



Where: Horsin' Around

When: Sat. Feb. 25th

Time: 8 a.m.—Noon

Who: You

What: Practical hands-on opportunity to learn how to sharpen a variety of tools and the use of a variety of sharp-

ening equipment. Experienced turners will be available to demonstrate how to sharpen and help people sharpen their tools. So bring your tools and get them sharpened and become familiar with the process so you can sharpen your tools effectively. This is not a sit-down and listen class but rather, opportunity for each person to get personal interaction and practical experience sharpening tools. The goal is for you to go home with confidence to sharpen your own tools.



Pens for Troops

Woodcraft set up a competition between TSW and DAWG to see which club can turn the most pens, which will be given to our troops, in appreciation for their service. The Slimline kits are provided free by Woodcraft. Now we get to express our appreciation for troops serving us. See John Dekle to acquire your free kits.

After turning the pens bring them back to TSW meeting and pick-up some more. This competition will continue until November when they will be sent to the troops.

If you want help getting started you can turn them at the Practical Sawdust Session, Sat. Feb. 25. Lathes will be set up and guidance for anyone wanting help.



Pens for Troops

It was really encouraging to see the enthusiastic response to making pens for the troops by members last month. We actually ran out of pen kits so I picked up more for the meeting this month.

Some members already completed all the kits they took, returned them and picked up more during the month. If you have completed the kits you took last month, **be sure to return them this month.** You can then take some more to turn for next month.

Remember TSW is having a friendly competition with the DAWG club to see which club can turn the most pens by Nov.

Don't forget Saturday, Feb. 25 we will help anyone wanting to start turning a pen and have materials available to make pens that day. (See page 4 for more details.) Some pens already done.



MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE FOR 2017

If you have not paid your annual dues for 2017—you are encouraged to see Barbara Sat. and settle up.

Member's dues are the primary source of income for the club which enable the TSW to provide excellent demonstrators each month. Thanks for taking care of this.

Special notice from President Josh

Saturday Workshop

February 25th from 8 am to 12 pm, members can come to Horsin' Around and learn/try different sharpening systems. We intend to teach new folks how to use a variety of sharpening systems, such as the Wolverine, Tormek, Sorby

and others. Experienced turners are free to try the different systems. The club will provide donuts and coffee. Feel free to stop by.

Sign in for Challenge/Instant Gallery

In order to be credited with a Club Challenge you need to sign-in and it really helps if you do the same with anything you bring for the Show, Tell and Learn/Instant Gallery. It gets a little confusing and difficult to keep every thing credited to the right person, when taking pictures before the club meetings start, so your help by signing-in your contributions really helps—Thanks a million!

Club Challenge for January



Top Left Art Parry Top Right Bob Hough
Center Left Charles Jennings
Bottom Left Dieter Kuberg
Bottom Right Charles Helton



Club Challenge for January



Top
L Ed Langham
R Josh Bowman

Center Left John Dekle; Right Les Isbell; Bottom L Les Black; R Tony & Barbara Suarez

Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Turned by
Charles →
← Helton



Made by
← Les Isbell



↓



↑ Created by Jeff Wheeler ↑

↓ Bowls turned by Dieter Kuberg ↘



Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Designed and
turned by
Charles
Jennings



Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Table Pedestal →
And other items below
Created by
Doug Spohn



↑ Created by ↑
Josh Bowman
Mirrors designed
and made by
↓ John Lucas ↓



Fixing Up a Wormy Bowl

by Bob Heltman

Good neighbor Keith Thomas, a most knowledgeable woodsman, brought me a trunk section from a longstanding and very dead maple tree. It was ambrosia maple; meaning rot had set in leaving interesting patterns in the wood. So many powder post beetles and larvae had dined on this tree that one could suspect they had eaten a significant percentage of the wood! (Fig.1) The 18" log section, about 10" in diameter, was quite light, also proving this would be quite a turning challenge.



Figure 1. Surface of wormy wood.



Figure 2. Roughed out bowl.

Eventually I got around to splitting the trunk, and roughed out an 8" diameter by 4" deep bowl (Fig. 2). The wood was so dry that I wore an airflow dust mask as well as using the big dust collector. Because of the wood's dryness I was able to almost finish turn to a wall thickness of 3/16". At that point I sanded to 220-grit, vacuumed the piece, and set it aside for study. End grain tear-out had been considerable, and I could hardly believe the density of the holes and channels made by the beetles.

This pause allowed me to phone chat with Michael McDunn (www.mcdunnstudio.com) who is a longtime teaching woodworker and fellow woodturner not far away in Greenville, SC. We are both members of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners (www.carolinamountainwoodturners.org).

Michael and I debated approaches to "fixing up" this piece 3/4 salvaging might be a better word. Mike mentioned he had used superglue to coat and embed beetle "leavings" when they had rather tightly filled the pathways.

But, I had many holes that had no beetle residue, and the wood itself was in a condition halfway between sound and pithy. I debated mixing fine maple sawdust and cramming it in each small hole, then dropping thin superglue on top. That would have taken hours, considering the many many beetle channels and holes. The fumes would be horrific too.

We both have used and experimented with a product called RayCrete. This same material is more recently named EZ-Poly Wood Rebuilder, which more accurately identifies its purpose and role.

(Editor's note: RayCrete/EZ Poly Wood Rebuilder is no longer available. Any multipurpose polyurethane filler adhesive sealant can be used instead.)

It is a two-part polymer material that can be described as a bonding structural filler. That is, it is a glue, strong filler, and sealant. Also, it has no VOCs or discernable odor. I had some on hand, which I always do for many purposes, so mixed up about 2 tablespoons full, and massaged it into the inner surface of the bowl with my fingertip inside a plastic Ziploc baggie to save later hand washing. This only took a few minutes, during which the polymer started to set up. I noticed a deep hole about 1/4" diameter was absorbing the polymer, so took the mixing spatula, lifted up a final polymer nugget which was now about the consistency of soft clay, and puttied this hole and several others I discovered while closely examining the work. Figure 3 shows the bowl, EZ Poly Wood Rebuilder, RayCrete, cardboard for mixing, and my wife's kitchen spatula used for brownies.



Figure 3. All the kit to fix the bowl.

Since the EZ Poly/RayCrete washes off with soap and water, and is non-toxic when cured anyway, this poses no health or marital problems, nor does it interfere with future brownie consumption, a matter of no small importance.

A little earlier experimenting with a dental tool, trying to dig out the beetle "leavings," showed that process would take 3 days beyond forever. If that had not been the case, another approach would have been to color the polymer with Tempura paint powder in black, red, or some other chosen color. All the holes and pathways would really stand out, perhaps to the point of startling overkill. But, that technique works well in moderation as a highlight on other woodturnings.

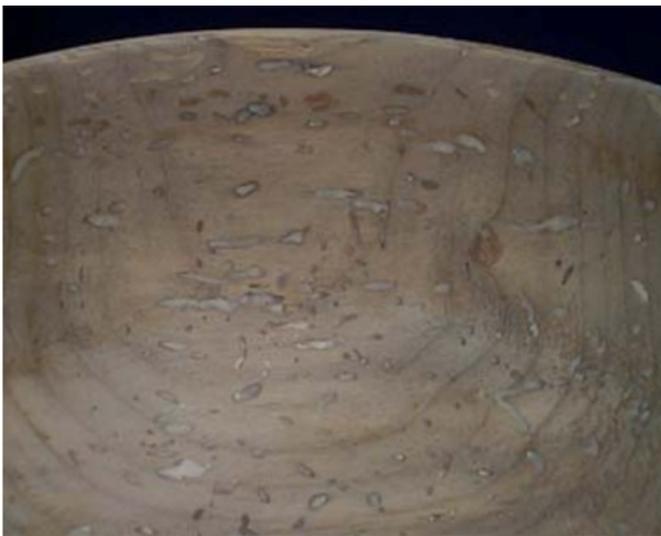
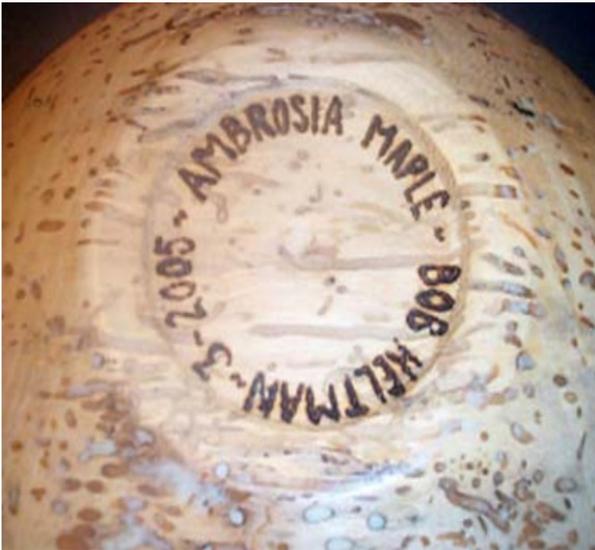


Figure 4. The completed inner bowl.

Figure 4 shows the completed inner bowl, after it was mounted on the lathe and sanded "through the grits" to 220 fineness, before finer sanding and applying the final finish, which could be a wax, friction polish, or whatever. The lighter fillings are the polymer, the darker ones where the beetle "leavings" were glued into place by the polymer. Since the EZ Poly / RayCrete seeps into the wood surface too, I imagine it could be a final finish if one did not sand all the way through to bare wood. I remember turning a tall vase from a piece of 106-year-old holly a year ago, and that surface with very pithy. RayCrete rebuilt the surface so that after light sanding only a final coat of wax was needed as a base for polishing. I could have sanded the inside after a couple hours, but got delayed until the next morning. After then sanding the inside, the same process was used and about 3 tablespoons of mixed RC/EZP were finger scrubbed into and onto the outside of the bowl. Care was taken to coat all the wood so the polymer would wet and soak into all wood surfaces to put strength into, and sealing over, the entire vessel (except the very bottom, yet to be turned and finished).

Later in the day sanding was completed, starting with 100 grit, then 150, and 220. At this point the bowl was scrutinized under a good light, looking for any missed holes or other imperfections. Since the RayCrete/EZ Poly Wood Rebuilder polymer will bond to itself at the molecular level in a seamless manner, such touch-up patches become integral to the original work and won't pop out or leave a cold joint demarcation. Hand sanding the touch up areas, and final sanding down to 320, 400, and 600 grits, left a glassy smooth surface.

The bowl was then reverse mounted on a vacuum chuck. A vacuum chuck works well in this case since the wood is thoroughly sealed on the inside (and most of the outside except the yet to be finished foot area) by the polymer, and the vacuum holds perfectly well on this once hole-riddled and somewhat porous work piece.



Upon finishing the foot, a small amount of RC/EZP could have been mixed and worked into the remaining beetle holes and wood surface and quickly hand sanded. But, I decided to leave some evidence of the original problems via several beetle holes. Thus, title, wood name, date, along with my name, were wood-burned into place. Myland's Friction Polish was applied generously to soak into the wood, and then buffed. A final wax coating and buffing produced this very unusual and eye-catching commemorative piece.

While a production turner would avoid this kind of wood in most cases, there are times a special piece of wood holds historic value, personal memories, or perhaps a special artistic meaning, and can be well preserved and handled in the manner herein described.

Figure 5. Finished Foot.



Figure 6. Side of Finished Bowl.



Figure 7. Top View of Finished Bowl

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www.morewoodturningmagazine.com