

Zumbro Valley Woodturners

April 2009

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President Mel: Hi everyone,

There is a good summary of the demo I did last week on our web site, so I don't have to say much more about that. The attendance was much better than I expected so, I'm sorry it was a bit crowded. Thanks to all who brought wood for the raffle. We got a few bucks for our treasury.

Someone asked me about parting off the box parts afterward, and the possibility of the tool binding. I actually made two cuts side by side and alternated back and forth as I went through the piece. Since the parting tool is tapered, wider at the bottom cutting edge, and only 1/16" thick, it's hard to see that action. It doesn't take much clearance to get it to move freely and you can do a slight undercut on one side if you want as well.

The carver's show was a great success by most accounts. The food was good and it was a relaxed venue for conversation about wood stuff. Unfortunately, a pen donated by Bill Beckman was stolen from the raffle table. He generously agreed to replace it for the winner. Above and beyond the call of duty, I would say. I had fun turning some little tops. I think most were snapped up by our members. This is great fun and good practice. Thanks again to Irv who brought blanks for turning and Dennis for loaning us his equipment.

Now I have something stuck in my craw. Wood finishing is the same regardless how the piece is made, lathe or hand planed table top. The main difference is the toleration of the maker for the details of finishing, and the use/abuse the piece will have to endure in it's lifetime. Woodturners are generally less tolerant than other woodworkers for anything that interrupts instant gratification. We like our projects to be done quickly, that's one reason why we turn, so we like our finishing to be quick as well.

I am constantly frustrated hearing and reading misinformation, superstition, and blind dogma being promoted as fact regarding finishing by everyone from the amateur to manufacturer. Even some of the "educational" material in our library has false information in it and manufacturers information is often deliberately misleading. Finishing techniques and materials aren't a matter of opinion. They can be objectively tested, and are, in laboratories and shops. Performance criteria are measured and compared. It's not a matter of opinion what materials are more water resistant, you

can measure it. The same with abrasion resistance, adhesion, color etc. The subjective part is the desirability of a particular look, feel and color in a particular application. Even in this realm, most people agree on what looks "good" vs. "not-so-good."

Now that I have that off my chest, I'm really looking forward to Tim Sullivan's presentation on the 16th this month. His work shows superior finishing skill and I'm glad he's willing to share his knowledge with us. And if you happen to miss that, there will be the chain saw meeting at Harmon's on the 30th. See you there!

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There was a show and tell session.



Here's Dave in a familiar show and Tell position. Saying that eggs are a great practice item. Harder than it looks. The bowl in front is also by Dave, made several years ago.

Great work, surprised that the chickens allowed you to bring the eggs to show and tell!

Lyle with some of his ornaments. The ball part is hollowed. He reported that he can hollow the ball part in about 20 minutes.





Dennis shared a story about a friend that had a lot of scroll sawed items. He took one and mounted it on a back piece. There was a discussion as to which finish would be best.

Well done!



Mel discussing one of the boxes he made and the subject for the evening demonstration.

Really delicate work, but worth the effort.



Bob - next time I will say 'smile' when I am about to take the photo. Bob made several platters from wood given by his kids for Christmas. Purpleheart, lacewood and padauk. I understand that they will get the wood back in platter form.



Mel demonstrated making a box and then threading the top and bottom.



Here Mel is turning the inside of the box bottom prior to putting the box on the second fixture to apply the thread to the piece.



Here Mel is threading the inside of the box. This would be the top portion of the box.

You will recall that a couple days after our meeting at Mel's shop, the Rochester carvers show was held at the fair grounds. ZVW was invited to participate and set up an exhibit and table for demonstrations.

Dennis Holt provided his lathe, Irv some wood, and others their skills to make items at the show.





This photo shows the range of items on display as well as the interest by those attending the carver show.

A great time was had by all that participated, visited, or came away with a treasure.

See you there next year!

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From Randall Kinnick of the Rochester Woodcarvers:

Irv,

Please thank the ZV Woodturners for really adding an interesting element to the show. Many folks genuinely enjoyed watching the demonstrations and seeing your great work in wood. Bill, thanks again for your generosity in providing another pen and bringing something good out of an unfortunate situation. It was another great show because of the participation of so many carvers, turners and helpers. The raffle items your club donated were all lovely pieces.

Randy

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"The May ZVW meeting will be held on Saturday May 23.

It will be a tour of three shops - starting in Oronoco at Wayne van Every's shop. Coffee and donuts will be available at 9:15. Directions will be shared later.

From there, the tour will visit my shop outside of Zumbrota, sorry no food, and then we will move to Bob Post's shop that is nearby. After the tour a lunch will be provided by the club. It might be good to throw a chair in the trunk. If you know a weatherman, twist an arm for great weather!

Car pooling would be great!" Be sure to sign up at the next meeting. We will need a head count, your partner/significant other is welcome as well.

Alternately, send me an e-mail.....

As mentioned earlier - the makeup meeting on FINISHING to be presented by Tim Sullivan will be held at the Rochester Covenant Church, 49503 First Ave. NW. Meeting will start at 6:30, April 16th, bring your turnings for show and tell. You probably should attend this meeting as I am not sure how many of Tim's suggestions will make their way into these news notes.

Note ; At Mel's meeting, a couple of you were kind enough to mention my presentation on photography. I have found another reference that covers the subject very well. If interested, go to www.nealaddy.org/node/16. A tutorial on photographing your work. Follow the sections. I asked Addy for reprints, but they were not available.

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Last comment - my apologies for the quality of the photos in this newsletter. I tried taking the photos at less than maximum pixels because I normally have to resize them for publication. When I resized, the resolution fell away so they are a bit fuzzy.

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