

Zumbro Valley Woodturners

May 2009

Presidents Corner ~

Hello everyone,

We had nature co-operating last night at Harmon's shop while we went outside to see some chainsaw activities. There were only a dozen of us there, so it was easy to get questions answered and everyone who wanted a fresh cherry bowl blank got one prepared and ready for the lathe. We also had some prizes donated by Earl's Small Engine Repair in Byron that were given out and another gift certificate from Craft Supplies was awarded to a show and tell participant. It was hard to leave without something that you didn't come with. Thanks to Earl, who sells chain saws and accessories for his donations.

There was a little swapping of near disaster stories involving chain saws. I'm shocked at how lucky we have been to avoid serious injury. Our theme should be, "Let's not depend on luck!" Read the safety instructions and work with someone who knows what they are doing before striking out on your own. I know for my own part, I'm going to be wearing a hard hat a lot more often after hearing one of those stories.

Thanks to Harmon for putting together a clear fast moving demo. and donating all that great wood.

We will be trying to put together a group order from Craft Supplies later in the year, so start making a wish list. The discounts we get from a group order are at least in the teens, percent wise, so it's worth it. One suggestion that was put out was to focus on stuff that normally doesn't go on sale. They won't discount the big equipment but supplies and tools are fair game.

Earlier this month we had our February meeting featuring Tim Sullivan on finishing. A lot of information and a great demonstration of French Polishing, which is a technique for applying shellac, not a product..... contrary to what you may read elsewhere. Personally, I've tried this many times with varying degrees of success. But now that I've seen how it's supposed to be done, I'm going to give it another try. Thanks Tim for sharing your knowledge.

Lyle has reserved the display in the Rochester Library for us in August. He will be co-ordinating that event which is a good way to show off what you do, maybe attract a client if you sell and certainly attract new members who will be totally impressed by our work.

I can't say thanks enough to Bill and Irv for maintaining our communications through the emails, newsletters, and web site. They are continuous jobs that keep us connected. I've been in clubs where those things haven't been the best and it's one of those things you don't appreciate until you don't have it. Thanks guys.

Mel

April was indeed a busy month. Our first meeting of the month was a make-up session with **Tim Sullivan** presenting information on finishing. Before we started with the presentation there were several show-n-tell items presented.



Andy Schultz had a pair of segmented candle sticks made out of Ash.

Lyle Solem brought his new Comet plate. He will share how it was made at a future meeting.



This photo shows the Oak cup and box made from a burl by **Steve Benson**. Nice work!

On the right side you can see a Christmas ornament by **Mel Turcanik**. He will show how to do this at some point in the future. The tree has a covering of wood shavings that are

curled up while turning. Sorry I did not get a close up of the tree. Also visible is a small stack of our new brochure for people interested in joining our club. Give one to a friend that might be interested.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up by **Tim Sullivan**. He gave us some idea of the intensity of the nine month course he took at the Dakota State Technical College.

It must have been an interesting and trying course. Tim shared several of the items accumulated during the course. Pigments, shellac, mixing ratios and far too much



information to try and include here. You had to be there!!

Tim discussed the different 'cuts' of shellac. It seemed like we were back in a chemistry class, but it all made sense after the explanation.

Apparently you want de-waxed shellac and we even learned where shellac comes from. Lac bugs if you can believe it.

Tim talked about many items used for finishing. He handed out a list of general information on finishes.

Many reasons were given for finishes – sanitation (on open woods like oak/ash), appearance, wood protection, preservation, etc!

Tim demonstrated the process known as French polishing. Looks like a ton of work, and I did get one photo of the 'comet streak' that Tim spoke of.



You can see the streak as Tim moves his hand in a circular motion. This is apparently the solvent drying as the friction heats the wood and shellac.

Tim – thanks for sharing. The course must have been quite an experience. The book used for the course is 'Understanding Wood Finishes' by Bob Flexnor. Tim tells me that a new edition is now available. There was a lot of information presented. I hope that which is reported here is correct.

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Jump forward a couple weeks to April 30 and a meeting at Harmon Pierce's shop with an emphasis on chainsaw safety. Prior to going outside, we had a short meeting and a few show-n-tell items. About a dozen members showed up and each went home with a fresh cherry blank if that was their wish.

Mel called the meeting to order at about 6:30. There was a discussion of future meetings and subjects. May 23 is the shop tour, directions later. June will be at Lyle's studio with a discussion on how to make a 'comet plate'. July, Duff Bement will demonstrate the McNaughton system. August will be a tool making session.

Duff also mentioned that there will be a group tool purchase this fall. So start putting your wish list together!!!



The show-n-tell table has two bowls made of white oak by Harmon Pierce from a mantle that is over a hundred years old. He has made several for siblings.

The twist column is by **Jim VanDeWalker**. The pens and jelly bean dispenser are by **Dave Edens**.

We all went outside to cut some wood! First we had a short discussion as to the safety of the operation, then a demonstration.

Here Harmon is talking about his chain saw and some of the parts function.





Harmon cuts a section of a cherry log. The log to be cut is off the ground and there is a log between the part to be cut and his legs.

Here Harmon is making a center cut of the cherry log. There was a discussion as to working with the natural checks that occur in the log.



Here the cut is finished, but with a plastic wedge to keep the cut open so that the saw does not bind.

Harmon would normally be wearing steel toed shoes for a chain saw operation. The leggings are a real safety item as well.

Most members went home with a cherry bowl section. Thanks Harmon for sharing and giving the demonstration.

The **23 May** meeting will be a tour of three shops. The First will be at **Wayne Van Every's** shop in Oronoco. His address is **720 7th Avenue SW, Oronoco**. Phone is **5073356.2669**.

Directions from Rochester – Distance from Menard North, to Wayne's is about 8 miles. **Coffee and donuts at 9:15**

Take route 52 north.

Exit toward 100 th St. NW

Turn left at 100 th St. NW

Turn right at 3rd Ave SW

Turn left at Zumbro Hills Dr. SW

Turn right at 7th Ave SW.

From Wayne's to **Bill Beckman's** shop.

44733 County 48 Blvd. Zumbrota. 507.732.4226

Back to 52 North, to first exit at Zumbrota.

Turn right, street becomes Main street.

Continue North until 4th street, about 10 blocks. Overhead Pedestrian flashing sign.

Turn right (East) on Goodhue county 10, also 4th street.

Go about 1 mile to first turn (North), Goodhue county 48, Turn left.

Go about ½ mile, over Zumbro river, first place after the river, cedar home set back from the road on the left.

Bob Post's shop is nearby.

19383 County 10 Blvd. 507.732.5477

From Beckman shop back to county 10, turn toward Zumbrota.

Post house is fourth house on the right.

Lunch will be served when we arrive, tour after eating.

Of course we would like a head count so that we can prepare food. If you have not signed up, please give a call to **Lyle Solem (289-7501)** or send an e-mail to either Lyle or myself. Tour is open to members and guests.

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ZVW 2009 Rochester Library Display

At our last board meeting your board discussed how do we get more members and more visibility. With this in mind I mentioned what we had done with a display of the chapters members turnings at the Rochester Public Library. From this event we did get a couple new members because they were not aware of the ZVW Chapter.

I have recently contacted the Rochester Public Library to see if we could schedule a time for us to display our turnings. We have been approved for the month of August.

Mel has asked me to coordinate this project and I will be doing that.

For the members that did not participate in the past, the turnings will be in a locked book case that has 3 shelves and is about 4 feet square. This case is on the main floor to the East and North of the main entrance.

Not knowing how many members will want to have their turnings displayed I would like to start with 3 - 4 per person however; if you have real large turnings, space will determine how many we will display.

I will try to make a tent card with your name on it and the wood used therefore I will need your turnings brought to me by July 20, 2009 with a slip of paper attached with your name on it and the wood defined.

Lyle Solem
1221 20th Street NW
Rochester MN 55901 Ph. 507 289 7501

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Check out the Ash borer – www.emeraldashborer.info

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Zumbro Valley Woodturners – Board of Directors.

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ZVW website: <http://www.zvwoodturners.org>

P.S. - I have your ZVW name tags!!