

## **Meeting Notes of the Alamo Woodturners Association (AWA) July 23, 2009**

AWA President, Robert Schoenert, called the meeting to order, reminded everyone that the annual membership registration is due, and announced that Alan Trout had produced this evening's cookie tray and the home-made cookies were provided by Kay Rosene. He again noted the benefits of AAW membership and encouraged all members to join, if they had not already done so.

AWA Treasurer, C. D. Barrington, reported deposits of \$187.00, expenses of \$26.23 giving an ending balance of \$2,724.56. The bank will refund \$16.00 which was an inappropriately charged maintenance fee.

Robert reminded everyone that the AWA website, <http://www.alamoturners.com>, is a good resource, has a place for sale items, and encouraged everyone to visit regularly. He also encouraged us to take advantage of the 10% discount at Woodcraft on meeting nights.

### **Show-N-Tell:**

Lenny Garramone showed a Chinaberry open vessel and a Chinaberry bowl which were bring-back items. He discussed the finishing techniques used, a tip he had received from a person who finishes the floors for the San Antonio Spurs, and the use of Gun-Stock Wax and steel wool.

Some members commented that Chinaberry is sometimes called American Mahogany.

Peter Hawkins showed a Mesquite hollow form with side voids, a Maple Burl bowl with wings and a Mesquite bowl with tapered flutes on the outside. He discussed the jig and tool used in producing these flutes.

Buddy Rosene showed a Mesquite bowl with lid and two mesquite bowls which were bring-back items.

Chip Taute showed a Mesquite goblet with fitted lid and finial

Kirk Acosta showed two Mesquite open vessels with turquoise inlay and an Arizona Ash box with a Purpleheart insert at the opening. He also donated two empty bottles suitable for holding finishes for the bring-back raffle.

Alan Trout showed a Mahogany cookie platter (which was used for the meeting) and a bowl made of Mesquite root wood with turquoise inlay. This bowl was pressure-capped with alumalite resin and highly polished. He discussed the use of alumalite and donated a coffee-bean pen bland for the bring-back raffle. Alan also displayed a "Monstor" brand articulated hollowing rig that sells for about \$400. A brief discussion was held about extension capacity for various boring bar sizes and the possibilities for shop made tools.

### **AAW Symposium Reports:**

Kay Rosene described the events they saw at the symposium and displayed the programs that described all the offerings. She said they saw many "embellishments" and not a lot about "construction". The standouts seemed to be a lady who was using boat epoxy and the demonstration of "hand-chasing" threads. She concluded by saying that it was really great but that SWAT is just as good.

Bob Edwards followed by pointing out that many of the demonstrators had also appeared at SWAT. He said you can never see everything at the AAW Symposium and you must really be selective about what you spend your time on. His observation was that the craft as a whole is drifting to "art" rather than "form".

Bob then showed a new buffing system that he purchased at the symposium that is similar to the Beall system but features a very fine compound that can actually remove scratches from Plexiglass. For our application it can buff finishes such as lacquer and acrylics after they have been applied to a wooden surface. This was the product that Bob and Alan used to partially buff-out the bowl that Alan showed during Show-N-Tell.

This system can be seen at: <http://www.donpencil.com/> Click on "Wood Buffing Systems."

### **Demonstration: Bob Edwards " Square Bowls and Candle Holders"**

Bob's first bit of advice about square edge turning: **never lose your concentration!!!**

Bob emphasized that the capture procedure for the stock is the same as that for regular bowls. The difference is the tool technique. Always start between centers and leave your centering marks so that the stock can be switched back and forth for progressive work.

#### **For Candle Holders:**

These are usually made in various sizes and sometimes in sets. Start by drilling the hole to receive the candle and then drill a deeper hole for the base.

*Tip:* Turn a tenon on a piece of waste material that fits the candle hole and another to fit the base. These will provide a center point and allow full access to the main piece for profiling. Remember, when making candle holders, you are spindle turning as well as end grain turning. To produce crisp edges, take light cuts to avoid creating splits along the grain direction.

Mark the pieces for profile changes and remember which end is for the candle and which is for the base, because the base hole is usually deeper to accommodate the necessary lead. A square section below the candle holder section provides interest and can be practical for catching wax.

Finally, fill the base with lead and epoxy to provide stability.. This is especially important in tall pieces.

#### **For Square Bowls, Plates or Platters:**

Start with square stock, chuck between centers, maintain concentration, and most critically you must find and mark the absolute center on both faces of the stock. This is essential so that the open edges arrive at the tool consistently as it turns.

Bob starts by using a cup center with a point in the tail stock and presses the future bottom side of the stock against a chuck. He then turns a tenon on the tail stock side which is the future inside of the object.

Turn the stock, secure this tenon in the chuck and begin turning the bottom profile. Leave a tenon on the bottom for later re-chucking and for potential feet or bottom profile. Also be sure to leave the indentation left by the live center that marks the center point. This is important as it allows you flip the project back and forth and have the bowl always run true.

Bob says you can turn outside-in or inside-out depending upon your comfort level. He prefers to start at the outside as the initial cut into the corner is then a slicing cut against an area that has backing.

Whereas, dragging the tool from the inside can sometimes result in chipping off the thin corner material because at the end of the cut it has no backing.

He recommends using a faster speed on the lathe and progress through **light cuts** at a reasonably brisk pace. Remember that on square stock a considerable portion of the time the cutting tool is in mid-air waiting for the wood to arrive. During this time the tool has no backing and must be held steady to execute the same depth of cut on the next corner. The slower the speed the more time you have to push the tool deeper into the cut than you really want. That could produce a rather unpleasant surprise to you and the wood.

Cut the outside first and leave a bit of extra wood at the corners to allow for the inside profile.

Reverse the stock and begin cutting the inside of the object. It is best to finish the edges of the wood first leaving wood in the center section for support. Cutting too far into the center can cause the edges to flex under cutting pressure and this is problematic. Continue finishing the center of the object working from the outside to the center. Pay close attention to the wall thickness as the piece develops.

Chuck up a leather-faced pressure block that matches the profile of the inside of the object and put the live center with point into the tail stock. Align the center point on the bottom using the original depression, apply sufficient pressure to secure the piece, and turn and finish the bottom to your desired configuration. Leave sufficient material to support the tail stock end.

Bob finishes with a scraper, applies a lacquer finish, does a final scraping, power sands, cuts off the bottom nub and finishes the center. He uses a Dremel tool with a sanding disk to remove the nub and polish out the bottom center. Although Dremel does not sell the sanding disk, they can be ordered on-line from model making and jewelry suppliers. Here are two of several sites where you can find the disks and the mandrels:

<http://www.ottofrei.com/store/home.php?cat=776>)

[http://findingtools.com/Moore-Adalox-78-Sanding-Discs-Medium/M/B000RB172W.htm?traffic\\_src=froogle&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_source=froogle](http://findingtools.com/Moore-Adalox-78-Sanding-Discs-Medium/M/B000RB172W.htm?traffic_src=froogle&utm_medium=organic&utm_source=froogle))

Bob's final piece of advice: never, never, never " under any circumstances " lose your concentration.

#### **Bring-Back-Raffle:**

Ken Fine drew a square bowl that was dyed green, Larry Shanks drew a 6" X 6" X 2" Purpleheart turning blank, William Brown drew a Chinaberry open vessel, Mark Judson drew the coffee-bean pen blank, William Brown also drew a bowl, Robert Schoenert drew a Chinaberry bowl and Leo DeHoyos drew the empty bottles for finishes.

Being no further business, Robert adjourned the meeting. Several members secured the area.

Respectfully,

cd

*C. D. Barrington*

Alamo Woodturners Association

Secretary / Treasurer