

Meeting Notes of the Alamo Woodturners Association (AWA)

June 25, 2009

AWA President, Robert Schoenert, called the meeting to order, briefly reviewed the agenda for the evening, reminded everyone that the annual membership registration is due and asked for a volunteer to turn a platter to be used for the cookies that are brought to each meeting.

AWA Treasurer, C. D. Barrington, reported that copies of all previously missing bank statements have been received; an accounting of all known activity for 2008 has been prepared and is available for members to review. After deposit of \$324, collected for dues at the previous meeting, and there being no reported expenses the balance is now \$2,563.79.

Robert called for any discussion of the proposed changes to the AWA Bylaws that had been previously distributed to the membership via email and USPS. He pointed out that a prime change is to remove the requirement to become a member of the American Association of Woodturners, Inc. (AAW). Being none C.D. Barrington moved they be submitted for a vote, the motion was seconded by Kirk Acosta and was passed unanimously.

Robert reminded everyone that the AWA website, <http://alamoturners.com>, is a good resource and encouraged everyone to visit regularly and contribute as they can. He also reminded us to take advantage of the 10% discount at Woodcraft on meeting nights and the benefits of being a member of AAW.

Show-N-Tell:

Larry Shanks showed a Spalted Pecan open vessel with a void in the side. This was the finished product for one of the pieces used in his previous demonstration.

He also showed a Long Leaf Magnolia wall mounted flower pot. This was a typically shaped pot that was cut diagonally across the lower half, with hanging holes/slots in the side. He mentioned that a different angle cut would produce a pot for a desk to hold pens/pencils at an angle.

Ken Fine showed a Walnut gavel that he produced as a bring-back item

Kirk Acosta showed an Arizona Ash open vessel with a Mesquite lid to be used as a bring-back item.

He also showed a Huisache open vessel of approximately seven inches diameter along with a Spalted Arizona Ash open vessel with a dyed Maple top.

Peter Hawkins suggested we have someone evaluate displayed pieces, if the owner desired, as a learning experience. He commented that he learned a lot by having others evaluate his work. He suggested someone such as Chip Taute be the evaluator.

Demonstration: Chip Taute - Something from His Bag-O-Tricks

Chip explained his dilemma over what to demo by saying:

wanted to do a bed-post - but showed that it was too long for the lathe. I wanted to show carving on a hollow form - but the chuck on the lathe was too small. I wanted to do a George Hatfield style lamp base - but didn't have the proper wood. So he settled on another George Hatfield design - A wine bottle stopper/candle holder.

Chip discussed the various tools he uses and the advantages/disadvantages of each. His primary cutting tools are a diamond profile parting tool, gouge ground to 40 degrees and one ground at 30-32 degrees. He uses a dowel chuck to hold the dowel when turning the block, a candle bit for forming the candle hole and a long-reach pointed live center to reach into the candle hole for truing and turning the block.

He finds that mesquite works best for the turning block and obtains the bottle corks pre-drilled. He pointed out that dowels generally come in $25/64$, $3/8$ and $23/64$ diameters and you will need drill bits sized accordingly. He stressed the importance of purchasing "quality" dowels by showing how the lesser quality ones sometimes twist off while roughing the block.

To facilitate mass production he batch processes the various stages. The block is sized according to your design needs and the dowels are cut to approximately 4.5 inches. He then drills a dowel hole centered on the small dimension of the block $2\ 15/16$ inches deep which leaves about $1\ 9/16$ inches for the cork. He then glues in the dowels in several blocks.

Each block is then chucked up using the dowel chuck and drilled for the candle. It is then secured with the live center and rounded. The block is then marked with the critical profile points. He uses the diamond profile parting tool and caliper to set the desired depths along the profile. The profile is then formed using the gouges and parting tool. He cautioned against have too delicate of a drip-ring because of potential breakage if dropped.

He sands the finished profile, generally starting with the tan colored 220 and then jumps to 320. This is dictated by the quality of the final tool marks. The sanded item is then turned very slowly in the lathe while applying a thin coat of a 50/50 mixture of sanding sealer and lacquer with a brush. He allows it to turn while rinsing the brush and it is usually dry by the time the brush is clean. The piece is then polished with very fine steel wool followed by a light application of polishing compound on a blue paper shop towel. Finally he applies a coat of Briwax and buffs it out.

Before affixing the cork ensure that the dimension of the hole in the cork is appropriate for the size dowel in use, else the cork will split. Lastly cut off any remaining dowel and lightly sand the end of the cork/dowel.

Along the way Chip offered some tips:

--The specialized tools can be found at Craft Supply: <http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/> or Woodcraft: <http://www.woodcraft.com/>

-- When using the parting tool gently rock it back and forth to provide clearance as you go deeper.

-- Hone the tips of the calipers so that they can ride on the wood without catching as the depth cut is made.

-- Hold the calipers on the backside of the piece, the parting tool down the forearm and when the desired depth is reached the calipers will slip over the wood. (Be sure to practice this on scrap wood first)

-- Clean finish application brush in a container lacquer and after a while you will have a 50/50 finishing mixture.

-- While sanding during a demonstration - tell some jokes.

Bring-Back-Raffle:

Lenny Garramone drew the Walnut Gavel, Larry Shanks drew a box of sandpaper and Alan Trout drew the Arizona Ash open form with Mesquite lid. The raffle netted \$12 for the treasury.

Johnny Jones, also a member of Hill Country Turners, invited everyone to their meetings in the downstairs of the Kerr Arts & Cultural center in downtown Kerrville. They meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. Next month they will have a Lady from Germany who specializes in miniatures.

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

Respectfully,

Cd

C. D. Barrington
Alamo Woodturners Association
Secretary / Treasurer