

NEXT MEETING
APRIL 28

APRIL VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

ASSOCIATION OF REVOLUTIONARY TURNERS

APRIL 22, 2005

WWW.REVOLUTIONARY-TURNERS.COM

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - GARY BASHIAN

April 2005

The Board met again the other night to brainstorm ideas for the coming year. I think we came up with some good ones, and I'll be discussing some of them at the next general meeting.

Based on the survey responses, we have dramatically shortened the Business Meeting. Items of a "news" nature will go in a new "News and Events" column in the Newsletter. We will reduce the rambling discussions, and the reports of the supporting officers will be eliminated unless there's something new to say. We will also try to control the discussions at the Show & Tell. Members may bring as many pieces as they like, but talk about only one.

The surveys also contained a number of good ideas and demo topics, which I have passed along to Dietrich Kulze for consideration in making up demo and event schedules.

Dietrich has also been trying to line up a professional woodturner for an off-site demo program. We found that Al Stirt, a professional turner from Vermont, is available in early May. Al does mostly bowls and platters, generally with carving or other surface decoration. The

notice is a bit shorter than we would have liked, but members had expressed interest in having Al demo for us, so we decided to do it. Al likes to do a 2-day program, with demonstrating the first day, and a hands-on workshop, for a smaller group, the second. Registrations are coming in now, and I'm sure this will be a good event.

Safety tip of the month – Keep a fire extinguisher handy, especially if scorching pieces or working with any open flame.

Gary

SAFETY TIPS

- Always wear a face shield!!!
- Make sure your tailstock is **LOCKED** before turning on the lathe!!!
- When you have to chase your lathe around the room, you're turning speed is too high.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILIGES...

CA Glue & Accelerator Available

Thin CA Glue	2oz	\$4.00
Medium CA Glue	2oz	\$4.00
Thick CA Glue	2oz	\$4.00
Accelerator w/pump	2oz	\$3.00
Anchorseal	1gal	\$7.00

2" & 3" Velcro backed sandpaper discs
- 80 to 400 grit 10/pack \$2.00

MARCH MEETING NOTES:

March Meeting Minutes

We had two new members join: Lee Ingermeyer and Steve Hurst

As a result of the survey, we'll be making some changes to the monthly meetings:

- Business portion of the meeting is too long, do we'll do our best to shorten that up
- Sales and selling related issues will be discussed on another date, off-line
- Limit show & tell to one piece per person
- There was a strong interest in a back to basics of woodturning, so we'll be having demos that focus on that
- Strong interest or renewed interest in shop visits

Strong or renewed interest in the mentor program

Speaking of which, our three guinea pigs er... our three members in the Ambassador program, all came back with their turnings.

- Mike Bashar turned a box elder piece with Frank Movitz. The hardest part he found was in getting uniform wall thickness. He used the vacuum chuck to finish the bottom, and discovered what many of us already know - vacuum chucks rule!



- Tom Lienhard turned a box elder piece with Ken Lindgren. He started with the piece between centers, and found the sunburst that box elder is often known for, and tried to preserve that as he continued turning.

Frank Ford turned a bowl with Dietrich Kulze, a first for him (Frank, not Dietrich). Frank didn't know much about turning bowls until then, and learned that green wood moves - the bowl warped out of shape later that week.



Our next turners for the Ambassador Program will be Tom

Liddy, who will partner with Derrick TePaske, Lee Ingram with Ron Pouliot, and Mike Bashar with Frank Movitz.

Update on ART shirts: Al Primm has a friend who may do silk screening; Tom Lienhard tells us that his friend, Bob, of Elite Embroidery is on vacation.

Check out our Gallery Page - Mike Souter has some new stuff on there.

CNEW has a show that they do in October along with the Woodcarvers at Middlesex Community College. Are we interested in participating? It was a yes.

Update on bringing professional demonstrators in: David Elsworth is coming to the Cape Cod Woodturners the 2nd weekend in June (a 2-day event), and will be inviting other clubs. More to follow.

Other demonstrators suggested - Al Stirt, Bill Grumbine, who demonstrates basic to intermediate turning.

Our club treasurer, Derrick TePaske reports that the account has been opened at Sovereign Bank, with roughly \$4700. Out of that, we'll be spending our money on items already voted and approved by the club: a new mini-lathe, with chuck and accessories, an AV set up with T.V. monitors for our club demos.

Topic ideas for the Club Demonstrations this year and who has volunteered:

- Using a skew chisel - Peter Teubel
- Using bowl gouge - Ken Lindgren
- Using a spindle gouge - Devon Thibeault
- Finishing techniques - Peter Priestner
- Various ways of mounting wood on the lathe
- Peter Priestner
- Wood milling and bandsaw techniques - Frank Movitz
- How to maintain a chain saw - Ron Pouliot

How to do segmented turnings - Steve Resnick

MARCH MEETING NOTES:

A discussion was held about the best product for sealing the vacuum chucks, and the general consensus from those who know, is Closed Cell Neoprene Sponge Rubber (not foam), which can be purchased from Industrial Rubber and Plastics in Haverhill, MA.

Derrick TePaske went to California on vacation, and tells us that he did a bad thing – touched one of the large Sequoia trees (went behind the rope/fencing and everything), and was soundly disciplined by the park ranger with a time out! He also visited Del Mano Gallery, one of the few galleries that regularly and consistently promotes woodturners by showing woodturners by showing woodturned art. Of the woodturnings that he saw, nothing was ‘straight’ woodturning, but was enhanced or embellished in some manner.



Devon Thibeault, Binh Pho style

Devon Thibeault is heading a salvage team to recover wood beams from the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain. The church, built in 1859, was destroyed by fire earlier this year, and some of the Douglas Fir beams are being salvaged for turning projects. Anyone interested in some of this wood is welcome, all the church asks in exchange is to turn a piece from the wood that they can sell at auction later to raise money for rebuilding. The church is holding an auction on April 8, 2005 to begin the fund-raising.



Mike Green, Norway Maple burl

Anyone interested in helping in the salvage efforts or the wood for turning should contact Devon at undergroundcarpenter@yahoo.com



Steve Resnick, segmented bowls, mahogany/maple; maple/walnut

NOTES FROM THE 'NET-COMPILED AL PRIMM

Understanding Wood Finishes

From <http://www.woodzone.com>

Introduction

When selecting the perfect wood finish it's easy to become overwhelmed with all of the slick labels and marketing hype. A quick trip to the local home project center will reveal the hundreds of different choices. The term finish is often used loosely to refer to any chemical that is applied to wood. The term actually refers to a clear protective coating that sits on or in the surface of the wood.

Stain, Paint, and Finish are the three primary classifications for common wood treatments. Stains contain pigments and are used to tint the wood. Paints contain colored pigments and sit on the wood to form a protective coating. Some finishes are simply paint with out the pigment that lay down a clear protective coating. There are five common types of finishes on the market. They are:

- Oil
- Varnish and Polyurethane
- Shellac
- Lacquer
- Water-based Finishes

Applying finishes is one part of woodworking that doesn't require many tools. In fact there are only three main tools used to apply all of the finishes listed above; rags, brushes, and a spray gun. Many professionals will use a spray gun for smooth even coats.

Selecting a Clear Finish

When you are selecting a clear finish it is important to remember the qualities you require from the finish.

- It must protect the wood.
- It must be durable enough for the intended application.
- It should be as easy to apply as possible.

Vapor Exchange

To protect your project for the long term you should select a finish that has a maximum resistance to moisture vapor exchange. Thicker finishes tend to slow down this exchange more. Keep in mind though that thicker might not always be better. Polyurethane is more prone to cracking after 4 or 5 coats. In this case, varnish might be the best choice.

Durability

The durability of a wood finish is an important part of protecting the wood beneath. A durable finish is more important for a tabletop than a mantle or picture frame. Durability has more to do with the

chemistry of the finish than the number of coats. For example a single coat of polyurethane is more durable than multiple coats of a water based finish.

Ease of Application

It might probably surprise you to learn that the ease of applications is one of the key factors to achieving a professional finish. Slow drying finishes like polyurethane and varnish are relatively easy to apply with a brush. However, their slow dry time leaves them vulnerable to dust landing on the surface and leaving spots. Faster drying finishes can be difficult or impossible to apply without a spray gun. Oil finishes aren't affected by dust since they soak into the wood.

Now that we've covered some of the basics let's take a look at the different type of finishes. There are five primary types of finishes, a bunch of sub-categories, and a limitless number of brand names for these finishes.

Oil Finishes

These types of finishes have been used for centuries to treat and preserve wood. Oils are different from most other finishes on the market because they seep into the wood and penetrate the wood's fibers. Because of this, oil finishes cannot be built up to a thick coat like polyurethane or varnish can. They offer less protection but are also easier to apply which is their primary advantage. Another advantage is that simply simply wiping on more oil can often repair minor scratches.

There are two types of oils, those that cure and those that don't cure. Oils that don't cure should generally be avoided because that can continue to seep into the wood leaving the surface unprotected. They can also leave a sticky surface on the wood. Linseed oil and Tung Oil are both oils that cure and work well as finishes.

Linseed Oil

This oil is made from the seeds of the flax plant. Look for Boiled linseed oil. This product has an added metallic drying agent that helps the finish dry in a day. Linseed oil without this additive can take over a week to dry.

Tung Oil

Pure Tung oil is pressed from the nuts of the Tung tree. Unlike Linseed Oil, this finish does not require drying additives and cures in several days.

Applying Oil Finishes

The primary advantage of using these finishes is their ease of application. Simply wipe it onto the surface with a clean cotton rag, wait 10 minutes, and applying more oil and allow time to cure. Always sand lightly between coats. Linseed Oil generally requires three coats to achieve the hand rubbed look. Tung Oil may require 5-6 coats to achieve the same results. The first few coats will tend to cure rough but will even out during the last few coats.

NOTES FROM THE 'NET-COMPILED AL PRIMM

Varnish

Varnishes are one of the most protective finishes available. This level of protection increases with additional layers. The primary downside of varnishes is that they are slow drying which can allow dust and dirt time to settle and damage the finish. Because of this it is best to finish your project in a clean dust-free room if possible.

Varnishes are produced by cooking an oil and mixing it with a resin such as synthetic alkyds, phenolics, and polyurethanes. Interestingly, polyurethane finish is actually varnish made with polyurethane resin to make the finish more protective and durable.

When more oil is used than resin the finish becomes more flexible. This type of varnish is called "Spar Varnish" and is ideal for outdoor use because the flexibility makes it more forgiving of seasonal wood movement.

Applying Varnishes

Achieving a perfect varnish finish is a combination of skill and experiences as well as access to the right tools for the job. Work in a clean dust-free environment. The room should be prepared by wiping it down surfaces with a damp cloth. Also be aware of dust that can be generated by human skin and clothing. The wood should be wiped with a tack cloth and the finish transferred into a separate working container.

Varnish is usually applied with a brush using long steady brush strokes. In contrast to paint varnish brush strokes are much more apparent. Work in the direction of the grain and "tip-off" your brush strokes with lightly brushed vertical strokes. Varnish should be wet sanded between coats with a fine sandpaper.

Wiping Varnish

"Wiping Varnish" that has been thinned with Paint Thinner is also available. Use caution since some manufacturers refer to their wiping varnish as "Tung Oil". Read the labels carefully since these products are completely different. One way to test this product is to pour some of the finish onto a piece of glass and allow it to dry. If the finish cures to a hard finish it's varnish. This product can be applied with a brush like varnish or with a cotton rag like an oil finish. The advantage of wiping varnish over an oil finish is that you can leave some of the finish on the surface and build up to a thicker coat.

Oil/Varnish Blends

Just to make thing a little more confusing the finish manufacturers introduced a blend of varnish and tung or linseed oil. These finishes are applied and act similar to an oil finish but the varnish adds some additional protection. They will still cure in the wood like an oil finish and should not be used if you plan on building up layers on the surface.

Shellac

Shellac is one of the few natural resins still in use today. Although not as durable as a Lacquer or Varnish, shellac still provides a modest amount of protection. Shellac is not the best finish for tabletops, chairs, and kitchen cabinets due to high wear requirements of these items.

The big advantage, and the reason the finish is still in use today, is that Shellac is alcohol based which makes it very fast drying. Because Shellac is fast drying it is less likely to collect dust like varnish. It is often too thick to apply with a brush and requires thinning with denatured alcohol before it can be brushed. This finish also requires that you work fast with your brush and maintain a wet edge.

It is available in a range of colors from clear to an orange/amber color. Orange/Amber shellac is known for the warm tones it gives wood. Shellac breaks down over time, so be sure to purchase a fresh can, and don't use anything over a year old.

Lacquer

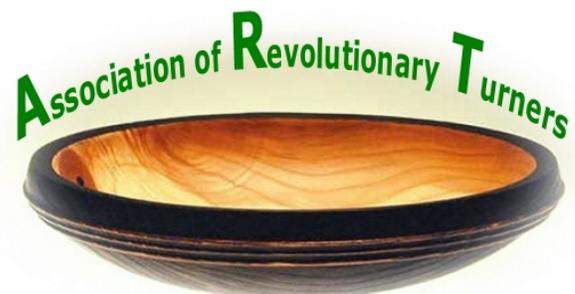
Lacquer is used most often in furniture factories because its fast drying properties reduce dust related finish problems. It is usually applied with a spray gun although "brushing lacquers" that cure slowly are also available. If you choose to spray a lacquer finish be aware that the fumes are hazardous to your health and the dry dust can be explosive.

Water-Based Finishes

Because of increasing environmental concerns a new class of finished has been developed. These "Water-Based" finishes are often marketed as "polyurethane", "varnish", or "lacquer" which is untrue since all of these finishes are solvent-based. You can tell if a finish is water based because the can should mention "water cleanup" as an added feature. "Water-based" finishes are basically latex paint without a pigment. The two primary downsides are that they tend to hold visible brush marks and are less durable than the more conventional finished. They also tend to bubble with brushing. You'll want to use a synthetic bristle brush and try not to over-brush the surface. Also try to avoid temperature and moisture ranges that exceed indoor conditions. Moisture or temperature ranges on either end of the scale can cause drying problems.

Sanding your Finishes

Properly preparing your finish between coats is an important step. With finishes that require building to achieve a thick coat it is extremely important to sand with fine sandpaper between coats to remove bumps and high spots. Wet sanding with special "wet sanding" paper is an excellent way to smooth out the surface without creating lots of airborne dust, which could land, in your next coat of finish. The best advice we can offer is to test your finishing techniques on a piece of scrap wood before you move on to your recently completed masterpiece.



MARCH DEMO: PETER TEUBEL, NARROW MOUTH HOLLOW VESSELS

In this month's demonstration, Peter Teubel showed us how they make those hollow forms with such small mouths. Some of us, Your humble editor included, never had figured this out, merely assuming that it was accomplished with one of those myriad expensive special tools and/or jigs that are out there.

As it happens, making your hollow form is much easier than that. Once you have a basic form, you finish it off by creating a collar or cap which has only the narrow opening. Now, in some woods you can make the "lid" to your form out of the same piece of wood, if the grain will match up, or if grain matching is not an issue for you. However, quite often the top of the form is finished off in one or even two contrasting woods. Also, you can choose to finish this off with a top that conforms to the shape of the basic form, or you can intentionally make it stand out, either with a mushroom style cap or some other style of contrasting shape. What ever your heart, and eyes tell you is right. In the end, its your art, and you only have yourself, to make happy.



Here, Peter is taking off the top of a demo piece to finish up the inside and make a lip for the new lid to fit into.



Peter shows us a finished piece to demonstrate some of the possibilities that are available.



Peter begins turning a contrasting wood collar for the top of his form, after drilling the hole that will become the mouth of the vessel.

Here are some photos of Peter making the contrasting top to his demo piece. The best part is, you don't have to spend a whole lot of time trying to get that perfect finish on the inside of your form, because.. No one can see inside!! Please follow along as Pete shows us how its done!

MARCH DEMO: PETER TEUBEL, NARROW MOUTH HOLLOW VESSELS



Above and Right: Peter gives the new top a pleasing shape that will enhance and complement the shape of the basic form.



LEFT: Peter checks the final fit of the new top

MARCH DEMO: PETER TEUBEL, NARROW MOUTH HOLLOW VESSELS



Here is our nearly completed form. All it needs from here is a little finish sanding and a couple of coats of oil or poly and you have a nice hollow form.

MEDIA LIBRARY

Current Video Inventory:

- * *Turning Wood with Richard Raffan*
- * *Turning Boxes with Richard Raffan*
- * *Turning Projects with Richard Raffan*
- * *Bowl Turning with Del Stubbs*
- * *Skill Building Projects with Mark St. Leger*
- * *Sharpening Fundamentals*
- * *Turning Projects from Scrap with Bob Rosand*
- * *Natural Lipped Bowls – Ken Bullock*
- * *Wooden Bowls on a Budget – Ken Bullock*
- * *Rude Osolnik – Dean of American Woodturners*
- * *David Ellsworth Tape #1*
- * *David Ellsworth Tape #3*
- * *David Ellsworth Tape T*
- * *Skew Chisel with Alan Lacer*
- * *Turning a Salt & Pepper Mill by Holtham*
- * *1996 AAW Symposium - Techniques*
- * *1997 AAW Symposium - Techniques*
- * *1998 AAW Symposium - Techniques Vol #2*
- * *1998 AAW Symposium - Techniques Vol #1*

- * *1999 AAW Symposium - Techniques Vol #1*
- * *Vessels of Illusion by Trent Bosch*
- * *From Tree to Table by Mike Mahoney*
- * *Woodturning Wizardry by David Springett*
- * *Woodturning - A Foundation Course*
- * *Mike Darlow DVD set*
-> Available on VHS tapes
- * *Woodturning Projects with Nick Cook Volume #1*
- * *Woodturning Projects with Nick Cook Volume #2*
- * *Son of Skew by Alan Lacer*
- * *Range Rider Hat by Johannes Michaelson*
- * *Luke Mann Demo August 2004*

Current Book Inventory:

- * *Woodturning - TIME/LIFE Book*
- * *The Fine Art of Small-Scale Woodturning*
- * *Fundamentals of Woodturning by Mike Darlow*
- * *Woodturning Methods by Mike Darlow*

“If anyone would like to donate any ORIGINAL videos (no copies), please contact any of the club’s officers. ”

CLUB EVENTS

David Ellsworth Demo: Cape Cod Club
June 11-12 David's scheduled demo will be: Saturday morning – Bowls, Saturday afternoon – Hollowing Sunday morning - Sharpening and tools, Sunday afternoon – Natural edge bowls: Registration Forms Available thru the Newsletter and Club Officers

Al Stirt Demo May 7-8. Seats are still available.
Check out Al's Website at www.ALSTIRT.COM

LINKS OF INTEREST

APRIL MEETING AGENDA

Remember to bring in some wood for the wood swap to help support the club!

6:30pm–7:00pm

Arrive early for some social time and please remember to park across the street at the Fleet ATM parking lot.

7:00pm–7:45pm

- * Club business
- * Announcements
- * Show & tell. Bring your pieces in for discussion

7:45pm to 8:00pm

Break

8:00pm–9:00pm

Demo - Back to Basics– Tools.
A series by Deitrich Kulze III

9:00pm-9:15pm

Break

9:15pm - 10:00pm

Wood Swap

MONTHLY SHOP TIPS

OTHER EVENTS

Woodcrafters of WOBURN

Staining & Finishing Techniques with John Holland

Mondays, April 4, 11, 18 & 25, 6pm - 9pm

Size: 10Card Scraper & Burnisher

John will teach you how to prepare a variety of woods for coloring and finishing. He will show you how to control and apply several coloring agents, and teach you the use of shellac and French polish. Finishing the finish and waxes will also be discussed.

Contact the store for details.

“ Send your tips to Al Primm for publication in our Monthly Shop Tips section! “

VENDOR NEWS

A.R.T. MENTORING PROGRAM

Our Mentoring program is designed to help the novice as well as the intermediate turners in the club. Take advantage of the Mentors listed below. They've all agreed to spend a few hours with anyone to help the beginner get started or the intermediate to advance their skills. All it takes is a phone call to make an appointment.

Mike Green - Lowell, MA
978-459-8308
mgreenburl@juno.com

Frank Movitz - Marblehead, MA
781-631-4411
gwpb@attbi.com

Derrick TePaske - Belmont, MA
617-489-0169
go.den@verizon.net

Steve Reznek - Concord, MA
978-287-4821
reznek@aol.com

Jack Grube - Londonderry, NH
603-432-4060
jackgrube@aol.com

Dietrich Kulze - Billerica, MA
978-663-5241
dk3@reuse.com



**“All it takes is a
phone call to
make an
appointment.”**

CLASSIFIEDS

Look! No Batteries Required...Ever Again! Batteryless, 110 VAC Powered Laser Pointer for those deep hollowing jobs. Plugs into any standard 110 VAC outlet. Use with deep hollowing systems such as the Jamieson, Kelton, Oneway, Pro-Forme, Dave Reeks, homemade, etc. varieties.

Price: \$25.00 each.

Get perfectly side ground edges on all your bowl gouges. Improved, easy to use gouge sharpening jigs. No matter what the sizes of your gouges, there is a sharpening jig to give you that perfectly ground edge. For use with the Wolverine or similar grinding aid. Three sizes to properly fit all gouges:

Size:	Prices:
Small (up to 3/8" dia.)	\$12.00 each
Medium (3/8" - 5/8" dia.)	\$12.00 each
Large (5/8"-7/8" dia.)	\$12.00 each
Set of all three:	\$30.00 (Save \$6.00)

Ultra-Thin Kerf Parting Tool. Blade is only 0.050" thin to give those wood saving and grain matching cuts. Overall length approximately 9-1/2" with comfortable handle for good control. Made from hardened High Speed Steel for a lasting edge and stiffness.

Price: \$20.00 each.



110 VAC Laser Pointer



Bowl Gouge Sharpening Jigs



Ultra-Thin Parting Tool

Please add \$5.00 Shipping and Handling to your order (no matter the number of items ordered being shipped to the same address at the same time).

To order, please make checks payable to Peter Toch and mail to:

Peter Toch
6565 Fairway View Trail
Roanoke, VA 24018

For questions or further information, please contact Peter Toch at (540) 774-4152 or ptoch@adelphia.net

* NOTE: These items are also available thru Mike Green at our monthly meetings.

“ Classified ads are free for members . Just send your ad to Al Primm. ”



Association of Revolutionary Turners

“ G E T I N V O L V E D ”

~ LEGAL STUFF ~

The Association of Revolutionary Turners (A.R.T.) was founded in 2001 to support the needs of woodturners in eastern Massachusetts. Its purpose is to provide education, information, and organization to those interested in woodturning. We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at the Woodcraft Store in Woburn, MA. Memberships are on a calendar basis from January 1st through December 31st. Annual dues is \$20 per person.

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2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for 2005 are now due. Please have cash or check ready at the meeting.