

Catoctin Area Turners

<http://catoctinareeturners.org/>



Next meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2010, 6:30 pm
Location: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,
Leesburg, VA

Volume 2 Issue 9 - September 2010



Registered Yet?

Our 2010 Virginia symposium is certainly fast approaching. So, the big question of the month, **have you registered yet?** The Symposium provides

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an environment of networking, education and collaboration for members of the regional woodturning community. It also promotes the art and craft of woodturning. Through active demonstrations, we provide avenues for expression in one's woodturning, as well as introducing non-turners to the craft.

Does our symposium offer something that other symposiums do not? The

answer is yes. **Hands-on mentoring sessions** are what sets this symposium apart from other conferences. Multiple workstations provide attendees in-depth, up-close, hands-on woodturning information and personal experience under the guidance of a Mentor. How cool is that?

Do you have a child or grandchild that could be interested in turning? Well, their admission cost to them with you is free.

So what are you waiting for? This is an event that only happens every two years in Virginia, so don't miss out.

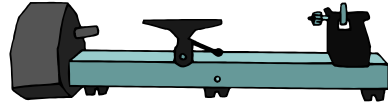
Get registered today and save on your registration.

2010 Virginia Woodturners:

October 23 - 24 Augusta Exposition and Entertainment Center
Fishersville, VA (Expoland)

<http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/default.html>

The Call of the Lathe



by Tom Boley

I heard from a usually reliable source, Bob Parson, our secretary, that the meeting went very well and the presenter just did an outstanding job. I am so sorry to have missed it, but more on that later. Bob, thanks very much for filling in for both Dale and me as we were away. I know how tough it is to both run the meeting and then actually do the program, too, but I am sure it worked well and I appreciate it. Since I missed the AAW Symposium, I was sure looking forward to seeing your pix, but maybe another time. Thanks.

The program in September is being presented the last possible month to do so before next summer. The reason is that we need light as it will be outdoors. The format for the meeting may be changed around. It is 8pm as I write this and already it is getting a bit dark out. Jeremy Baker, the manager of the local The Care of Trees company and a member of CAT, has offered to do a demonstration on safe and effective use of a chain saw. I know a guy who cut himself right across the knee with a chain saw several weeks ago, so this is of great interest to me. I use a chain saw quite a bit and I think I do it pretty safely, but do I? Jeremy has the answers. We'll start the program outside no later than 7pm, to take advantage of the waning daylight. I don't want to start right at 6:30, our normal meeting time, so those who can't quite get there by then will still have a chance to see this most important demo, but we'll sure start by 7. After Jeremy's presentation, we'll return to the classroom for the rest of the agenda, including the business meeting, raffle, etc.

Ron Circe', our host as the manager of Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, has asked several times that we not park on the grass down there by the classroom. I think we have complied pretty well, but mention it again just as a reminder. I know most members park up in the parking area, which is preferred, but some drive down to the classroom when they have something large and heavy to unload or need to be close due to physical limitations. Thanks for considering Ron's needs for the park.

I work alone, as you know. Sometimes a fellow woodturner will come out to the shop to either just visit, maybe to turn a large piece which can't be turned on the home lathe, or for some help in some aspect of woodturning. I really enjoy being around woodturners so those visits are a pleasure. But occasionally, I get to go do the visiting, and in

August, Judi and I went to the John C. Campbell Folk School for a week. Her class was Northern Italian Cooking and that Thursday night, the students prepared a super meal for their spouses and friends who were there at the Folk School. For me, it was a woodturning class. What else? It was entitled Turning Magnificent Vessels and the instructor was John Mascoll, a resident of Florida but a native of Barbados. So, vessels. Basically, it was a hollowing class, something for which I have tools but little experience. I was just about to get into hollowing when I got into this business instead and haven't really had time to learn it. Now I am excited about the art of hollowing and looking forward to seeing what I can do. Yeah, it is fun to have friends come over to do some turning, but it is really fun to get away for a week at a great place like the Folk School with a bunch of other accomplished turners, all looking for new skills and inspiration to turn magnificent vessels. When the Call of the Lathe takes you away to a place like that for a week, where the food is good, the woodturning class excellent, and inspiration lies across the campus like a blanket (and your wife is in a cooking class!), it is great fun.

One more thing about the John C. Campbell Folk School -- for first time students, anyone signing up for a class which will be held before the end of 2010, there will be a \$100 discount off the cost of the class. That is significant. Oh, and one other thing -- if you do sign up as a first timer and give the name of someone who referred you to the Folk School, that person also gets a \$100 certificate for a class. This is summer camp for adults and, as you have heard me say many times, a great place to spend a week. I handed out a whole case of catalogs for the Folk School to our members, but if you need one, please go on line to www.folkschool.org and request it. There are some mighty good classes coming up this Fall.

My friends, this is September. Our official annual meeting will be in November with election of officers for 2011. I will appoint a nominating committee this month and hope to announce who they will be at the September meeting. They will be seeing which officers are willing to stay on and which would like to be replaced for next year. If you are interested in being an officer for our woodturning club, please let them know once they are appointed.

I hope to see most of you at Jeremy's demonstration in September. Remember, chain saws are LOUD. Bring ear protection for yourself and one other. We can't provide it for everyone and some will forget! Thanks.

Tom Boley

Upcoming Demonstrations

September: Jeremy Baker will be demonstrating the proper use and methods of using a chainsaw. Jeremy is the manager of the local "The Care of Trees" company and a member of CAT.



October: TBD

November: TBD

December: TBD

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Terry Lund - Mentors
Debbie Woods - Silent Auction
Mark Duffell - Raffle Tickets
Chet Olson - Web site/Gallery Photos
Brian Sullivan - Bulk Purchases
Jeremy Baker - Arborist Extraordinaire
Tom Boley - Newsletter Proofreader

The Editor's Bench

by Ron Cote

Another month has quickly gone by for me. Maybe if I hadn't had two weeks of business trips then I wouldn't have felt as pressured as my turning time did have to take a bit of a back seat because of it. But, I was able to salvage some good news out of this. I drove up to Buf-falo, NY after one of my trips and purchase a used Jet 1642EVS lathe. The price was certainly good to make this long



ride worth my time. So it looks like my Jet 1236 lathe is on the sales block. I did make another purchase this month. That was to get a good ceiling space heater for the upcoming winter months. The longer and colder winter months that we experience last year certainly curtailed my turning. So hopefully I have solved my heating problem.

Before going much further I would like personally thank Jeremy Baker, our Arborist, and Chet Olson, our web master, and Jeff Greene, our operations officer for their continued faithfulness in providing us with additional articles for our newsletter. Great job guys! Very much appreciated.

An AAW update. If you haven't been following the recent issue concerning the AAW board of directors and Mary Lacer there appears to be some good news. Here is a quote from the AAW web site regarding this situation. "The AAW and Mary Lacer have reached a settlement. Both the AAW and the MAG have called off their proxy drives, and the AAW has cancelled the August 28th Special Meeting. The AAW Board of Directors wishes to thank all those who have supported the AAW during these trying times. It is our hope that all members of the AAW will renew damaged friendships and get back to the business of sharing our passion for woodturning." I find it interesting when they thank all those who have supported the AAW during these trying times. I really don't think that any of our support for the AAW was a concern. I believe if there was a lack of support it was due to the actions of the current board of directors. So let's all hope that everyone involved in this issue can get on with the business at hand and get us all turning again.


Ron Cote

What I've Learned - Month 13

Jeff Greene

Another month behind us. They sure do seem to go fast these days. As we were attempting to make the most of the few remaining days of the kids' summer vacation not much time however work out the details dimensions ended up being expanded slightly to accommodate stalled on the south-facing erated from this configuration during the day, and enough to compensate for our power usage at night to effectively making us power neutral. In fact, the power to run all of my toys. The bad news is, I'm going to be broke for a while, and I won't have any money for new toys. How sad! On a separate note, a special thanks to Jeremy Baker for his generosity. Hopefully many of you where able to take advantage of his offer and were able to grab some of those huge pieces of gorgeous Pecan. I unfortunately couldn't fit any of the Pecan into my trunk so I ended up settling on a couple nice pieces of cherry instead. Thanks for the fix, my friend. The wood has been cut into round blanks and sealed for future use.



From a project perspective I did manage to turn a few items this month. I roughed in a couple of goblets  and finished a plate out of a really old piece of what I believe is spalted oak. The spalted oak was a royal pain in the butt to work with it. It was all cracked and hard as steel everywhere but one section that continued to tear out. However, after several sharpenings, a few treatments with CA glue, and a lot of cursing, I did manage to produce something I was happy with.

As a final thought for this month, I'd like to encourage you to volunteer. Everyone in our club has skills and knowledge that needs to be shared. Our time in this world is so short, it's important that we all make time to do our part to make the world better for future generations. None of us know what tomorrow will bring so make a difference now in whatever way you can. Trust me. The personal satisfaction you get is addicting. Have fun and I'll see ya at the meeting...



Jeff Greene

August Meeting Minutes

Bob Parson

The August CAT meeting had a couple of firsts. This was our first meeting since the inception of our club for which our President, Tom Boley was not in attendance; both he and our Vice President Dale Bright were out of town. In addition, Northern Virginia experienced some horrendous weather, with severe thunderstorms and high winds that blew down some huge trees. Nonetheless, about 20 club members showed up for our meeting. Club Secretary Bob Parson showed photo's from the AAW Symposium in Hartford, discussed some of the demonstrations from the Symposium, and demonstrated the construction and use of a Graeme Priddle-style wood vaporizer. In September we will have a demonstration by Jeremy Baker on chainsaw safety.

Next meeting: **Thursday", September 12, 2010, 6:30 pm**

**Location: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,
Leesburg, VA**

This month demonstrator/speaker: Jeremy Baker of CAT



Advice from The Arborist

Jeremy Baker

Last month we talked about proper chainsaw maintenance. I thought that since the demo at this month's meeting will be on chainsaw usage/tree felling/prepping bowl blanks with your chainsaw then maybe we should talk about a plan for felling trees. I welcome ideas for future articles or questions regarding this one. jeremywbaker@gmail.com



Precision Tree Felling Plan

Tree felling is basically a simple process with 6 main steps to follow. One must practice, practice, and practice to get better. Start out with small trees and use the steps even if you can just crash and dash. The practice will allow you to improve and move on to bigger and more challenging removals.

1. Height Assessment

- a. Determine tree height using a sighting device or the 'stick method'
- b. Will the tree fit in the planned drop zone? Add at least 10% for margin of error.

2. Risk Assessment

- a. Visually examine the tree for structural soundness, root decay or dieback, trunk decay, hollows, dead or broken branches, and cracks or splits.
- b. Check the site for hazards such as utility wires, targets, rough terrain, etc.
- c. If the level of risk is not acceptable, do not perform the removal until the concerns are addressed and the risk level is reduced to an acceptable level.

3. Lean Assessment

- a. Determine the direction of lean (if any at all). Back lean may require a pull line. Front lean may require a bore cut.
- b. Determine the good side vs. bad side. The final cut must always be made from the good side.

4. Escape Route

- a. The ideal route is 45 degrees from the edge of the notch and opposite the felling direction.
- b. The escape route must be cleared of obstacles and hazards.

5. Notch & Hinge Plan

- a. With no side lean, the hinge should face the target direction.
- b. With side lean, the notch may need to be adjusted to compensate.
- c. The notch should be wide enough to allow for complete closure as the tree lands.
- d. A vertical tree requires a 70-90 degree notch, a back leaner requires more than 90, and a forward leaner requires less than 70.
- e. When making the notch, stand next to the tree facing the direction of the fall. Use the site lines on the saw to align the notch.
- f. Make the top cut first, allowing the bottom cut to be more precise.
- g. The length of the hinge will depend on tree species and the soundness of the wood, but a general rule of thumb is to make it 80% as wide as the diameter of the trunk.

6. Back Cut Plan

- a. The thickness of the hinge should usually be 10% the diameter of the tree.
- b. Determine the type of back cut needed – typical vs. bore cut.
- c. Give an audible warning to all others in the area before cutting.
- d. Those involved in the removal (pulling, etc.) should be at least one tree length away and have an escape plan. Everyone else should be at least two tree lengths away.

These are the basic guidelines. Each removal will be different and will likely require some adaptation. I will cover the above in this month's demo, so hopefully all of this font will make sense when you see it in real life!

Remember to always use the appropriate safety equipment while working. Keep your eyes, ears, and hands safe. Chaps are an absolute must while using a chainsaw!!! Safety equipment is replaceable – you are not!

Jeremy W. Baker

An Artsy Piece I Made

Chet Olson

Lately I have been trying to expand my horizons and one thing I have done is to combine the very irregular shaped buckeye wood with the segmented look by fitting a segmented vase into a buckeye base and also fitting a piece of the buckeye into the segmented vase creating a sort of “Vase Born from a Rock” look.



In the process of doing this I learned something about precision turning because. I needed to learn to measure all three dimensions and then produce a fitting part of the opposite sex. Although I have considered myself fairly adept at special visualization, I found that the thing that took me the longest was determining what part of the Buckeye I needed to cut out in order to get started.

My process was this: After I found a corner of the buckeye that I thought had potential and cut that piece out, I created the bottom 1/3 or so of the segmented vase of Ash. I made this first one third of the vase in a rather straight conical shape in order to avoid matching a complex curve when hollowing the buckeye. I made the bottom of the buckeye flat, glued it onto a piece of MDF and hollowed it to the dimensions of the vase bottom. I glued the vase bottom into the hollowed buckeye and began completing the upper portion of the segments. The whole project stopped for several days while I figured out how to create a piece of buckeye jutting from the side of the vase. To make a long story shorter, I went to Harbor Freight and bought drill press milling vise for only \$59. I clamped the milling vise on my lathe bed and fashioned the vise to hold the hand wand of my Dremel Power Carver. I am not saying that this is the only way to do this, but I couldn't resist the challenge.

I found an appropriate piece of buckeye that I would fit into the vase segments and mounted it onto a circular piece of MDF using crazy glue and shoring it up by saturating pieces of wood and globs of sawdust saturated with crazy glue between the MDF and the buckeye. Since my cutting motion would be provided by the spinning Dremel rather than a spinning lathe, the mounting of the buckeye on the lathe did not have to be as sturdy as it would have if it had to endure the spin. After lots of positioning of the tool and the buckeye piece I simply turned the lathe by hand over the Dremel wand creating the arc matching that of the segmented layer of the vase. The position of the wand is controlled by cranks in two axes. Here is the set up of the milling vise.



Although I think this could have been done without the milling vise and power carver, cutting this with only the lathe and cutting tools would require that you cut very blindly into a spinning piece of fragile wood.

Buckeye is a very soft irregular wood perhaps similar to driftwood. It turns fairly well and I am told is nice to carve. The Ash is a pretty, contrasting light wood. I finished the top of the vase with a segmented rim of blood wood.

Chet Olson

Editors note: A reminder to all, Chet, who has moved to Florida, is doing us a great big favor by continuing to act as our web site webmaster, as well as providing us with some fine articles.



<http://catocinaretturners.org/>

Chet



Show and Tell for August



Sorry but I don't have the names of the folks who did these.

Mentoring Program

by Terry Lund

We have established a mentoring program for CAT members, so Terry Lund is looking for volunteers to be mentors as well as requests from any of our members who would like to be paired up with a mentor in one of the following areas of interest for turning skills, or for general mentoring activity. Terry will have sign-up forms for those who want to be a mentor as well as for those who would like to be matched up with an assigned mentor at the next meeting on September 9. If you are interested in either opportunity but will not be at the meeting, please contact him via email at terry.lund@gmail.com or call him on his cell phone 585-455-2517. Please include your name, address, phone number, email address, and indicate your level of experience as Beginner, Intermediate, or Experienced when requesting a mentor.

We will try to match interested individuals with a mentor who lives “reasonably close” whenever possible, and if we get enough mentors to sign up, we will also try to match based on one of the following areas of interest, or feel free to mention another area of interest.

Areas of interest for mentoring

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Functional turning | Ornaments and small items |
| Artistic turning | Pens and Pencils |
| Bowls | Lidded Boxes |
| Natural Edge Bowls | Segmented turning |
| Square Bowls | Spindle turning |
| Hollow forms | Turning/Chasing Threads |

Woodcraft Contest Winners 2010

I big thank you to our local Leesburg Woodcraft store for sponsoring this year's event. Lee Hanson, the store manager, says that there were 40 entrants in this year's contest with over 100 customers voted for their favorites.

Best in Show
George Corrigan – Bowls
Tool donated by Easy Tools



Peoples Choice
Dave Brown—Artistic



Other Winners and categories

Ray Wills – Beginner
Rich Wilkinson – Pens
William Gregory – Youth
Don Maloney – Boxes/lidded
Ralph Redmond – Hollow form
Jeff Greene – Natural Edge
Ron Cote – Ornament

Each received a Woodcraft cash gift card which was sponsored by Delta Tools.

Symposium

2010 Virginia Symposium

Fishersville, VA

http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/symposium/symposium_info_home.htm

2010 Virginia Woodturners: October 23 - 24

Augusta Exposition and Entertainment Center

Fishersville, VA (Expoland)

The nine woodturning clubs in Virginia are collaborating once again to produce the fourth biannual Virginia Woodturning Symposium the weekend of 23 and 24 October 2010 in Fishersville, VA, the same location as in 2008. The Virginia Woodturning, Inc, web site at <http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/> has much more information and also has a list of the motels which will offer discounts for the symposium.

Making an early reservation will help VWI convince more vendors that attending and setting up at our symposium would be worthwhile. The more attendees we have, the more vendors will be willing to come. This will very much be a hands-on symposium.

Save some money by sharing a motel room with a fellow woodturner.

<http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/>