

Timp Woodturners Association
Meeting Minutes
10 September 2008

The monthly meeting was convened by President Kirk DeHeer at 7:00 p.m. in the Craft Supplies USA facility with 27 people in attendance.

Kirk made the following announcements:

1. Volunteers are needed to man the Timp Woodturners demonstration booth at the Woodworking Show to be held Oct 23-25 in the Southtown Exhibition Center. Mini lathes will be provided but demonstrators will be expected to provide their own chucks, tools, and woods. A sign-up sheet was circulated for the three-hour shifts that are to be covered.
2. The Utah County Wood Carvers Show will be held on October 11 at the Spanish Fork fairgrounds. Special divisions are provided for turned pieces with embellishment and for turned pieces without embellishment. The wood carving club is meeting at Treeline on Thursday, 11 Sep.
3. Appreciation was expressed to Russ Bateman for his work on the www.timpwoodturners.org website and to Dave Anthony for providing tonight's refreshments.
4. DVDs of the Lane Phillips presentation on Reading Wood have been created and are available to club members for \$10 and to nonmembers for \$15. Over 20 members expressed interest in having the DVD.

Les Campbell was given a few minutes to introduce the attendees to the International Wood Collecting Society. The organization has 1200 members in 30 different countries. Les brought 20 copies of the society publication and brochures that were made available to our members at no charge. Those interested are welcome to apply for membership. The society obtains and makes available to their members a broad variety of collectible species. Les has collected 1300 wood species in the form of egg blanks.

Al Crapo brought several uncut walnut logs that were given to attendees free of charge.

Four new members were added to our club: Don and Trisha Smith, Joe Wagner, and Clyde Walker. Welcome aboard!

Leonard Cleveland gave a demonstration on turning bird house ornaments. Demonstration notes are available here and on the club web-site: www.timpwoodturners.org.

A wood raffle was held at the end of the meeting from which the club realized \$92 in revenue. Thank you to all the wood contributors.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 October. Dale Nish will give a demonstration on ornament turning.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale S. Dallon
Secretary/Treasurer

Timp Woodturners Association
Demonstration Notes
10 September 2008
Turning Bird House Ornaments
Demonstrator: Leonard Cleveland

Leonard demonstrated the turning of two different bird houses. Both had square-edge roof sections with and upper spindle or finial. One had a cylindrical body section and the other had an elongated hour-glass shaped body. Both bodies had spindle or finial ornamentation at the bottom. The roof section and the body section are turned as separate pieces from contrasting woods and then joined using C/A glue. Sizes and shapes can be quite variable to suit the turner's taste and stock availability. The techniques for both houses were similar so only one process is recorded in these notes.

Leonard began by showing us some tools he finds very useful in this type of turning. These included:

- A Forstner bit jig – a block of wood in which sample borings were made from several sizes of Forstner bits to help in selecting the proper bit size and to assist in fitting tenons.
- Inside/outside caliper.
- A flexible-neck fiber optic flashlight.
- A rubber syringe and a compressed CO2 capsule blaster to blow dust out of borings.
- Anti-lock gasket for the head stock spindle.
- A golf ball to act as a compression buffer between an egg-cup center and the wood.
- As a tool carrier, Leonard has used a 5 gallon plastic bucket partially filled with sawdust. He cut circular holes in the lid which serves as a tool holder/spacer. The tools are placed through the holes cutting-edge downward into the saw dust. The end of the tool handles have been marked so they can be identified before removing them from the bucket.

Turning the Roof Section:

1. A square blank is mounted in a 4-jaw chuck using a cup center in the tailstock for stability.
2. Square off the face of the blank using a gouge. This face will be the bottom of the roof section.
3. Bore a ½ inch deep recess in the face with a Forstner bit. The bit size will depend on the diameter of the piece being turned. In the first case, Leonard used a 1-1/4 inch bit and in the second he used a ¾ inch bit. This boring should be done at reduced speed.
4. Dish the face to a concave shape with a gouge. It is important to stay away from the square corners of the blank to avoid damaging them. The first dishing cuts should be started at the edge of the boring cutting from outside to inside then started successive cuts gradually out toward the edge. On light colored stock, Leonard likes to mark the corners with a pencil line so he can visualize the edge. The ghost image of the corners is often difficult to see with the piece turning. The heel of the gouge can also be used to locate the corners before starting the final cuts. This dished area is the bottom surface of the roof section. When the dishing is completed there should still be enough depth (1/8 – ¼ inch?) of bored recess remaining to receive the tenon of the body section to be joined later.
5. Begin shaping the upper surface of the roof with a gouge. The starting cuts should be made will above the square corners to avoid damaging them. Leonard recommends marking a line on the blank 1/4 inch above the corner to provide a visual reminder of the danger zone.
6. Gradually reduce the upper part of the blank (that nearest the chuck) to a cylinder using cove cuts away from the corners. This area becomes the decorative upper spindle or finial of the roof section.

7. Using the cup center in the tail stock to help maintain the centerline, Leonard moved his blank out of the chuck to expose more wood and reduce the length of the chucking foot. With the cup center still in place for stability, finish shaping the spindle/finial to the desired contour.
8. Sand the entire roof section. The sharp edges and corners of the roof should be eased slightly with sand paper. Leonard never sands beyond a 240 grit. He feels that surface provides just enough tooth to help hold the spray-on finishes he uses.
9. Remove the roof section from the chuck leaving the square chucking foot in place for future use.

Turning the body section:

1. Mount another square blank in the 4-jaw chuck.
2. Square off the face of the blank with a gouge. This face will be the top of the body section.
3. With a gouge, round down the blank to a cylinder.
4. Cut a ¼ inch long tenon in the end of the cylinder to make a reasonably snug fit in the tenon recess of the roof section. The inside/outside caliper can be useful to get close then do trial and error cutting to achieve the desired fit. When the desired fit is achieved, undercut the shoulder of the tenon slightly to capture any excess glue when the sections are joined.
5. Drill holes in the side of the roughed cylinder, one to be the bird entrance and the other to receive the perch. Leonard used a ¼ inch bit for the entrance hole and a 3/16 inch bit for the perch hole. Both holes can be drilled on the same axial line, or the perch can be offset a little from the entrance for a different visual effect. The placement of these holes is a design question. In the elongated hour glass example, Leonard placed the holes near the center of the body length where the waist of the hour glass shape would occur. These holes are drilled before the body is bored so they will have clean edges at the boring. If drilled after the interior is bored you will usually get feathering of the fibers where the drill bit pierces the hollow chamber.
6. Bore the interior chamber with a Forstner bit. The depth of this boring is dependent on the design of the body. It must not go through the bottom but it must go past the drilled holes. You would probably like to have it as deep as the body design will allow to reduce weight. In this example, Leonard used a ¾ inch Forstner and bored 1-¾ inches deep.
7. Using a large cone center in the tail stock for stability, finalize the shape of the body and rough shape the lower spindle/finial that will be the bottom of the ornament. Leave enough wood in the spindle to provide stability.
8. Sand the body section to 240 grit.
9. Apply C/A glue to the wall of the recess in the bottom of the roof section and join the roof section to the body section. Use the cone center to hold the roof section in position as the glue sets.
10. With the cone center still stabilizing the piece, turn off the square chucking foot from the roof section, remove all excess wood from the upper spindle/finial and refine the roof and spindle shape. Sand roof section and spindle to 240 grit. Remove the tail center stub from the finial and manually sand the cut-off area.
11. Using the cone center as a center-line reference, pull the piece outward from the chuck to expose more wood and minimize the chucking foot.
12. Finish shaping the bottom spindle/finial. Sand the bottom spindle to 240 grit. Carefully part off the piece from the chuck and manually sand the cut-off area.

Turning the perch:

1. Using a pin chuck, mount a small square blank. Leonard used about 3/8x3/8x6.
2. Turn a tenon in the end of the perch to fit the 3/16 inch hole previously drilled in the body section.
3. Shape the perch as desired, sand and part off.
4. Glue the perch tenon into the 3/16 inch hole.

Alternatives:

- Rather than turning a perch you can use small twigs with interesting natural shapes.
- It might be advantageous to turn the body section first where it is the limiting dimension, then fit the roof section to the body tenon rather than the reverse sequence as described above.

For pictures of this demonstration, please see <http://www.timpwoodturners.org/sep08.html>.