

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 202

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

July 2012

Show and Tell

We have seen so much great work at Show and Tell over the last month, much of it from new club members. This is great as we all learn from the experiences of others.



Alan Day -
Prosthesis and Offset
Bowl



Roger Pye
Dividers and Platter



Graeme MacKay
Bowls and Pods



Mike Oswald
Bowls, Platter and
Bud vase



WOODTURNING NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

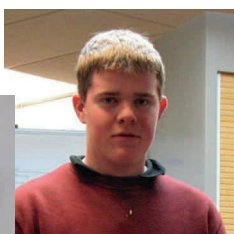
4th-7th October 2012
Wesley College, Paerata
(23km south of Auckland Central)

All the details are now available on the website

<http://www.sawg.org.nz/wordpress/symposium/>

Website includes registration form, program, demonstrator profiles and demonstration outlines

Accommodation at Wesley College will enable all participants to become fully involved in this event and see an international selection of Turners without travelling halfway around the world.



Andrew Johnstone
Bowls and Toys



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Club Meetings:

Wednesday Nights 7:00pm
(Doors open 5:00pm)

Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community Centre,
Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe,
Auckland, New Zealand

Website:

<http://www.sawg.org.nz>

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Terry Scott

Dick Veitch

Photos - Ross Johnson



**South Auckland
Woodturners Guild**
is a member of the
**National Association of
Woodworkers NZ Inc.**
and the
**American Association of
Woodturners**



Our meetings are held Wednesday evening in our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe (see www.sawg.org.nz for directions). The official meeting starts at 7:00pm.

For those wishing to make use of the machinery, do some shopping, check out the library, get some advice, or just socialise the doors open at 5:00pm.

Meetings include General Business, Show & Tell, Reports on Club Events and the demo or activity listed below.

Further information and the most up-to-date calendar can be found on our website at <http://www.sawg.org.nz>

Club Meeting Programme

- 18 Jul Trivet - by Bruce Wood. This is the term project
- 25 Jul Tool Care Workshop - Ken Port
- 1 Aug Off Centre on Centre - Cam Cosford
- 8 Aug Inside/out turning - Colin Wise
- 15 Aug Woodturning with a Difference - Warwick Day
- 22 Aug Hands on Wig Stands
- 29 Aug Giant Mushroom - Ian Outshoorn (NS)
- 5 Sep Pepper Grinder - Darryl Pointon
- 12 Sep Toy Car - Graham Goodwin
- 19 Sep Dick at his best - Dick Veitch
- 26 Sep Miniatures - Graham Bourquin (WA).
Life Members Award, Term project & Table prize presentation.

Upcoming Events

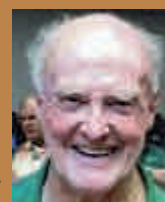
- 31 Aug-9 Sep Franklin Arts Festival
- 7-9 Sep Kawerau Woodfest and National woodskills competition
- 14-16 Sep Timaru Woodturners Club 25th Year Celebrations
- 4-7 Oct SAWG Symposium**
- 26-28 Oct Waitaki Woodturners "Spin Around" Oamaru
- 2-4 Nov Tauranga Woodcrafters Club - Annual Exhibition and Sale

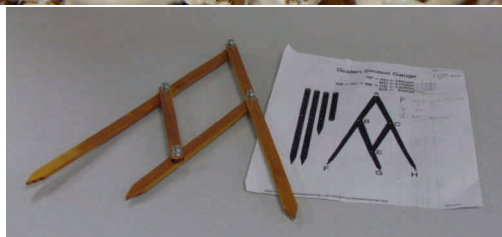
Regularly Updated Calendars of Events can always be viewed at www.sawg.org.nz and www.naw.org.nz (including entry forms)

Macs Maxim

Focus on making things better.

- Mac Duane





Watch out for one of the new toys Dick has for checking how close your form is to the Golden Ratio. Do his vessels match the ratio?

DVD REVIEW

Terry Scott's Manta Ray Vessels

In recent times, KTM, a UK-based producer of woodworking DVDs (mostly woodturning), has been expanding its portfolio of overseas demonstrators. For this video New Zealand turner, Terry Scott, travelled to the UK to demonstrate how he makes his signature Manta Ray vessels.

This particular video has a number of features that will specifically interest Australian turners. Terry talks about New Zealand timbers, many of which have more in common with our native timbers than European species. He also uses locally available brands such as Vicmarc, Woodcut and Teinacool.

While the Manta Ray vessels are very distinctive designs, much of the turning technique demonstrated is equally applicable to turning and texturing bowls generally.

For the video, Terry uses a blank of Beech for the vessel. The timber chosen has to be strong enough to form the thin wings without breaking.

Initially it is secured on a Vicmarc screw chuck. Terry uses a screw chuck rather than a faceplate, because the centralised screw maximises the design options when the vessel is reversed on the lathe.

Having mounted the blank, he then discusses a number of preparation issues. He uses the Woodcut Trugrid Sharpener Jig as well as the Timberly Spacer Guides to quickly sharpen his tools. There is a short discussion on how the jig works for the main types of woodturning tools.

Another part of Terry's preparation is to power sand the top of the blank. He makes the claim that the slightest nick in the toothing will impede the smooth motion of the tool, causing an irregularity in the curve you are trying to cut.

So far as design is concerned, he uses catenary curves for his shapes. These are produced with a length of chain; the procedure is fully explained in the video. He also uses the Fibonacci ratio of 1.618.

Over half of the video deals with the turning of the basic vessel and covers the conventional steps of turning the outer profile, turning the inner profile, and then blending the wings into the finished shape. The exact method of turning and supporting the wings is fully demonstrated.

While Terry always textures his vessels, he stresses that texture will never conceal imperfections — dips or flat spots — in the underlying shape. To repeatedly check that the curves are continuous, he places a flexible length of hotmelt glue across the surface to highlight any defects.

When the bowl is reversed it is held in a Tekonatal chuck. Terry shows the use of a negative rake scraper and the initial blending of the wings is done with King Arthur carbide discs.

Having sanded the vessel, he transfers it to the Woodcut Promount Detailing Unit, still attached to the scroll chuck. The feet on the base are shaped with the carbide disc and finished with a small diameter sanding disc.

With the shape finalised, Terry creates a blackened bakewell pattern on the underside of the bowl. To create this texture, he turns his own spring-shaped pyrography nibs from nichrome wire. He also uses a heavy wattage pyrography unit to minimise the time lost while the heat rebuilds between 'brandings'.

After starting the branding on the vessel, there is a digression while he demonstrates how other effects can be burnt. The video then jumps to a stage where the full underside of the bowl has been branded. After the surface is scrubbed, the vessel is removed from the Promount and held on a beam lag for the remainder of the texturing (ie branding the rim of the bowl).

To highlight the blackened texture, the affected surfaces are dry-brushed with gold-coloured paint. The final finish is three coats of spray-on lacquer.

The DVD ends with a slideshow gallery of Terry's work.

Terry's demonstrating style is easy to watch and understand.

Antipodean Adventures in Woodturning — Manta Ray

by Terry Scott

DVD, 2 discs, 208mins, Zone-free

Our copy from The Mail Order Bookshop, PO Box 514, Hazelbrook NSW 2779.

R.R.P. \$49.95 (plus \$6.50 postage & packaging)

A Burning Ambition — Mastering Pyrography

Vol. 1 by Bob Neill

DVD, 2 discs, 187mins, Zone-free

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Mastering Pyrography

This first video in a series by Bob Neill is intended for novices. It begins with a discussion of the origins and uses of pyrography, often called pokerwork in the past. It then moves on to the materials that can be decorated, the types of burners available and other tools required.

For his work, Bob uses the Peter Child pyrography unit with a wire nib pen. This isn't sold in Australia, but Bob uses Razor-rip nibs with the burner — both the Razor-rip nibs and units are readily available here.

With the burner on, Bob begins with a sample board, demonstrating some of the many effects possible with the pen. He encourages the viewer to do the same, to experiment and practise their technique.

His first projects are a simple flower bud (sketched), Celtic patterns transferred with transfer paper, rose (stamped pattern), rabbits and butterflies (die-cut shapes) and lettering (pokerwork).

The second disc has a (stamped) butterfly on a box, transferred mouse and cheese on a cheese platter, (sketched) flames on a candlestick, transferred wheat sheaves on a shallow bowl, free-hand pebbles on a cylindrical needle case, silhouette pattern on a circular plate, geometric decoration of turned bowls, handwriting and calligraphy, sleek heli commemorative spoon, burning wood veneers for combing and making a leather bookmark.

Bob employs both a pen nib and a spoon-shaped shaver. The projects require only basic skill and are intended to provide a variety of design, transfer and burning options for the novice.

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by Bob Neill

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A Burning Ambition — Mastering Pyrography

Vol. 10 by Bob Neill

RULES OF A CREATOR'S LIFE

2011/12 EDITION

1. DO MORE THAN WHAT YOU'RE TOLD TO DO.
2. TRY NEW THINGS.
3. TEACH OTHERS ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW.
4. MAKE **WORK INTO PLAY**.
5. TAKE BREAKS.
6. WORK WHEN OTHERS ARE RESTING.
7. ALWAYS BE CREATING.
8. MAKE YOUR OWN INSPIRATION.
9. LOVE WHAT YOU DO, OR LEAVE.

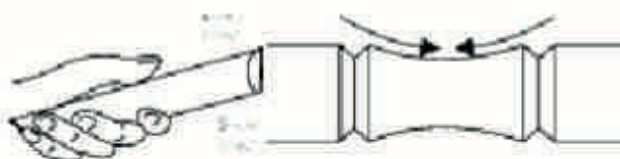
VIA CREATIVESOMETHING.NET



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

Original artwork and text by George Flavell

Now in its sixth edition with 58 pages of clear line drawings and text specifically aimed at the learner turner. Safety, tools, wood gathering, spindle work, bowls, hollow forms, and more.



72 Australian Woodworker July/August 12

Terry's DVD was reviewed in the July/August edition of the Australian Woodworker.

Mini Lathes- FREE Loans

The Club has mini lathes available for use by members, at no cost, in their home workshops, club events or in the clubrooms.

They come ready to go (just plug & play) complete with a Nova chuck and a set of tools. Usually they are available for two weeks, but depending on demand, extra time can be arranged. Turning blanks and a variety of finishing materials are available for purchase at the club shop.

Enquiries to:
Mac Duane, Tom Pearson
or a Committee member.



Club Night Action

Wednesday 6 June

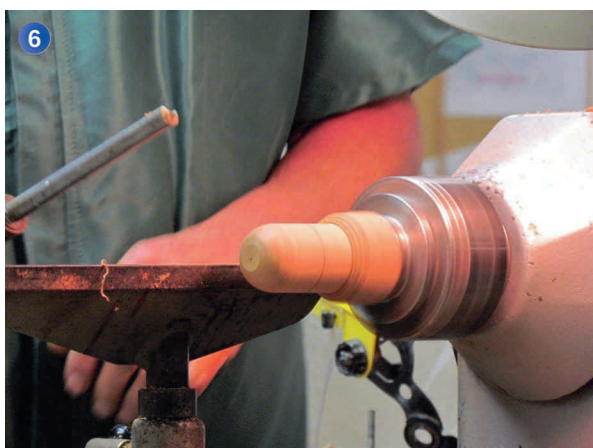
Back to Basics

Demonstrator: Lindsay Amies

For this demo Lindsay chose a great little exercise in woodturning that used a number of spindle turning skills.

The first project was a Biboquet, or what we know as a ball and cup. One of the interesting things you notice if you look this word up on Google is that there are more pictures of a variant game called Ring and Pin.

Rather than write a long explanation on how to do this, you can follow the pictures of Lindsay making one and look up the project sheet on our website.



Club Night Action

Wednesday 13 June

Off Centre Wig Stand Spindles

Demonstrator: Bruce Wood

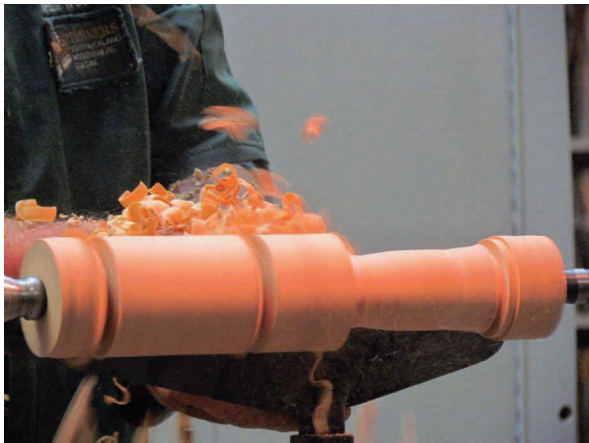
Ball Centre.

Bruce started with a blank measuring 65x48x255mm long.

On the center line the edges were taken off and the center where the ball (final diameter 44mm) is to go is marked.

Size the spindle with the parting tool and shape either side (see plan over page), leaving enough meat on the ends to allow the steb centre to bite when using the 9mm offset.

Continue to shape each end leaving a block in the middle for the ball.



When the ends are finished and sanded remount the piece to the 9mm offset position and reduce the middle piece to 44mm square. White paper on the bed of the lathe helps you to see the outline of the ghosting.



Mark the centreline of the ball. Shape the sides of the ball with a skew or fine spindle gouge making sure that you do not cut off the line. Care must be taken not to cut too far into the area where the ball joins the stem, sand the ball.

Replace on centre to tidy and finish the stem.

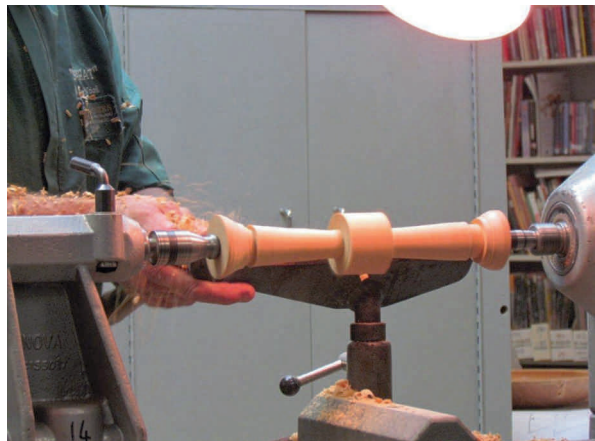
Part off leaving suitable tenon for the top and bottom of the wig stand.



Moon Centre

Blank is 60x48x255mm.

Proceed as before but turn the centre convex on the centre line of the spindle marking the centre line as before at 44mm diameter.



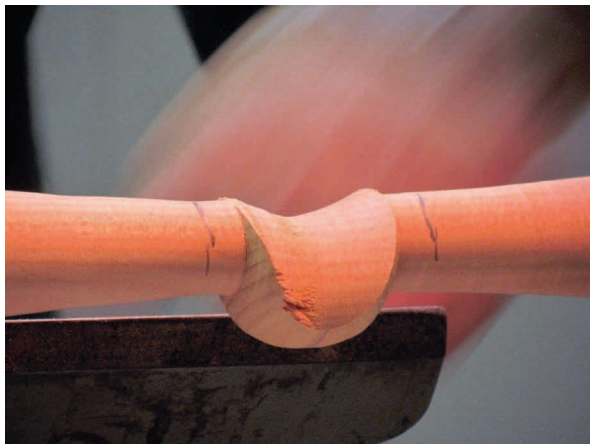
This piece has a larger offset so make sure enough meat is left for the steb centre to bite.



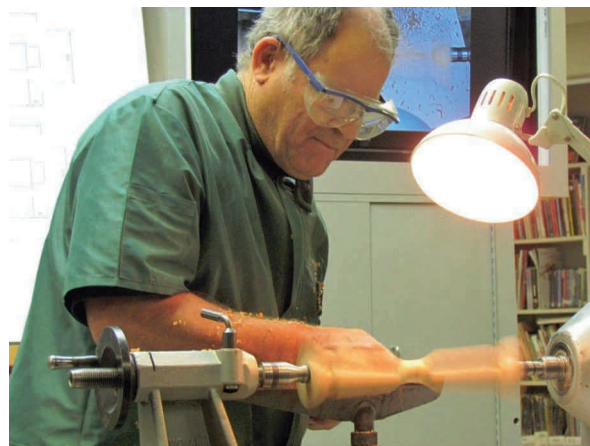
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Club Night Action

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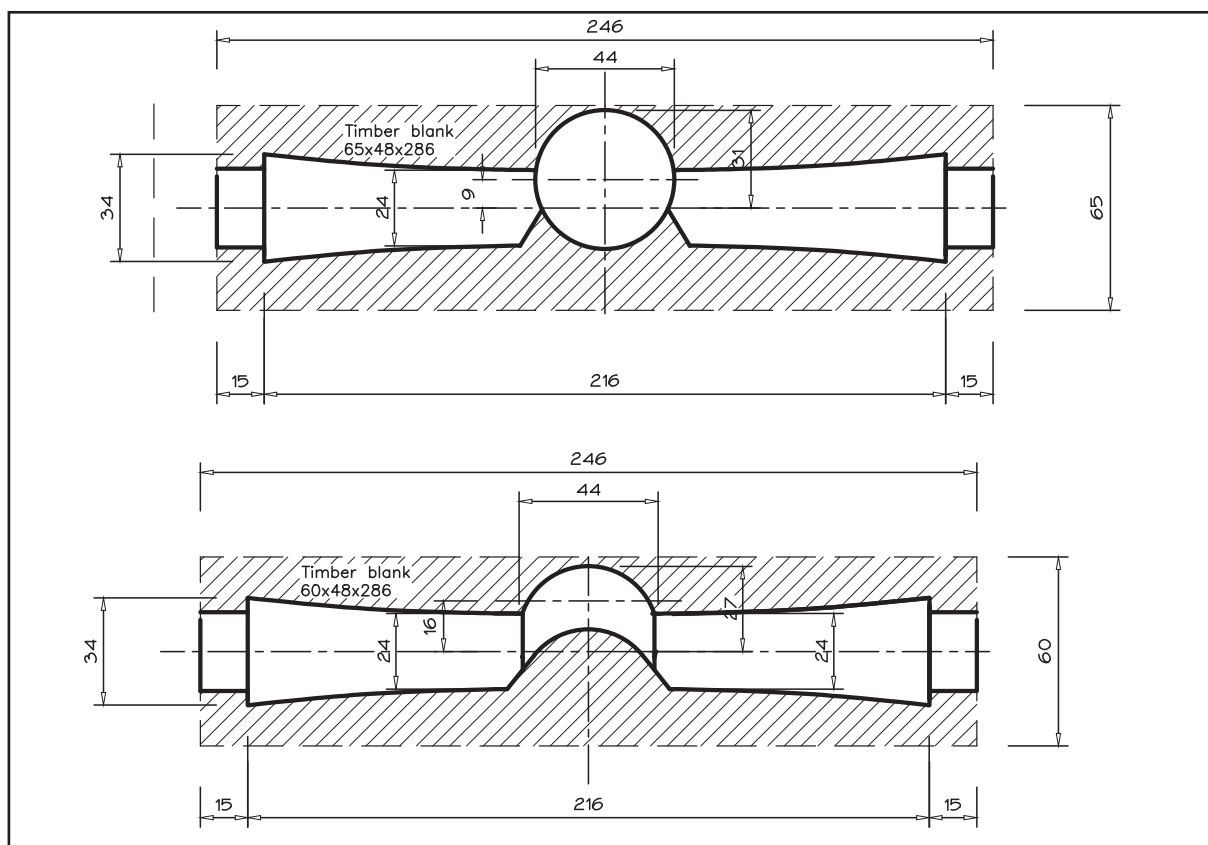
Remount spindle at 16mm offset to cut the lower curve with a 54mm diameter.



Finish as before.

Bruce has provided a comprehensive drawing of the 2 pieces.

Report by Bill Alden



Wednesday 20 June

Slide Show of trip to USA - Dick Veitch

We were given an insight of Dick's travels to the USA.

Dick started the night talking about the primary reason for his trip. Which was the annual survey of Red Knots as they migrate through Delaware Bay, New Jersey.

The population of these birds had

significantly declined due to the Horseshoe Crab harvest depleting the food supply. With controls put on the harvest of the crabs, the Red Knot numbers are starting to recover.

As with any trip of a Woodturner to another part of the world, Dick took the opportunity to also take a number of woodturning related excursions when not watching birds.

Dick has written some reports of his travels, the first of which is included in this issue.



Club Night Action

Wednesday 27 June

Pen Pals

Demonstrators: Phread Thurston and Bruce Wood

Those of us who are still into using ball-point pens (instead of digital) were shown how to shape a piece of wood to hold a ball-pen insert.

Our demonstrators, Phread Thurston and Bruce Wood, interestingly, had different ways to achieve the same result.

The use of the “skew” was important and well demonstrated, especially by Phread, who took extra time to explain the intricacies of using such a tool, often treated with extra care and respect by the “new-chums” in our Club. Of course we are talking mainly about “spindle turning” and hence the application to “pen” making. For me, the use of a “skew” as a “planing” tool looked almost “death-defying” and I have yet to experiment in this region. His emphasis is firstly on the rectangular shape of the chisel body itself, and next, the actual ground edge is perfectly straight along the cutting face. This is in direct contrast to how the skew chisels are presented at the Club. It’s your choice.

Nevertheless Phread, assured us all that if you are committed and become a part of your woodturning equipment you will “dance to the tune of your lathe”; as first, you hear the rub of the heel of your chisel, and then the rub of the bevel, and finally, you watch “the dust of the shavings that rise from your work”.

Back to the planing bit, I did notice that the “tool rest” is positioned well above centre of the spindle so that the planing is carried out along the top edge of the spindle rather than on the centre face where ordinary cutting is normally carried out.

Phread made use of the morse-taper inside the lathe drive shaft to “drive” his pen spindle after he had “roughed” it into shape using a normal driving centre to begin with. He actually cut what he thought was a “best-fit” morse-taper at the tail stock end and then reversed the wooden spindle to lock it unsupported and “on-centre” inside the main shaft of the lathe.

Both demonstrators then used hand-held 3.5mm diameter, long twist-drills, to bore a hole up the centre of the pen. The tail-stock was drawn up close enough to check that the hand-held drill remained “on-centre” for this operation. This hole was strengthened for the use of the tail-stock by placing an aluminium pop-rivet (without the centre pull-pin) inside the ball point end of the pen. This was removed before inserting a ball-pen refill when the holder itself was finished.

So, the shape and decorations that followed became a matter of personal choice. Hot wire burnishing for Phread; and for Bruce, a more elaborate finial with the use of offset-turning to give the impression of a “female” form at the top end of his pen.

Report by Roger Pye



A Stopover in Louisville

By Dick Veitch

There are at least five places with the name of Louisville in the United States. This story is about Louisville, Kentucky, home of the Louisville Sluggers, Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Bourbon, and much more. I was not there for any of those things.

I first visited this Louisville in 2006 for the American Association of Woodturners Symposium. My hosts for that visit were Parker and Sandy Curtis, and a pleasant stay it was too. The trip this time round started with an invitation to do a full day demo for Louisville Area Woodturners, but that fell through and left me with just a visit to stay again with Parker and Sandy and do an evening demo for their woodturning club.

Parker met my flight in a slightly jaded state - turns out he had not long had a knee replacement and had spent the day at a charity event standing at the lathe making spinning tops for the kids. Keen woodturners do these silly things.

Back at his house I saw that he could no longer get a car into his shed - who can share that happening? His love of turning wood was evident with boxes of turned, but unfinished, bowls. Finishing is clearly somewhere lower in priority! But he must do it some time for he spoke of selling his work at a number of locations.

My plan for the evening demo was to make a tube. To prepare for that I thought I could make Parker and Sandy a set of three tubes. For that to happen I needed wet wood, a skew (not found in Parker's workshop) and a spindle roughing gouge (also not found in this bowl turners workshop). Out in the countryside we went. Nice rolling countryside with woods and farmed areas. Robin had this cherry log "not long down" and cut us some wheels. I think "not long" may have included a fair bit of the previous freezing (drying) winter. Then a call at the local toolaholic's workshop, where Marvin had just the chisels I needed.

Back to the workshop, the first job was to make a mandrel. Here we found that the electronic variable speed controller on the lathe was not working well. No problem, Parker was happy to sit at the head end and repeatedly push the go button. I made the mandrel. Then wended my way in to his bandsaw and cut the tube wood. All the time wondering whether to persist with the lathe problems or reduce my planned output to one tube. The lathe did not improve but I got one tube made.

Ok, change of plan. With the lathe not working I will make just one sample tube. "Oh," says Parker "I have a spare lathe controller box in the basement." Within the hour the replacement box was installed, the lathe was happy and the woodturning plans proceeded. That basement, and all it contained, is another story.

Tuesday evening off to the club meeting place - a large room in a school. Chairs and tables were dragged out of storage. A nice big Oneway lathe was wheeled out and parked in the demo spot. I picked up the power lead to plug it in - oops, no plug on the end!

The gathering crowd, their Show and Tell table, their raffle, and the whole progress of the evening, was very much like home - just that they treat the English language differently! My demo went without incident and all were happy.

With one more day of my Louisville stay remaining I asked if we could see the Toyota manufacturing plant that someone had been discussing. Sure, we will pop over there tomorrow. It turned out to be more than an hours drive away but truly worth the trip.

We saw the manufacturing process from rolls of sheet steel coming in the door to cars going out the other end. Just two models were being made (with variations of each), 20 hours to make a car, and 2000 a day were leaving the plant.

Now back to woodturning. I flew on to the American Association of Woodturners Symposium at San Jose, California.

(Continued in Next Months Issue of Turning Talk)



Parker Curtis at Lathe



Marvin the Toolaholic's Shed



Louisville Woodturners



Louisville Woodturners - Show & Tell

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