

Meeting Notes – October 22, 2009
Alamo Woodturners Association (AWA) <http://alamoturners.com>

Business:

AWA President, Robert Schoenert, called the meeting to order and asked for a Treasurer's report. C. D. Barrington, AWA Treasurer, reported deposits of \$131.00 and expenses of \$27.97, giving an ending balance of \$2,725.13.

Announcements:

Majestic Ranch Arts Foundation (MRAF): <http://www.mraf.org/>

Bob Edwards reviewed the background for this event and emphasized that it is an hands-on event that is open to everyone at no charge and is an excellent opportunity to introduce prospective turners, learn new techniques, solve problems and share ideas. This year it is scheduled for November 14 to allow ample time to apply ideas and create Christmas gifts. Seven AWA members have already volunteered to be "unofficial" demonstrators and will be available to answer questions and demonstrate techniques.

NOTE: This Saturday session will replace the regular November and December AWA meetings.

MRAF has six Powermatic lathes with chucks and a very basic set of tools. Wood will be provided in the form of logs. They are also providing sodas and water for the event.

You are encouraged to bring your own tools and prepared wood for any project you want to pursue as well as a "Brown-Bag Lunch". In addition to the sodas and water the AWA club is supplying coffee and pastries for the morning.

SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT): <http://www.swaturners.org/>

Robert Schoenert reported on the symposium held this year on October 16-18, 2009, in Wichita Falls. He described several sessions he attended and pointed out that there was one more person in attendance this year than attended last year, HIM. He believes the next SWAT event will be in Waco on July or October.

Woodcraft: <http://www.woodcraft.com/>

Robert pointed out that our meeting room and tools used during demonstrations are donated by Woodcraft. They also offer a 10% discount for all turning related items purchased on meeting nights, so we should take advantage of their offer and patronize the store.

American Association of Woodturners: <http://www.woodturner.org/>

All members of AWA are encouraged to become a member of AAW because of the many benefits that membership provides. The magazine alone is worth the cost of membership.

Show-N-Tell:

Presenter	Item	Wood
Robert Schoenert	Open Vessel and Vase	Hackberry
	Natural edge open vessel	Cedar Elm
	Bowl	Mesquite
Kirk Acosta	Double Dyed Bowl (Dyed black, sanded, then dyed red)	Birds-eye maple
Frank Parker	Burl Bowl	Redwood

Bring-Back-Auction:

Provider	Item	Recipient
Frank Parker	Paper-clip holder from “Unknown wood” from a previous Bring-Back drawing	Kurt Acosta
Mark Kunnermann	Mesquite log, approx 12’ X 24”	Robert Schoenert
Choice Woods via Robert Schoenert	Ambrosia maple bowl blank	Gordon DeAngelo
Robert Schoenert	Sycamour Blank	Robert Schoenert
	Sycamour Blank	Robert Schoenert
	Sycamour Blank	Kurt Acosta

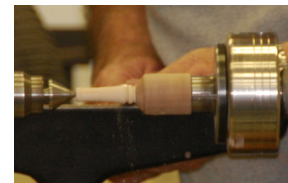
Demonstration:

Frank Parker: – *Bird houses, bird house earrings and antler pill boxes*

Bird Houses: Frank prepares blanks for several projects by rounding both top and bottom sections to the desired diameters. He rounds the bottom sections to 1 ⅛ to 1 ¼ inch, truing and wrapping with blue tape to protect the stock from the chuck jaws. Then he drills a hole in the top end to affix the stock for a finial. A round of stock for the finial is glued into this hole using CA glue and perhaps an accelerant. Setting this aside, he rounds and trues the top section leaving a tenon on one end. Holding the stock by the tenon, he drills a shallow hole and trims it to go over the bottom section.

When thoroughly dry, he chucks the bottom section stock by the finial end and drills a bird entry hole approximately ¼ inch, and a ⅛ inch hole for the perch, which is offset a bit from the entry hole. He makes the perches from standard ⅛ inch dowels. (Both of these holes are bored first to prevent problems that would probably occur if they were bored after the main cavity was done.) Next he bores a hole with a 1 inch forsnor bit for the main cavity.

Frank then re-chucks the bottom by the body and turns the bottom end of the house, the transition to the finial base and out to the finial tip. He starts rounding the top of the house just past the interior main cavity to avoid the unexpected production of two pieces.



Chucked by the tenon, Frank undercuts and finish sands the

“eave” section of the house. He also applies his finish at this time because it would be more



difficult to apply after it is glued to the body. He then chucks a round waste piece of stock that matches the body hole and steadies with the tailstock against the tenon. He shapes and finishes the top with “Woodturners” finish buffed out with a wax-rag. Finally, he bores a hole for the eyelet using a brad nail held by vice-grip pliers. Glue the top and bottom sections, insert the eyelet and it is ready to hang. He often

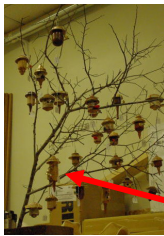
finishes by gluing small birds, (purchased in the doll house section at Hobby Lobby) to the perches.

Bird House Earrings: The procedure is much the same as above except on a much smaller scale. His earring birdhouse bodies are generally either ½ or ⅜ inch in diameter. The bottoms are turned from one piece of stock that has been stepped down for the finial. Again, he drills the bird entrance hole first and omits the perch on these items. I believe he uses a ¼ inch bit for the inside cavity of the body. Frank’s wife reports that if a wearer of these ornaments holds her head at the proper orientation to the prevailing breeze, a tone can be generated. True “Music in the Air”.



Antler Pill Boxes: Frank uses a basic kit for the brass tube and ends and uses two tubes to produce longer holders. (He reported that some of his “older” friends required a larger capacity pill storage box due to the quantity they use.) He uses a drill press to drill a 9/16 inch hole for the tube(s). The process is much the same as making pens as he uses a properly sized mandrill to turn/finish the outside. The ends can be pressed on using either a drill press or lathe depending on your equipment and preferences. One must drill slowly as the antler tends to gum-up the bit and it can produce an odor that is offensive to some. Frank prefers to use either the thick CA glue or Gorilla glue to affix the tube(s). The gorilla glue will expand and fill any natural voids that may be present outside the tube(s). He pointed out that the outside of the antler is very hard and polishes much like ivory. He smoothes the outside but tries to leave some of the depressions that help define the material and finishes with his standard – “Woodturners” finish and a wax-rag.

Frank fielded questions and unveiled his “Bird House” display tree which contained numerous small birdhouses of different configurations. He also showed a rack of birdhouse earrings and several antler pill boxes.



Closing:

Robert reminded us that there will be no meetings in November and December at our regular meeting time due to the dates proximity to the holidays. Our next AWA-sponsored meeting is at the Majestic Ranch Arts Foundation location on November 14. This is a Hands-on event that is free and runs from 9 am till 4 pm.

DO NOT MISS THIS MEETING! !

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

Photos by Bob Edwards and C.D. Barrington