

Meeting Notes of the Alamo Woodturners Association (AWA)
September 24, 2009

AWA President, Robert Schoenert, called the meeting to order and asked for a Treasurers report. C. D. Barrington, AWA Treasurer, reported deposits of \$50.00 and expenses of \$211.68, giving an ending balance of \$2,656.10. Expenses include a \$200.00 honorarium to George Hatfield for his demonstration in August. Robert encouraged everyone to become a member of AAW and passed a magazine to illustrate the articles and ideas that are common in each issue. He again reminded everyone of the contributions by Woodcraft Supply to AWA, by supporting our monthly meetings with a room and equipment, and encouraged us to take advantage of the 10% discount offered each meeting night on turning-related items. He also reminded members to use the AWA website, <http://alamoturners.com>, especially the place to list unneeded items, and to get current on membership dues if not already paid. Robert, Kirk Acosta and Ron Cochran brought this evening's cookie trays and he asked for volunteers for the next meeting. Finally, Robert reported that George Hatfield told him that he had learned how to align the drive center and tailstock by adjusting the lathe legs. He heard this technique from a meeting attendee at his AWA demonstration in August.

Show-N-Tell:

Robert Schoenert showed a Hackberry bowl.

Kirk Acosta showed two mesquite, hollow-vessels with voids. Both came from the same piece of stock but showed different profiles.

Peter Hawkins showed four samples of thin-walled vessels, one with what appeared to be more voids than stock, and was very fragile.

Alan Trout showed a pecan open vessel with a paduk finial. Both were finished with a coat of polished CA glue.

Frank Parker showed his Ambrosia Maple bowl finished with tongue-oil that contained a set of cosmetic brushes. The brush components were obtained from "Arizona Silhouettes" and had flowers embedded in resin. These were wet-sanded with white mineral oil.

Ron Cochran showed his mesquite cookie plate.

Bring-Back-Raffle:

Alan Trout brought two Macassar Ebony pen blanks, aka Indian Ebony, which were drawn by Tony McComas and Robert Schoenert.

Kirk Acosta brought a Paduk and Popular cookie platter which was drawn by Mark Kunnemann.

Robert Schoenert furnished four Hackberry turning blanks which were drawn by Larry Crumley, Alan Trout, Frank Parker and Keith Delong.

AWA provided a 2 x 2 x 9 inch Bacote turning blank and the AAW magazine displayed earlier. George Taylor drew the Bacote blank and Tony McCombs drew the magazine.

Frank Parker recommended we visit www.yoyospin.com which features many tutorials and also has a reference to Arizona Silhouettes, which he referred to earlier.

(Editors Note: You gotta look at the last image on the yoyospin home page.)

Demonstration: Peter Hawkins: Thin Walled Vessels.

Peter chose the Jamison Hollowing System for deep hollowing after evaluating several other systems. He likes the rigidity of the Jamison system because he feels that the units with more joints are more susceptible to vibration. He has done 18" to 20" deep hollowing with the Jamison system with no problems.

He uses a shop-made, one-inch diameter boring bar and a steady rest to help reduce vibration. He showed a heavy-duty steady rest he uses to support heavier stock. San Tex cutting Tools, at 102 Rhapsody Dr., was mentioned as a good source for tool steel.

Peter offered a few tips before beginning his demonstration. Be sure to wax all contacting surfaces of the Jamison system as well as the tool rest. Stop frequently to remove debris to insure a good view of the cutting area. He replaced the laser supplied with the Jamison system with a more robust unit. He uses a specialized "O" ring, castrating band, to hold the switch in the "on" position. When properly set-up, this laser pointer indicates when the cut reaches the pre-determined thickness. It "falls-off" the surface (no longer shines on the form surface) when the pre-set thickness is reached. Peter sets-up a mirror on a stand to allow him to see the laser point on the downhill/backside of the form and still be able to watch the opening and cutting area inside the vessel.

Peter works into the form in two to two and one half inch sections and almost finishes each section before proceeding deeper. Because of the thin wall thickness, it is extremely difficult to come back to the open end to work if deeper hollowing sections are used. The thinner wood will distort and introduce uneven surfaces. He uses fairly aggressive cuts on the preliminary hogging out of each section, then switches to a Tantung Teardrop Scraper for finishing before proceeding to the next section. He constantly changes bits and laser settings as he progresses through the various stages.

Wood with voids can produce problems as you will get deflections and it may be a challenge to hold the tool steady as it cuts air instead of wood. Wood deflection can be lessened by wrapping around the form with masking tape over the void area to help support the wood next to the void. In extreme cases pallet wrapping membrane can be used over the masking tape for additional support. Blue tape is best because it leaves the least residue. Peter recommended re-rolling the masking tape as it is removed from the form to: (1) avoid a sticky, blue ball, and (2) to be able to reuse the tape.

Peter believes one of the most difficult and very important tasks is to properly remove the nib at the very bottom of the form. A really flat and smooth bottom can greatly impact the value/price of the object. For sanding inside his hollow forms, Peter has constructed "double-ended" sanding dowels with different grits of sandpaper attached. He uses pieces of cushion mats, approximately 3/8 inch thick, cut into sections and glued around the ends of a dowel using a glue named "Goop". The dowels appeared to be about 24 inches long. Each end is then shaped to various profiles that would match the interior contours and appeared to be about one to one and a half inches in diameter by about two to three inches long. He uses these very carefully to avoid poking too deeply into a void. To do so would produce unspecified and probably regrettable results.

Peter finishes his forms with one coat of a 50/50 mixture of tung oil and lacquer, and uses salad bowl oil for final coats. He holds the open end with a tennis ball pressed in by the tailstock. He parts-off the base, trims the final nub with a sharp chisel, sands and finishes the bottom.

Robert reminded us that the next meeting would be held on October 22nd and will feature a demonstration of "bird houses, earrings and antler boxes by Frank Parker.

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