



First Cuts

The Monthly Newsletter of the First State Woodturners



January, 2008

Visiting Demonstrator

For the February meeting, we were privileged to have Judy Ditmer as a visiting turner.



Judy is a stickler for wearing face shields and wearing breathing protection. She believes it is important to wear a dust mask with a face shield, or something like the Air-Mate 3 for protection. Judy also wears an apron, with a home-made cloth hood for added dust protection.

Judy designs her bowls on the lathe. She likes bowls, and feels they are a statement for proportions. She looks at bowls as three distinct parts; rim, body, and the foot. Before starting to turn, Judy smooths the tool rest, and cleans and waxes the bed ways. Judy also has a home-made gauge to get the best size tenon that will fit her chuck, when she is using a chuck.

Judy uses a waste block most of the time. She puts the bowl blank between centers, and shapes the outside complete, leaving a small tenon on the bottom to center the bowl on a waste block. The bowl is glued to the waste block. The waste block had been mounted on a face-plate, and she can now turn the inside of the bowl. To finish the bottom of her bowls, she has a series of ring-chucks. This is basically a piece of MDF or plywood on a face-plate. She then has a piece of MDF, or plywood in a ring that is laid on the piece that is on the face-plate, and drilled in three equidistant places. The bowl is placed with the rim against the MDF, and the ring is slipped over the bottom of the bowl.



Bolts are placed in the three holes, with the nuts on the back side of the face-plate. This will hold the bowl while the bottom is finished. Judy started turning bowls this way, because she did not have a four jawed chuck at this time. It worked so well, that she still uses this method.

Judy uses two part bleach for some of her work. She uses Liming Wax after the bleach, and before the last wax finish. Be careful to keep the bleach where you want it. Judy uses one small artist's brush for the bleach, and one for the oil and wax finish.

She uses a swept-back grind on her bowl gouges, rather than the traditional grind. Wood is like a bundle of straws, Judy explains. Once the wood is round, you can decide on the bowl shape. When you are turning the outside, cut from the small, or bottom to the top or large. This means the fibers are supported, and will cut clean. When you turn the inside, if you cut from large to small the fibers are supported. When roughing the bowl, the gouge is held horizontal. Once the bowl is near the correct shape, the handle is dropped. For the finish cuts, the lathe speed is increased some, and the gouge is moved slower. For a real nice finish, drop the handle even more, and roll the gouge until you start getting real fine shavings. Always sharpen the gouge on the grinder for the last cut.

Judy was informative, and entertaining. Her demo was very well prepared, and was enjoyed by all attending. Great job Judy, come back again some time.

Member Masterpieces

Although we had some member pieces to show, we did not discuss them as time was limited by Judy's presentation. March meeting we are looking for members to bring in examples of their work as well as any of the AAW challenge pieces.

Welcome

Two new members join us this month:

Leonard Cole from Millsboro, DE
Larry Giordano from Wilmington, DE



Treasure's Report

Starting balance Feb. 13, 2008	\$1,477.28
Deposit, membership and 50/50	\$212.00
Ck. 522 J. Bacino, Mic. & speaker system	209.95
Ck. 523 Judy Ditmer demo/Jeff Turi	\$250.00
Ck. 524 Judy Ditmer travel	\$32.00
Balance	\$1,197.33

Coming Events

Our next meeting is **March 5, 2008** 7pm to 9pm at the Woodcraft Store

Future Meeting Dates

April 2, 2008

May 7, 2008

June 4, 2008

Topics are TBD at this time.

March 22, 2008

April 19, 2008

May 19, 2008

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