



# First Cuts



The Monthly Newsletter of the First State Woodturners

April, 2008

## Presidents Message

*By Jeff Turi*

Club - The goal line is near! People have done a great job preparing Apothecary items and the organizing committee has made a terrific display case. Since we are in the home stretch, I would like to encourage everyone to complete their final projects. It's sometimes tough to get behind the lathe when it's sunny outside. Well, the weather will be cold and rainy this next weekend so it's the perfect time to complete your items and to bring them in the next meeting on May, 7th. Even if you can't finish the piece, feel free to bring it in to get advice on how to finish it.

On another subject, the AAW Directory just came out and our whole state was dropped from the listing! I sent a note to the organizing committee and they will be correcting their records (back to how it's been for years) to show that the First State Woodturners are a Delaware club.

### Note

We will be bring some boxes and wrapping paper to collect finished projects. Also Walt Coker has completed the display case. We are looking for someone to paint the case. We believe milk paint would provide the most authentic look. Let us know if you are willing.

## Program

We were very fortunate to have as a guest for the April meeting Mike Kehs a professional turner from nearby Quakertown, Bucks County, PA. Mike has a varied background having been a stone mason from many years.



In his own words:

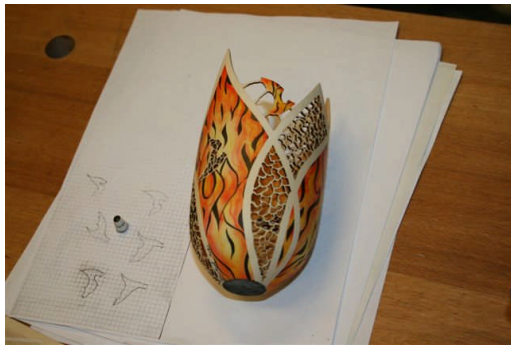
“My early years in Dad's shop spurred an interest in woodworking that lasts to this day. We would make beautiful bird houses together. The smell of cutting walnut still takes me back to that wonderful time. I worked as a stone mason for many years. This experience taught me to look for balance in the total piece, and a work ethic to get the job done. I left my masonry job of 28 years to pursue my lifelong dream of working wood fulltime. I build custom furniture and artistic wood turning and carving. Teaching wood carving and wood turning in my studio is a very satisfying part of my business.

Recently I have been exploring caves. This has been an avid pursuit which spills over into my artwork, resulting in critical acclaim. These pieces are in collections from coast to coast (Washington State to New York)".

Recently Mike has starting working with thin wall pierced turnings. In pursuit of that interest, he trained with Binh Pho at his Chicago studio.

<http://www.angelfire.com/il2/binhpho/index.html>

Mike began his demonstration by explaining how he seaches for designs and images which appeal to the idea he has for a project.



In the case of the demonstration piece he brought along he was interested in bats.

He then uses a copier or laser jet printer to transfer the image to plan paper. He transfers the image to artist paper that he can trim to either a positive or negative image. The final image can be stuck to the object so it can be either traced or airbrushed.

In the first part the demonstration, Mike took a bat image and placed on a thin piece of wood and then used a high speed tool to pierce throught the wood. He formed random patterns around the image to form the border. He also pierced the middle of the image to trace the border from inside.

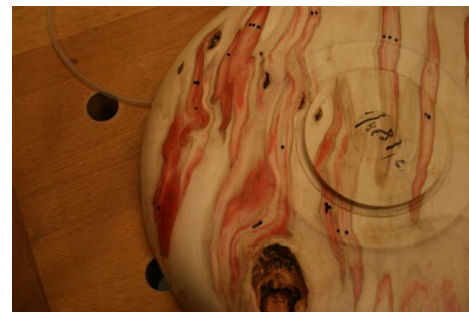
The high speed tool he used was purchased from Binh Pho. He has them listed on his web site.

Mike moved on to his airbrushing techniques. He showed us the airbrush he uses which was also purchased from Binh Pho. The reason he prefers this particular airbrush was the fine control of air and paint. A number of practice pieces he brought were examples of how he practiced. Also these examples were used to develop an idea before applying it to the finished project. One idea he was trying to achieve was the look of water with bubbles rising.

He then demonstrated using a mask to cover a particular area or shape.



Lastly he showed us how he was able to airbrush the spalting in a box elder to match to original color so it would never lose its appeal.



Mike also brought along a number of thin wall vessels. They had taken on unusual shapes during the drying process and he was excited to show the unusual way they had stabilized.





Much of Mike's work is on display in the gallery on his website.

<http://www.michaelkehswoodworks.com/>

Mike also passed around a copy of the AAW magazine featuring a hollow sphere he has decorated.

Thanks again to Mike Kehs



### Treasure's Report

Starting Balance April 2, 2008	\$1,423.33
Ck 525 demo Mike Kehs	\$250.00
Ck. 526 Web Page Marylou W.	95.88
Deposit 2 paid members and 36.00 from 50/50	\$86.00
Balance as of April 3	\$1,163.45



If you are looking to improve your skills or would like to read up on some techniques, try our library. Gerry Meekins will be glad to help with any of our library materials. If you have any previously loans, help out someone else and bring it in when you come to the next meeting.



Our next meeting is **May 7th**. 7pm to 9pm at the Woodcraft Store

#### Future Meeting Dates

May 7, 2008

June 3, 2008

July 2, 2008

Topics are TBD at this time.

#### AAW Challenge Meetings

April 19, 2008

(4/19 Mtg to be held at 6pm 5/7)

May 24, 2008

1 PM Woodcraft Store

AAW Symposium – Richmond

June 20 – 22, 2008