



www.oceanwoodturners.com

A Chapter of



www.woodturner.org

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Newsletter and Minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting



Sawdust & Shavings:

Wayne Collins

It was great to see such active participation from the membership this last meeting, with our discussion on the Club's future. Hopefully we can look forward to doing things a little differently from now on; with our meeting breaks and the events we're trying to plan.

We're trying to get this gallery event kicked off right and hopefully we can make it a successful annual event. We need Club members to step up and help out with it.

I'm very happy to see the comments and increased involvement. Let's keep it going!

Wayne

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March Meeting

March 19, 2015, 7:00 PM

Keeseh Studio

42 Rice St., Providence, RI 02907

ACKpack Gallery Event

Reception: April 10, 2015, 5-8pm

Demo & Sales: April 11, 2015, 9am - 1pm

Hope Artiste Village

1005 Main Street #8229-A, Pawtucket, RI

Ray Lanham

Demo: April 16th meeting

Class: Saturday. April 18, 2015, Keeseh

- Class tuition & times TBA

Secretary's Notes

Garet Holcomb

Spring is coming! Not much attendance at the Feb meeting due to the crazy weather, but we're definitely looking forward to seeing more of your friendly faces as spring comes calling. We're grateful for those who were able to make it out.

We've got a lot going on so please take the time to read the newsletter and let us know if you have any questions.

Dues are due!

Treasurer's Report

Bob Hopkins

Current club balance is **\$1196.28**. Recently paid member dues came to \$405, and recent bills included \$80 for meeting space fees and \$130 for website hosting.

***Dues:** Club dues are \$25 annually. For members who wish to have a printed Newsletter mailed to them monthly, there is an annual charge of \$5 to cover postage, payable with club dues.*

All payments should be mailed to:

**Bob Hopkins
48 Tilbury Drive,
Bristol, RI 02809**

Meeting Minutes – Old Business

Wayne opened the meeting with 13 members and two visitors present

Visitors – Justin from Lincoln, RI is a URI engineering student who heard about us from George Lough.

AAW – The Club has paid the AAW membership fees for two Club board members. This was approved previously, and if there are any questions about this or other financial matters, please contact Bob or Wayne.

Club Library –Gail is still seeking ideas for expanding the Club library. If you have any ideas for Club library materials; magazines, books, videos, etc., please let Gail or a Club officer know.

Lincoln Park Comet wood – Wayne still has several pieces of the Lincoln Park coaster wood for members who want to participate. For every piece you turn and present to the Club, you can keep a piece of the historic wood for your own projects. The pieces are being sold for the benefit of the Greater New Bedford Boys and Girls Club and other charities. Contact Wayne if you'd like to participate.

North Woods – Five of the eight North Woods maple pieces have been turned by Club members. The wood was donated by North Woods in Oregon, and turned pieces are to be sold for Club benefit. There are still a few pieces left, so please contact Wayne if you'd like to participate.

Ray Lanham – Ray isn't able to stay to do demos for other clubs, so it'll just be ours. He'll give a demonstration for the Club at the April 16th meeting, and a class on Saturday the 18th at Keeseh. More details forthcoming as plans firm up. We'll be inviting local clubs to attend our meeting as guests and sign up for the Saturday class.

Meeting Minutes – New Business

Demonstrations – Jim Silva couldn't make it to the meeting, but will return for the March meeting to do his hollow turning demo on a mini-lathe.

Gallery at Gail's Studio – The dates for the reception/demo at Gail's ACKpack studio have been firmed up. The reception is Friday, April 10th from 5–8pm, the gallery event is Saturday, April 11th, 2015, at Gail's studio. See the article in this newsletter for more detail. **We need volunteers for this!**

Shirts – Craig V. mentioned that he has contact with an embroiderer that might be able to do Club logo shirts for us to wear at events. No action was taken at the meeting.

Show and Tell



Rich Lemieux



Three Maple vessels. The left piece has three coats of salad bowl finish, the center has two. The right piece is color-dyed and finished in tung oil.



Ed Keenan

Segmented vessel of Oak, with Wenge and Monkey Wood features.

Right is Ed's North Woods donation, in Maple and Padauk

ACKpack Gallery Event



Ocean Woodturners will host a gallery event at Gail Connolly's ACKpack Basket Studio, located at Hope Artiste Village in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Club members and family are invited to the reception Friday evening, April 10th from 5 - 8pm at Gail's studio to interact with each other and with other Hope Artiste tenants, many of whom are themselves artists and craftspeople. The next day, Saturday April 11th, from 9am - 1pm will be an exhibit and sales period, open to the public, during the weekly Farmer's Market held at Hope Artiste. This market draws hundreds of area residents and since Gail's studio is right on the main corridor, we're sure to get plenty of foot traffic.

Members are welcome to present their own work for sale to the public. We ask that 10% of any sales you make be turned to the Club to defray costs and allow the Club to continue with its mission. Please bring any pieces you'd like to sell, tagged with your contact information, to the March 19th meeting at Keeseh, or to Gail's studio no later than Saturday, April 4th. All items must be marked with your name and the sale price.

While we aren't able to do a live demo during the exhibit period, we'll be setting up a lathe and tools to show off and would like to members to provide photos and examples of work in process, or to provide a video demonstration. We need members to volunteer for this.

Gail has added the event invite to her website www.ackpack.net. Please access her Facebook page and share the invitation with your family and friends. Let's get even more participation!

This is a great way for Ocean Woodturners to raise awareness and funds for the Club. Please contact Wayne, Gail Connolly, or Garet right away if you'd like to sell your work, or if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Ocean Woodturners Gallery Event at ACKpack Basket Studio
Hope Artiste Village - 1005 Main Street, #8229-A
Pawtucket, RI

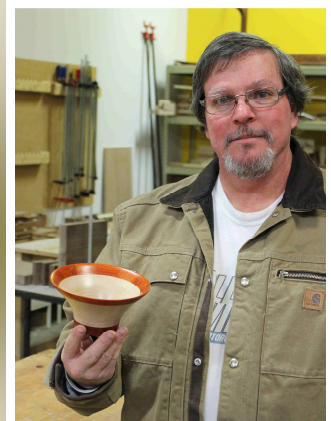
Friday, April 10th, 2015, 5pm - 8pm: Open Reception and setup
Saturday, April 11th, 2015, 9am - 1pm: Exhibit and Sales

North Woods Turnings

Garet Holcomb

Five of the eight available North Woods Maple pieces have been turned and donated by Club members **Joe Atkinson**, **Dan Dragon**, **Richard Gadoury**, **Ed Keenan**, and **Chuck Pettitbon**. All pieces are the donated Maple, and are about 5.75" by 2" or so.

Thanks to those who have participated so far. These pieces will be sold or donated to benefit the Club. There are a few pieces left, so contact Wayne if you'd like to turn something for the Club!



Ed Keenan

Group Exercise:

Since our Demonstrator this month wasn't able to make it due to the weather, we instead held a group exercise headed by **Gail Connolly**. The meeting attendees were asked individually to introduce themselves and answer a few questions about themselves and what they'd like to get from their Club membership.

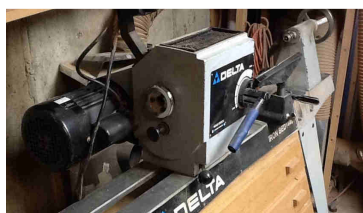
Look for a more detailed write-up on this subject in a future edition of the newsletter.

Joe Atkinson donated this pen and letter opener set, made from the Lincoln Park Comet wood. It will be auctioned off to support of local charities. There is still some wood available if you'd like to participate.



FOR SALE:

Ed Keenan has a Delta Iron Bed 1440 (46-715) 14" 3/4HP lathe for sale. Asking **\$600**. The wood cabinet in the photos is not included. Please call Ed at **401-419-5894** for more info.



Member Spotlight – Rich Lemieux

*In what we hope will become a semi-regular feature of the newsletter, we'll choose one Ocean Woodturners member and try to get to know them a bit better. This month we'll meet **Rich Lemieux**, a longtime OW member and Club mentor.*

I met Rich and his wife Elaine in his basement shop at their beautiful home on West Passage of Narragansett Bay, within sight of the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge. Rich started turning in the 1970s when his then wife decided she wanted some Windsor chairs, but couldn't afford them. Rich figured he could make them himself, and did so successfully, eventually building up a business before leaving woodturning behind for several years. He picked it up again as a hobby in the 1990s and has stayed with it since, honing his own skills and teaching others the craft.

Rich is a retired Air Force pilot and public schoolteacher. After retiring from both of his primary careers, he was asked by a friend to work with a group of disadvantaged youths and juvenile offenders. Not wanting to get involved in a third career, Rich agreed to help out for a few months but ended up staying with it for more than a decade. During this time he helped the kids learn to turn wood, but in doing so to also better themselves and instill confidence in their ability to create something from raw materials.

These are a few questions from our meeting

-GH

How long have you been turning?

I started in the 70s but put it away for a number of years. When I picked it up again in the 1990s, I realized I had learned a lot of bad habits and sought to learn better technique through books, as there was no YouTube at the time. I joined Ocean Woodturners around 2000 and took some lessons with Angelo lafrate and the late Rick Souza.

Do you sell your work?

I have been there and done that as far as business is concerned. I show some pieces at the local artist's guild and since they must be for sale in order to show them there, pieces will occasionally be purchased. It's not something I am interested in turning into a business, though. I just don't want to be under pressure to get things done. I give most pieces away and do Christmas ornaments and so on. I tend to hang on to pieces that have special meaning for me personally.



Member Rich Lemieux in his basement shop



How much time do you spend turning?

In cold weather I spend a couple of hours a day in the shop. In warmer weather it could be more, but time I should be spending in the shop we're out on the water instead!

What is it about turning that attracts you?

The instant gratification. Building a piece of furniture can take weeks of planning and execution. With turning, I can have a finished piece within a couple of hours. There's an organic flow to the work; the design changes as you go along. With furniture and other woodworking, you have to plan things down to the detail and execute them perfectly or the piece will fail. Woodturning allows for an "on-the-fly creativity" that I enjoy very much.



Member Spotlight – Rich Lemieux (Cont'd.)

What skill would you consider to be the most difficult for you?

Thin-wall hollow forms are the hardest for me. The working blind and trying to achieve a uniform wall thickness are very challenging. I can do them but I don't consider myself to be good at them yet. In our club, Mike Murray is probably the best at them, in my opinion.

What do you enjoy working on?

One thing I keep going back to is the Fibonacci Spiral you see in seashells and other natural formations. I almost have it down, but there are aspects of the turning and carving that are extremely challenging, such as the uniform wall thickness we talked about before. I'm trying to turn cones to be split and then reassembled into the spiral shape. I've experimented with several methods and will keep fooling around with it until I get it right.

What was an early success that you can recall?

I took a chair, one of my first, as stuck it in the attic. When I pulled it down later I took it to an antiques dealer who praised it as an example of good antique craftsmanship and told me it was worth several hundred dollars!

Can you think of a particular failure that stands out?

Well, because I was careful to take lessons, I don't have too many disasters. Pieces do come off the lathe, but generally because I didn't cut the tenons right or because the piece was punky to begin with. When things started to go wrong while I was learning I would usually stop myself and give Angelo or Rick a call to set me right. I have a strong sense of self-preservation! The vase I brought for the last Show and Tell was a failure, but the neck disintegrated because it was punky.



Inspiration
By Rich Lemieux

Do you have a favorite piece?

The Inspiration piece is my favorite. I have my Linen Fold pieces and a set of Cherry nesting bowls that I like a lot. The Inspiration piece and the linen folds were the most technically challenging, but of different disciplines.

Who or what influences you as a turner?

I go online and look at a lot of turners' work. You get ideas from everywhere, a little here and there. Jimmy Clewes is a YouTuber I follow a lot. Keith Tompkins. Bob Hamilton's videos are good but they're long. Ellsworth for his hollow form shapes. Bonnie Klein for finials. I look at different turners for different aspects of what they do. I flip through the AAW gallery for inspiration and try to build on them.

What area of turning would you consider to be your most proficient?

I find bowl turning to be the easiest for me. I can turn bowls out pretty quickly and well, and I don't see myself getting too much better at them.

What is your dream piece of equipment?

Probably another lathe, like a Robust or a Oneway. My next purchase will probably be a tilt-away tailstock accessory for my Powermatic. With all the hollow forms I do, I have to move my headstock to the end of the bed, and the tailstock is heavy to be lifting up and down all the time.

Member Spotlight – Rich Lemieux (Cont'd.)

What is your favorite species to work with? Least favorite?

Maple is my favorite. When it's green it cuts like butter, and it's not too bad when it's dry. You can get some wild grain variation, and good spalting. My least favorite is Oak. It chips, it tears, the shavings stick everywhere, it's hard. I just hate it.

Do you have a piece of advice for a new woodturner?

Definitely take lessons, so you won't have to unlearn bad habits later on. Woodturning can be dangerous, so find someone you know who knows what they're doing and learn from them. Videos are a good way to go, too, but nothing beats having hands-on learning.

What do you enjoy when you aren't turning?

We sail our Freedom 35 sailboat. Time I ought to be spending in the shop we spend on the water instead. We've taken the boat all over and even up to Nova Scotia, and in fact, we'll be taking a group up to Maine this summer. It's not a bad way to spend your retirement!



More of Rich's work from his personal collection



NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:

March 19th, 2015, 7:00 PM

Keeseh Studio, 42 Rice St. Providence, RI

Jim Silva will demonstrate hollowing on the small lathe

Ocean Woodturners Group on Yahoo!: Our club has its own Yahoo! Group that we use to exchange information, ask questions, and sometimes to distribute our Newsletter. Membership to the Yahoo! Group is **not** automatic upon joining the club. If you would like to join the Yahoo! Group, please either request membership directly from the group site (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OceanWoodturners/>) or send an email to Jeff Mee at jmee@hotmail.com

Club Website: www.oceanwoodturners.com

Webmaster: Craig Verrastro, Member
webmaster@oceanwoodturners.com