

One Good Turn

Coulee Region Woodturners Chapter of American Association of Woodturners

Next Meeting—Saturday, 21 May 2005, 9:00 AM ☺ — Severeid Tree Farm in rural Sparta, WI

“UNDER THE SPREADING CHESTNUT TREE THE VILLAGE TURNERS STAND ...”

With apologies to W. W. Longfellow, this next meeting features trees that are becoming a rarity—the American Chestnut [*Castanea dentata*]. We’re touring the hills outside Sparta where the chestnut and many other valuable timber trees are being cultivated on a large scale. We’ll also have the usual instant gallery as well as the judging for the 2x4 challenge [4 prizes].

Prez Sez

Is it really May? The calendar says so, but seeing the temperatures the last week or so of April makes me wonder. You can tell that spring has hit because you see people out in their yards all the time getting everything spruced up from the winter. I love spring, seeing everything coming up green. The only problem is I have a hard time finding time for woodturning. Every once in a while, I think I hear my lathe whispering “Duane, come in here. I miss you”. I did find some time this last weekend to do some turning. Got a chance to practice some of the things I learned from Alan Lacer’s demo.

Speaking of Alan’s demo, what a terrific time. The weather was great and so were the people. I would like to thank Denis and Doug Falch for stepping up to the plate at the last minute (so to speak) and hosting the demo there. I was really glad to see how many people stuck around after the demo was over on Sunday and helped clean up and get their shop back into shape. That was great to see and I am sure Denis and Doug appreciated it. You had to be careful at the end though. If you had an open car door, Denis would put a box of donuts in. We kept up our reputation, for being one of the best eating clubs that Alan has ever seen. (He even had some donuts for the drive home!!). I have received nothing but good feedback from people about the demo. The club picked up Alan’s “Son of Skew” and “Getting Started Right” videos in DVD format. I just finished watching my cop-

ies. If you watch either of these, see if you can identify all the “extras” in the videos. You might be surprised as to who you see.

Ed Holz and I had the pleasure of visiting Dr. Severeid a few weekends ago in preparation for the May meeting. What a treat. He drove us all over his property, showing us different trees he has planted. I was amazed at how fast chestnut grows, compared to walnut and oak. While visiting Dr. Severeid’s place, I had an idea for our next challenge. Because he is going to be so gracious as to give us some of the chestnut wood he has cut down, I am proposing the Great CRW Chestnut Challenge. The goal, should you decide to accept the challenge, is to turn something from chestnut and bring it to the July meeting (I am hearing the theme from “Mission Impossible” in the background). There will be a something a little different with this challenge. We will invite Dr. Severeid to the July meeting. As a thank you for hosting our club in May, we will offer him several pieces from the challenge for his own personal collection. I think it will mean a lot to him to have some nice pieces turned from his wood.

Speaking of challenges, don’t forget to bring your 2x4 Challenge pieces to the May meeting. It will be interesting to see what people have come up with from a 2x4. Hope to see you at the May meeting. Until then, keep the wood spinning, the chips flying and your tools sharp.



Reminder—The crew for helping to set up and clean up for the May meeting is:

Roger Meyer
Finbar McMullen
Skip McLees
Tim McCaleb

The understanding is that you get your replacement if you’re unable to attend.



Reminder

With very little available parking in the Sparta hills, we would like meeting attendees to carpool in. If you drive to Sparta alone please meet your colleagues at 8:30 in the parking lot of the former Wal-Mart store in Sparta. It’s just north of the interchange, on Hwy 27, between Burger King and McDonalds.



More Publicity—

Tom Mruz has set up a display at the La Crosse Public Library. Check it out.

Meeting Review

As everyone knows, our last meeting featured Alan Lacer for two days in Winona. Kudos to the hosts, Denis and Doug Falch. We have many pictures, both in the newsletter and on the website. Here is feedback from those who attended.

Art Ustby: I had a really great weekend. Alan has a great presentation manner. I enjoyed his comment that turning spindles makes you a better bowl turner. He had a lot of great down to earth advice on turning and supplies. He also had great examples of boxes. I liked the two day presentation format. The only change I would make would be to have an earlier afternoon break. Everyone just ate and a long session in the afternoon is hard to take even with great topics.

Ken Grunke: I liked the 2-day format; it was more relaxed instead of having to squeeze it all into one day. I feel like I got two demos for the price of one; hope this made for a fair reimbursement for Alan. Learning how to properly grind my skew chisel. Mine was ground with a straight edge, at about 75 degrees angle. This morning I reground it to a sharper skew angle (70 degrees), with a keener bevel, and also put a slight curve at the short point end. Doing all this, especially the curve, was a quantum leap for me - now I can make a rolling cut all the way around to center without a catch.

Charlie Cadenhead: First, as always, I enjoyed just being at our CRW function and seeing and talking with everyone. I found Alan Lacer's demonstration and seminar very well done, both Alan's presentation and club's administration of it. I found Alan's presentation interesting and very informative. The two day format was nice, but I would prefer a one day Demonstration/Seminar. While some may find a hands-on day beneficial, I do not. I feel I can go back to my shop and practice what I learned on my own. If I have problems, there is plenty of wood-turning skill within our club where I can get help. So my vote would be for just a one day Demonstration/Seminar. I learned more about sharpening and Alan also refreshed my memory on some sharpening points. Alan also helped me understand more on endgrain turning. One of my joys is turning lidded boxes, so I found that part of the demo very interesting even though the techniques Alan uses is pretty much how I already turn lidded boxes. I also learned more about tool steel tempering and am anxious to make one of Alan's hook tools. Alan helped me understand some points about the skew and it's uses but I think that is something that will take 3, 8 foot 2"X4"s of practice. If I was to list things in the order of importance/interest to me, it would be:

1. Importance of sharpening. Tips on sharpening and grinders.
2. Endgrain turning. Handling tearout. Use of different burrs on scrapers and use of a hook tool for finish work.
3. Tips on using the skew.

4. Tempering steel for tool making and how to make a hook tool.

John Fisher: I enjoyed every day of the show. Allen is such a good guy and he is very informative and willing to tell you anything he knows. I still prefer the one day demo and next day hands on. I can watch someone do something and learn but it will stick with me if I can just do it. I can retain much more if I can apply all my senses to something. I had taken some of his classes before but I still picked up on items that I forgot and other new points. I especially picked up more items on sharpening, learning about the metals, tempering, sharpening methods, etc. I would like to thank Dennis and Doug for letting us use their facilities in such a short notice and the people involved in setting up the demo. I would especially thank Duane Hill for all the time and effort he put into doing these demos. He took a day off to set up the equipment for the video and spent both days manning the camera. Our club would not be near as good without his help and the other officers.

Rich Egan: I liked the two-day format, as more people could participate. I especially enjoyed hearing Alan speak about the history of turning and the evolution of tools and toolmaking. His Japanese experience was very interesting. Did everyone see that tea box? The hook tool creation and hardening session was great. Only wish Aaron could have been there. I have an oval skew I like, (sorry, Alan) but I have another older flat skew I may try a "Lacer grind" on and see how I like it.

Dennis Holt (Zumbro Valley Woodturners): He told us all we needed to know about the "hated skew" so it won't cause a near dog-kill. (Do we know a member who had that scare?) For those of you who haven't had the chance to attend a Lacer seminar, I would encourage you do so. He's an excellent teacher. (But now, darn, I might miss hitting that mouse out in my shop.) Well see if all he told us sticks in this old head, besides this quote: "You don't give your stuff away. It's worth something."


Duane Hill: I, personally, liked the two day format. I know it is a hassle for some to travel to, but I like the overall feel. I don't feel as rushed. My wife Sandi and I had the pleasure of hosting Alan for the evening. That was a real treat. We had some great discussions at the dinner table and with Ansel on the drive to and from Winona. Sandi asked me what Alan's specialty was. I said, in my opinion, he is one of the best, if not the best, technician on the skew in the world. I have had several classes with Alan, but I learn something new every time. I really enjoyed his skew presentation. It inspired me to go home and try his grind. I loved how it felt. I was a little disappointed in having to rush the finish portion, but he covers that in his "Son of Skew" video. I had a great time. Great weekend.



Got Questions —

Some of you are probably interested in attending the Symposia in Provo or

Kansas City. Art Ustby has volunteered to be the Chapter coordinator and all-around answer man for us. If you want to know anything about this, from housing to recommended night

spots to car pool options—call Art at  (608) 781-0914 or email him at austby@charter.net

The News

May 21 Visit to the Dr. Larry Severeid tree farm in Sparta. We'll also have the judging for the 2x4 Challenge. We'll have four winners [3 experience categories plus a grand prize].

June 16-18 Utah Woodturning Symposium at BYU in Provo.

June 18 Visit to member Bob Allen and his woods. We'll show you how to identify trees and wood.

July 16 Picnic. No tool day. Details to come.

July 22-24 AAW Symposium in Kansas City. Some of us are already making our arrangements. Car pools and shared rooms really reduce the costs, so start your planning early.

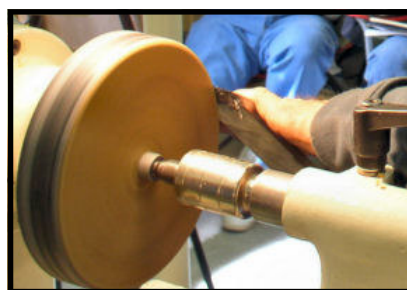
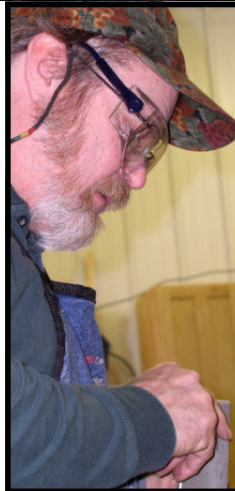
Aug 20 TBA.

Sep 17 TBA.

October 15 Tentative guest demonstrator will be Jamie Donaldson, from Kentucky. He will be working on long bowls, square bowls, and photographing your work. We need advance registration to assure adequate attendance and costs versus revenue.

Want Ads/Sale Ads If it's pertinent to woodworking or woodturning, get it to Aaron and he'll publish it in the newsletter.

Welcome New Member Greg Haugen, 212 Swain St., Chaseburg, WI 54621 (608) 483-2988 curlyhaugen@yahoo.com



Notice

The 2x4 Challenge is due at the May meeting. Remember, the only wood allowable is from the furnished board. What you're able to do with that wood is a matter of creative genius.

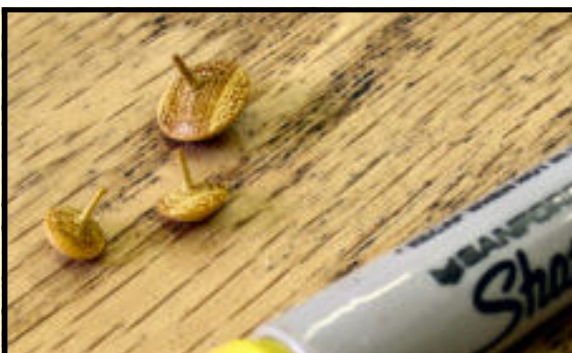
? **Got Questions** —
Some of you are probably wondering who Jamie Donaldson is, and what he does. Here are some pictures of his work.

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More Lacer Pics.

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From The Neighbors

The **Rochester Art Center** is organizing a contemporary woodturning exhibition from Jan 28, 2006 through March 19, 2006. The exhibition will have two galleries. The first gallery will be an invitational exhibit of nationally recognized woodturning artists. The second gallery is a juried gallery of woodturning works from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and North and South Dakota. All participants must be 18 years old and all works must be original and completed within the last two years. No works over 3ft x 3ft x 3ft will be accepted. \$500 in cash awards will be given. Dates for submitting work are January 5-10, 2006. Judging will take place on January 12, 2006. Judges for this exhibition are Alan Lacer, Mel Turcanik, and Dean Wilson. If you need more information, contact one of the CRW officers.



Reminder

The Tool Czar wants to remind everyone the crib has lathes, chucks, tools, and other hardware for member use. The inventory list is here

<http://www.crwoodturner.com/gallery/crwtools>

Just let him know what you want and make arrangements for pickup. Call the Czar at ☎ (608) 781-0914 or email him at austby@charter.net



A Plea From The Editor -

We need contributing authors and reporters for the newsletter. Forward any contributions you want published to aaron@crwoodturner.com and you'll see your byline in print [Remember: "Power of the Press; Power of the Press; Power of the Press; ..."]



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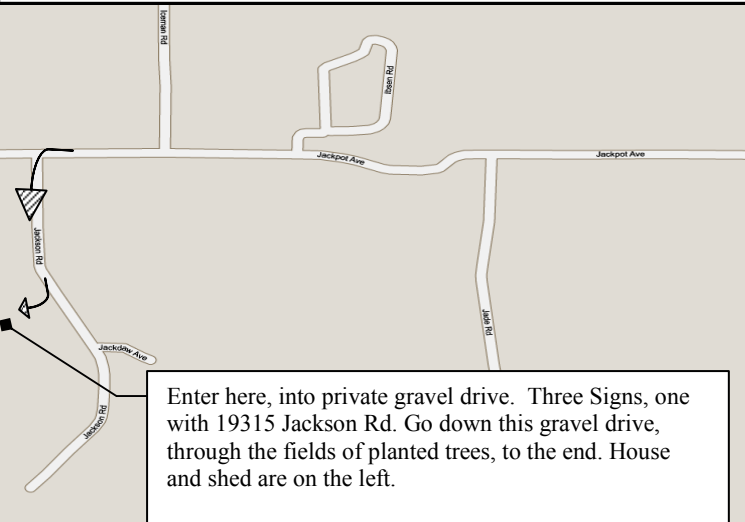
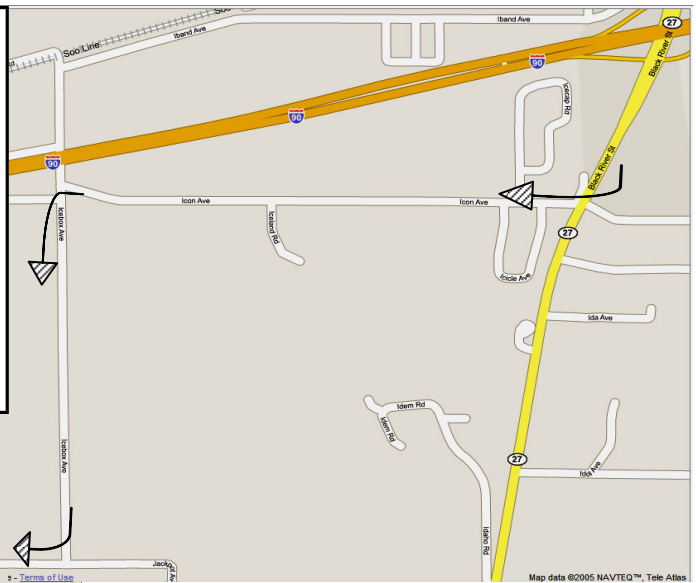
"A Turn For the Better"

Mail Merge goes here.

Here's a map to help those who aren't sure where we will meet.

I90 to Sparta. Highway 27 south to Icon Ave. west. To Icebox Ave. south. To Jackpot Road west. To Jackson Rd. south, then to the right at the first driveway [19315 sign] and then to the end of the drive to the house on the upper left.

Remember—you have to bring your own chair to have a place to sit. If you get lost or delayed, call Aaron at (608) 343-1538 for help or directions. He lives just down the road.



Enter here, into private gravel drive. Three Signs, one with 19315 Jackson Rd. Go down this gravel drive, through the fields of planted trees, to the end. House and shed are on the left.

**Next Meeting – At the Larry Severeid tree farm
just SW of Sparta.
9:00 AM ☺ Saturday, 21 May 2005.**

**Carpools to convene at the former Wal-Mart store
parking lot in Sparta, north of I90 on the west side
of Hwy 27. It's between Burger King and
McDonalds.**