WOOD CHIPS

July 2001

Next meeting July 9th at 7:00 PM at Consolidated Lumber located off I-35 West on 67th Street in Merriam Kansas--www.kcwoodturners.org

Kansas City Woodturners Club
Local Chapter of The American Association of Woodturners

Officers:
President
Dick Woodhouse
(913) 851-5917

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(816) 697-2982

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(816) 363-2658

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John Shackelford
(913) 583-3303

Librarians:
Dick Smith
(913) 341-4613
Pete Stiglich
(913) 342-9133

Camera:
Don Grimes
(913) 962-2060

LAST MONTHS PROGRAM

With 42 members and guests present Anthony Harris presented our June program on thread chasing. Anthony used ash for the project with tools cutting 16 threads per inch. Anthony is largely self taught but did recently attend the Utah Symposium and saw Bill Jones and Alan Batty demonstrate thread chasing. The program was excellent—good work Anthony.

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JULY PROGRAM

Back by popular demand our July meeting will feature WOODTURNING BASICS again. Items to be covered include spindles, bowls, sharpening, and any other technique you need help with. All our lathes will be working with club members both demonstrating and giving you an opportunity to turn also. Don't miss the meeting-basics turning will not be back again until 2002.

REFRESHMENTS

Merle Schneck

SET –UP AND CLEAN-UP

Chip Siskey
Kent Townsend

Note: If you can't do this, you need to find someone to take your place. Thanks.

VISITORS

Susan Christy(Bob Davis's daughter)
Bob Whitman

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New Members

. Neal Ray Schroger
George Dixon

Beech Bowl Presentation

Our club recognized Jeff and Nancy Farris for their help in promoting woodturning both in Kansas City and through out the nation. John Shackelford presented Jeff and Nancy with a large hollow form vessel turned from Beech Wood. John pointed out that the Farris's have hosted workshops, gave our club in excess of $2,000.00 last year, gave us the Sorby lathe, and have donated numerous items for our monthly raffles, including a video tape and new box mandrel at the June meeting.. We are lucky to have such great woodturning supporters in KC, and would encourage you shop at Farris Machinery in Grain Valley any time you need woodturning supplies.

JULY SATURDAY WORKSHOP

Our July Saturday workshop will be at Farris Machinery and promises to be something special. Soren Berger an internationally acclaimed turner will demonstrate on Saturday July 28, from 9:00am to 4:pm.

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Advertisers
Paxton Woodcrafters Store
6311 St John St
Kansas City , Mo. 64123
816/483-0659
Largest selection of turning blocks in the area. 10% discount To all club members

Woodcraft Supply Corp.
8645 Bluejacket Rd.
Lenexa, KS 66214
(913) 599-2800

Craft Supplies
1287 E. 1120 South
Provo, UT 84606
1-800-551-8876

Overland Tool Inc. 7905 Neiman Rd.
Lenexa, KS 66214
(913) 599-4044

Farris Machinery
1106 Valley Ridge Drive
Grain Valley, MO 64029
(816) 229-3055
We feature:
Tormek Sharpening System
Robert Sorby tools
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Join us for our Turn Point Workshops

The Heartwood Company Dan Moreno/Instructor
Private & group instruction
816-452-7914
E-mail:
jotbpath@aol.com
Website:
www.turnaboutwood.com

ADDITIONAL-BERGER WORKSHOPS

In addition to the free Saturday workshop, Soren has agreed to conduct additional workshops on July 26th, 27th, 29th, and 30th, for those members wanting more intensive instruction. Class sizes are limited to 5 each day, at a cost of 100.00 per student per day. These classes will also be at Farris Machinery from 9:00am to 4:00pm. You need to contact John Shackelford soon to register for these additional workshops.

DIRECTIONS TO FARRIS

From KC take I-70 east to exit 21(Adams Dairy Pkwy)-at end of ramp go north under the freeway to the north outer road-go east on the north outer road about 2 miles to Valley Ridge Drive. Farris is the first building on the left. Confused call 816-229-3055 if you get lost.

SHOW & TELL

-Don Grimes turned a small bowl and saucer from Baltic Birch plywood. Good work

-Russ Blaser showed a platter from red bud with unusually pretty graining. The platter was finished with lacquer and looked great.

-Anthony Harris brought several small boxes with threaded lids from Cocobolo, Blackwood, and Rosewood. Anthony has sized the boxes to fit two ball bearings in a variety of sizes, with plans to market these items. Everyone thought the boxes were great and Anthony was excited with the ball bearings.

-Roger Lambie showed two items, a spalted Maple vessel finished with sealer and wax, and a large spalted hollow vessel from Sycamore-both great.

-Bob Davis turned five natural edge bowls from a family dogwood tree. Bob literally started at the bottom(the root) and worked his way up. All were well done.

-Bill Coomer fashioned a Keith Rowley type earring holder to be used as a family gift-looked good.

-Boyko Varney showed another beautiful project completed on his ornamental lathe. The clock was from Zircote and Mahogany and also utilized an inlaid Sand Dollar, with inlaid Lady Bug jewelry for the hours.Very good work.

-Richard Woodhouse turned what he says will be his last candle stick holders. He achieved perfection with these and doesn't want to take any chances with additional candle sticks. Dick turned them from Cedar and they did look perfect.

DONATIONS

Ron Mcreash has donated lots of wood for future club raffles and Edd Maxwell is storing it for the club at a secret location(his barn).

Frank Novich has also donated several sacks of wood to the club and had it delivered to our last meeting.

NORTHLAND SIMINAR

On Saturday, July 21st, the Northland club is having a mini symposium "Turn North- As We Turn One." It looks good. We will have flyers at our next meeting for anyone wanting more information.

Center for Wood Anatomy Research

Wood Identification Procedures

Identification process.

Accurate wood identification depends mainly on characteristics of the wood cells revealed under a microscope. First, a cross-sectional surface of the sample is smoothed with a sharp knife and examined with a hand lens. Then small, thin sections are cut freehand along the grain from the radial and tangential surfaces and prepared for viewing under the microscope.

Identifications are usually completed by means of technical anatomical features observed at high magnification. Gross features such as color, odor, and texture are of limited help as they can be quite variable and therefore are less reliable.

Chemical features are sometimes employed in routine identification of wood. The use of DNA technology, once thought to be impossible for wood, is now feasible, though in its infancy. Historically, DNA was extracted only from fresh wood. Modern techniques have allowed extraction from dry material, and it is reasonable to think that the next decade will see the entrance of DNA techniques for the exact identification of some commercially important species of wood. Such techniques are likely to remain expensive, and probably would not be employed for routine identification work.

Limitations.

Identifications based on wood anatomy are generally accurate only to genus (e.g. a species of spruce) or, in some cases, to a subgeneric grouping (e.g., white oak group), but rarely to the exact species. Therefore, all information known about the specimen is important and should be provided with it. The wood's common name, country, or geographic area of origin are especially useful and may help to determine the precise species. For example, the American red pine, the European Scots or Scotch pine, and several Asiatic species of pine belong to the anatomically-defined red pine group. These species cannot be distinguished by their wood characteristics alone. However, if the wood is known to be native to North America, then an exact species can be given because only one species in the red pine group exists in North America--*Pinus resinosa*, red pine. Without this information, all a wood anatomist could report in this case would be that the sample is a species of pine (*Pinus*) of the red pine group. Conversely, if the origin of an antique were in question, finding a species of wood in the red pine group would not distinguish American from European or Asian objects.

Specimen size.

Specimens 1 X 3 X 6 inches are recommended for purposes of identification. If only small specimens can be supplied for examination, as is generally the case with antique furniture, we will try to provide an identification.

Technique for removal of small samples from valuable wood products.

Small samples must be split from large items rather than shaved or gouged. To produce a good sample, use a sharp knife or small chisel and cut across the grain to a depth of about 3/16 inch. Make two such cuts at least 1/2 inch apart. If a knife is used, a splinter can be split out by prying up at one of the incised points. If a chisel is used, the edge can be placed in one of the cuts and then angled to travel down the grain to the other cut. A sharp tap will produce a good specimen. If the specimen cannot be rolled between thumb and forefinger without crumbling or breaking, do not submit it.

Preparation for shipment.

If more than one sample is submitted, individual items should be clearly labeled. A numerical or alphabetical sequence is simple and effective, with numbers or letters marked directly onto large samples. For small samples, use individual envelopes with the information for the enclosed sample marked on each envelope. Do not tape samples to cards or paper because they can be easily damaged when the tape is removed.

Determination of origin.

In many cases, wood anatomical identifications cannot provide information regarding the origin of an item. However, wood used in an object may indicate source of manufacture. In furniture, the woods used for the interior parts will usually be the most significant. Often, exterior showy parts are of expensive imported woods, but corner blocks and drawer sides or backs are of less expensive local species.

Certain commonly used American woods such as yellow-poplar, red gum, and tupelo are not native to Europe. Thus, the presence of such woods in an item strongly suggests American manufacture, provided that Asian manufacture can be ruled out. We reiterate that most woods cannot be identified to species, but only to genus or general type (see Limitations).

Commonly used furniture woods such as birch or white oak grow in many different parts of the world. Because these woods cannot be identified to species, their presence in an item does not help determine where it was produced.

Age determination.

No attempt is made at this Laboratory to ascertain or even approximate the age of antique pieces or ancient wood specimens. The well-known radiocarbon-14 dating process is not feasible for determining the age of antiques, bearing trees, or other relatively'recent,' non-archaeological wood.

Number of Samples

The Center for Wood Anatomy Research will identify a maximum of five wood samples per fiscal year (October 1 — September 30) as a free public service to U.S. citizens. We try to accommodate inquiries from non-citizens, but such requests are typically assigned a low priority. Persons or businesses in need of more than five identifications per year should direct inquiries to rmiller1@facstaff.wisc.edu in order to make appropriate arrangements.

Duration of

Wood identifications can take anywhere from 5 minutes to many hours,

Process

depending on the type of wood, the size and quality of the sample, the information provided with the sample, and several other factors. Generally, identifications will be completed 2-6 weeks following receipt of the sample for temperate woods and 2-6 weeks for tropical woods. Responses are hand-written on the letter sent with the request. Samples are held for 3 months and then discarded; small samples are often destroyed in the process and are not retained. Samples submitted without letters will not be identified.

Send your samples to:

Alex Wiedenhoeft, Botanist
Center for Wood Anatomy Research
Forest Products Laboratory
One Gifford Pinchot Dr.
Madison, WI 53705

Contact Us

Direct all questions regarding the identification of woods foreign and domestic to Alex Wiedenhoeft. acwieden@facstaff.wisc.edu

Return to Wood ID