

WOODCHIPS

May 2013

www.kcwoodturners.org

JUNE IS A BUSY MONTH

Let's plan on attending the KCWT potluck picnic June 15th. We have reserved Shelter #6 (see map) from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Because of the picnic, there will be no open shop on that Saturday. Please bring a dish you would like to share and your own favorite drink. The club plans on providing: hamburgers, hot dogs, fixings, plates, cups, ice, plasticware and napkins. I'm guessing members will start to gather at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be at noon. For additional information call a board member.

REMINDERS

Get your raffle tickets when you come into the meeting

JUNE DEMO
2 For 1

CHALLENGE
A spindle

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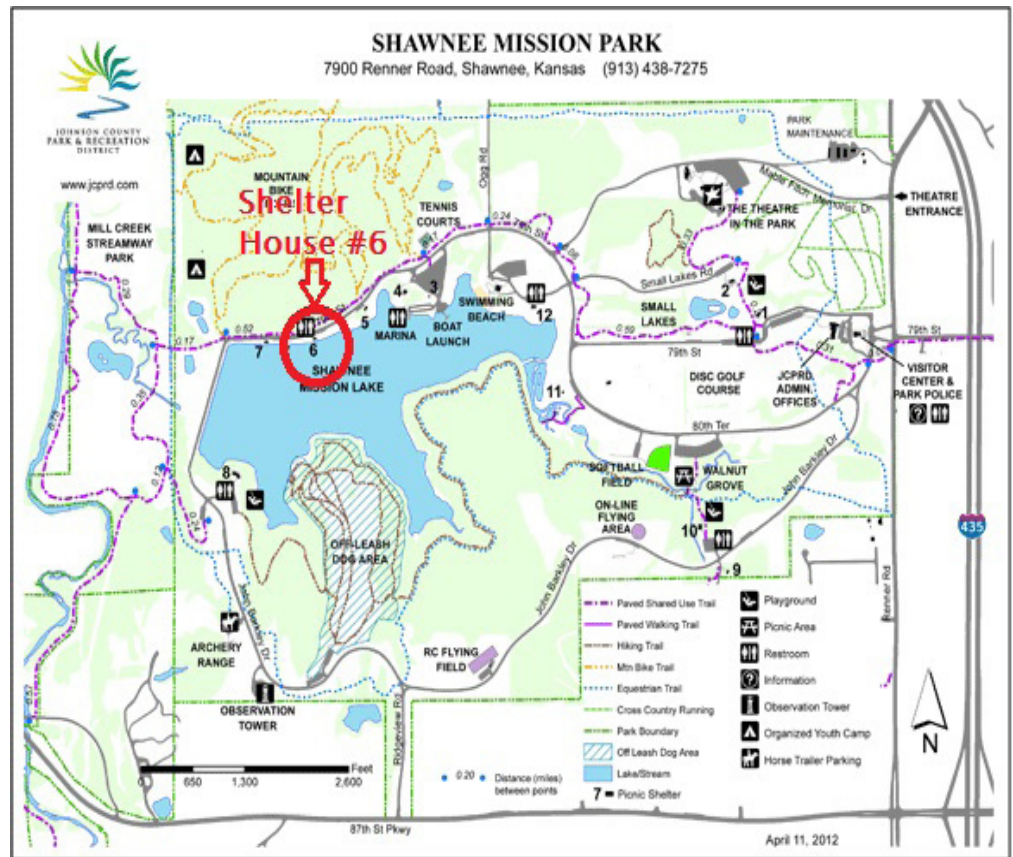
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Dick Woodhouse related that the STEMS Art Faire is set for June 22nd. It is a bonafide art show and KCWT belongs in it. The pre-faire show is set for June 19th at an upscale Mexican restaurant called Frida's.



Did anyone attend the Utah Symposium in May?
Has anyone attended any recent woodturning function?
The newsletter is always looking for articles that will benefit all the paid members



The AAW's 27th International Woodturning Symposium in Tampa, Florida, June 28 - 30. For more information visit www.woodturner.org.



June 28-30

These two events will be upon us before we know it. Both events require volunteers and need objects de art and practicality for us to show and sell. Large and expensive items are desirable but they really serve to draw spectators to our booth. Then they start exploring the other items that they are more likely to buy.

The first year for these events we did pretty well in the sales arena. What we need are items that we can sell from \$2.00 to \$100.00. For the **Maker Faire** only club members will be turning and lots of those turnings will be done by The Top Guys. For the **Irish Fest**, we also offer the opportunity for



TWO HUGE EVENTS AND WE NEED YOU!



attendees to turn a pen, a bottle stopper, or other item with the help of a member.

So..please start your planning, planning to volunteer and planning what you are going to allow the club to sell at the events. For those items sold, 20% goes to the club and 80% goes to the member.

These events present **KCWoodturners** to the community, give us an opportunity to gain new members and also raise some money for the organization. Please don't just consider how to help, make a decision to volunteer and make some items for us to sell and be there to support **KCWT**.



MAY'S DEMONSTRATOR WAS ANTHONY HARRIS

And his demo was about “the unsung hero - the bevel.”

There is cutting and scraping and it depends on the angle of how the piece of steel is presented to the wood. There are five cuts in woodturning and Anthony presented them all.

- Planing
- Peel
- Oblique - used to remove waste
- Cove
- Bead

Everything on the outside of a spindle is a function of these five cuts.

Rub the bevel and then lift up the butt of the handle to start removing wood.



Anthony's demo using all five cuts produced a finished spindle. By using proper technique, with practice, the bevel allows you the control for a successful finished product.



The cove cut is made moving the bevel downhill.

Formula? Ask Anthony.

1000 RPM - 12" diameter = 32 mph



For our June meeting, the challenge is a spindle

Good job Anthony!

For the June Demonstration, there will be a 2 For 1 special:

- Mike Erickson will demonstrate how many things you can turn from a 2x2x2 piece of wood.
- Anthony Harris will discuss cutting a log for the best effects.

We had two visitors at our last meeting:

Dave Wagner - visiting from Florida and a member with a club near Tampa.

Bob Reifel - from the KC area

Glad you could join us!

Show and Tell Table

Anthony turned a cable bash pipe with a Brier top

Stuart Shanker - Walnut vase - this wood was given to him by Mike Erickson when Stuart toured Mike's open shop and he presented the finished piece back to Mike.

Seth - Small baseball bat

Jim Faherty - Urn with threaded top - made with Cocobola/Brazilian Rosewood/Maple



Challenge Table



This month's challenge was pepper mills.

The challenger's were Jay Skelton, Kent Townsend, Bill Dean, David Blair, Keith Arnold and Don Grimes.

Bill Dean won the raffle challenge with his pepper mill. His pepper mill is the LARGE one made of Coffee Bean wood with walnut stain and a hut finish. It was approximately 50 inches tall and weighted 7-1/2 lbs (not counting the pepper). It was made in three pieces. Great job by all the challengers!

SHOP CRAWL

by Shaun Q. McMahon

It was a beautiful sunny Saturday on April 20, 2013 and five members of **KCWT** opened their shops for a look. I was absolutely going to visit them all. Two in Overland Park, one in Olathe, and two in Grandview or close to it. I think it may have been the first time I ever mapped out a sequence and had it work out well.

I started out visiting **Anthony Harris**. I'd been there once at night and met him under a street light and this time it looked very different in the daylight. My GPS got me right to his driveway. He greeted me with one of his pipes in his hand, probably keeping his hand warm as the air was a bit chilly. He'd been up a bit earlier as he thought the crawl started at 8:00AM so he did a little cleaning up before visitors arrived.

I was immediately struck by the fact that his shop was in his garage and that his primary ventilation and lighting system had a great deal to do with the front and back doors being open. The second most obvious aspect of the shop was the huge pile of wood that seemed to drift just about everywhere along with the shavings that covered the floor.



Following the warm welcome, I was immediately introduced to the various woods inhabiting the shop and there was quite a variety - from the somewhat common to a piece of Lingam that had to weigh 50 pounds at least.

The center piece of this fibrous activity is a rather long lathe, The Harris 3001. It can handle a 30 inch piece of wood (the 3000) and there have been a few modifications made to it (hence the 1). How a personally made lathe can be said to have modifications is an idea I need to explore further but to say it is unique would be an understatement - DC motor, two speed ranges, built on iron with head and tail stock clamped to plywood. It looks like it could be used to turn a Volkswagen into a piece of metal stock and probably not vibrate much in the process.

Other items visible were a bandsaw, grinder, air compressor, sandblaster, a five foot long scraper, and a forge for blacksmithing - which also gets used. The decor was rounded out with various tools, unfinished turnings, and banksia pods.

He has a Jet in his basement that he uses when it is really cold or he has to use higher speeds to get the quality he wants.





While the shop has the appearance of being large, the usable space for a turner makes it a little close and the turner who occupies the space is obviously one who does a great deal of turning. The shavings and chips from the turning are recycled by being piled around the largest elm tree I have ever seen - one, unfortunately with Dutch Elm Disease. Perhaps the compost will be the cure.

I'd been there about a half hour and others were starting to arrive so I thanked Anthony, bid good day to the others, and moved on to my next shop.

A short drive brought me to the home of **Kevin Neelley**, a now retired engineer. The expectation is that the shop of an engineer will have a certain precision attached to it. Well...no disappointment here. His shop is in the basement of his home and is neatly arranged. In getting to the shop itself I passed an open area where Kevin photographs his work. He has





a diffusing globe that surrounds the item, lights on the outside and, if you look at his website, you'll see that he produces grand images of his segmented turnings.

In the corner of the same room is shelving which contained neatly stacked and identified wood and there is more just as neatly placed in a good sized shed in the back yard. On an adjacent wall was a table on which was a coffee pot with fresh coffee for the visitors.

The two pieces on the table in front of the wood are the latest of his pieces. The darker one is very fragrant camphor wood and the taller one is one that he "experimented" on doing some surface decoration.

His shop, while not super large, contains everything he needs to do his segmentation - table saw, disc sander, benches, plenty of tools and his second VicMark lathe. He got rid of the first one so he could get one with a longer bed and an extension which he has actually used. The tail stock swings out of the way on this lathe making it easier for him to get close to the piece he is turning. He uses a face plate and builds a few rings on then turns the inside and then adds more rings. So by the time he has the last ring on the item, the inside is turned and finished. Precision thinking and turning.



When he finishes one of his pieces he uses a spray which he applies in the shop area. Kevin has a rather strong evacuation fan along the left wall which draws out all the fumes. "Nothing ever gets into the house." He also has a strong evacuation system that has automatic gates so when he is turning the dust and chips get evacuated as well leaving him with little cleaning to do after he is finished with turning for the day. Now that he has more time for turning, he uses about four hours a day and in the last week he has completed three bowls. His walls are decorated with jigs, clamps, and drawings of what he is working on.



The steady rest is an important part of the process he uses. It keeps the piece from vibrating and enables him to turn some pretty large items. He said that he hadn't made a genie bottle in a long time and it was fun to get back to.



Getting to **Mike Erickson's** home in Olathe was easier than I thought. A few miles, a few turns, but the GPS was right on again and, besides, there was his red Ryans truck in front of his house on Sycamore street. Imagine, a wood guy living on Sycamore Street.



I think the first thing he said after “hello” was “Do you want some wood? He was hoping to get rid of most of the wood in front of his garage door by the end of the day. Mike encounters wood on a regular basis and seems to make it readily available to others.

Mike's shop is also in his two car garage. The side with the lathe and turning tools is very efficient and very mobile. The tools and machinery are very mobile as he can also put his wife's car in that side when the weather is inclement. When the car isn't in that side, he has quite a bit of room for moving around.

It became obvious that he was working, and he

indicated that he was remodeling the woodworking side of the shop, making some legs, cabinets, and benches. The entire shop looked to be very well organized, very well lit and had an extensive dust collection system.

He has the stable saw set so that if he has to cut a long board, he is able to accommodate it by simply opening the garage door and he has the additional space he needs. He indicated that he spends some time almost daily in the shop but sometimes he is there quite a bit, like preparing a large number of items for an auction in Lawrence to benefit The National Science Teachers Association.



He uses a Jet lathe for his turning. Like most turners, he likes to make some of his tools. He took out a bag that had some shock absorber posts and one of them was ground down to make a tool. Just needs a handle. Like a lot of turners, if he sees something in a catalogue that looks good and he thinks he might like it, he just might make that as well. An example is the tool holder he has attached to the end of his lathe. He said he got a really good idea from a catalogue.



To get to the fourth shop on the tour I now had to drive to Missouri and the area of Grandview. It was a bit of a drive and by the time I got there the power on my GPS was draining faster than I thought it would. It got me to **David Burks** home where he had put up signs to let visitors know to go to the patio door in the back of the house. Before I got to the door I became aware of a beautifully landscaped and terraced back yard. I found out later that he'd been in that business for years owning his own landscaping company.

Rick Bywater was already there and he and David were talking about something in a turning magazine that had piqued their interest.



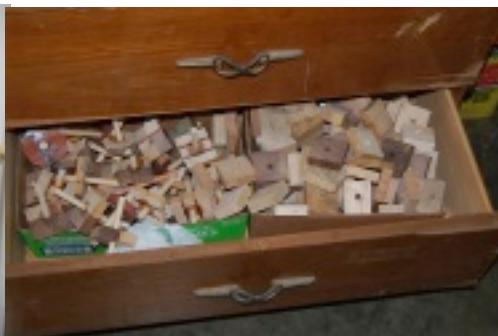
David has been a woodcarver for over 35 years and he had his sharpening materials out on a table in his garage. What he carves - see inset. He mentioned that one of the most important aspects of woodcarving is making sure that tools are sharp and that you only use sharp tools. He reiterated that comment when talking about woodturning. He sees it as a safety behavior as well as just being a good turning practice - it just makes sense.

He used to have his shop in the garage which is quite spacious. He still used it for storing some wood but even with the addition of a heater, which made it usable in the Winter, it was not very usable in the Summer as it got pretty hot in there. His wife suggested that he use one of the bedrooms that were on the same level and that's what he did.

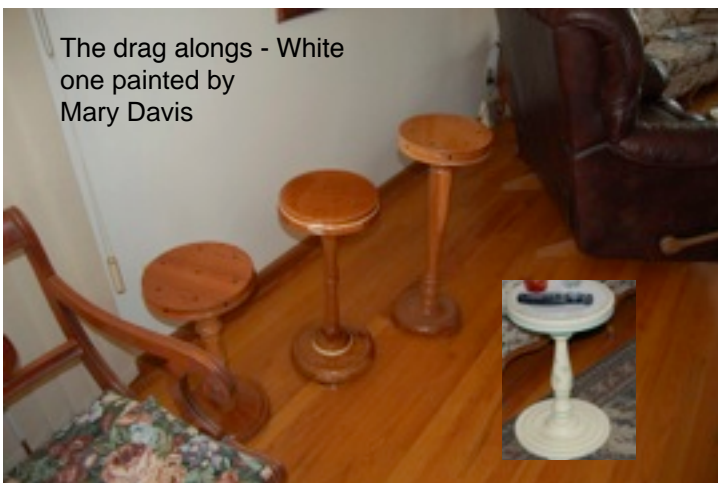


It's not big but plenty large enough for two people, a drill press, a jet mini lathe and a Powermatic,, two benches, a couple chairs, wood storage under one of the cabinets,, and a couple tool chests. He uses them all in making eggs, bowls, segmented baby rattles, plates, and tops, lots of tops. He is one of the Top Guys and making tops is a specialty and a gift, not only to the club but to everyone they give tops to, which is a lot of people.

We sat and talked for quite a while about what he turns and how much fun he has doing it. When he isn't turning he is preparing top blanks or carving blanks. He figures he turns about 6-8 hours a week. I needed go get going but couldn't before I picked out one of his Easter tops to take with me along with a segmented top, a chunk of wood, and a boot blank to carve. I arrived with interest and left with woodturning and carving wisdom, increased enthusiasm, and some wood to work with. He also told me that when I get to Don's I need to make sure I see the "Drag-a-longs." I'll do what he said... He also told me how to get to Don's.



In a matter of ten minutes, or so, I was at the home of **Don Gruis** and when I pulled into the driveway, he was waiting for me on his porch. How did he know? I was invited in and met by his wife who told me that she gives a better tour than Don does and she proceeded to prove it. The "drag-a-longs" were among the first items I was shown, then the kitchen, and then the dining room table spread with Don's work.



The drag a-longs - White one painted by Mary Davis





After the upstairs tour Don took me down to the basement and his shop which, truth be told, was much like a tool museum with a lathe over 50 years of age and a drill press and stable saw perhaps older and a Craftsman jig saw that Sears doesn't even have information on any more. All tools still in use and many inherited from his father who used some of them to build the house that Don lives in.



A lathe can even be used to cut glass to make glass wind chimes.



He does have some newer items such as a Jet Mini and a OneWay. But he continues to have a fascination with and love of things that are old. He doesn't turn as often as he use to but loves to make a wide variety of items from bowls, to the "drag-a-longs," bowls - lots of bowls and quite a few are segmented. Many of those bowls are used on a daily basis and the biscuit cutter isn't used daily but still used. As I was leaving, he showed me a skew that he likes to use. It had a Craftsman sticker on it, carbon steel, and still very usable.

-What I learned at school today -

In looking back at the day, at first blush it seemed a day full of surprises, wonderful warm surprises for sure, but in thinking about it, the day was pretty much what I have come to associate with **KCWT**.

I learned that a shop does not have to be picture perfect and neat. That the single most important tool in a shop is the turner and how that person goes about the art and craft of turning.

I learned that precision thinking and creativity go hand in hand.

I learned that a bigger picture, developing skills and fostering creativity in multiple areas, encourages talent in all areas.

I learned that shop size is not important, that it is more an expression of the turner and that if one creates an environment where one is comfortable and feels efficient, what is produced there can be very expressive.

I learned that If one takes care of their machinery and their tools, they will last more than one lifetime and will continue to help the user create wonderful items

But most of all, I learned that woodturners, especially the ones who opened their shops today, are some of the friendliest, creative, sharing, talented, unique, and welcoming people on the planet. We are certainly blessed to have them part of **KCWT**. Thank you all.